



KARTHEEKA VANA SAMARADHANA ENVIRONMENTAL & EDUCATIONAL TOUR

Organized by: A.S.D. Government Degree College for Women (A), Kakinada

Date: 19-11-2025

1. OBJECTIVE OF THE TOUR

The tour was organized as part of the *Kartheeka Vana Samaradhana* celebrations with the aim of connecting students to nature, culture, and traditional environmental practices. The primary objectives were:

1. To provide experiential learning on biodiversity, sacred groves, ecological balance, and environmental conservation.
2. To create awareness about the cultural and spiritual significance of Kartheeka Masam and Vana Samaradhana.
3. To help students understand the importance of green spaces such as Pushkar Vanam in preserving native flora and promoting sustainability.
4. To encourage value-based learning by exploring temples, river ecosystems, and traditional ecological knowledge systems.
5. To foster unity, discipline, and collective participation among students through field-based learning.

The tour was designed to help students develop respect for nature, appreciate cultural traditions, and understand how ancient knowledge contributes to today's environmental principles.

2. DETAILED REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME

A.S.D. Government Degree College for Women (A), Kakinada organized an environmental and educational tour to **Pushkar Vanam at Rajamahendravaram** as part of the Kartheeka Vana Samaradhana programme. A total of 35 staff members along with **Principal, Dr.V.Anantha Lakshmi and around 90 students** participated with enthusiasm and devotion.

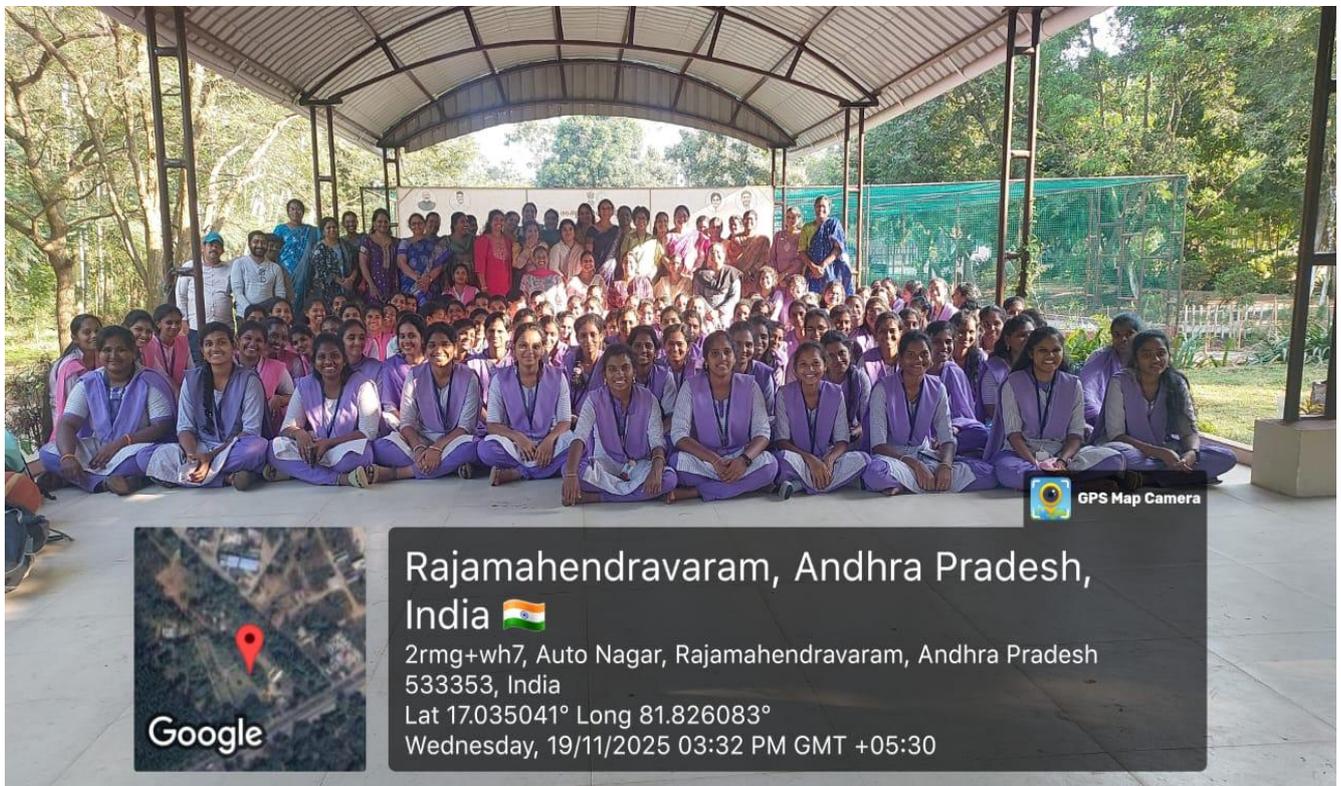
The group departed in **three buses at 8:00 AM** and reached Pushkar Vanam by **10:00 AM**.

