



GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE, RAYACHOTY

(Affiliated to Yogi Vemana University)

Chittoor Road, Rayachoty, Annamiah (Dist.)

ACCREDITED BY NAAC WITH "C" GRADE



GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE RAYAVHOTY FIELD TRIP ON BELUM CAVES 29-11-2023



The Department of Political Science Urdu Medium organized one day field trip historical place at Belum Caves on the date of 29-11-2023. The Belum Caves, located in Nandyala district of Andhra Pradesh's Rayalaseema region, is the second largest cave system on the Indian subcontinent, known for its speleothems, such as stalactite and stalagmite formations. The Belum Caves have long passages, galleries, spacious caverns with fresh water and siphons. This cave system was formed over the course of tens of thousands of years by the constant flow of underground water from the now-disappeared river Chitravathi. The cave system reaches its deepest point (46 m (151 ft) from entrance level) at the point known as *Pataalaganga*. [1] Belum Caves have a length of 3,229 m (10,593.8 ft), making them the second largest caves on the Indian Subcontinent after the Krem Liat Prah caves in Meghalaya. It is one of the centrally protected Monuments of National Importance.



Out side the gate of Belum Caves

Belum came to scientific attention in 1884 by a British surveyor Arun and from 1982 to 1984, a team of German speleologists headed by H. Daniel Gebauer conducted a detailed exploration of the caves. In 1988, the Government of Andhra Pradesh declared the site protected, and the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) developed the caves as a tourist attraction in February 2002. Today, 3.5 km (2.2 mi) of the caves have been successfully explored, though only 1.5 km (0.9 mi) is accessible to visitors.[1] There are 16 different pathways, including the main entrance and there are deposits of quartz in the caves. The caves consist of black limestone.



The Belum Caves are located near Belum Village in Kolimigundla mandal of Nandyal district earlier in Kurnool district in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Kolimigundla is situated 3 km (1.9 mi) from Belum Caves. The caves are an 8 km (5.0 mi) drive from Petnikota village.

Belum is part of a larger complex of caves carved out of the limestone deposits in the *Erramalai* region. Other caves include the Billasurgam caves, Sanyasula caves, Yaganti caves, Yerrajari caves, and the Muchchatla Chintamanu caves (caves are called *gavi* in the local language).

Even though the *Belum Caves* were known to local people, the first records of site come from the expedition report of British geologist and archaeologist Robert Bruce Foote, in 1884. Thereafter, the Belum Caves remained unnoticed for almost a century until a German team headed by Herbert Daniel Gebauer conducted detailed exploration of the caves in 1982 and 1983. The German expedition was assisted by Mr Bacham Chalapathi Reddy (retd. Deputy superintendent of police), Mr Pothireddy Rama Subba Reddy (retd. Headmaster), Mr Ramaswami Reddy, Mr Boyu Madduleti, Mr K. Padmanabhaiah, Mr K. Chinnaiah and Mr A. Sunkanna.



The caves were being used to dump wastes from nearby places until 1988. Local people of nearby settlements, notably policemen and residents of Belum Village co-operated with the Government of Andhra Pradesh and developed the cave site as a tourist attraction. Finally, their almost two-decade long efforts resulted in the Government of Andhra Pradesh declaring the entire area to be a protected zone. Finally, in 1999, the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) took over the task of beautifying and maintaining the caves. The APTDC who has since been in charge of management, sanctioned Rs. 7.5 million to develop the caves.[6] The APTDC has also developed the pathways of around 2 km (1.2 mi) length in and outside of the caves, provided illumination and has created fresh-air-shafts at the site. Inside the cave, APTDC has installed bridges and staircases, and a canteen, bathrooms and toilet facilities at the entry point. APTDC also has built a Haritha Hotel for accommodation in the vicinity.

There is a sizeable Buddha statue near on a hillock near the caves. One of the caverns at Belum is known as the "Meditation Hall", which was used by Buddhist monks. Relics of the Buddhist period were found here. These relics are now housed in a museum in Ananthapur.



- 4,500 BC remnants of vessels of that age were found in the caves.
- Occupied by Jain and Buddhist monks, over two thousands years ago
- 1884 existence of the caves recorded by the British geologist and archaeologist Mr Robert Bruce Foote.
- 1982 explored by the German Herbert Daniel Gebauer.
- 1983 explored by the German Herbert Daniel Gebauer.
- 1988 declared protected by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- 1999 development of the cave by Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation started.
- FEB-2002 cave opened to the public.
- JUL-2002 Musical chamber discovered.
- JAN 2013 A new cavernicolous (inhabiting caves) Isopod species discovered, named *Andhracoides gebaueri*.



The image part with relationship ID 11111 was not found in the file.



What is special about Belum Caves:

Belum Caves are geological and historical importance caves. There are indications that Jains and Buddhists monks occupied these caves centuries ago. Many Buddhists relics were found inside the caves. These relics are now housed in Museum at Ananthapur

TOUR PHOTOS STAFF AND STUDENT



Permission Letter

Rayachoty
27-11-2023

TO
The Principal
Govt Degree college
Rayachoti

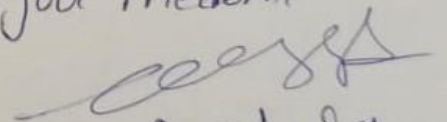
From
Department of Urdu
Govt Degree college
Rayachoti

Respected madam

The Department of Urdu Government Degree college Rayachoty have decided field trip going on Belum caves has historical places 29-11-2023 Belum caves his historical places its help on your history students. In the purpose of B.A H.P.U Group field trip give us permission to going TOUR.

Thanking you madam

Permitted
Fathma
27/11/23


N. Asim
Md. Ismail

Govt Degree College Rayachoty
 Attended student List with signatures
 Participant List

1- Name of student	Signature
Syed. Haleema	S. Halima
Shaik. Afsana	S. Afsana
Shaik. Sumiya	S. sumiya
Nayab. Nasreen	N. Nasreen
Shaik. Rizwan	S. Rizwan
Shaik. Arief	S. Arief
Shaik. Sadiq	S. Sadiq
Shaik. Sameera	S. Sameera
Shaik. Shermila	S. Shermila
Shaik. Rukhsana	S. Rukhsana
Shaik. Maseera	S. Maseera
Syed. Mansoor	S. Mansoor
Shaik. Irfan	S. Irfan
Shaik. Salma	S. Salma
Shaik. Mubarak basha	S. Mubarak basha
Shaik. Mohammad ali	S. Mohammed ali
Vazugu. Abida	V. Abida
Shaik. Arishiya	S. Arishiya
Shaik. Reshma	S. Reshma
Shaik. Karishma	S. Karishma
Shaik. Humeera	S. Humeera
Shaik. Zainab	S. Zainab
Dr. Md. Ismail	N. Afreen

THANK YOU