RAMDEOBABA UNIVERSITY, NAGPUR

REEF – Shri Ramdeobaba Engineers for Environment Forum

EDUCATIONAL TRIP TO GOTHANGAON GATE

UMRED–PAONI–KARHANDLA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY | 5 OCTOBER 2026

Organised by: REEF, in collaboration with the **Forest Department, Nagpur District. Wildlife Week theme: "Connecting Habitats and Thriving Wildlife" (2–8 October 2026).**

Purpose and Overview

The educational visit was organised to give students first-hand exposure to natural habitats, native flora and fauna, and on-ground conservation practices. **The opportunity was extended to REEF by Shri Avinash Londhe, Honorary Wildlife Warden, Forest Department, Nagpur District, Maharashtra**. The team was accompanied by **Dr. Swaroop Laxmi Mudliar (Faculty In-charge), Dr. Avinash Bharati and Dr. Sanjogta Meshram**. Forest officials, including the Range Forest Officer, shared insights into the sanctuary's ecology and conservation work.

Seminar and Awareness Session

The programme began with **a felicitation of faculty members by Forest Department officials**, followed by an informative seminar on **regional biodiversity**. The session discussed venomous snakes, including **the Indian Spectacled Cobra and King Cobra, and the effects of neurotoxic venom**. Officials addressed **common myths**, clarifying that snakes are not deaf and can sense their surroundings through vibrations and other sensory cues. The discussion **encouraged scientific understanding and a responsible attitude towards wildlife.**

Guided Safari and Biodiversity

During the guided safari, participants observed a **tigress, bison, sambar deer, monkeys, birds, butterflies and spiders.** These sightings offered practical examples of food chains, predator–prey relationships and species interdependence. The sanctuary's **Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest** includes trees such as **Dhaoda, Ain, Achar, Mohuwa, Lendia, Bhirra, Tendu, Semal, Rohan and Tiwas**, along with shrubs, grasses and climbers. The Ghost Tree was noted for its pale trunk. The presence of ***Lantana camara***, an invasive plant species, highlights the threat invasive vegetation can pose to native flora and biodiversity.

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Fauna Highlights

REEF members observed the sanctuary's rich biodiversity during the safari, including the well-known **"X Mark" tigress**. The sanctuary records **11 tigers and 15 leopards**, alongside other mammals such as **sloth bears, wild dogs, ratels, jackals, gaurs, blue bulls, sambar deer, barking deer, spotted deer and wild boars**. The group also learned about the sanctuary's diverse **avifauna**, which comprises **180 recorded bird species**, **including blue-cheeked bee-eaters, black drongos, Indian grey hornbills, ospreys and owls, as well as 24 recorded butterfly species**.

Wildlife Week Competition Achievements

REEFIANS participated **in intercollegiate** competitions organised by the Nagpur Forest Division with the Institute of Science and Dada Ramchand Bakhru Sindhu Mahavidyalaya. **Jhanavi Shukla** (**2nd year CSE) secured 1st prize in the essay competition among 80 participants**. **Anidya Karunakaran (2nd year CSE) secured 4th position in the quiz among 22 teams; Tisha Sureka** and **Gurleen Kaur** also participated.

Key Learnings and Conclusion

The visit connected classroom learning with **field observation and strengthened awareness of ecosystem balance**, **habitat protection and coexistence between humans and wildlife**. It highlighted how invasive species can threaten native vegetation, and how scientific **awareness** can replace misconceptions and **support compassionate conservation**. The seminar, safari and competitions encouraged **critical thinking, environmental responsibility** and a **stronger commitment to protecting biodiversity** reflecting the **Wildlife Week theme, "Connecting Habitats and Thriving Wildlife."**

Participation: 47 attendees (including Faculties).

FIELD MOMENTS & HIGHLIGHTS

A visual record of the Wildlife Week educational visit



REEF participants at Gothangaon Gate



Entrance to the sanctuary



Wildlife and bird diversity



Flora observed in the sanctuary



Wildlife Week competition achievements



Awareness session with forest officials
