

FUN ALL AROUND AT PANORAMIC RESORT

The annual picnic of S.X.I.E. was held on Saturday, 23rd July 2016, with great enthusiasm and merriment. This year the venue was the ‘Panoramic Resort – Water & Amusement Park’ in Karnala, near Panvel. All 50 student teachers, along with the teaching and non-teaching staff joined the picnic. It was a beautiful rainy day, which added to our amusement and everyone was delighted.

Before the big day, came the big decision – “where were we to go?” Our teachers in charge of the picnic, Ms. Kalpana Chavan and Dr. Shadab Paloji, decided to let us exercise our democratic rights and choose the place. After the haggling and discussions, we narrowed down on Panvel’s Panoramic Resort and Vasai’s Patil Resort. In a not-so-secret-ballot, we penned down on a sheet our preference and the Student Council tallied the votes. With much fanfare, it was announced that the Panoramic Resort in Panvel had garnered the most votes.

The nearest station to the picnic spot was Panvel. From there, two buses had been arranged to take us to the resort. But getting to Panvel was a whole different experience. Those of us who were close to Wadala station, decided to meet there. I travelled from Bandra to Wadala, and then with the rest of the group to Panvel. All of us met at 9am at Panvel station. The bus journey was filled with enjoyment with music and our chant “Pack!!” Snacks were distributed as well. We reached the picnic spot at 10 am. The next batch made their way to the picnic spot a bit later.

Once we reached the resort, we were served breakfast. A buffet was laid out for us, which included *poha*, *upma*, *wada*, *idli*, *sambhar*, chutney, tea and coffee. Barely done with the wonderful breakfast, everyone shed any inhibition and let out their inner child. There was a mad dash to the water park area (the resort has a sizeable pool with slides for both, adults and children). Onlookers couldn’t be faulted for thinking that the screams of joy coming from the slides were from a bunch of kids – so high was our level of excitement. While most of us hit the pool, some of the others chose to head to the adventure area of the park.

In addition to the water park, the resort also boasted a well-equipped adventure area where once could take part in rifle shooting (albeit similar to the rifle shooting one usually finds at a stall at a fair), archery or a commando styled bridge, among other activities. There was also a rope tied across the pool, from which one could rappel across equipped with harness et al!

When the excitement of the water slides wore out, we got together and started playing an improvised game of throwball in the pool, with the teachers and their families joining in. All this activity led everyone to working up an appetite, which was a good thing with the sumptuous spread the resort had laid out for us. There was chicken curry, fish, 2 types of vegetable and dal, served with rice, chapatis and papads. To round off the delicious meal, we were served hot, yummy *gulab jamun* and custard. There were also counters for candy floss, *gola* and popcorn throughout.

After lunch, many people headed back to the pool, while the others (including the teachers) joined in the rain dance at the ‘Mushroom Falls’ – a dome shaped structure. The DJ kept

everyone dancing to the latest Bollywood tunes. By the time evening came around, the resort had arranged for *pav bhaji* and *chole* along with tea and coffee. However, since most of us were still full, not many joined in for tea. Finally, around 5 pm, we headed back to the buses which took us to Panvel station and from there headed home. All in all, it was a fun-packed picnic, and we look forward to the next one!