

Department of Geology
Government College (Autonomous) Rajahmundry

National Fossil Day Report – 16 October 2024

As per the approved action plan 2023-24 of the department, the Department of Geology, in collaboration with the Zoology and Botany Departments, organized the **National Fossil Day** on October 16, 2024. This event was designed to educate and engage students from all three departments in the fascinating world of fossils, to foster a deeper appreciation for Earth's ancient history and the contributions of geology, zoology, and botany to our understanding of the past.

A total of 42 students and faculty from the Geology, Botany and Zoology departments have attended the program. Dr. M.R. Goutham, Lecturer-in-Charge of the Geology department explained to the students about the modes of fossilization and the importance of fossils in geology particularly age determinations of sedimentary rocks, palaeo-environmental and palaeo-geographical studies.

Dr. A. Srinivasa Rao, Lecturer-in-Charge of the Department of Botany explained to the students about the importance of geological timescale and prospects in the study of fossils (palaeontology). Sri K. Durga Rao, Lecturer-in-Charge of the Zoology department about the evolution of humans from primitive life and how man has become a threat to fellow animals and damaging the environment.

Dr. S.S.K. Chaitanya, Head of the Department of Geology at Sir C.R. Reddy Autonomous College, Eluru had delivered a guest lecture on "Earths' History through Time". He stated that "Earth's history through time is a fascinating narrative that spans billions of years, tracing the planet's evolution from its fiery birth approximately 4.6 billion years ago to its current, diverse state. This captivating saga includes the formation of continents, the emergence of life, the rise and fall of ancient civilizations, and countless geological and climatic changes. From the primordial oceans to the age of dinosaurs, and onwards to the present Anthropocene era, Earth's history provides invaluable insights into our planet's dynamic past, shaping our understanding of the natural world and humanity's place within it."

Event Highlights:

1. **Fossil Displays:** One of the key attractions of the event was the diverse collection of fossils on display. The Geology Department showcased an impressive assortment of ancient fossils, including trilobites, ammonites etc.. The students and staff from the Zoology and Botany Departments attended the event. The display of fossils is emphasizing the link between fossils and the evolution of life on Earth.

All the Students were advised to go for a guided field trip to a Duddukuru-Pangidi transect where they can see fossiliferous Limestone. This would also provide hands-on experience for them to apply what they had learned during the workshops and lectures.

2. **Guest Lecture:** The event featured with a guest lecture by Dr. S.S.K Chaitanya, Head of the Department of Geology at Sir C.R. Reddy Autonomous College Eluru. He spoke on evolutionary biology, geology and palaeontology. He shared his research insights from Norway and Mexico, enriching the student's understanding of the significance of fossils in our understanding of the Earth's history.

Photo Gallery



Dr. Goutham explaining the students about importance of fossils



