

Study Tour Report

The Department of Botany organized a five days Botanical Study Tour from 17th to 22nd November 2025 for the B.Sc. V- Sem Botany students as part of the academic curriculum and experiential learning programme. The tour comprised students of B.Sc. V-Semester accompanied by faculty members, Dr. Pushpa K Kavatagi, Assistant professor and Head and Dr. Halswamy. H.M from Department of Botany. The tour aimed to provide students with practical exposure to plant diversity, natural ecosystems, conservation practices, museum collections, and the functioning of reputed academic and research institutions. This educational journey offered a remarkable opportunity to bridge the gap between theoretical classroom learning and real world biological observations.

Day-wise Detailed Report

Day 1: 17th–18th November 2025 – Journey and Initial Visits

The tour commenced on 17th November at 3:30 PM, with students and staff departing from Hosapete by train. After an overnight journey, the team reached Vijayawada at 4:00 AM. The journey continued from Vijayawada to Visakhapatnam at 6:00 AM, and the group arrived safely at 12:00 PM on 18th November.

After reaching Visakhapatnam and taking a short break, students visited several important scientific and historical sites situated along the Beach Road:

1. Victory at Sea War Memorial

Students visited the Victory at Sea War Memorial, dedicated to Indian soldiers who laid down their lives during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan War. This stop helped students understand the historical significance of India's naval achievements and sacrifices.

These visits offered students a rich learning experience, blending scientific, technological, historical, and patriotic themes. The day concluded with reflections on defence-related scientific advancements and museum-based learning.

2. VMRD INS Kursura Submarine Museum

Students witnessed India's decommissioned submarine INS Kursura, now preserved as a museum. They learned about submarine structure, naval operations, underwater navigation, and life inside a submarine. This visit provided a cross-disciplinary understanding of marine engineering, defence technology, and naval history.



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3. Visakha Aircraft Museum

This museum showcased various aircraft models and aviation equipment. Students explored fighter jets, flight simulators, aircraft engines, navigation systems, and displays related to the Indian Air Force, enhancing their knowledge of aeronautics and aerodynamics.

4. Sea Harrier Museum

The Sea Harrier Museum displayed the legendary Sea Harrier Jump Jet, known for its vertical/short take off and landing capability. Students learned about the jet's role in maritime defence and the science behind thrust vectoring.





Day 2: 19th November 2025 – Educational Visit to Andhra University

On this day, students visited the prestigious Department of Botany, Zoology and Chemistry, Andhra University.

Activities and Observations

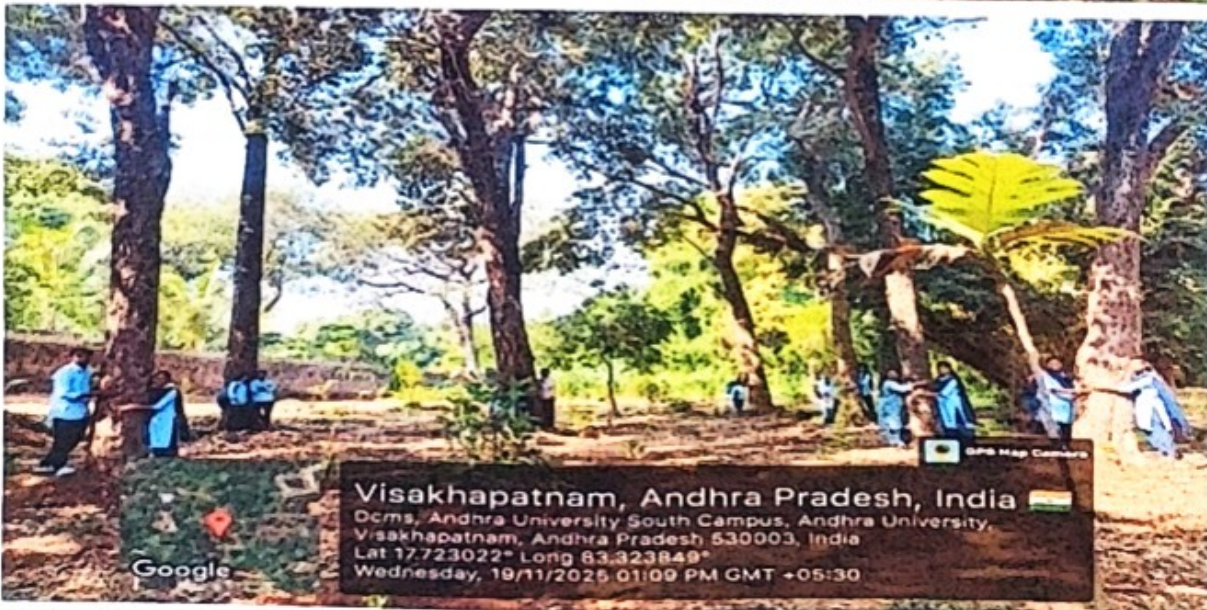
- The team was guided by Dr. Prakash Rao, Curator of the Department of Botany.
- Dr. Rao explained the importance of preserved plant specimens, methods of herbarium preparation, and the significance of museum collections for taxonomic and research studies.
- Students explored the 12-acre Botanical Garden, rich in biodiversity. They observed several endangered, endemic, medicinal, ornamental, and economically important plants.
- Dr. Rao demonstrated the Appiko Movement (tree-hugging activity), encouraging students to develop affection towards nature and understand the role of community-based conservation.
- The visit to the Herbarium Museum helped students learn about scientific documentation, labelling, specimen mounting, and long-term preservation techniques.

