

YUVA TOURISM CLUB (YTC)

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Introduction:

The Yuva Tourism Club of R. A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics is a student-led initiative that promotes awareness of tourism, culture, and heritage. The idea of Yuva Tourism Clubs was introduced by the Ministry of Tourism to encourage young people to explore India's rich cultural and natural diversity and to develop responsible travel habits.

At Podar, the club provides students with opportunities to learn about tourism through practical experiences. It regularly organizes educational trips, heritage walks, nature trails, quizzes, and interactive events that allow students to explore different destinations and traditions.

The main objective of the club is to promote sustainable tourism while helping students develop leadership, teamwork, and organizational skills. Through its activities, the Yuva Tourism Club encourages students to appreciate India's heritage and gain knowledge beyond the classroom.

Acknowledgement:

The Core Team of the Yuva Tourism Club of R. A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics for the academic year 2025–26 sincerely thanks Professor Vinita Pimpale, Principal for her unwavering support, encouragement, and guidance, and for granting the necessary permissions that made this trip possible, creating a valuable and enriching experience for all students. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Kapildeo Indurkar, Vice Principal for his constant guidance, insightful advice, and encouragement throughout the planning and execution of the trip. Our gratitude goes to Mr. Akshay Shringare, Faculty for his guidance and constructive suggestions, Mrs. Swaranjali Yashwant, Faculty for her assistance and encouragement, and all the participating students for their enthusiasm, cooperation, and responsible behaviour which made the trip a memorable experience.

Event 1: Yuva Tourism Club × Anvikshanam: Collaborative Itinerary Lab

Itinerary Lab was an engaging and educational event designed to test participants' planning, creativity, and execution skills. The event was conducted in collaboration with Yuva Tourism Club (YTC) and Anvikshanam, with YTC serving as the forerunner of this collaboration and playing a key role in initiating and supporting the organization of the activity. The main objective was to create a travel itinerary for a destination in Maharashtra within a specified budget. The activity encouraged participants to think practically, organise ideas efficiently, and manage resources effectively.

The event was conducted under the guidance of event heads Akshita Jaiswal and Shreyas Posture, with committee members Gargi Suryavanshi and Sanika Patil supporting the organisation and smooth management of the activities.

The competition was conducted in two rounds. Round 1 focused on fun games and general knowledge. Activities such as the balloon challenge, building a cup tower, and mimicking words tested teamwork, quick thinking, and creativity. This round helped participants interact, showcase their skills, and build confidence. Teams that performed well advanced to the next round.

Round 2 assessed planning and presentation abilities. Qualifying teams were given a riddle to identify a specific destination in Maharashtra. After solving the riddle, they created a virtual travel itinerary within the budget using tools like Canva or PowerPoint. A short quiz on Maharashtra's culture and traditions added extra points to their total score. The round concluded with teams presenting their itineraries to the judges, explaining their travel plans, budget, and activities.

Overall, Anvikshanam – Itinerary Lab was informative, interactive, and enjoyable. It provided participants an opportunity to develop problem-solving, teamwork, planning, and presentation skills. The event successfully combined learning with fun, making it a memorable and enriching experience for all while highlighting the active involvement and collaborative initiative of Yuva Tourism Club.

Event 2: Potluck Event 2025

The Yuva Tourism Club of R. A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics organized a Potluck Event 2025 on 27th November at G4 from 12 noon. The event was designed as a friendly and interactive space for students to meet fellow travel enthusiasts, share experiences, and discuss upcoming trips.

The potluck provided an informal and enjoyable setting where participants could relax and connect over food. While bringing a dish was optional, many students contributed, adding variety and delight to the event. The sharing of food encouraged interaction and created a warm and welcoming environment.

The event included fun mini-games and icebreaker activities that helped participants get to know each other better and sparked lively conversations about travel experiences and future trips. Students actively participated in discussions about the club's upcoming travel plans, sharing ideas and suggestions.

Overall, the Potluck Event was a successful and enjoyable gathering. It offered participants an opportunity to bond, exchange stories, and build a sense of community within the club. The combination of games, food, and travel discussions made the event engaging and memorable, setting a positive tone for future trips organized by the Yuva Tourism Club.

Event 3: Guided Nature Trail at Maharashtra Nature Park on World Tourism Day

On the occasion of World Tourism Day, the Yuva Tourism Club organized a Guided Nature Trail at the Maharashtra Nature Park on 25 January. The aim of the activity was to encourage students to explore nature and learn about urban biodiversity.

Students were instructed to gather at the train station at 8:20 AM. From there, everyone travelled together to the park. The nature trail was conducted from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The participation fee for the event was ₹110 per person.

Maharashtra Nature Park is a well-known urban forest located in the Mahim–Dharavi area of Mumbai. The park spreads across about 37 acres and is home to a wide variety of plants, birds, butterflies, and small animals. Interestingly, this area was once a large dumping ground. Over time, it was restored and transformed into a green space that promotes environmental awareness and conservation.

During the guided walk, experts explained different plant species and highlighted the importance of

protecting urban ecosystems. Students also learned about birds, insects, and the role of such parks in maintaining ecological balance within a busy city.

Refreshments were provided to the participants after the trail. The event offered a calm and refreshing experience away from the noise of the city.

Overall, the visit was a memorable and educational experience. It helped students understand the value of nature conservation and the importance of sustainable tourism. The activity also encouraged everyone to appreciate the green spaces that exist within urban areas.



Event 4: Educational Trip to Mysore and Coorg

The Yuva Tourism Club of R. A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics organized an educational trip to Mysore and Coorg for 49 students, accompanied by two faculty members. The purpose of the trip was to provide students with cultural, historical, and environmental exposure beyond classroom learning.

The journey began on 12 February 2026 when students boarded the Udyan Express from Mumbai. After arriving at KSR Bengaluru City Railway Station, the group travelled to Mysore. The students visited the Mysore Railway Museum, where they learned about the development of rail transport in India. Later, they explored the magnificent Mysore Palace, known for its grand architecture and rich history of the Wadiyar dynasty.

The following day included a visit to the famous Chamundeshwari Temple and Daria Daulat Bagh, the summer palace of Tipu Sultan. The group later travelled to Coorg and visited the peaceful Namdroling Monastery, the scenic viewpoint of Raja's Seat, and the historic Omkareshwara Temple.

Students also explored the local markets of Coorg, where they experienced the region's coffee culture and local products. The trip allowed students to observe different traditions, architecture, and lifestyles of the region. It also helped them understand the importance of preserving heritage sites and natural environments.

Overall, the excursion was an enriching and memorable experience. It helped students learn about history, culture, and tourism while encouraging teamwork, responsibility, and appreciation for India's diverse heritage.

