



Map and information booklet for Kanheri caves

Under the guidance of **Prof. G.V.Sreekumar**

Harshita Bandodkar | 176450013

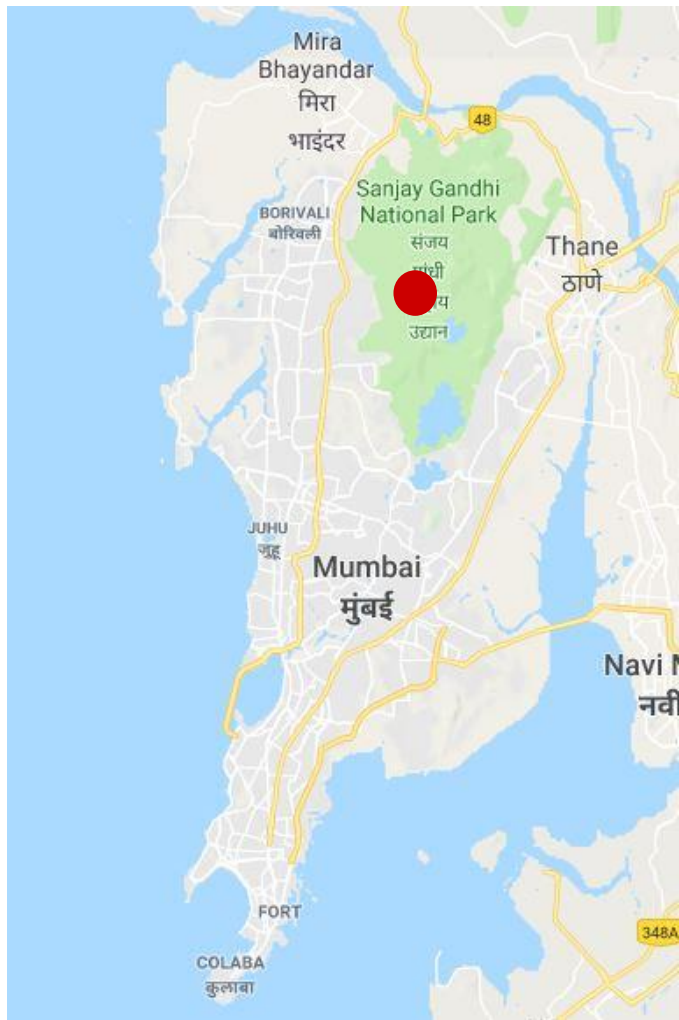
Communication design

The motivation

January 26, 2018

The 8 km exhausting trek

About Kanheri caves



Kanheri caves lie in the forests of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park in Borivali, 8 kms from Thane

The caves are around 7 kms from the entrance of the park

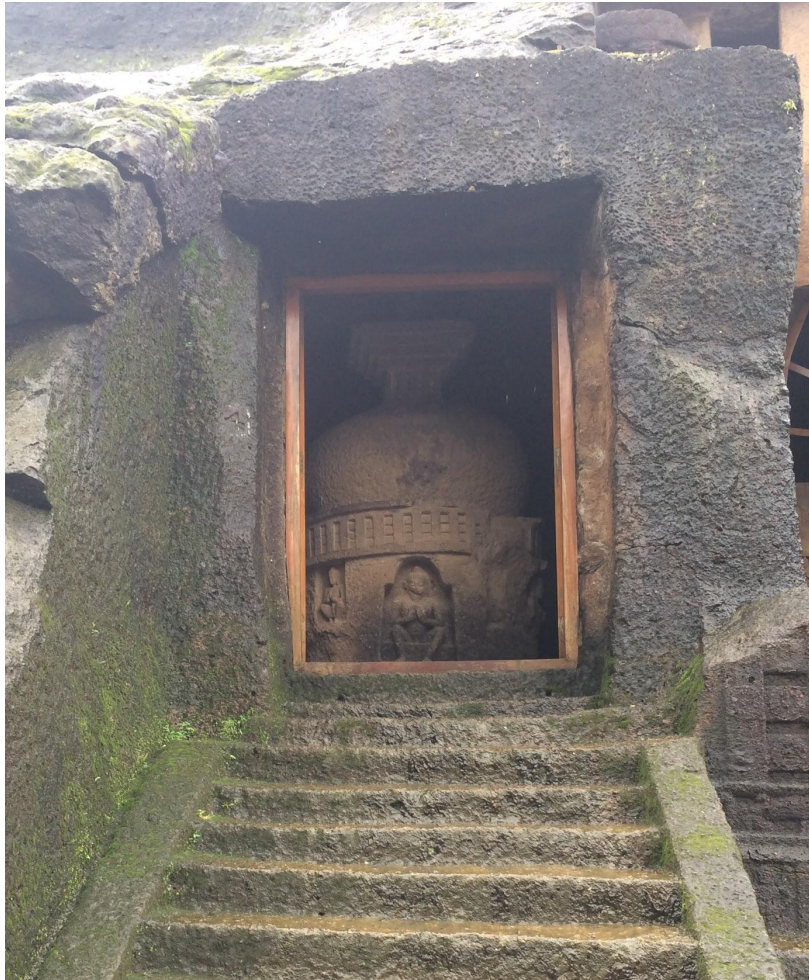
Buses, rented bicycles and sharing cab facilities are available to reach the cave

- It is a cave complex consisting of 109 caves
- Name comes from *Krishnagiri*(cave no. 21) or *Kanhagiri*(cave no. 3,11,12)
- Has more than 100 inscriptions in Brahmi, Devanagari and Pahlavi
- Built between 2nd century CE and 10th century CE
- Types of caves:
 - *Chaityas* (prayer halls)
 - *Viharas* (residences)
 - Water cisterns

