

ECO – TOURISM

KUNTALA WATER FALL

Kuntala Waterfall is located in Neredigonda mandal, Adilabad district, Telangana. In the Nirmal Division of Echoda (Kawal Tiger Reserve) Buffer Range, within the Reserve Forest, It is the highest waterfall in the state of Telangana with a height of 147 feet (45 meters) river width of 100 m and surrounded with lush green forests. It is a place to see and enjoy for tourists.



Kuntala Water Falls

Formed by Kadam River, Kuntala falls cascades down through (428) Four Hundred and Twenty Eight steps and can be seen as two separate adjacent falls after the peak rains. It is ideal for a one day outing from Hyderabad. There is a motorable road till the entry point of falls from where steps are available to reach bottom of falls. The falls is about 20 minutes (one way) walk from the entry point. Other famous waterfalls in the area are Pochera and Gayatri waterfalls.

The Kuntala water fall area is surrounded by around 370 Ha of Forest. Visitors to Kuntala waterfalls pollute the forest by cooking food and partying. Due to this, plastic pollution is endemic in the forest due to empty water bottles, water packets and empty alcohol bottles and plastic covers thrown in the forest by tourists. Fire accidents are occurring in the forest due to cooking of food and the wild animal's habitat is being disturbed. Even though, the forest department is providing dustbins at entry of the water fall points and nearby hotels and checking the vehicles at the entry point for preventing alcohol consumption, people end up polluting the forest and disturbing the wildlife habitat.

Despite forest officials warning visitors on the perils of drinking, 79 deaths have been recorded since the year 2000 primarily due to drinking and drowning. Forest department officials are warning the visitors of the danger of having a bath in the swirling water in drunken condition through erected sign boards, flexes and through loudspeakers and taking protective measures by engaging lifeguards. 12 persons have been hired as guide-cum-watchmen by the Forest department for protection of visitors. In addition under the eco-tourism project, the Forest

Department has trained six members of the Kuntala Villagers as guides, who keep a close watch. Warning signs and mesh have been put up at accident-prone spots. As a result, only 2 deaths have been recorded in the current year, both of which have been attributed to slipping and falling during photography

Source: *(Contributed by the Forest Department)*