Visit to Pushkar Vanam

Upon reaching **Pushkar Vanam at Rajamahendravaram** at 9:30 AM, students were immediately drawn to the natural beauty and spiritual calmness of the environment. Breakfast was served at 10:00 AM, after which the learning activities began.

From **10:30 AM to 12:30 PM**, students participated in a guided walk through various ecological zones within Pushkar Vanam. They observed medicinal plants, sacred trees, and biodiversity-rich patches that demonstrate the ancient Indian practice of preserving nature through spiritual association.

Faculty highlighted how sacred groves like Pushkar Vanam act as natural oxygen hubs, biodiversity shelters, and centers of ecological stability. Students were encouraged to take notes, sketch plant varieties, and reflect on the cultural stories linked to each species.



Staff and students at Pushkarvanam, Rajamahendravaram

Lunch

Between **12:30 PM and 1:30 PM**, informal group discussions were held under shaded trees. Students expressed their thoughts on how traditions can contribute to conservation, and how modern society can draw inspiration from such ecological wisdom.

Lunch was served between **1:30 PM and 2:30 PM**, following the traditional spirit of Vana Samaradhana — eating together in nature to express gratitude towards the environment.



Staff having Lunch at Pushkaravanam

Video Presentation: Significance of Pushkar Vanam

A key highlight of the tour was a **video presentation from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM**, displayed for all students. The video showcased:

- The historical background of Pushkar Vanam
- The ecological role of sacred groves in India
- The significance of planting and preserving holy trees
- The spiritual and cultural philosophies behind the design of the Vanam
- How traditional ecological practices influence modern conservation efforts

This session provided students with a deeper intellectual understanding of what they had explored physically, strengthening both conceptual and experiential learning.

Cultural and Spiritual Visits

After leaving Pushkar Vanam at 3:30 PM, the group visited prominent cultural and spiritual locations by the Godavari Ghat:

1. **Saraswathi Mata Temple:** Reinforced the sanctity of knowledge, wisdom, and learning.
2. **ISKCON Temple:** Provided a serene environment promoting peace, devotion, and ethical living.
3. **Ujjain Mahakaleswar Temple:** Offered insights into traditional architecture, spiritual heritage, and cultural identity.



Students playing in Pushkaravanam

These visits helped students appreciate the harmonious blend of nature, spirituality, culture, and human values.

Return Journey

After gathering at 5:45 PM, the group started the return journey at 6:00 PM and reached the college safely by 8:15 PM.



Principal along with Staff members while returning to Kakinada

3. MINUTE-TO-MINUTE TOUR BREAKUP

8:00 AM – Departure from A.S.D. Govt. Degree College for Women (A), Kakinada

The tour commenced promptly at **8:00 AM**, as 35 staff members and around 90 students assembled on campus with enthusiasm and devotion. Three buses were arranged, and before boarding, staff briefed the students on safety norms, maintaining discipline, and the significance of **Kartheeka Vana Samaradhana**—a tradition rooted in gratitude towards nature. The atmosphere was filled with excitement, devotional songs, and an eagerness to explore **Pushkar Vanam at Rajamahendranam**.

8:00–10:00 AM – Journey to Rajamahendranam

During the two-hour journey, students engaged in group chanting, nature-based discussions, and interacted with faculty about the importance of Vana Samaradhana in preserving culture and promoting ecological awareness. The scenic route—from Kakinada to Rajahmundry—provided students with a refreshing view of lush fields, coconut plantations, and early morning sunlight filtering through the

trees. Some faculty members used this travel time to explain the *environmental relevance of Kartheeka Masam*, encouraging students to observe nature closely during the tour.

10:00 AM – Arrival at Pushkar Vanam

The team reached **Pushkar Vanam** at **10:00 AM**, greeted by a serene, spiritually uplifting environment. The calm surroundings, tall trees, sacred groves, and well-maintained pathways immediately brought a sense of peace and connection with nature. Students were guided to the designated area arranged for refreshments.



Staff and students during their arrival at Pushkaravanam, Rajamahendravaram

10:10 –10:30 AM – Breakfast

Breakfast was served from **10:15 to 10:30 AM**. Students enjoyed a simple yet wholesome meal amidst nature, which created a harmonious beginning to the day's activities. Staff members used this opportunity to highlight the cultural practice of eating together in open natural environments during Kartheeka Masam—a tradition symbolizing equality, gratitude, and unity.



Staff having breakfast at Pushkaravanam

10:30 AM–12:00 PM – Exploration of Pushkar Vanam

This session focused on observing the **uniqueness and sanctity of Pushkar Vanam**. Some key points explained during this exploration were:

- Pushkar Vanam is developed scientifically to preserve indigenous plant species.
- The sacred grove model teaches how ancient communities protected ecosystems.
- Each plant is associated with medicinal, cultural, and ecological value.
- The grove symbolizes the harmony between humans and nature, which is central to Kartheeka Vana Samaradhana.

Students walked through different zones, took notes, clicked pictures, and interacted with faculty who explained concepts like biodiversity conservation, ecological balance, carbon absorption, and the cultural roots of worshipping trees.