Chaityas



Cave no.2



Cave no.3

Cave no.4



Viharas

Cave no.31



Cave no.68

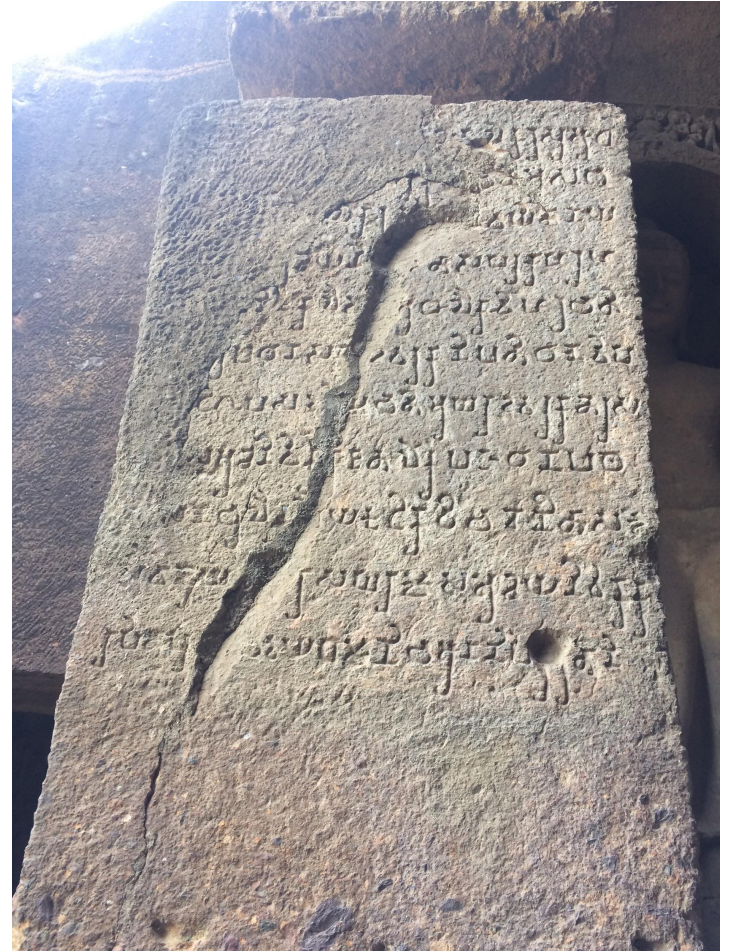


Cave no.70



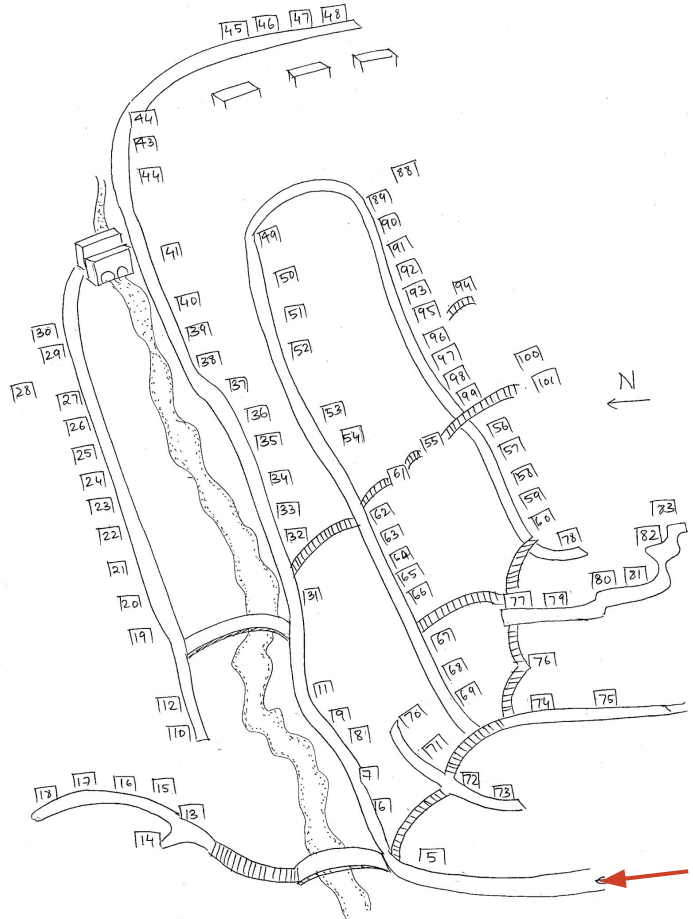
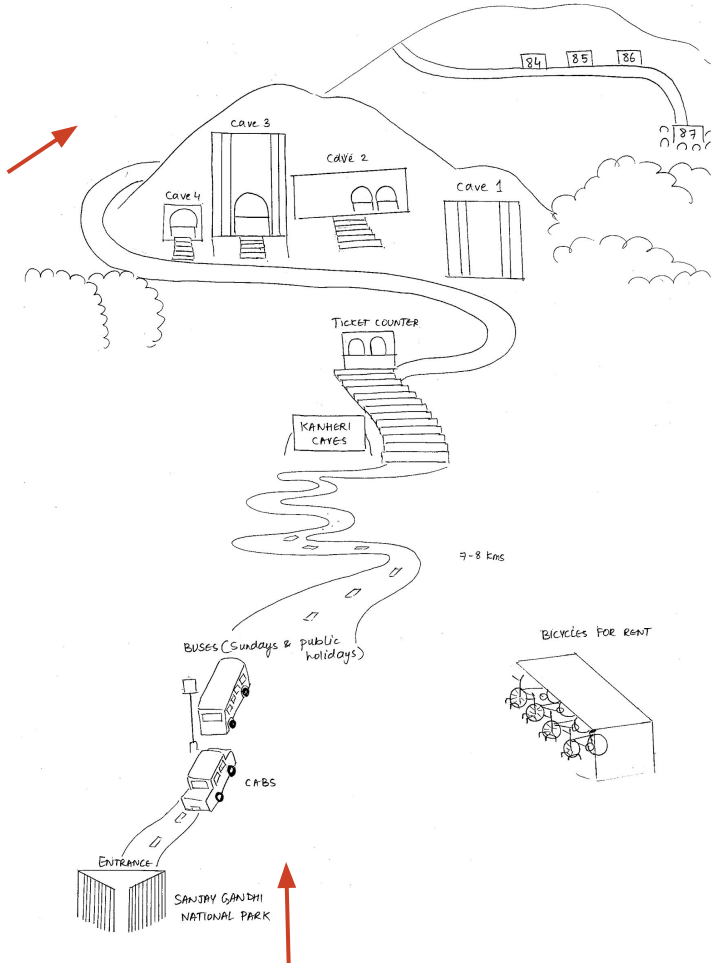
Water cisterns