Later, students visited the Department of Zoology:

- The major attraction was the giant whale skull, providing insights into marine biodiversity.
- Students explored the Zoology Museum, which houses specimens from almost all major animal phyla, including corals, reptiles, fishes, amphibians, insects, birds, and mammals.

These interactions broadened students' perspectives on interlinkages between plant and animal sciences.







Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India

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Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India

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Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India
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Day 3: 20th November 2025 – Araku Valley and Natural Ecosystem Exploration

The third day focused on natural field study combined with ecological observations.

Places Visited and Learning

1. Katika Waterfalls

- The moist and shaded environment near the waterfall supported diverse bryophytes and pteridophytes, which the students observed and collected for academic purposes.
- This field exposure helped them understand plant adaptations in high-humidity ecosystems.

2. Borra Caves

- These ancient limestone caves, estimated to be 150 million years old, displayed geological formations such as stalactites and stalagmites.
- The Gosthani River, which originates from these caves and flows between the solidified stalactites and stalagmites in the karstic limestones formation, is the cause for the development of the odd shapes of structures. Water percolating from the roof of the caves dissolve limestone and trickle drop by drop to form stalactites at the roof of the cave and then dripping down to the ground form stalagmites.
- Students learned about the role of minerals, water seepage, and time in cave formation, linking geology with ecology.

3. Araku Tribal Museum

- The museum showcased the rich cultural heritage of local tribes, including their tools, weapons, musical instruments, household items, and artworks.
- Students understood the relationship between indigenous communities and forest resources.

4. Wooden Bridge and Canopy Walk

- This beautiful walkway allowed students to explore the forest at an elevated level.
- The area had numerous *Piper longum* (long pepper) plants, giving students an opportunity to observe spice plants in their natural habitat.

5. Chaparai Waterfalls

Day 4: 21st–22nd November 2025 – Cultural Visit and Return Journey

On 21st November, the team left the youth hostel at 5:30 AM to catch the 6:20 AM train from Visakhapatnam. Then reached Vijayawada at 12:00 PM and had lunch.

Later, we visited:

- **Kanaka Durga Devi Temple**, one of the most renowned pilgrimage centers in Andhra Pradesh. Students experienced the spiritual and cultural significance of the region.
- **Krishna River**, located close to the temple, where students enjoyed the scenic beauty and calm environment.

By evening, the group boarded the 7:30 PM train from Vijayawada, and after an overnight journey, they reached Hosapete at 8:00 AM on 22nd November 2025, marking the successful completion of the study tour.

Overall Learning Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding of plant diversity, taxonomy, ecology, and conservation.
- Practical exposure to herbarium techniques, specimen preservation, and botanical garden management.
- Improved ability to identify bryophytes, pteridophytes, endemic species, and other plant groups.
- Broader knowledge of zoological specimens, tribal culture, and geological formations.
- Strengthened skills in field observation, teamwork, discipline, communication, and scientific reporting.
- Increased awareness of environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable resource use.

Conclusion

The Botanical Study Tour was a highly enriching and memorable academic experience. It provided students with a holistic understanding of plant sciences and their interconnectedness with ecosystems, culture, and scientific research. The Department of Botany expresses sincere gratitude to the college management and we express our sincere thanks to the Head of the Department of Botany, Andhra University; Dr. Prakash Rao, Curator; and the research scholars for their constant support and cooperation in making this tour a grand success.




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