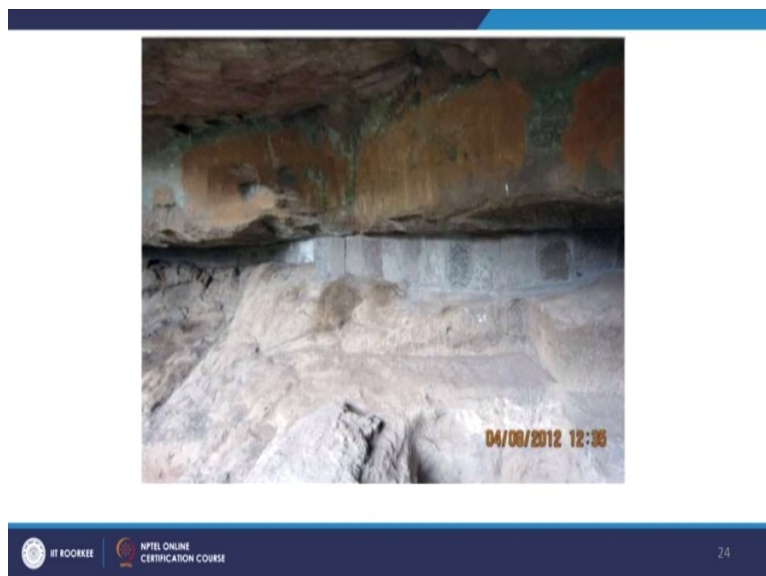


And in 58-59, there is again cave 4 revealed two more elephant caryatides, and like that one by one they started discovering, and they started and they again in 1959-60 by this time it is almost 6 years to even taking the debris from the hillside opposite cave 1 to 4 you know that is how it is a six-year project only just to clear the debris. And whereas in 60-61 a rock-cut cistern was cleared of debris for the storage of water and the excavation of rock-cut drain on the top of the cave was started the work.

So, in that way they started the cistern as well as the water storage and 1995, this is where they started about a mild-steel footbridge because the tourists start pumping down and in order to channel them without destroying the evidence that is where they try to keep some kind of access. Whereas there also in 2001 onwards, the deposit work is awarded to GSI Geological Survey of India towards the cost of geological and geotechnical and geophysical and geoenvironmental studies of the Pitalkhora caves and the surroundings.

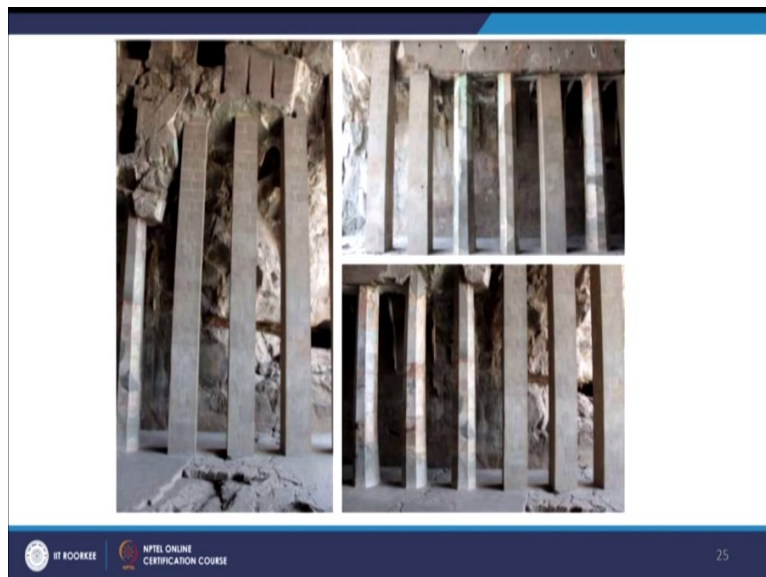
Whereas here it is not only that how a set of activities are related to, there is a different dimension of technicality comes into it. Now, it is not a story of a conservation architect, it is not only a task but how this analysis works with the geotechnical and the geoenvironmental studies also collaborate in it because they becomes the base now in order to understand the impact aspects of this kind of case that is risk aspect. Now, inside the caves following all these analysis what kind of modifications has been done?

