

Visit to Deltaic Region of Chandrabhaga, Odisha

Event: Visit to Deltaic region of Chandrabhaga, Odisha

Date and Duration: 11/01/2024, One Day

1. **Objectives of the Event:** The deltaic region of Chandrabhaga is a renowned coastal locality in Odisha, characterized by their pristine beaches, rich biodiversity, and unique ecological niches. These regions boast a diverse assemblage 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, serve as nurseries for various marine organisms, and provide a multitude of economic benefits to local communities.

An indispensable component of the botany curriculum mandates students to undertake field expeditions to diverse ecological regions, thereby fostering practical exposure to the vast array of flora inhabiting these environments. The primary objectives of this excursion to the deltaic region of Chandrabhaga, situated in the coastal belt of Odisha, were multifaceted: 1) To identify and meticulously document the diverse plant species thriving along the marine coastline, 2) To facilitate the collection of plant specimens for the creation of comprehensive herbarium sheets, and 3) To observe and analyze the economic significance of various coastal plant species, thereby cultivating an understanding of their multifaceted roles in ecosystem functioning and human well-being.

2. **Technical Visit Session:** Faculties guided the students and helped the students for identification of local species of that area. The session encompassed comprehensive discussions on the botanical characteristics, ecological significance, and economic importance of the observed species, fostering a holistic understanding of the region's flora and their unique coastal habitats.
3. **Participation Details:** 70 students participated from UG department of Botany.

Outcome of the tour: The visit to the deltaic region of Chandrabhaga proved to be an invaluable and enriching experience for the students. It provided them with ample opportunities to collect a diverse array of plant specimens, which subsequently contributed to the creation of comprehensive herbarium sheets. Furthermore, the hands-on observation and documentation of the unique adaptations and morphological traits of various coastal plant species facilitated a deeper appreciation for the intricate relationships between plants and their marine environments. The guided exploration, coupled with the faculty's expertise, not only imparted theoretical knowledge but also instilled a sense of adventure and curiosity, fostering a more profound connection with nature. Moreover, the analysis of the economic significance of coastal flora highlighted the multifaceted roles these plants play in ecosystem services, traditional medicine, and sustainable livelihoods for local communities. Overall, the trip served as a transformative learning experience, reinforcing the students' understanding of the intricate relationships between plants and their environment, while also highlighting the importance of

preserving these unique coastal ecosystems and their invaluable resources.



Field Trip to Chandrabhaga Delta Region, Puri for the session 2023-2024