



Date: 05/10/2025

Vanaspati Darshan – 2025 Activity Report

(Educational Botanical Exploration Tour)

Organized by: Dr. Deepak Patil Ayurvedic Medical College and Research Centre, Borpadale, Kolhapur

Date: 5th October 2025

Venue: Waghishol – Radhanagari – Dajipur Wildlife Sanctuary, Kolhapur

Guiding Experts:
1. Mr. Bhanudas Chavan (M.Sc. Biodiversity, Plant Taxonomist & Ethnobotany Expert)
2. Prof. Dr. Laxmikant Patil (M.D. Dravyaguna, Head of Department)

Faculty Coordinators:

- Dr. Sevagra Sharma
- Dr. Parag Kulkarni
- Dr. Sujay Wadkar

Introduction:

To provide practical exposure to Ayurvedic students in identifying and understanding medicinal plants in their natural habitat, **Dr. Deepak Patil Ayurvedic Medical College and Research Centre, Borpadale**, organized an educational field visit under the title “*Vanaspati Darshan – 2025*” on 5th October 2025.

The aim of this initiative was to connect theoretical Ayurvedic knowledge with practical field experience, fostering awareness about biodiversity, conservation, and the importance of medicinal flora in traditional and modern healthcare systems.

Objectives of the Activity:

- To identify and study Ayurvedic medicinal plants in their natural environment.
- To understand their morphological features, rasa, guna, virya, vipaka, prabhava, and therapeutic applications.
- To create awareness about biodiversity conservation and the ethnobotanical importance of forest plants.
- To encourage research-oriented and environmental learning among students.
- To promote field-based, experiential learning in Ayurveda education.

Description of the Activity:

The event commenced in the morning as students and faculty departed from Kolhapur towards the serene forest region of *Waghishol–Radhanagari–Dajipur Wildlife Sanctuary*. Upon arrival, the students were welcomed by the lush green surroundings and the natural biodiversity of the Western Ghats.

The educational tour was guided by eminent experts Mr. Bhanudas Chavan, an experienced plant taxonomist and ethnobotany specialist, and Prof. Dr. Laxmikant Patil, Head of the Dravyaguna Department. Under their expert guidance, the students observed and studied more than 100 different Ayurvedic medicinal plants. Each plant was explained in detail with its Ayurvedic properties, classical references, pharmacological actions, and field identification characters.

The experts elaborated on the local traditional uses of the plants by tribal communities, their ecological significance, and the sustainable methods of collection and conservation. Students enthusiastically participated, took notes, captured photographs, and interacted actively throughout the session.

Academic and Experiential Outcome:

The field visit provided a “*Live Classroom Experience in Nature*” where students could directly correlate their textbook knowledge with live examples in the field. Such real-life observation helped them develop a stronger understanding of plant identification, classification, and practical Ayurvedic application. The students expressed deep satisfaction, enthusiasm, and curiosity for further exploration and study.

After the educational session, arrangements were made for nutritious food and tea in the forest area, followed by a short nature walk to the “*Seven Waterfalls Trail*”, which provided relaxation and rejuvenation in the lap of nature.

This holistic approach – combining academic learning, physical activity, and environmental awareness – turned the event into a memorable and impactful educational experience.

Outcome and Impact:

- More than 40 students and faculty members actively participated in the event.
- Over 100 medicinal plants were identified, studied, and documented.
- Enhanced field-based knowledge of Ayurvedic botany (Dravyaguna).
- Boosted student motivation and environmental awareness.
- Strengthened the connection between Ayurveda and nature.
- Encouraged future research and plant conservation initiatives.

All participants expressed immense satisfaction, motivation, and gratitude for this enlightening experience. The tour truly reflected the ancient *Gurukula* tradition of learning from nature and reinforced the philosophy that “*Ayurveda originates from Prakriti – Nature.*”

Conclusion:

The *Vanaspati Darshan – 2025* program, organized by Dr. Deepak Patil Ayurvedic Medical College and Research Centre, Borpadale, proved to be a grand success both academically and environmentally.

The event emphasized experiential learning, research orientation, and the preservation of medicinal plant diversity, leaving a lasting impression on the students and faculty alike.

Special acknowledgment is given to the guiding faculty members — Dr. Sevagra Sharma, Dr. Parag Kulkarni, and Dr. Sujay Wadkar — for their dedicated efforts in planning, coordination, and successful execution of this enriching field study.