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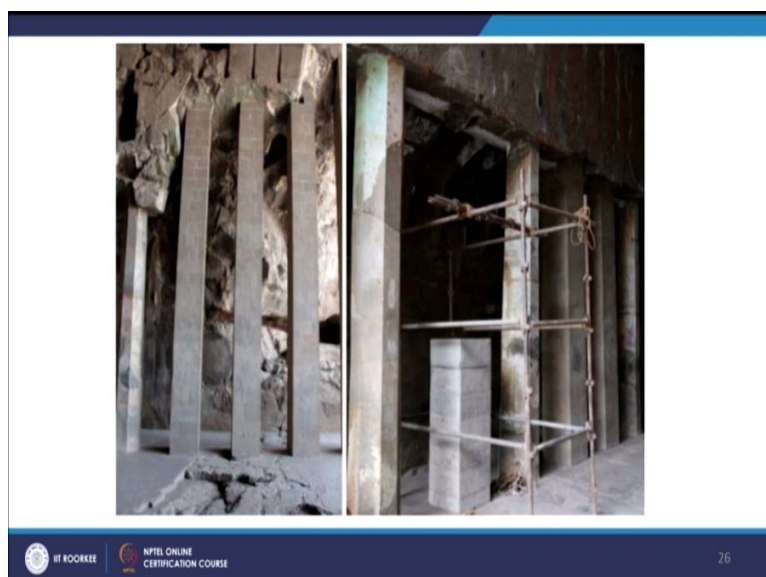
So, now you can see that they have started looking at how the edges of the roof and the structure of the vertical aspect and the roof aspect are merging that is a lot of damage have occurred, and there might be a chance that it might collapse at any time. So, that is where they started giving some kind of support system at the edges so that there is a you know the balance of the structure as well.

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Also, what you can see here is whatever the columns they already have and now retrofitting them and giving a kind of support to the ceiling as well.

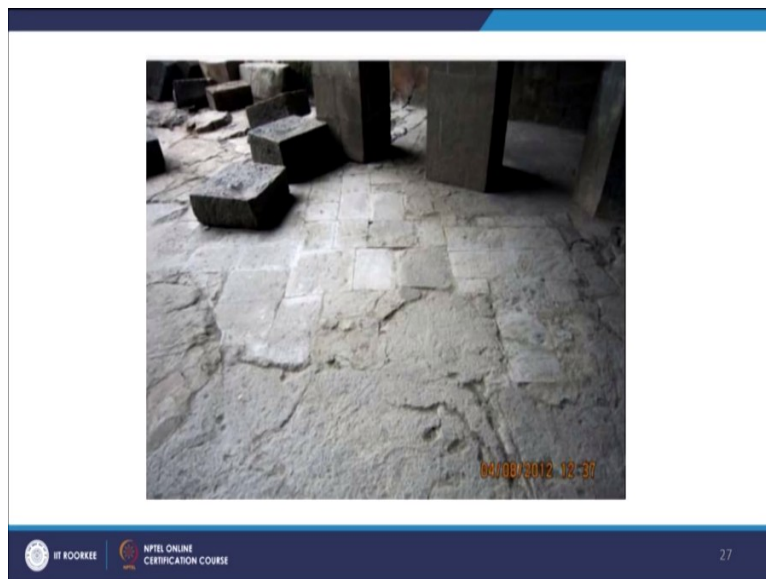
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So, now you can see the scaffolding process because in the scaffolding process is a very important task because you do not need to like in a normal building project you hit the wall, you puncher it and then you try to keep a support system, but here in conservation project, it

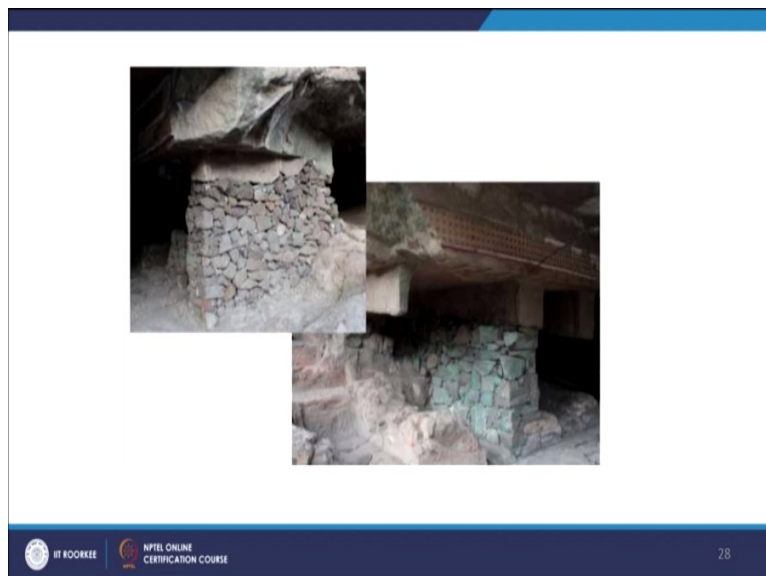
does not work like that, you have to because each and every evidence is much more important significant and it is very critical to understand that.

