

## Visit to Konark, Puri

**Event:** Visit to Konark

**Date and Duration:** 08/01/2019, One Day

1. **Objective of the Event:** As an integral component of their undergraduate botany curriculum, students are mandated to undertake field excursions to various locations, specifically coastal regions. This enables them to gain practical exposure to the diverse flora inhabiting marine ecosystems. The overarching objective of this particular expedition to Konark was to facilitate the collection of plant specimen endemic to the area for the creation of herbarium sheets. Additionally, students were tasked with observing and documenting the economic significance of numerous plant species native to the region.

Konark is renowned for its expansive coastal stretch, which boasts a rich biodiversity of halophytic vegetation adapted to the saline conditions prevalent in the area. The sandy beaches and dune ecosystems harbor a plethora of plant life, including species such as *Spinifex littoreus*, *Ipomoea pescaprae*, and *Canavalia maritima*. Furthermore, the region is home to diverse mangrove communities, which play a crucial role in coastal protection and serve as nurseries for various marine organisms.

2. **Technical Visit Session:** During the technical session, faculty members provided guidance and support to students in identifying the local plant species prevalent in the Konark coastal area. The session included detailed discussions on the botanical characteristics and ecological importance of the observed species.
3. **Participation Details:** 35 students participated from UG department of Botany.

**Outcome of the tour:** The visit to Konark's coastal belt proved to be an invaluable experience, providing students with ample opportunities to collect an array of plant specimens crucial for the preparation of their herbarium projects. Furthermore, the hands-on exposure to the region's unique flora facilitated a deeper understanding of the economic significance of numerous plant species, particularly those with medicinal, agricultural, or industrial applications. The guided exploration, coupled with the expertise of the faculty members, enriched the student knowledge and appreciation of coastal ecosystems and their intrinsic value.



Field Trip to Konark, Puri for the session 2018-2019