

Report on Educational Excursion to Emami Jagannath Temple and Panchalingeswar, Baleswar, Odisha

Date of Excursion: 30th January 2025

Organized by: Department of Botany

Venue: Emami Jagannath Temple and Panchalingeswar, Baleswar, Odisha **Introduction:**

The Department of Botany organized an educational excursion to Emami Jagannath Temple and Panchalingeswar in Baleswar, Odisha, on 30th January 2025. The trip was designed to enhance students' learning experience through exposure to cultural, spiritual, and natural heritage. The excursion aimed at providing students with a deeper understanding of ecological, historical, and religious aspects of the region, fostering both academic and personal growth.

Objective:

The main objectives of the excursion were:

- To explore the ecological diversity around the sites, particularly the flora and fauna.

- To understand the historical and cultural significance of the Emami Jagannath Temple and Panchalingeswar.
- To provide students with a real-world context to their academic knowledge of botany, geology, and cultural heritage.

Participants:

The excursion involved 53 students and 2 faculty teaching members: Dr. Jayanteebala parija (HOD, Botany) & Mrs. Sasalipi Nayak (Reader, Botany) and 3 non-teaching staffs. Students from different years participated, and the group was divided into smaller sections for easier management and to ensure that each participant gained a deeper understanding of the topics discussed.

Itinerary:

- **5:00 AM:** Departure from the college campus by bus.
- **10.00 AM:** Arrival at Emami Jagannath Temple.
 - The students were given a guided tour of the temple, which is dedicated to Lord Jagannath.
 - The historical and architectural significance of the temple was explained by the tour guide. ○ Students noted the various plant species around the temple premises and their uses in religious practices.
- **1.00PM:** Lunch break with a local meal.
- **1.30PM:** Departure to Panchalingeswar.

- **2.00PM:** Arrival at Panchalingeswar.
 - The group explored the Panchalingeswar hill temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, and enjoyed a scenic walk through the surrounding forested areas. ○ The flora of the region was discussed in detail, focusing on tropical and subtropical species.
 - Students observed the river ecosystem and noted the different types of aquatic plants.
- **4:00 PM:** Visit to the nearby natural spring, with discussions on water conservation and its importance for local vegetation.
- **5:30 PM:** Reflection and group discussion on the excursion.
- **6:30 PM:**Departure back to the college campus.



Highlights of the Excursion:

1. Emami Jagannath Temple:

- The temple's location and significance were key learning points. The students explored the intricate carvings and the spiritual practices associated with the temple. ○ The visit provided an opportunity to observe local plants used for religious ceremonies and rituals. The students were able to make connections between the plants' ecological roles and their cultural importance.

2. Panchalingeswar:

- The natural beauty surrounding Panchalingeswar left a lasting impression on the students. The biodiversity of the region, including various tree species like Sal, Bamboo, and Neem, was examined in detail.

- The site is situated in a forested area, which provided the perfect setting to discuss the importance of biodiversity conservation and the need for preserving such ecosystems.

- The students also noted the unique flora along the river, including waterloving plants and aquatic species, which broadened their understanding of wetland ecosystems.

3. Botanical Exploration:

- The excursion allowed the students to observe a variety of plant species in their natural habitats.

- Some common species noted included medicinal plants, shrubs, trees, and herbs that contribute to the local ecosystem.

- Students were encouraged to observe the relationship between flora and fauna, as well as their interactions within the ecosystem.

4. Ecological and Conservation Discussion:

- A key part of the excursion was an impromptu discussion on the importance of preserving both cultural and natural heritage. The students learned about the role of trees in mitigating climate change and conserving biodiversity in the region.

- The faculty emphasized the importance of studying plants from an ecological perspective and encouraged students to consider the role of conservation in their future careers.



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Learning Outcomes:

- Students gained practical knowledge of different plant species and their ecological roles.
- The excursion provided a deeper understanding of the relationship between culture, history, and nature.
- The visit to Panchalingeswar fostered an appreciation for the natural world and its preservation.
- The excursion helped enhance students' observational and analytical skills as they applied classroom learning to real-world contexts.

Conclusion:

The educational excursion to Emami Jagannath Temple and Panchalingeswar, Baleswar, was a great success. The students were able to connect their theoretical knowledge with real-world observations and gain a better understanding of both the cultural and ecological aspects of the region. The trip not only contributed to their academic growth but also enriched their appreciation for the environment and the need for conservation.

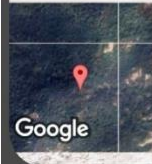
The Department of Botany extends its gratitude to the management and staff for supporting this educational initiative. The excursion proved to be an enlightening experience that will be remembered by all participants for years to come.

Report Prepared By:

Department of Botany
Salipur Autonomous college, Salipur



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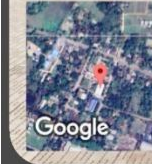


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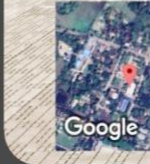


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