Department Of Geography
Govt. Degree College Anantnag

A Report
On

One Day Field Study Tour To
Duksum and Kokernag 2026

Department of Geography, SHMM GDC Anantnag.

Report on "One Day geographical Tour to Duksum and Kokernag (17th of OCTOBER 2026)"

1. INTRODUCTION

Field study, commonly referred to as fieldwork, is an essential component of geographical education. It involves systematic observation, investigation, and analysis of geographical phenomena in their natural settings, beyond the conventional classroom environment. Geography is fundamentally a field-oriented discipline. Geographical enquiry becomes more meaningful when theoretical knowledge acquired in the classroom is supplemented by direct field observations and well-planned field surveys. Fieldwork enables students to understand the spatial distribution, characteristics, associations, and interrelationships of natural and cultural features at the local and regional levels. Field studies also provide an opportunity to collect first-hand information that may not be available through secondary sources. They help students understand the nature and characteristics of physical, social, economic, and cultural environments and, more importantly, the complex interactions among their various components. Fieldwork is therefore essential for developing an analytical and observational approach among students towards their geographical environment. It enables learners to identify geographical processes, interpret landscapes, examine human–environment relationships, and relate theoretical concepts to real-world situations. Thus, fieldwork constitutes an important part of geographical learning, teaching, and research. It contributes not only to a better understanding of the Earth's surface but also to the development of practical skills such as observation, data collection, interpretation, geographical analysis, and field-based problem solving.

As an integral part of the undergraduate Geography curriculum, the Department of Geography, Government Degree College Anantnag, organized a one-day geographical field study tour to Daksum and its surroundings on 17th October 2026. The field study was organized for students of UG NEP 1st and 7th Semesters with the objective of providing them with first-hand knowledge of the physical and human geographical characteristics of the Daksum region. The field visit focused on a range of geographical themes, including mountain passes, glacial and fluvio-glacial landforms, fluvial processes, alpine pastures, mountain ecology, transhumance, the cultural geography of the Gujjar community, historical transportation infrastructure, tourism, and human–environment interactions.

The students were also introduced to the strategic geographical importance of the Daksum region and its extensive road networks, which facilitate connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the Doda-Kisthwar region of UT Jammu & Kashmir. The tour party comprised **150** students (male 90, female 60) accompanied by faculty members and non-teaching staff of the college.

2. FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPANYING THE STUDENTS

The following faculty members and staff accompanied the students during the field study tour:

1. **Dr. Muzafar Ahmad Wani — Head, Department of Geography**
2. **Dr. Jahangeer Afzal — Assistant Professor, Department of Geography**
3. **Dr. Abid Hussain Rather — Lecturer, Department of Geography**
4. **Dr. Suhail Ahmad— Lecturer, Department of Geography**
5. **Mr. Saleem Younous Kuctchy- Lecturer, Department of Geography**
6. **Mr. Shahid Gulzar — Guest Lecturer, Disaster Management**
7. **Ms. Tariq Ahmad — Laboratory Bearer, Department of Geography**
8. **Mr. Himayat Rafiq — LFE, Department of Geography**

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3. OBJECTIVES:

The major objectives of the field study were:

- To acquaint students with fluvio-glacial processes and their associated landforms.
- To understand the climate, vegetation, and ecology of the Pir Panjal Mountains.
- To study the alpine pastures and understand their ecological and economic significance.
- To introduce students to practice of transhumance of Gujjar and Bakarwal communities.
- To understand the cultural geography and l livelihood practices of pastoral communities.
- To study the geographical factors favoring tourism potential in the Study area.
- To analyze impact of tourism on the environment of these destinations.

Destination Area: Duksum and Kokernag

Anantnag is a district in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. It is one of the districts which make up the Kashmir Valley. Anantnag District is in southern sector of Jhelum Valley. The district headquarters is Anantnag city. As of 2011, it was the third most populous district of Jammu and Kashmir, after Jammu and Srinagar. The Northern and Western sides of this district are bounded by Pulwama district while Kulgam district falls in its west. Anantnag district comprises Kokernag, Shangus, Anantnag (town), Bijbehara, Doru, Pahalgam and Qazigund tehsils.

Both The destination are located in Anantnag district in Kokernag tehsil. the description of the destinations is given below.

Daksum	**Kokernag**
Daksum (also spelled Duksum) is a tranquil, offbeat mountain valley and forest retreat located in the Larnoo tehsil of the Anantnag district in Jammu and Kashmir. Situated along the Anantnag–Semthan–Kishtwar road (NH-244). It functions as a peaceful, uncrowded alternative to mainstream Kashmiri destinations, offering travelers absolute solitude amidst dense coniferous forests, alpine meadows, and the rushing Bringhi River. It is famous for: **Trout Fishing:**	**The etymology of the word 'Kokernag' name derives from the two words *koker* and *nag*. *Koker* has been taken from a Kashmiri word for chicken, while *nag* has been taken from a Sanskrit word for springs. The springs gush out of the base of a thickly wooded hill from where it divides into channels, which resembles the claw-foot of a hen, hence the name.** It features a massive **rainbow trout farm** established in 1984 with European Economic Community assistance, **Towns situated around Kokernag are Wangam, Devalgam, Hangalgund, Nagam, Sagam, Zalengam,**