Cave no.5



Cave no.3

Current experience





बुद्ध लेणी - काहोरी

काहोरी बुद्ध लेणी काशी गिराई क्षेत्र का एक अत्यंत प्राचीन और महत्वपूर्ण बौद्ध स्मारक है। यह लेणी ११-१२ शताब्दी के बीच का है। इस लेणी में बुद्ध की मूर्तियाँ, चित्रकारी और अन्य बौद्ध कलाकृतियाँ मिली हैं।

इस लेणी का निर्माण ११-१२ शताब्दी के बीच हुआ था। इस लेणी में बुद्ध की मूर्तियाँ, चित्रकारी और अन्य बौद्ध कलाकृतियाँ मिली हैं।

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प्रत्यक्षीय विद्यालय

बौद्ध गुफाएँ - काहोरी

काहोरी के तीन बड़े गुफाएँ हैं: १. बुद्ध गुफा, २. शिव गुफा, ३. शक्ति गुफा। इन गुफाओं में बुद्ध की मूर्तियाँ, चित्रकारी और अन्य बौद्ध कलाकृतियाँ मिली हैं।

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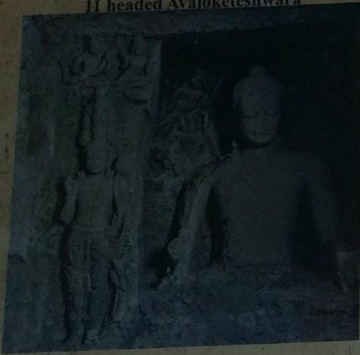
PAINTED CAVES

KANHORI IS AN ANCIENT BUDDHIST MONASTIC SITE WHICH SHOWS LIGHT ON DIFFERENT PHASES FLOURISHED OVER HERE FROM 11TH CENTURY BC TO 11TH CENTURY AD. THIS SITE REFLECTS A BEAUTIFUL BUDDHIST ART ARCHITECTURE OF HIMACHAL AND MAHARASHTRA SECTS OF BUDDHISM. EPIDIOGRAPHIC DATA OF ITS TIME. CAVE HAVING 10 IN TOTAL NUMBER, ENCASED IN GENERAL PLAN CONSISTING OF A MAIN SANCTUARY AND OUTSIDE COURTYARD APPROACHED THROUGH FLIGHT OF STEPS. THE COURTYARD HAS TWO WATER CISTERNS UNDERNEATH ON EITHER SIDE. SOME OF THE COURTYARDS ARE PROVIDED WITH SITTING BENCHES ALONG THE WALLS AND BENCHES ORALLY CALLED 2, 11, 34, 41, 67, 83 AND SO FORTH. MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF CAVE CONSIST OF PILARS, GILDED WALLS AND IMAGES. MANY SCULPTURES OF GURUKA THEREIN ARE ORSPATED IN DIFFERENT POSITIONS. BUDHISM IS EMPHOSIZED BY THE FORM OF 'SUKH, BOODHI AND FOOT PRINTS. THE DEVALS, INVAHANA PHASE OF BUDDHISM, THE MOST LITIGATE PHASE OF BUDDHA. AS IT SHOWN IN PLACING THERE'S AS STAMANA, BUDHA, MOKSH, BUDDHA, BUDDHA AT NORTH BY HODRIBASTAR AND 'TARA, DITR, MAKS, S. CARVED IN THE CAVES ARE 'SARWADADA, AVULKISHIVARA, BODHISATVA, MICHALANINGA. THERE ARE MORE THAN 100 SCULPTURES IN THE CAVE. BEYOND NAMES OF DONORS AND PATRONS OF THE CAVES, IT IS INTERESTING TO KNOW THAT MONKS, GOLDSMITHS, TRADERS AND MANY POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS HAD GIVEN DONATIONS TO CAVES. EXISTING TAPS, STAPKASA'S ALSO SHOWN, NICHES, PILLARS, PATHS AND WALLS AT KANHORI. THE INSCRIPTIONS ALSO GIVE THE NAMES OF 'POST SATAMAHANA KING'S VASUDEVA, SHIVASAKARAKA, (CAV. NO. 5), YAJNA SAKARAKA, (CAV. NO. 10), MATIAPURUJA SHIVASAKA, (CAV. NO. 17), CHITRILAKSHANANDA SAKARAKA, (CAV. NO. 60) METRIC AND 13 INSCRIPTIONS IN CAVE 34 IN POST MAHARAJA STYLE. BESIDE THE MANDALITE STUPEAS AND 88 MANS OF DAM APR. ALSO AVAILABLE OVERHERE.

THE SITE IS PROTECTED BY THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA AS A CENTRALLY PROTECTED MONUMENT VIDE NOTIFICATION NO. 219 A DATED 26.5.1968

21.11.2009 Archaeological Survey of India, Mumbai Circle

Buddha In Padmasana with
11 headed Avaloketeshwara



Swami Vivekananda during his famous visit to America, delivered many lectures to all those who came to seek from him the highest Truth in plain and simple words and get the succour and inner peace they so badly needed in their lives.

Sister Christine, an American disciple of Swami Vivekananda, was present at one of those inspiring talks he delivered at the Thousand Islands wherein he spoke of his plans for the future, referring to it as :

- A beautiful place in India called Kanheri
- Where his disciples in India and followers in America could reside and meditate.
- An island with ocean on three sides and where there will be small caves.
- A great hall with carved pillars for the Assembly Hall and a Chaitya Hall for worship. "Oh! It will be a luxury!"

It seemed as if he were building castles in the air. None of us dreamed that this was something which could ever be realized, said Sister Christine.

She further adds,

- Of that group she was the only one who was privileged to go to India
- She found herself alone in Bombay with two or three days at her disposal
- She had a desire to visit Kanheri, which she knew was not far from Bombay
- She knew nothing of this place except that there were some caves there

Nobody seemed to be able to direct Sister Christine to Kanheri Caves as most of the people had not even heard of the Caves. She finally took a train to Borivali after a full day of inquiry, finding out that it was only 22 miles from Bombay. Having reached Borivali Railway Station, she hired a bullock-cart owned by a lad of about seventeen and set out for the caves. The road led first through a field of tubers and from that



A Brief History of Kanheri Caves

Although there is no exact date mentioned when the Kanheri Caves were excavated, there is an inscription on the main Chaitya Caves which refers itself to the reign of the Satavahana King Sri Yajña Satkarni (167 - 196 A.D.) Hence it is widely accepted that these excavations were started during the Hinayana period.

