



മിളിന

nature camp

.....
21, 22, 23 July 2025, Thekkady

Organised By



School of Pedagogical Sciences
MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY

In Collaboration with



Kerala Forest Department
Government of Kerala

Nature camp venue
Thekkady - Periyar Tiger Reserve
Idukki District, Kerala

CAMP OBJECTIVES

1. To inculcate environmental awareness and conservation ethics among students.
2. To impart knowledge on forest ecosystems, biodiversity, and wildlife protection.
3. To promote sustainable and eco-friendly lifestyles through experiential learning.
4. To encourage active student participation in conservation initiatives.
5. To provide direct exposure to natural habitats and forest management practices.
6. To foster appreciation for traditional ecological knowledge and local cultures.
7. To build leadership, responsibility, and teamwork through nature-based activities.

ABOUT PERIYAR TIGER RESERVE

Thekkady Periyar Tiger Reserve, located in the Idukki district of Kerala, is one of India's oldest and most renowned protected areas, established in 1950 and later declared a tiger reserve in 1978 under Project Tiger. Spanning the Western Ghats, it covers an area of about 925 sq. km, rich in biodiversity and home to tigers, elephants, gaurs, and a wide range of flora and fauna. The reserve centers around the picturesque Periyar Lake, formed by the Mullaperiyar Dam built in 1895. Thekkady offers a variety of eco-tourism facilities including guided nature walks, bamboo rafting, jungle patrols, boat cruises, and tribal heritage visits, making it a prime destination for wildlife enthusiasts, researchers, and nature lovers.

* * * *

For Information:

Nandu K Pramod,
Camp Coordinator
7012437292





CAMP COMMITTEES

Camp Coordinator

Nandu K Pramod

Faculty Coordinators

Prof. (Dr) Asha J V

Dr. Muhammed K V

Asst. Coordinators

Sijin John

Sharlet P Joy

Finance Committee

Gokul K

Vipin Thomas

Program Committee

Joe John Mathew

Dona Mariya Joy

Bella Dona Rachel

Varghese

Gayathri Premkumar

Ann Mariya Joseph

Gowri Nandana M

Muhammad Ashik S

Chesaro Nicholas

Kiptisha

First AID Committee

Anjaly Sebastian

Akshay Harshan

Gurumahima M V

John Panicker

Food committee

Akhila Monachen

Amalu K Alias

Dominic Joseph

Accomodation

Committee:

M Muhammed Althaf

Gopika Gopan

Joe John Mathew

Bella dona

Rapporteurs :

Sneha K

Akhila Monachan

Gurumahima M V

Amalu K Alias

Ann Mariya Joseph

Media &

Photography

Akshay Harshan

Sujith P S

Muhammad Ashik S

Transport

Committee

Jerald Thomas

Sujith P.S

M Muhammed Althaf



CAMP SCHEDULE

Day 01 - 21/07/2025, Monday

- 12:45 PM : Departure from Kottayam KSRTC Depot
- 05:30 PM : Registration Time
- 07:00 PM : History of Periyar
- 08:30 PM : Dinner
- 09:30 PM : Cultural Activities
- 11:00 PM : Sleeping time



Day 02 - 22/07/25, Tuesday

- 06:30 AM : Yoga
- 08:00 AM : Breakfast
- 09:00 AM : Forest Trekking
- 01:00 PM : Lunch at Camp Site
- 02:00 PM : Museum Visit
- 04:00 PM : Social Activities
- 06:00 PM : Class
- 08:30 PM : Dinner



Day 03 - 23/07/25, Wednesday

- 06:30 AM : Yoga
- 08:00 AM : Breakfast
- 09:00 AM : Bird Watching
- 12:00 PM : Experience Sharing
- 01:00 PM : Lunch at Camp Site
- 02:00 PM : Camp Disperse



*"Organisers reserve the right to modify the schedule if required."