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Trekking Base Camp: **Solitude & Nature Walks:** **Camping:**		**Magam, and Soaf Shali. The total area of the Kokernag trout farm is about 400 kanals, of which 129 kanals are for gardens and area**
Altitude	**2,438 meters** (8,000 feet)	**2,000 meters** (6,600 feet)
Distance from Anantnag	42 km	25 km
Distance from Srinagar	~100 km	~76–85 km
Coordinates	33°36'43"N 75°26'06"E	33°35'14"N 75°18'05"E



Fig. 1: **Location Map of Daksum and Kokernag**

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DETAILED ACCOUNT OF FIELD ACTIVITIES

5. Departure from Government Degree College Anantnag

The Department of Geography organized the field tour on **17TH September 2026**. The tour party departed from the college campus at approximately **9:16 A.M.**

In total about 150 students were participated (Both male and Female), 1st semester (Major/Minor) and 7Th semester (Major/Minor)

Before departure, the students were briefed about the objectives of the field study, field discipline, safety precautions, and the major geographical features that they would observe during the journey.

During the journey, faculty members encouraged students to observe the changing landscape from the Kashmir Valley towards the mountainous terrain of the Pir Panjal region.



Fig.2: Department of geography all set to proceed for the geographical tour to Daksum (Kokernag, Anantnag) and its surroundingS

The tour party departed from the College campus at 9:16 A.M in the morning. During the initial part of the journey, the students observed the agricultural landscape around Achabal, Anantnag, along the National Highway-244, branching off from (NH-44). The area provided an opportunity to observe extensive paddy cultivation and Horticulture cultivation. The faculty members explained the relationship between agricultural and Horticultural practices, soil characteristics, relief, drainage, water availability, and land use. Teachers explained them about Achabal urban area; one of the merger urban areas with

Anantnag town; with this merging urban areas this could be Greater Anantnag in near future. The halt enabled students to connect classroom discussions on agricultural and environmental geography, soils, land use, rural landscapes, and human modification of the environment with direct field observations. On reaching Daksum around 12:PM the students had lunch after having discussions and instructions from head of the department with faculty members and rest for some time. After Lunch the students grouped together and teacher took them around the valley to explore the geographical personality of the destination.

6. Arrival at Daksum

After reaching Daksum, the students and accompanying staff took a short break and had lunch. Following the break, the students were organized into groups and taken to different observation points under the supervision of the faculty members. The teachers explained the physical and human geographical characteristics of the area and guided students in observing the distinctive geographical personality of the Daksum landscape like tree line, snow line etc. The students were encouraged to examine the relationship between relief, climate, vegetation, drainage, transportation, settlement, tourism, and human activities.



Fig.3: **Head of the department Dr. Muzafar Ahmad Wani instructing about the significance of Daksum and Kokernag for geographical studies**



Fig.4: Teachers enquiring about transhumance and the daily life routine of Gujjars

During the geographical tour, the students were introduced to the traditional practice of **transhumance** followed by the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities of Jammu and Kashmir. They were explained how these pastoral communities undertake seasonal migration from the subtropical regions of Jammu to the alpine pastures of Kashmir during the summer months and return to the lower-altitude areas during winter. This centuries-old practice reflects the close relationship between human societies and their physical environment and provides an important example for understanding the

deterministic perspective in Human Geography. The transhumant way of life is particularly significant as it demonstrates how pastoral communities adapt their livelihood and movement patterns to seasonal variations in climate, availability of pasture, water resources, and terrain. During their seasonal movement, the communities also face various environmental and geographical challenges, including harsh weather conditions, difficult mountainous terrain, scarcity of resources, and risks associated with high-altitude environments. The study of transhumance therefore provided the students with valuable field-based insight into the interaction between people, environment, mobility, and livelihood in the Himalayan region.



Fig.5 Teachers Explaining the Significance of fresh water for tourism and trough fishing farming at Kokernag

The teachers explain to the students that Kokernag Spring is one of the biggest freshwater springs in Kashmir. Situated almost 2 kilometers from the central town, the spring was sunk among thick greeneries and picturesque sceneries. Waters from this spring are said to be medicinally pure and to

cure many diseases. The spring falls into a number of pools. There, tourists can drink cool fresh water or, at least, enjoy the scenery of hills and forests.

Area around spring at Kokernag is well taken care of with beautiful parks, walk paths, and seats where people can sit and enjoy the surroundings. The adjacent forest adds to the beauty, and the rustling sound of leaves chirping by birds creates a very peaceful atmosphere.

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Pine Forests and Meadows

During the geographical field tour to the Pir Panjal Mountains, the professors explained the alpine pastures, their ecological significance, and their role in supporting biodiversity and livestock grazing. Students learned about the climatic conditions of high-altitude areas, including low temperatures, snowfall, and a short growing season. The vegetation characteristics of alpine grasslands and their adaptation to harsh conditions were also discussed. Important geographical concepts such as the tree line and snow line, and their relationship with altitude and climate, were explained through field observations. Overall, the tour helped students connect geographical concepts with real mountain landscapes.