- Kanheri Caves, located north of Mumbai, was once a major Buddhist Centre
- It is 10 km to the South East of Borivali, a suburb of Mumbai
- The caves are excavated in volcanic breccias, the hills rising at places to 1550' above mean sea level
- Kanheri is credited with the largest number of cave excavations in a single hill

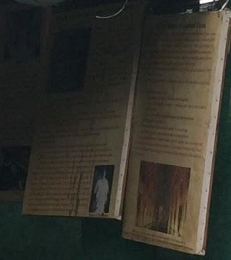
• The excavations are of 4 types :

1. Chaityagrihas : the place of worship of the Buddhists
2. Viharas : monasteries of single or multiple cells where the Buddhist monks resided
3. Podhis : water cisterns excavated to trap and store rain water
4. Rock-cut benches and seats.

- The view of the Arabian Sea from Cave No. 56 is charming.
- Even to this day, the Caves are surrounded by a dense forest.

Thus the Kanheri Caves, located in the island of Salsette, has a hallowed and glorious history because of the special place it had in Swami Vivekananda's heart, because of his vision of setting up of a monastery for the Monks of the Ramakrishna Order there.





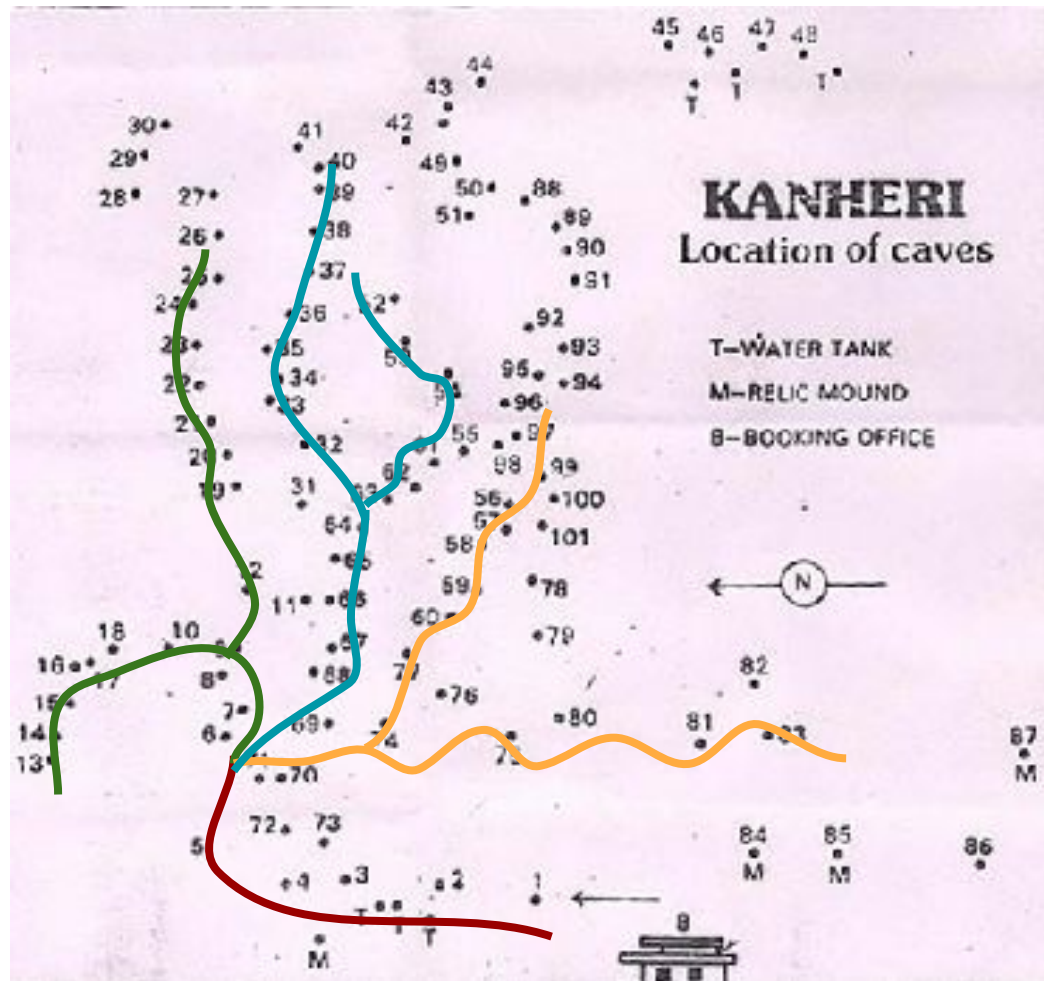
STUPA



लेणी क ५ ते १०९
CAVE NO. 5 TO 109

3





- Southern hill
- Eastern hill
- Northern hill

Observations

- Most people came with their families or friends as an outing
- The stream served as a bigger attraction than the caves
- Barely any information boards or signages and no guides
- Most visitors were occupied taking photographs
- Very few people taking time off to read the existing information
- The significance of the structures seems to be lost on them

“No maps around, had to ask the guard for directions”

“The statue is of Shiva and that (stupa) is a Linga”

“Could only cover 10-15 caves and then got tired”

“No signal so couldn't google and information isn't accurate”

“Nice place to take selfies and photographs”

“Children wanted to know more, we googled about it”

“Elephanta was better”

“Copy of Ellora”

“One of the guards told us some stories about some caves”

“What are these(viharas) for?” They’re so simple

A couple from Paris

“A monk for half a day”

A school teacher

*“I made my own list as I knew there
is no information here”*

The senior guard

Questions asked

- *Time frame*
- *Reason for excavation*
- *By whom?*
- *Importance of each cave*
- *Their history*
- *Inscriptions*
- *Patronage*
- *Water cisterns*
- *Paintings*
- *Monks -*
 - where did they come from?*
 - Where did they go?*
 - What did they eat?*
 - When did they pray?*
 - When did they meet?*
 - How were they buried?*

Heritage walks with Dr. Suraj Pandit

“Take them back in time to live and see the story”

Understanding Buddhism

Books

- Mythology
- Philosophy
- History
- Various schools of Buddhism

People

Th Thao Tr Vo (**Catherine**), a Vietnamese Nun

“Not many nuns, mostly monks”

Rigzen Norbu, a guide for the Ladakh Buddhist association

"I get to meet new people"

Lama Kazi, a Tibetan Lama

*“I found my peace. There’s respect for both
life and death. ”*

The caretaker of Nipponzan Myohoji temple

“nam-myoho-rengey-kyo”

A friend of mine, a practising Buddhist

*“Compassion in everyday life is a huge part
of every Buddhist civilization”*

“To study the Buddha way is to study the self”

-Japanese Zen master Dogen

“No one saves us but ourselves. No one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path.”