MILINDI - NATURE CAMP REPORT
SCHOOL OF PEDAGOGICAL SCIENCES
MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY

From 21st to 23rd July 2025

at the Periyar Tiger Reserve, Thekkady, Idukki District, Kerala

In Collaboration with Kerala Forest Department, Government Of Kerala

Introduction

The Milindi Nature Camp was a three-day environmental education initiative conducted at the Periyar Tiger Reserve, Thekkady. Organized for the Master of Education Students (2024–2026 Batch) of the School of Pedagogical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, the program was held in collaboration with the Kerala Forest Department, Government of Kerala. The primary objective of the camp was to cultivate environmental consciousness among students by highlighting the significance of biodiversity, nature conservation, and sustainable living. The camp focused on key goals such as deepening understanding of forest ecosystems, fostering eco-conscious behavior, promoting collaborative learning, and providing firsthand exposure to wildlife and natural habitats. Faculty members and student leaders oversaw the coordination and smooth functioning of the program.

Brief Overview of the Camp

The Nature Camp was a three-day immersive experience aimed at nurturing ecological awareness and sustainable thinking among students. Set in the breathtaking landscape of the Periyar Tiger Reserve, one of India's richest biodiversity hotspots in the Idukki district of Kerala. The camp provided an invaluable experiential learning opportunity. It was jointly organized by the School of Pedagogical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, and the Kerala Forest Department.

Participants included postgraduate students and faculty members, all united by a shared commitment to environmental education and conservation. The camp sought to connect academic learning with real-world environmental challenges by engaging students in the rich ecological setting of the Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Over the course of three days, participants took part in a diverse array of activities such as guided nature treks, bird watching, museum visits, interactive workshops, cultural performances, and reflective group discussions. These thoughtfully designed sessions aimed to not only educate but also inspire a deeper emotional and ethical connection to nature.

A notable aspect of the camp was its emphasis on student leadership and collaborative management. Student-led committees were responsible for key aspects like logistics, accommodation, food services, cultural programming, and first aid, offering participants practical experience in planning, teamwork, and coordination. The Milindi Nature Camp proved to be a memorable and transformative journey that blended environmental learning with personal development, adventure, and a spirit of community. Participants left with heightened ecological sensitivity, enhanced skills, meaningful relationships, and a strengthened resolve to contribute to environmental protection.

The Periyar Tiger Reserve

The Camp was held at the Periyar Tiger Reserve, located in Thekkady, in the Idukki district of Kerala. This protected area is one of India's most famous wildlife reserves, known for its rich biodiversity, scenic beauty, and well-preserved forest ecosystem. The reserve spans approximately 925 square kilometres across the Western Ghats and is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, including tigers, elephants, gaurs, and numerous bird species. The core of the reserve surrounds the Periyar Lake, formed by the Mullaperiyar Dam.

The camp venue was situated within the eco-tourism zone of the reserve, providing participants with safe access to forest trails, guided treks, and other activities under the supervision of trained forest officials. The serene and natural setting of Thekkady offered the perfect backdrop for learning about conservation, experiencing wildlife, and connecting deeply with nature.

Participants of the Camp

The Milindi Nature Camp had a total of 29 participants, comprising both second-year Master of Education students and faculty members from the School of Pedagogical Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University. All participants were actively involved in the camp's activities, contributing to its success through enthusiastic participation, teamwork, and cooperation.

IV. FACULTY AND STAFF INVOLVEMENT

The involvement of faculty and staff was crucial to the smooth coordination and educational success of the Milindi Nature Camp. They provided guidance, supervision, and logistical support throughout the three-day program. Their active participation helped maintain discipline, ensured safety, and enriched the learning experience for the students.

The following faculty and staff members were part of the camp:

- Dr. Muhammad K V – Assistant Professor
- Malavika – Librarian
- Anil Kumar – Section Officer
- Roshini Sali – Post Doctoral Fellow

Each of them played a significant role in mentoring the students, supporting committee functions, coordinating with the forest department, and ensuring the overall management of camp-related tasks.

STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Akhila Monachen | 7. Chesaro Nicholas Kiptisha |
| 2. Akshay Harshan | 8. Dominic Joseph |
| 3. Amalu K Alias | 9. Dona Mariya Joy |
| 4. Anjali Sebastian | 10. Gayathri Premkumar |
| 5. Ann Mariya Joseph | 11. Gokul K |
| 6. Bella Donna Rachel Varghese | 12. Gopika Gopan |

13. Gowrinandana M

20. Nandu K Pramod

14. Gurumahima M

21. Sharlet P Joy

15. Jerald Thomas

22. Sijin John

16. Joe John Mathew

23. Sneha K

17. John Panicker K G

24. Sujith P S

18. M Muhammed Althaf

25. Vipin Thomas

19. Muhammad Ashik S

DAILY REPORT

DAY 1: 21st July 2025

The Milindi Nature Camp began with a scenic bus journey at 1:30 PM through the lush landscapes of Kerala, setting the tone for a meaningful connection with nature. Students enjoyed the changing scenery and began bonding as a group. By 5:00 PM, the team arrived at the Periyar camp site and was welcomed with tea, fresh air, and the sounds of the forest.

At 6:30 PM, Forest Officer Monachan Sir conducted an enlightening session on the ecological and cultural significance of the Periyar Tiger Reserve. He emphasized indigenous knowledge, sustainable living, and the role of education in conservation, prompting deep reflection among participants.

Dinner at 7:30 PM offered a time for sharing and informal discussions, followed by a vibrant cultural night full of performances and games that strengthened group camaraderie. By 11:00 PM, students retired to their tents, surrounded by the calming sounds of the forest.

The first day seamlessly blended adventure, learning, and team-building, marking a powerful start to the camp's goal of fostering environmental awareness and personal growth.

DAY 2: 22nd July 2025

On 22nd July 2025, the second day of the Milindi Nature Camp was filled with immersive learning and adventure. The day began early with a refreshing morning atmosphere,

followed by breakfast and a thrilling forest trek guided by experts. Campers observed wildlife, learned about forest ecosystems, and had an unexpected but educational encounter with leeches.

Post-trek, the group enjoyed lunch and participated in a focused bird-watching session, spotting native and migratory species. A visit to the local museum offered structured insights into the region's biodiversity and cultural heritage. Later, a class by wildlife expert Ramesh Babu deepened their understanding of conservation challenges.

The evening included a vote of thanks, followed by an interactive discussion led by Nature Education Officer Sethuparvathi, where participants explored topics like seed conservation and biodiversity. The day concluded with a lively debate session that encouraged critical thinking and spontaneous expression. Campers ended the day with enriched minds, strong bonds, and memorable experiences rooted in nature and learning.

DAY 3: 23rd July 2025

The final day of the nature camp on 23rd July 2025 began early, filled with calm excitement and a tinge of nostalgia. After two days packed with learning, adventure, and close interaction with nature, campers were eager to make the most of the last few hours at the camp.

The day began with a wake-up call at 6:00 am, as the cool forest morning set the perfect tone. After getting ready, participants assembled for the morning walk and bird watching session, which started at 7:30 am. With binoculars in hand and led by experienced forest guides, the campers moved quietly through designated trails. As they walked, they observed and identified various birds in their natural habitats. The guides explained bird behavior, flight patterns, and calls, enriching the experience with interesting facts and stories.

By 9:15 am, the group reached their destination near a calm forest lake, which marked the beginning of the next exciting activity — boating. From 9:30 am to 11:00 am, campers enjoyed a peaceful boating experience on the lake. Everyone wore life jackets and followed safety protocols before getting into the boats. The activity was both relaxing and reflective, as the campers floated on still waters surrounded by greenery and birdsong. It offered a final, soothing moment in nature's lap and left a lasting impression on all. Boating concluded by 11:30 am, and the group returned to the base camp.

