

REPORT ON THE CONDUCT OF ONE DAY FIELD VISIT TO THE DISTRICT SCIENCE CENTRE, VELLORE ON THE OCCASION OF NATIONAL SPACE DAY

One day field visit to the District Science Centre, Vellore for the Government school students was organised on 23.09.2025 during the occasion of National Space Day 2025.

A group of 40 students (24 boys and 16 girls) from Class 9 of Government School in the Puducherry region, accompanied by 4 guide teachers and 2 staff members from Dr. AKSCP, participated in the field trip. The journey commenced at 7:15 A.M. from Dr. AKSCP. Breakfast was arranged en route, and upon arrival at the District Science Centre, lunch was provided.

The District Science Centre at Vellore was established by Tamilnadu Science and Technology Centre, Chennai has four halls of Science with 3 floors viz., Hall of Discovery, Physical Science, Miniature Nuclear Gallery, Industry, 3D Show and Mini Planetarium Show, Environment and Industry.

Students spent most of the time in the galleries and explore the exhibits related to physics, biology, chemistry, space science, and environmental studies which were interactive, informative and entertainment.

The gallery demonstrator performed and explained a series of exciting, physics-based experiments that resulted in startling and amusing outcomes. Interactive demonstrations were conducted with our students on topics such as Bernoulli's Principle, weightlessness, pressure, center of gravity, and more.

The mini portable planetarium, featuring an inflatable dome, accommodates up to 60 visitors at a time. During the 30-minute show, students interacted with the demonstrator, asking questions about the night sky and constellation patterns. The session provided an engaging learning experience, helping students gain knowledge about various stars, constellations, zodiac signs, and other features of the night sky.

The students then visited the 3D show, where they experienced an out-of-this-world immersive environment. The near-realistic visuals appeared to leap out from the static screen right before their eyes. Specially designed polarized glasses were provided to everyone during the show.

A discussion was held with the staff of the District Science Centre to explore and exchange ideas on various science popularisation programs such as Science Camps, Sky Watching activities, and student-focused Seminars/Training programs. These activities, which are currently being conducted at our Science Centre, were reviewed and compared to similar initiatives undertaken by the District Centre. The objective was to identify areas for improvement in our own programs and to explore the possibility of organizing joint events or collaborative programs in the future.

We began our return journey and reached the centre by 7:30 P.M. Overall, the purpose of the field visit ignited the students' interest in space science and to encourage them to view science not merely as a career, but as a calling deeply rooted in culture