-Buddha



Designing an experience

A map

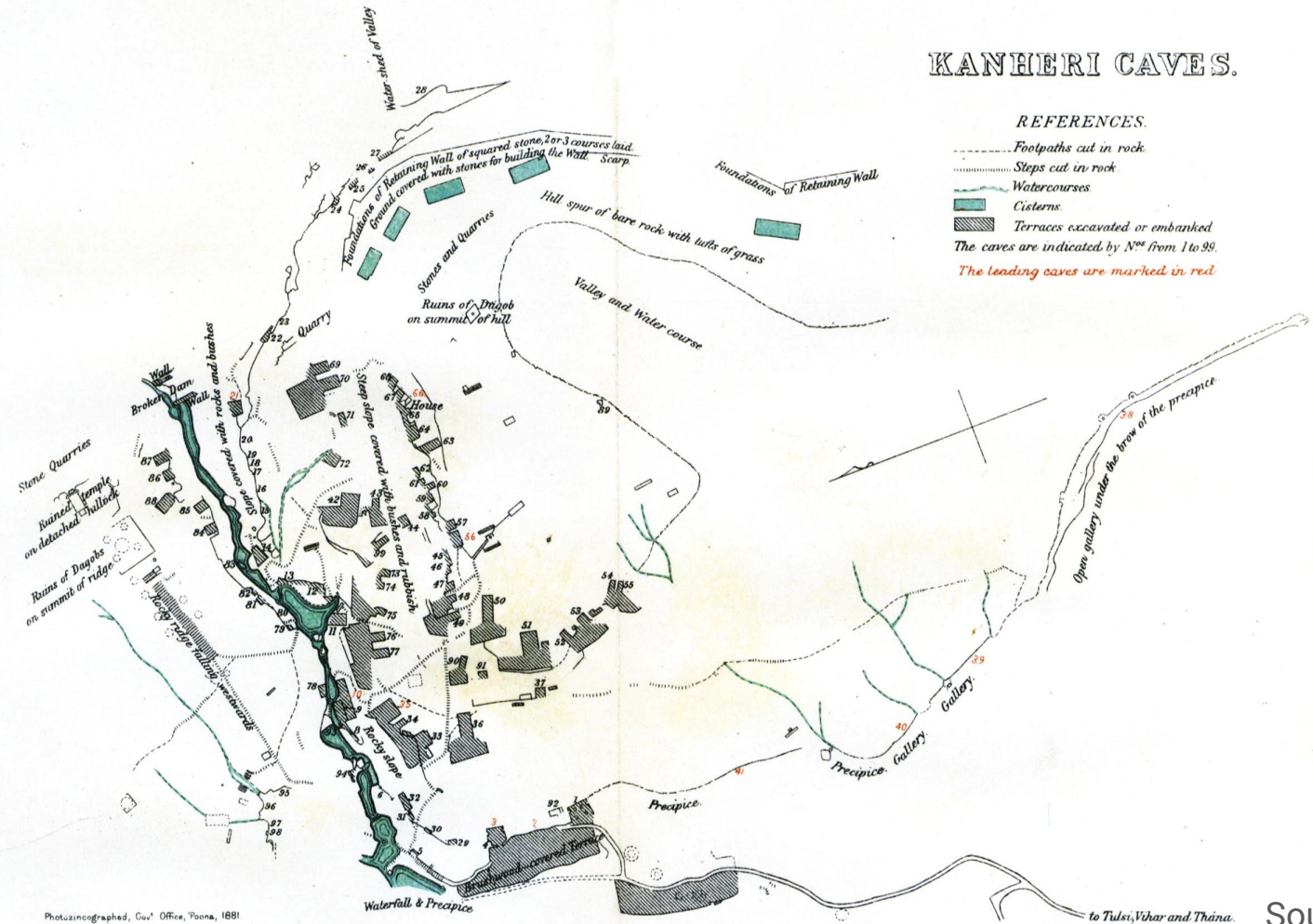
- Large area
- Multiple paths
- Many caves (some that could be skipped)
- Exhaustive - 5 hours and 10 kms

A map would help picture the topography

KANHERI CAVES.

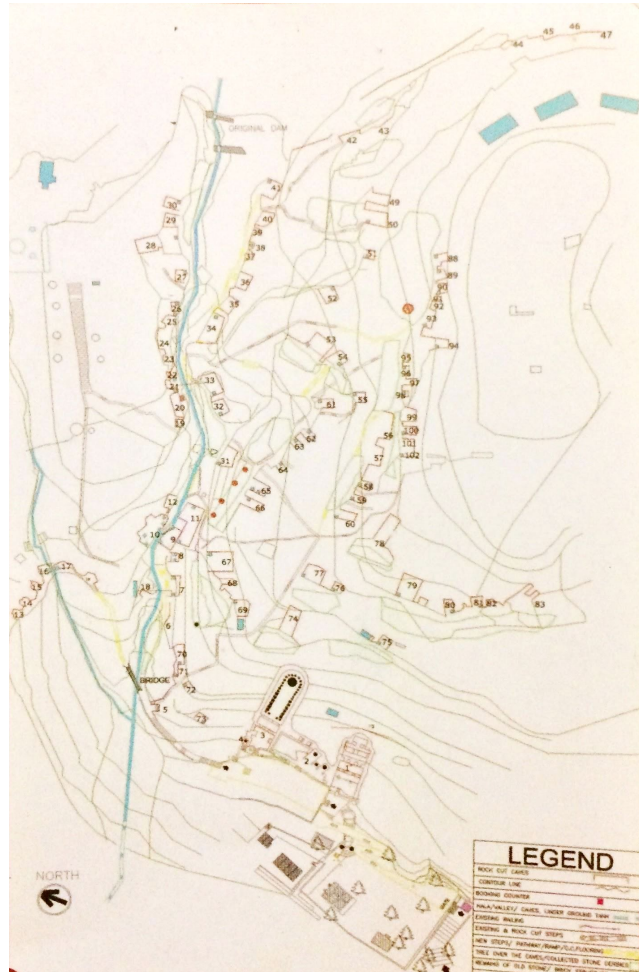
REFERENCES.