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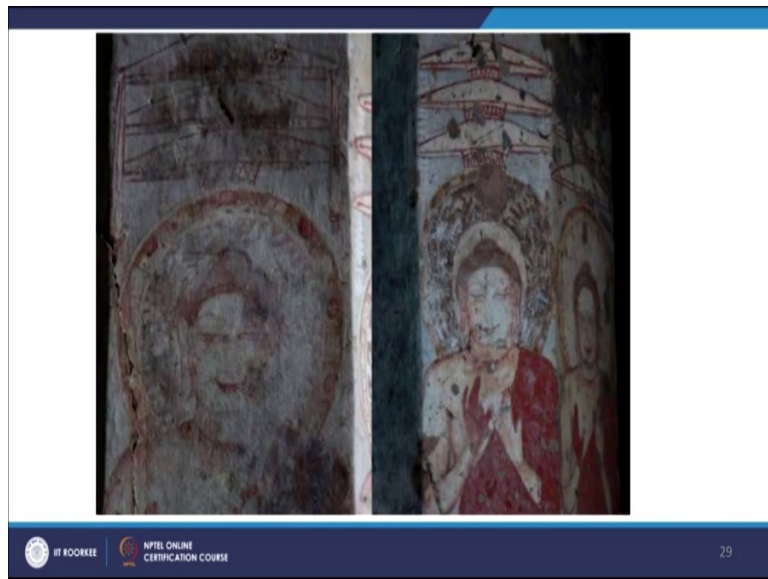
So, this is how the restoration process has been done. And on the flooring part you know because there has been some times, it has been chipped out so that is where they start making some kind of flooring restoration has been done.

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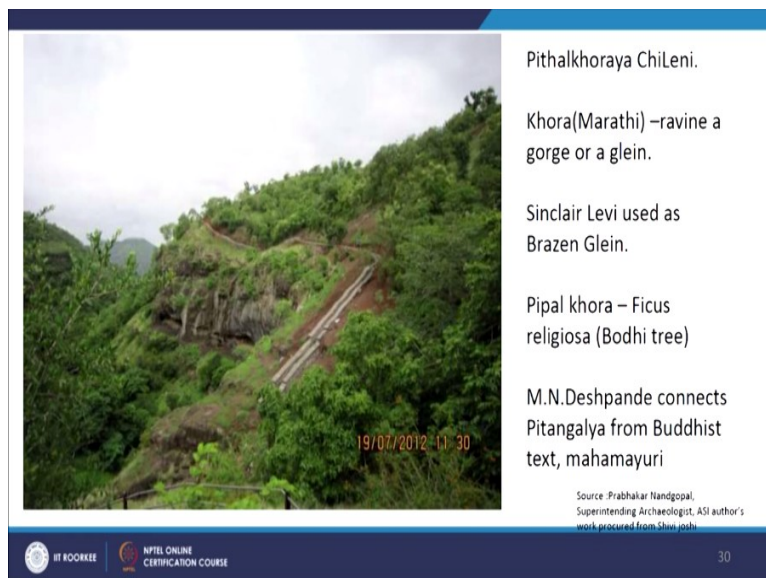
And similarly, they also given some support systems where there has been cracks and there is a possibility that this may not bear the load after some time that is where they started giving some kind of huge rubble masonry wall, not masonry, it is a kind of dry stone wall which they have able to give a little support on that. So, without giving any additional material or a render to it but just keeping as a stone wall.

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Also, the paintings are most important elements that is where they keeps check to the risk. So, how to restore these paintings that is one of the biggest challenge and that is where you have to work out with the people from chemistry, with people from archaeologists because you need to see that there is a material scientists could also be involved in it, how we can actually protect them is very important.

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Pithalkhoraya ChiLeni.

Khora(Marathi) –ravine a
gorge or a glein.

Sinclair Levi used as
Brazen Glein.

Pipal khora – Ficus
religiosa (Bodhi tree)

M.N.Deshpande connects
Pitangalya from Buddhist
text, mahamayuri

Source :Prabhakar Nandgopal,
Superintending Archaeologist, ASI author's
work procured from Shri joshi.

Now, what you can see is a small canal, but after having a thorough understanding of the topographic aspects and after having a understanding of where the water seepages are coming, they understood the root cause of the water is not just not in the cave, it is somewhere beyond the mountain. So, then they started making a kind of channel you know how to divert this water so that at least it can protect the water seepage in the caves.

So, this is, it could be a very small intervention, but then a thorough analysis has to be done in order to protect these heritage structures. In fact, one of the scholar who actually worked on this particular structures M.N. Deshpande, and where there has been many names of this Pitalkhora, Pithalkhoraya ChiLeni, Khora, is a ravine, a gorge or a glein and Sinclair Levi which is a Brazen Glein, Pipal Khora which is *Ficus religiosa* which is a Bodhi tree which reflected the Buddhism.

And you know that is how a lot of disciplines come together and they work on this assessment of the risk as well, also the conservation but how you manage it is also an important aspect. I hope this helps you.

Thank you very much.