Back at the camp, a late breakfast was served, providing everyone with much-needed energy after the morning's activities. This was followed by a short break during which campers had time to refresh themselves and complete their packing. As they folded tents, packed bags, and collected belongings, a quiet sense of accomplishment and connection to nature lingered in the air.

At 12:30 pm, a simple and hearty farewell lunch was served. Campers gathered to eat together one last time, sharing laughter, photos, and reflections about their favorite camp memories — from the thrilling trek to the surprise leech encounter, the wildlife class, birdwatching, and group debates.

Before departure, a short thanksgiving session was held where all campers collectively expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the forest officers, guides, and coordinators who had made the camp possible. Their efforts, knowledge, and warmth were acknowledged by all participants.

Finally, at 1:00 pm, the campers waved goodbye to the camp. As the buses began to move, many looked out at the trees and trails with fondness. Though the camp ended, the memories, lessons, and newfound appreciation for nature would remain with them long after.

Activities and Programmes

The final day of the camp, 23rd July 2025, began with a serene morning walk and bird-watching session, allowing campers to once again connect deeply with nature. This was followed by a peaceful boating experience on a forest lake, offering a reflective and calming end to the outdoor activities. After returning to camp, participants had breakfast, packed up, and prepared for departure. A farewell lunch provided an opportunity to share memories and express gratitude. A short Thanksgiving session was held to acknowledge the efforts of the forest officers and coordinators.

At 1:00 PM, the group bid farewell to the Periyar Tiger Reserve, carrying with them unforgettable experiences, stronger bonds, and a renewed commitment to environmental conservation.

Key Learnings and Takeaways

The Milindi Nature Camp was a meaningful and enriching experience that left a lasting impression on all participants. It fulfilled its core objectives by blending environmental education with real-world exposure, teamwork, and self-reflection.

- Participants gained a deep understanding of forest ecosystems, wildlife protection, and biodiversity conservation.
- Exposure to the Western Ghats environment fostered awareness about the fragility of natural habitats and the urgent need for sustainable practices.
- Students learned about the role of indigenous communities and traditional knowledge in conservation efforts.
- The experience encouraged eco-conscious thinking and a personal connection to nature, making environmental issues more relatable.

SKILLS DEVELOPED

- Teamwork and collaboration were strengthened through group activities and committee responsibilities.
- Leadership and organizational skills were enhanced by student-led planning and execution of tasks.
- Observation and analytical thinking were improved during bird watching, trekking, and interactive sessions.
- Communication and documentation skills were developed through experience-sharing, cultural presentations, and report writing.

ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING

The camp was planned well in advance by the organizing committee in coordination with the Kerala Forest Department. Duties were divided among various student-led subcommittees, ensuring that each area, transport, food, accommodation, first aid, and programs was handled efficiently. The faculty coordinators guided the process and ensured that schedules, permissions,

and requirements were in place before departure. A detailed itinerary helped participants stay organized and involved in all activities.

Conclusion

The Milindi Nature Camp was a highly successful and enriching program that met its objectives of promoting environmental awareness, fostering appreciation for biodiversity, and encouraging sustainable living among students. The camp provided a perfect balance of learning, exploration, and personal growth through direct interaction with nature. Participants returned with valuable insights, stronger peer bonds, and a renewed commitment to environmental responsibility. The teamwork displayed by students and the support from faculty and forest officials played a key role in making the camp an enjoyable and impactful experience.