- Footpaths cut in rock
 - Steps cut in rock
 - Watercourses
 - Cisterns
 - ▨ Terraces excavated or embanked
- The caves are indicated by Nos from 1 to 99.
 The leading caves are marked in red.



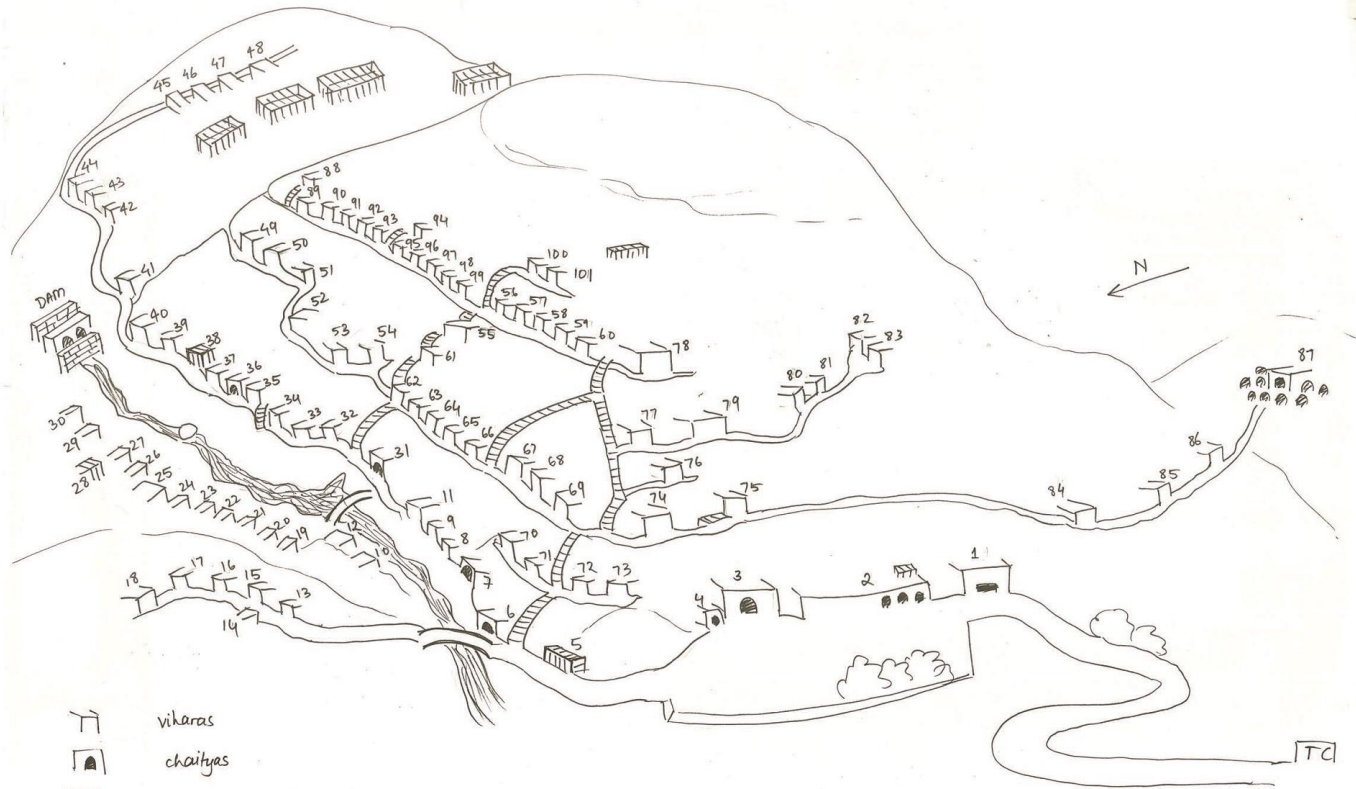
Photocircographed, Gov. Office, Poona, 1881







to Tulsi, Vihar and Thana.



