PG Department of Chemistry, SHMM Govt. Degree College Anantnag

Tour Report: Experiential Tour to Pahalgam, District Anantnag

Destination	Pahalgam, District Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir
Date	03/10/2026
Organised by	Postgraduate Department of Chemistry, Govt. Degree College Anantnag
Participants	Students of i. MSc Chemistry, semester Ist and 3rd, ii. UG semester Ist, 3rd and 5th with Chemistry as Major and Minor & iii. Escort teachers & supporting staff of the department
Mode of travel	Buses

2. Introduction and objectives

Pahalgam lies in the Lidder valley at roughly 2,200 m, in a setting of glacial rivers, coniferous forest and alpine meadows. The Department of Chemistry organised this experiential tour so that students could connect classroom chemistry with a real natural system. The main objectives were to:

1. Observe environmental, geochemical and aquatic processes in the field.
2. Understand the chemistry of natural resources and the effect of tourism and human activity on a fragile ecosystem.
3. Build teamwork, observation, and scientific reporting skills outside the classroom.

3. Academic and experiential activities

a) Environmental chemistry. Faculty members involved the students in a discussion on the impact of tourism on the valley, including plastic waste, vehicular emissions, wastewater and the pressure on a high-altitude ecosystem. Students also considered the principles of green and sustainable chemistry and how they could reduce such impacts.

b) Natural products and plants. Faculty pointed out medicinal and aromatic plants along the route and discussed the chemistry of their bioactive compounds, such as alkaloids, flavonoids and essential oils.

c) Atmosphere at altitude. The group discussed air quality, ozone and the change in pressure and temperature with altitude, and how these affect the physical chemistry of the environment.

4. Learning outcomes

- The students understood the link between natural systems and ideas from physical, inorganic and environmental chemistry.
- They became more aware of sustainability and their responsibility toward fragile ecosystems.
- They worked in teams, and learned to communicate scientific observations.

5. Conclusion and recommendations

The tour met its goal of turning classroom concepts into direct experience, and students responded with enthusiasm and curiosity. The department recommends:

1. Organising such tours every semester, linked to the syllabus (environmental, physical and inorganic chemistry).
2. Bringing proper sampling kits and a field data sheet.
3. Asking each student to submit a short report or presentation afterward.
4. Making responsible tourism and zero-waste practice a mandatory part of every tour.

6. Acknowledgements

The department thanks the worthy principal of the college for approving and supporting the tour, the Head of Department for guidance and encouragement, and the Convener and members of the Tour Committee for planning and organizing it. Thanks are also due to the tour coordinators, the transport and support staff, and the students for their discipline and participation.

Submitted by:

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Endorsed by :

Head of Department

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GDC Anantnag