PHOTOS





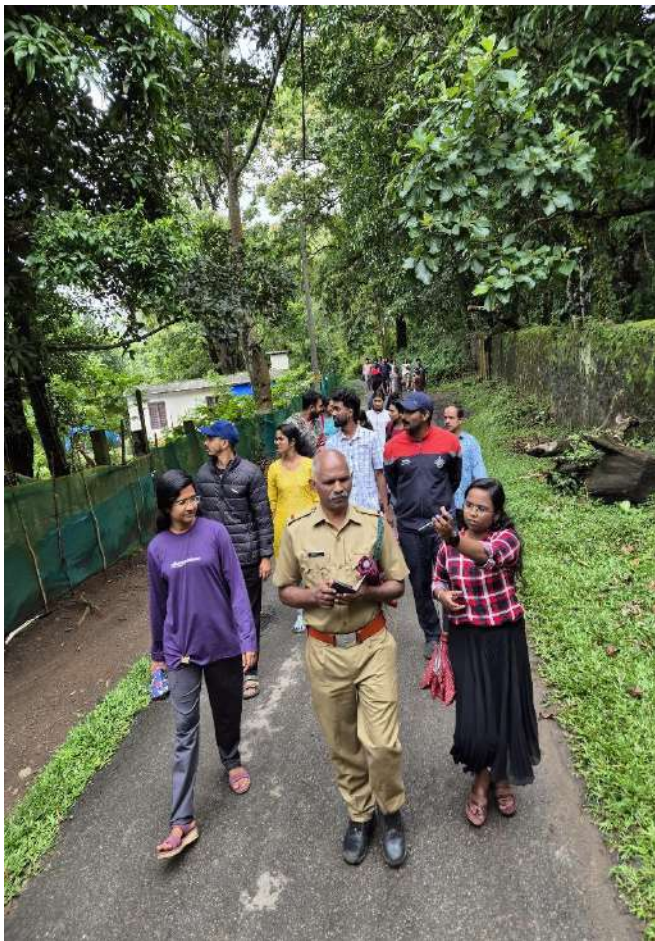






SESSIONS







കേരള വനം വകുപ്പ്

ചീഫ് വൈൽഡ് ലൈഫ് വാർഡന്റെ/വൈൽഡ് ലൈഫ് വാർഡന്റെ / ഡിവിഷണൽ ഫോറസ്റ്റ് ഓഫീസറുടെ / ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി ഡയറക്ടറുടെ പെരിയാർ ഈസ്റ്റ് ഫോറസ്റ്റ് ഡിവിഷൻ നടപടി ഉത്തരവ്

ഹാജർ : സാജു പി യു

നടപടി ഉത്തരവ് നമ്പർ 13/2025-26 തീയതി 15-07-2025

വിഷയം :- പ്രകൃതി പഠന ക്യാമ്പ് അനുവദിച്ചു ഉത്തരവാകുന്നത് - സംബന്ധിച്ചു.

സൂചന :- 1. NANDU K PRAMOD, 26, HOUSE KURUMATHU, PANAMATTOM എന്നവരുടെ 15-07-2025 തീയതിയിലുള്ള 372 നമ്പർ ഓൺലൈൻ അപേക്ഷ.



മേൽസൂചനയിലെ അപേക്ഷ വിശദമായി പരിശോധിച്ചതിൽ, അപേക്ഷയിൽ സൂചിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള 21-07-2025 മുതൽ 23-07-2025 വരെയുള്ള തീയതികളിൽ (3 ദിവസം), പെരിയാർ ഈസ്റ്റ് ഫോറസ്റ്റ് ഡിവിഷൻ ഓഫീസിന്റെ പരിധിയിൽ വരുന്ന Thekkady ഇൽ, താഴെ പറയുന്ന നിബന്ധനകൾക്ക് വിധേയമായി പ്രകൃതി പഠന ക്യാമ്പ് അനുവദിച്ചു ഉത്തരവാകുന്നു.