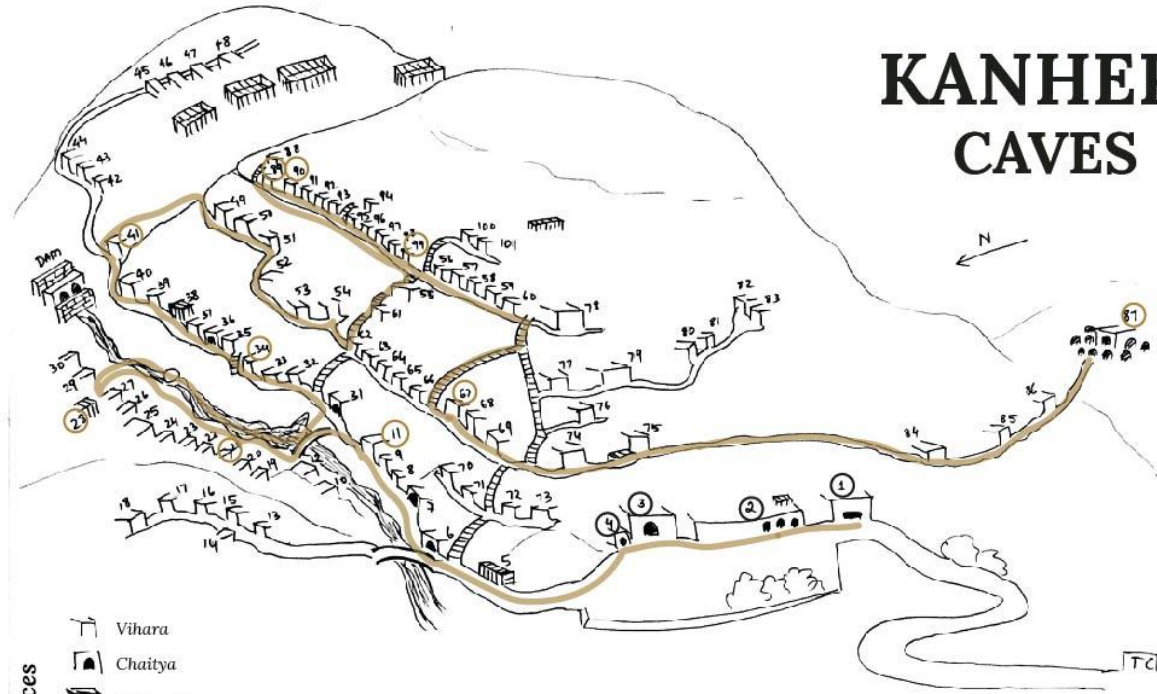
Source: ASI Brochure

- A top view map would not give a complete idea of the area as there are multiple levels
- Providing trails along with user's current location would also be helpful
- The important caves could be marked
- The type of cave should be marked



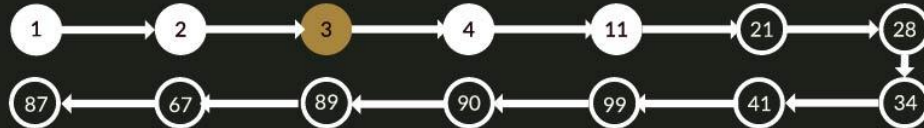
-  viharas
-  chaityas
-  cisterns
-  stupas
-  stairs
-  bridge

KANHERI CAVES

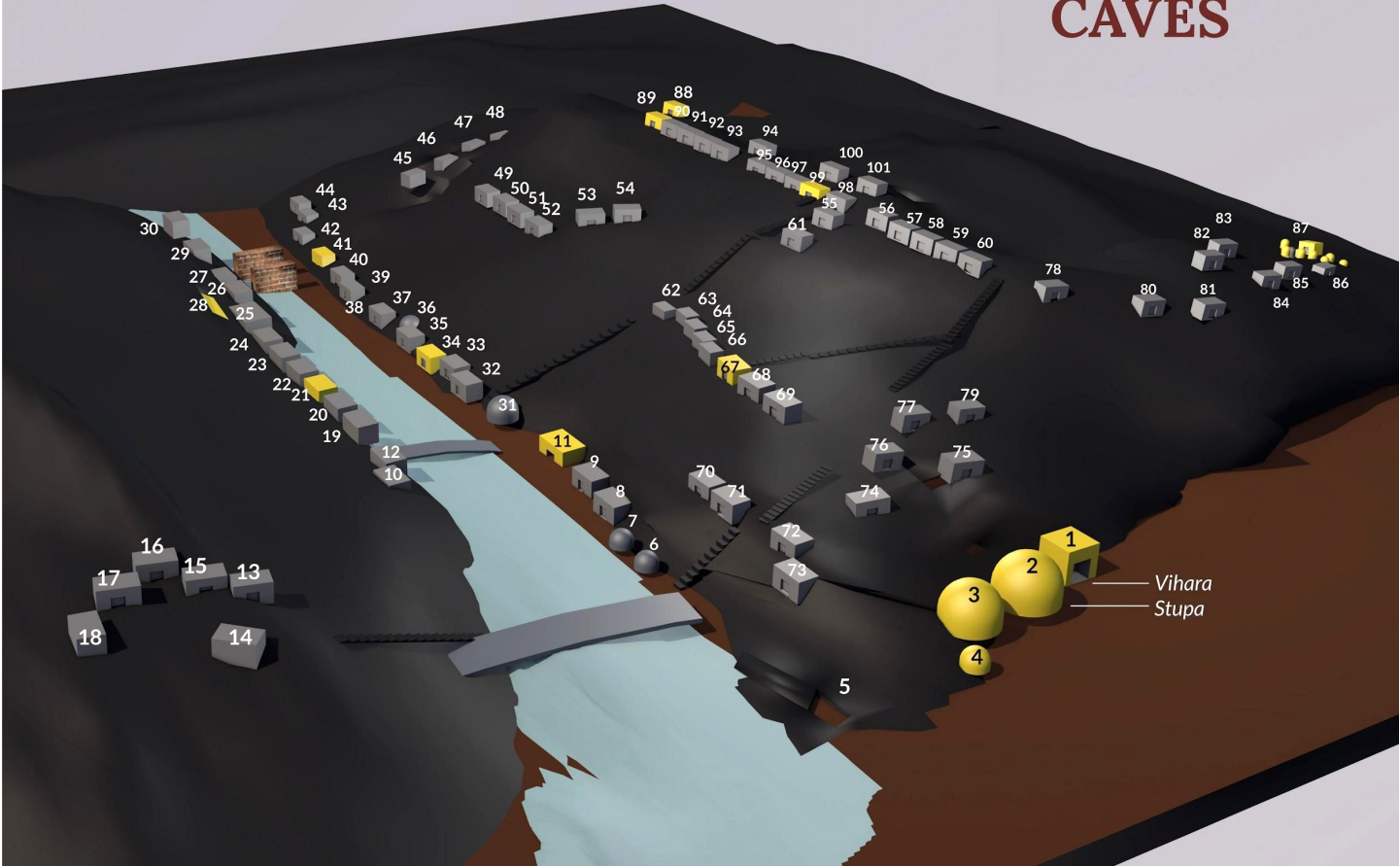


References

-  Vihara
-  Chaitya
-  Water cistern
-  Stupa
-  Stairs
-  Bridge



KANHERI CAVES



A booklet

For the sake of the project, 14 of the most important caves (based on their architecture and art) were chosen

- A trail covering the major caves- A quest!
- Each cave to be explored to discover a prominent feature with visual clues
- A route map to aid navigation

- Contains information about the caves along with a floor plan where needed
- Gives the users cues to look around and explore the caves
- Compact sized
- Black and white to make production more affordable

A booklet would act as a guide



A guide to
KANHERI

The main body of the *stupa*, or *anda*, represents our world, which rises through the center of the Buddhist universe.

