

**PG AND RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
JAMAL MOHAMED COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), TIRUCHIRAPPALLI - 20**

FIELD VISIT REPORT

Place of visit : The Sathanur National Fossil Wood Park, Perambalur &
Forest Tree Seed Centre, P.K. Agaram, Trichy

Date : 08.10.2024

Class : II B. Sc., Botany

The Programme:

The PG and Research Department of Botany, Jamal Mohamed College, As part of the compulsory paper on Environmental Studies Since the students of II B.Sc., Botany students wants to visit two environmentally significant sites: Sathanur National Fossil Wood Park and The Forest Tree Seed centre in Trichy. Hence the programme was planned by Dr. Balaguru. Students were showed the great interest and anticipated the visit with enthusiasm.

Our Beloved HOD Dr. H. Syed Jahangir and Staff Dr. Balaguru has taken sincere effort for giving an experimental learning, He requested and sought the permission from our Principal. Who inturn and accept and insisted the safety of the students and staff too.

As per the plan by 09.30am, we reached the Fossil Park after around two hour i.e. around 11.45am. Observing the fossil staying there for around 1 hours, and we reach the Forest Tree Seed Centre in trichy.

On request to the official of Forest Department, They give the permission to observe the seed storage and collection.

Students recorded the fossilized wood by wonderful photographs and also their selfies.

This trip enriched the students' understanding of the long- term environmental changes and critical importance of preserving both historical fossils and present-day ecosystems. Students whole heartedly thanked the college management, Principal, HOD and staff for their Help and support.

The Major Outcomes:

1. Unity of students strengthened during the travel.
2. Carrying the fellow students and cooperation increased.
3. Have observed the importance preserving fossils and practical learning.
4. Understand the Importance of Biodiversity.
5. Learned the importance of seed collection, storage.
6. More over students enjoyed the natural and serene environment.



Signage of the Fossil Park



Students in front of Sathanur National Fossil Wood Park



Close up of the Fossil Tree

The large trunk of petrified tree, which can be seen here, lies within the Trichirappalli group of rocks of about 100,000,000 years ago. This tree shows the presence of Conifers (The non flowering plants) that dominated the land vegetation prior to the advent of Angiosperms (the flowering plants of the present day).

The petrified tree trunk at Sathanur measures over 18 meters in length. Similar fossil trees measuring a few meters in length are found along the stream sections near Varagur, Anaipadi, Alundalipur and Saradamangalam. Dr.M.S.Krishnan of the Geological Survey of India first reported this fossil tree in 1940



20 Million Old Fossil Wood From Thiruvakkarai, Viluppuram (Dt).



Fossil Wood From Near village



National Fossil Park Museum



**Dr. Balaguru, Staff in charge, Explain how wood is fossilized
Over millions of years**



Students in front of Forest Tree Seed Centre in Trichy



Dr. Balaguru Explain about seed collection, storage and distributed process



Challenges

1. While the park provides a great educational experience, it faces some challenges, such as:
2. Public Awareness: Despite its significance, the park does not attract as many visitors as it should due to limited publicity.
3. Infrastructure: There is a need for more infrastructure like visitor centers or museums to further enhance the learning experience.

Recommendations

1. Enhance visitor facilities and infrastructure, such as a dedicated museum or learning center.
2. Increase awareness campaigns to attract more tourists and students
3. Encourage more research collaborations with universities and scientific institutions to expand the knowledge base

Conclusion

The visit to Sathanur National Fossil Park and the Forest Tree Seed Centre was highly informative, providing valuable insights into the significance of paleontological and botanical conservation efforts. Both sites play crucial roles in education, community engagement, and environmental sustainability. Continued support and development of these sites are essential for promoting awareness and preserving our natural heritage.