GitaJeevanam - SamajaYana 2025

Bannerughatta Biological Park

Jan 04 2026: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM



Introduction

Chirantana Institute of Introspective Studies organised a one-day *SamajaYana* to Bannerughatta Biological Park, Bangalore, for KuTumba members to experience the richness of **Prakriti** (Nature) and the ways in which **she supports life.** This marks the fourth consecutive year that *SamajaYana*, conducted under the umbrella of *GitaJeevanam*—a three-year programme facilitated by Chirantana—has been successfully planned and delivered.

Objective and Purpose of SamajaYana

SamajaYana is an annual initiative for Chirantana KuTumba to experience and apply their learnings, from GitaJeevanam and other programmes, within the broader Samaja. The visit to Bannerughatta Biological Park was organised with the following objectives:

- To observe the emotional world of animals, including their behaviour, relationships, and communication within natural habitats.
- To create awareness of key aspects of animal and plant life, such as habitat, adaptation and protection.
- To foster an understanding of the importance of minimising human interference in wildlife and natural ecosystems.
- To highlight the need for conservation and provide insight into the role of national parks and governing bodies in protecting nature.
- To learn, from the experience and interactions, about living in harmony with Nature and adopt at least one practice supporting personal and ecological well-being.

Event Detail

- Date & Day: Jan 04, 2026 ●
- Total Participants: 51
  - Children (5–15 yrs): 21
  - Adults (16–60 yrs): 26
  - Senior Citizens: 4 ●
- Resource persons
  - Event Planning & Overall Execution: 3 Poshakas
  - Transport Coordination: 7 (4 Children, 3 Prabhandhaks)
  - Bhojana/Lunch Coordination: 9 (6 Children, 3 Prabhandhaks)

Preparation

The *SamajaYana* to Bannerughatta Biological Park was initiated by a Chirantana KuTumba member, passionate about learning from Nature, to offer the KuTumba an experience of “Living in Nature”. The idea along with its intent, significance and benefits were shared with the wider KuTumba during the daily Parayanam, where it was well-received by many. Subsequently, Chirantana planning team engaged with the Education Officer of Bannerughatta Biological Park to design an interactive and educative experience for children, leading to the formalisation of the event on **4 January 2026 (Sunday)**.

Registration & Participation

The core team contacted the GitaJeevanam participants and KuTumbas, who are engaged in Chirantana activities, to understand their availability to join the event on the planned date. Registration form for KuTumba to sign-up for the event was circulated on Dec 22nd, 2025 and responses were collected until Jan 3rd 2026.

Transportation

SamajaYana emphasizes the KuTumba coming together for Samaja, and transport arrangements have always been planned to facilitate collective travel. With the blessings of Lord Krishna, Chirantana successfully organised transportation for all 51 participants. A BMTC bus was arranged for onward and return journeys, with multiple boarding points offered during registration for participant convenience and route optimisation. Transport coordinators were assigned to each boarding point to ensure timely arrivals and departures.

On the day of the Yana, a Yāna/Vahana Pūjā was performed at the initial boarding point, offering prayers to invoke divine blessing for a safe and smooth journey. The bus departed at 8:25 AM and arrived at the venue by 9:30 AM.

Food Arrangements

KuTumbas were guided to pack breakfast in a self-managed manner, enabling all age groups to partake respectfully and independently. A simple Sāttvik lunch was arranged through a catering service, delivered to the venue, and managed at a designated location by the Bhojana coordination team in alignment with the Bannerughatta Biological Park guidelines.

Samaya Sarinee

The Samaya Sarinee (agenda) was planned in coordination with the Bannerughatta Biological Park team, with the programme running from 5:30 a.m. to approximately 7:45 p.m. To ensure smooth coordination, 51 participants were organised into six *Ganas*—Hima (हम गणः), Simba (सम्ब गणः), Sheru (शरु े गणः), Anju (अञ्ज ु गणः), Veda (वेद गणः), and Sudha (सधा ु गणः)—each named after animals adopted by the park.

Children aged 9–12 years served as Gana Nayakas, supported by senior Gana Pramukhas. These roles encouraged leadership, teamwork, responsibility, and collaboration, while fostering mutual support across age groups. The structure enabled efficient programme execution and provided meaningful opportunities for children to develop compassion, trust and interpersonal skills.

Programme / Activities

The programme was inaugurated with the chanting of *Devī Stuti* in the bus, invoking the divine qualities embodied in *Prakṛti*. The visit to the park began with a Safari through various animal enclosures owned by the zoo, including herbivore (deer), elephant, lion, and tiger sections. Children were provided with activity sheets in which they noted down their observations along with important behavioral patterns they noticed. The goal of the activity was to show the children animals they wouldn't otherwise get to watch, but also to observe the conditions the animals live in, providing them an opportunity to empathize with the animals. Shortly after the Safari, they were made to recollect the kinds of animals they observed, as well as other environmental conditions they were living in. They were questioned on why the animals were forced to live in barricaded enclosures. They were also educated briefly on the main reasons for human animal conflict and subsequent consequences, highlighting the importance of forest cover, nativity of biodiversity and dangers of invasive species, correlating it to our indigenous way of living in harmony with nature and growing and consuming native crops, i.e food of the "right kind".

Following the Safari, the children visited the Butterfly Park, before which the children were briefed about the importance of butterflies, and other insects such as moths and beetles, as pollinators in the environment. Two expert guides from the Park side, each with over fifteen years of experience in butterfly conservation, guided both children and parents through the butterfly park and the museum that followed. The children made notes as the experts explained in detail about the various species that were bred and kept at the park, as well as the importance of butterflies in the ecosystem. Later, **the insects' camouflage was used as an analogy to teach children how to**

become more adaptable to one's surroundings, even if it may leave an unpleasant impression on others (like the moth).

After lunch, children and elders explored the zoo, observing the animals and birds housed in captive enclosures. Children enquired about the animals, learned from the informative display boards and enjoyed the leisurely stroll alongside their friends.

The trip concluded with a final interaction session led by the zoo's education officer, who briefed the students on various important topics. This included the importance of conservation, an insight into what careers await interested students, what we as citizens can do, and much more. The interaction session served as a way to understand what the children took away from the whole trip. It also served as a unique insight into the functioning of the park and the kind of work that goes behind the scenes. It was vastly informative and the children appreciated the same.

A 'Vote of Thanks' was conveyed to express our gratitude for the Banerrughatta Biological Park team for designing an highly educative and interactive programme for the children. The event concluded with the reflection: "**It is important to understand and live in harmony with Nature, for only by respecting Nature can one truly respect oneself.**"

Highlights of the Event

Learning keenness - Throughout the journey, all 51 participants—from children to senior citizens—enthusiastically engaged in the programme, maintaining high energy levels and demonstrating keen interest in learning from *Prakṛti* through collective participation.

Children bonding - Older children responsibly guided and cared for younger participants, ensuring safety, encouraging enjoyment, and supporting interactions during the guided experiences.

Eco-friendly practices - The SamajaYana was conducted with strict adherence to environmental responsibility, maintaining zero plastic usage and ensuring mindful food planning with no wastage.

Conclusion

By the grace of Lord Krishna, the SamajaYana unfolded as a divine opportunity for the KuTumba to reconnect with Prakṛti and witness her inherent capacity to nurture and protect life. The Yana also deepened bonding within the Chirantana KuTumba, while enabling older children to demonstrate responsibility and care towards younger participants and elders.