The *yasti*, which rises through the top of the *anda*, symbolizes the axis *mundi*, the point at the center of the universe that connects heaven and Earth.

The three stone disks on the *yasti*, called *chhatraveli* (or *chatras*) represent the three jewels of Buddhism: the Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama), the Dharma (the Law) and the Sangha (the monastic community). They can also be seen as the Teacher, the Teaching and the Taught. The *yasti* is surrounded by a small fence called the *harmika*. The part of the *stupa* surrounded by the *harmika* is a square area that represents the domain of the gods. Finally, there are four gateways leading into the *stupa* called *toranas*, which are aligned with the cardinal directions.

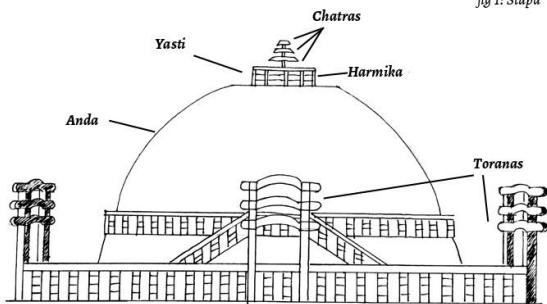


fig 1: Stupa

Cave 2

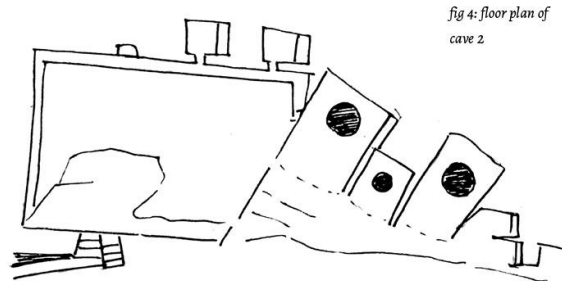


fig 4: floor plan of cave 2

Cave 2 is a Chaitya-vihara cave and has five subdivisions. The left most area is a vihara(2a) with cells. The three following divisions (2b, 2c, 2d) have stupas, with the second one (2c) damaged. The last 2 divisions to the right are one chamber with a partition (2e) and another small chamber (2f).

Standing on the corner of 2a on looking stupa 2b, you can notice graffiti by a British soldier from 1875.

Around this stupa you can notice a set of seven Buddhas known as the *Manushi Buddhas*. *Manushi Buddhas* are the buddhas that have taken a human form to live and work in the world out of compassion for the suffering of living beings. The seventh *Manushi Buddha* is Gautama Buddha or *Shakya muni*. The back

Media

- Blog

<https://experiencekanheri.wordpress.com>

- Downloadable pdf

Redesign of the information panels

A color palette was chosen inspired by

- Ancient Buddhist manuscripts
- Robes worn by monks of different sects at Kanheri
- To compliment the site





KANHERI CAVES

Archaeological Survey of India Mumbai Circle

कान्हेरी लेणी

भारतीय पुरातत्त्व सर्वेक्षण मुंबई मंडळ



सर्वज्ञानमृतममृतम्

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Archaeological Survey of India
Mumbai circle

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पुरतन्त्रकीर्तनविभवु

Archaeological survey of India
Mumbai circle

September 2009

बौद्ध लेणी- कान्हेरी

कान्हेरी गुफा (कानोरी-गुहा) मुंबईतील मुंबईच्या पश्चिमेस सलसेट बेटावर संजय गांधी नॅशनल पार्कच्या जंगलात मोठ्या संख्येने बेसल कॅल्केडमधे गुहांच्या आर्ण रॉक-कट स्मारकांचा समूह आहे. 19 व्या शतकात 10 व्या शतकापर्यंत बौद्ध मूर्ती आर्ण राहत शिलालेख, चांतेरे आर्ण शिलालेख आहेत. कान्हेरी संस्कृत कृष्णागंगारिहून येते, ज्याचा अर्थ काला पर्यंत आहे.

ही साइट खोसाळ आहे आर्ण रॉक-कटच्या पारंपारिकतेचे प्रवेशद्वार आहे. गुहेच्या कथलेखनमध्ये वेसलोक रॉकेचे बनलेले एक शी नऊ आर्ण पुरुषम शतकात बी.सी. 2 10 व्या शतकात आहे. साइटवरील नंतरच्या गुहा आर्ण मुंबईच्या सरवात सुंदर हत्ती गुहांच्या तुलनेत सरवात जुने म्हणजे तुलनेने मऊ आर्ण भग्न आहे. पुरव्येक गुहेत एक पलंग आहे जे बंड म्हणून कार्यरत आहे. एक चरख एकदा गुहेचा मठात रूपांतरित केले गेल्यानंतर

बौद्ध गुफाएं - कन्हेरी

कान्हेरी गुफा (कानोरी-गुहा) मुंबई में मुंबई के पश्चिम में सालसेट द्वीप पर संजय गांधी राष्ट्रीय उद्यान के जंगल में बड़ी संख्या में बेसल्ट कैल्केड में गुफाओं और चट्टानों के टुकड़ों का एक समूह है। 19वीं शताब्दी के दौरान 10 वीं शताब्दी के दौरान, बौद्ध मूर्तियाँ और राहत शिलालेख, चतुरिका और शिलालेख हैं। कान्हेरी संस्कृत कृष्णागंगरी से आता है, जिसका अर्थ काला पहाड़ है।

साइट पहाड़ी है और रॉक कट चरणों के माध्यम से सुलभ है। गुफा क्षेत्र में वेसलोक चट्टान से बने एक सी-नो हाथ और पहली शताब्दी में बीसी शामिल है। यह 10 वीं शताब्दी तक है। साइट पर बाद की गुफाओं और मुंबई की सबसे खूबसूरत गुफा गुफाओं की तुलना में सबसे पुराना ओषधगुफा नमन और नमन है। बसिंतार के रूप में काम कर रहे हट गुफा में एक चट्टानिक है। एक चरख हॉल में बसिंतार परिवार के खोले के साथ एक चरख (बौद्ध मंदिर) है। गुफा का शीर्ष रॉक-कट पेलत बाशि के पानी को ड्राने

Kanheri Caves

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Thank you