Students of the Department of Mathematics



Students and staff of the Department of Home Science



Students and staff of the Department of Computer Science & Computer Applications



Students and staff of the Department of Botany



Students and staff of the Department of Commerce



Students and staff of the Departments of History, Economics & Political Science

12:00–1:30 PM – Environmental & Spiritual Learning Session

A guided session was conducted by the accompanying faculty, explaining:

- Why Kartheeka Masam emphasizes lighting lamps, visiting temples, and offering prayers in nature.
- The environmental science behind traditional practices such as Tulasi Pooja, lighting diyas, and offering food in nature.
- How sacred groves act as natural oxygen hubs and protect microhabitats.



Staff of the Department of Botany explaining about the rare species of plants present in the Pushkarvanam



Students felt deeply connected as they witnessed how culture and environmental science blend beautifully in Indian traditions.

1:30–2:30 PM – Vana Bhojanam (Lunch)

The traditional **Vana Bhojanam**, an essential part of Vana Samaradhana, was held between 1:30 and 2:30 PM. Food was served in a natural setting, symbolizing simplicity and respect for the environment. Students shared food, interacted freely with teachers, and reflected upon how such practices promote togetherness, humility, and sustainable living.



2:30–3:30 PM – Screening of Video on the Significance of Pushkar Vanam

A specially curated informational video was shown to the students, explaining:

- The history and development of Pushkar Vanam
- The spiritual significance of groves
- Ecological benefits like soil conservation, shelter for fauna, and support to local biodiversity
- Cultural heritage associated with the sacred forests in India
- How Pushkar Vanam serves as an educational living laboratory for students

Students watched attentively as the visuals helped them understand the deeper meaning behind the grove and why protecting such natural sanctuaries is essential for future generations.

3:30 PM – Departure from Pushkar Vanam

After capturing group photos and expressing gratitude to the coordinators, the team left for the next part of the tour. Students felt refreshed, spiritually enriched, and environmentally aware after spending the day amid nature.

3:45–5:30 PM – Visit to Godavari Ghat & Temples

The team arrived at the scenic **Godavari Ghat**. The flowing river created an atmosphere of serenity. The group visited:

- **Saraswathi Mata Temple** – Symbol of knowledge and wisdom
- **ISKCON Temple** – A place of peace, devotion, and spiritual learning
- **Ujjain Mahakaleswar Temple** – Known for its divine ambience and cultural significance

Students were encouraged to observe architectural styles, cultural practices, and the environmental importance of river-based ecosystems.



Students and staff at Mahakaleswar Temple, Rajamahendravaram

6:00 PM – Return Journey to Kakinada

The team started back at **6:00 PM**. During the return journey, students shared their personal reflections, noting how the tour strengthened their appreciation for nature, culture, and eco-friendly practices.

8:15 PM – Arrival at College

The group reached the college safely at **8:15 PM**, concluding the tour with satisfaction, joy, new learnings, and a renewed sense of responsibility toward the environment and cultural heritage.

4. SIGNIFICANCE OF VANA SAMARADHANA

Kartheeka Vana Samaradhana reflects India's ancient ecological wisdom. Its significance includes:

4.1 Reconnecting People with Nature

At a time when urban lifestyles distance people from natural environments, Vana Samaradhana provides an opportunity to return to the serene lap of nature.

4.2 Ecological Conservation

Traditionally, people preserved forests by assigning spiritual value to trees and groves. This practice is an indigenous model of biodiversity protection.

4.3 Cultural Continuity

The ritual keeps alive traditional environmental ethics, ensuring that new generations understand the cultural roots that honor trees, water bodies, and ecosystems.

4.4 Emotional and Spiritual Well-Being

Nature revitalizes the mind, reduces stress, and cultivates gratitude—qualities essential for holistic education and personal development.

5. STUDENTS' VIEWS

Students shared that:

- The trip deepened their respect for nature and helped them understand how traditions can protect the environment.
- Observing sacred plants allowed them to see how spirituality and ecology are interconnected.
- The peaceful surroundings and temple visits strengthened their cultural identity.
- The video presentation made the purpose of the tour clearer, connecting their field observations with deeper ecological meaning.
- The experience strengthened teamwork, curiosity, and a sense of responsibility towards nature.

Many appreciated that such programmes help them grow academically, emotionally, and spiritually.

6. CONCLUSION AND OUTCOMES

The Kartheeka Vana Samaradhana Environmental and Educational Tour proved to be a successful learning experience. The major outcomes include:

1. **Enhanced environmental knowledge:** Students gained awareness about biodiversity, sacred groves, and conservation.
2. **Cultural enrichment:** Visits to temples and participation in traditional practices strengthened cultural understanding.
3. **Holistic learning:** The combination of nature walks, video learning, and cultural exploration created a well-rounded educational experience.
4. **Strengthened values:** Students developed appreciation for nature, traditions, spirituality, and community living.
5. **Personal development:** The tour encouraged reflection, discipline, cooperation, and emotional well-being.

Overall, the programme beautifully blended education, culture, tradition, and environmental awareness, leaving a lasting impact on all participants.