Fig.6: **Dr. Jahangeer Afzal, explaining Fluvio-Glacial Landscape Around Daksum**

During the geographical field tour around Daksum Pass in the Pir Panjal Mountains, students were given first-hand exposure to a variety of glacial and fluvio-glacial landforms. To achieve this purpose students were then guided to the higher reaches of Daksum pass where they learnt about various glacial processes and features like moraines, glacial till etc. The students also came across a U-shaped valley carved out by the glacial erosion. The professors explained how the movement of glaciers, glacial erosion, transportation, deposition, and meltwater activity have played an important role in shaping the present mountain landscape. Various landforms were identified and explained to the

students in the field, including U-shaped valleys, cirques, tarns, moraines, arêtes, horns, pyramidal peaks, drumlins, till deposits, and glacial erratics. Students were also introduced to hanging valleys, glacial troughs, Roche moutonnée, glacial striations, outwash plains, glaciofluvial terraces, braided channels, alluvial fans, and meltwater deposits. The professors explained the characteristics and formation processes of these features and helped students distinguish between erosional and depositional landforms. Particular emphasis was given to the role of glaciers in carving valleys and mountain slopes, while meltwater streams were discussed in relation to the transportation and deposition of sediments. The field observations provided students with a practical understanding of glacial geomorphology and enabled them to relate classroom concepts to actual landforms and landscapes. The tour thus offered valuable first-hand experience of the glacial and fluvio-glacial processes operating in the Pir Panjal Mountains.



Fig. 7: Teachers Explaining the students about the different fluvial-glacier land-forms

11. Transportation Network and Strategic Significance of Daksum

The Daksum region occupies an important position within the transportation network of Jammu and Kashmir because of its location within the Pir Panjal Mountains. The mountainous terrain has historically posed significant challenges to transportation and communication. The road via Daksum lead us to Sinthan Top and finally connects us to Kisthwar, so it has a great economic significance. Though the road to Kisthwar remains closed during the winter season, but during the summer season most people prefer this road to Kisthwar as it shortens the distance, so in near future it is expected that the construction of new highway to Kisthwar will boost the economy of this region.

12. Anthropogenic Impact on Environment of the Daksum

The field study also provided an opportunity to examine the relationship between human activities and the mountain environment. Students were encouraged to observe the potential environmental effects associated with tourism, transportation, construction, waste generation, and increasing human pressure. The faculty members emphasized that mountain environments are ecologically sensitive and require careful management. Particular emphasis was placed on the need for:
Proper waste management
Protection of vegetation
Conservation of natural landforms
Responsible tourism
Protection of local cultural resources
Sustainable use of mountain ecosystems
Minimization of unnecessary environmental disturbance
The discussion helped students understand the concept of sustainable tourism and environmental conservation in mountainous regions.

13. Major Learning Outcomes

The field study tour resulted in several important academic and practical learning outcomes.

The students were able to:

- Relate theoretical geographical concepts to real-world landscapes.
- Identify and interpret selected glacial and fluvio-glacial landforms.
- Develop an understanding of mountain ecology and alpine vegetation.
- Understand the relationship between altitude, climate, and vegetation.
- Learn about the traditional practice of transhumance.
- Understand the relationship between pastoral livelihoods and the physical environment.
- Appreciate the historical significance of the Simthan Pass & its economic significance.
- Understand the relationship between topography and transportation infrastructure.
- Develop an understanding of human–environment interactions in the Himalayan region.
- Examine the potential environmental impacts associated with tourism

- Strengthen their field observation, interpretation, and geographical analytical skills.

14. Conclusion

The one-day geographical field study tour to Daksum and its surrounding areas was an academically enriching and practically valuable experience for the students of the Department of Geography, Government Degree College Anantnag. The field visit provided students with first-hand exposure to a wide range of geographical phenomena, including mountain landscapes, glacial and fluvio-glacial landforms, alpine pastures, mountain ecology, transhumance, transportation networks, historical infrastructure, and human–environment interactions.

The study of alpine pasture, tribal life and road connectivity in hilly region of Daksum enabled students to understand the relationship between physical geography and transportation development. The discussion on transhumance provided valuable insight into the cultural and livelihood practices of pastoral communities, while the study of alpine pastures and fluvial landscapes strengthened students' understanding of mountain ecology and geomorphology. The field study also helped students appreciate the importance of responsible tourism and environmental conservation in ecologically sensitive mountain regions. Overall, the tour successfully supplemented classroom teaching with direct field experience and contributed to the development of students' observational, analytical, interpretative, and fieldwork skills. It demonstrated the importance of field-based learning in understanding the dynamic relationship between landscape, environment, society, culture, mobility, and regional development. After completing the field observations and academic activities, the tour party commenced its return journey and left for the college at approximately 6:30 P.M.

Acknowledgement:

The Department of Geography is highly thankful to the worthy Principal Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Malik (S.H.M.M GDC Anantnag), and Professor Saima Munshi ; Convenor tour and experiential Learning (S.H.M.M GDC Anantnag) for their support in organizing this great geographical tour.

29/10/2026
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