1. അപേക്ഷയോടൊപ്പം സമർപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള Undertaking ഇൽ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ള നിബന്ധനകളും വനം വകുപ്പ് നടത്തി വരുന്ന പ്രകൃതി പഠന ക്യാമ്പുകളുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് നിലവിലുള്ള എല്ലാ നിബന്ധനകളും, അപേക്ഷകനും ക്യാമ്പിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കുവാൻ അപേക്ഷയോടൊപ്പം പേര് നൽകിയിട്ടുള്ള മറ്റുള്ളവരും അംഗീകരിച്ചു കൊള്ളാം എന്ന വ്യവസ്ഥയിൽ മാത്രമാണ് മേൽപ്പറഞ്ഞ പ്രകൃതി പഠന ക്യാമ്പ് അനുവദിക്കുന്നത്.
2. അപേക്ഷയിൽ പേര് നൽകിയിട്ടുള്ളവരെ മാത്രമേ ക്യാമ്പിൽ പങ്കെടുപ്പിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ.
3. മുൻകൂട്ടി പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കാത്തതോ കാലാവസ്ഥ സംബന്ധമായതോ സമാനമായ മറ്റ് പ്രതീകൂല സാഹചര്യങ്ങളോ, അതുമല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഭരണപരമായ ആവശ്യകതകൾ (Administrative Exigencies) ഉള്ള സാഹചര്യങ്ങളിലോ ഈ ക്യാമ്പ് റദ്ദ് ചെയ്തു ഉത്തരവിറക്കാൻ ഈ ഓഫീസിനോ, വനം വകുപ്പിലെ മറ്റു competent authority ക്കോ അധികാരമുണ്ടായിരിക്കും. അത്തരം സാഹചര്യത്തിൽ SMS, email മുഖാന്തിരം ടി Cancellation Order അപേക്ഷകനെ അറിയിക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ട സംവിധാനം ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും, ക്യാമ്പിനു വരുന്നതിനു മുന്നോടിയായി അപേക്ഷകൻ പോർട്ടലിൽ ലോഗിൻ ചെയ്തു അപേക്ഷയുടെ status പരിശോധിക്കുന്നത് ഉചിതമായിരിക്കും.
4. ഏതെങ്കിലും സാഹചര്യത്തിൽ അപേക്ഷകന് ഈ ക്യാമ്പ് റദ്ദ് ചെയ്യണം എന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ റദ്ദ് ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുള്ള അപേക്ഷ ഓൺലൈൻ പോർട്ടൽ വഴി ഏറ്റവും ചുരുങ്ങിയത് ക്യാമ്പ് തുടങ്ങുന്ന തീയതിയായ 21-07-2025നു 5 ദിവസം മുൻപെങ്കിലും നൽകേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇത്തരം അപേക്ഷ പരിശോധിച്ചു ഉചിതമെങ്കിൽ SMS, email മുഖാന്തിരം Cancellation Order അപേക്ഷകനെ അറിയിക്കുകയും പോർട്ടലിൽ ഈ വിവരം ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതുമാണ്.

ക്യാമ്പ് ലൊക്കേഷൻ : Thekkady

ക്യാമ്പ് തീയതി : 21-07-2025 മുതൽ 23-07-2025 വരെ (3 ദിവസം)

ഗ്രൂപ്പ് ലീഡറുടെ പേരും വിലാസവും 1. : Nandu K Pramod, Kurumathu House Panamattom P.O Panamattom

അനുമതി നൽകുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്റെ പേര് : സാജു പി യു

ഓഫീസിന്റെ പേരും മേൽവിലാസവും : പെരിയാർ ഈസ്റ്റ് ഫോറസ്റ്റ് ഡിവിഷൻ, പെരിയാർ ഈസ്റ്റ് ഫോറസ്റ്റ് ഡിവിഷൻ,

Digitally signed by Saju P U
Date:2025.07.15 04:08:02 +05:30

കുറിപ്പ്:

1. ഡിജിറ്റൽ ഒപ്പോടുകൂടിയ ഈ ഉത്തരവ് 2000ലെ വിവര സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യാ ആക്ട് പ്രകാരം നിയമ സാധൂത ഉള്ളതാകുന്നു.
2. ഈ ഉത്തരവിന്റെ വിശ്വാസ്യത www.edistrict.kerala.gov.in എന്ന വെബ്സൈറ്റിൽ നിന്നും പരിശോധിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്.