

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
REPORT ON
Educational Excursion at Darjeeling, Kalimpong and adjoining areas

A 6-days Educational tour to Darjeeling, Kalimpong and their adjoining areas was organized by the Department of Botany, ABN Seal College, Cooch Behar during 10.05.2022 – 15.05.2022 with an aim to aid the students acquire knowledge about different plant groups and rubber & *Cinchona* plantation. In addition, the Department also took opportunity for collecting various plant species on that locality as specimens which would be preserved in Departmental Herbarium of the college for the further use during the B.Sc. Botany courses. The tour comprised 40 Honours students of UGBCS 2nd, 4th and 6th Semesters. The tour was successfully conducted with the able guidance of Dr. Aninda Mandal, Assistant Professor; Sri Ajoy Das, Assistant Professor, Dr. Bapi Ghosh, Assistant Professor and Sri Pranay Barua, Asst. Cook (recently working as lab assistant in the Botany department).

On 10.05.2022, all the students were directed to gather at NBSTC Bus Terminus at 8:30 am. We headed off that morning around 7:30 am to Cooch Behar NBSTC Bus stand for the bus to Siliguri. Altogether we were 44 in number and the bus we got into left for Siliguri around 8:30 am. After a travel of 4 hours approx., we finally reached Siliguri Tenzing Norgey Bus stand.

After reaching Siliguri and having lunch we headed towards our that days destination – ‘Bungkulung’ near Mirik. After an hour of journey we got down the vehicle in a beautiful place called ‘Manju’. The glimpse of the place was beautiful and we also visited the Manju Park. After spending some time, we then soon started heading towards the final destination of the day – ‘Bungkulung Jungle camp’.

On reaching there, we were told that camps were arranged for all of the students, which was a new as well as a adventurous thing. After that everyone freshened up and had evening snacks, arranged by the members of the jungle camp. And then, the whole evening was spent with students, had came across stories and conversions of many of us. Finally, we were called for dinner, and after completion of that, we reached to our respective tents. It was a great day with beautiful weather though had a little rainfall.

In the 2nd day, the weather was quite pleasant, we woke up early in the morning, then had taken a walk around the place later went to have our breakfast, the food arrangement was good. After breakfast was done by each, we left the camp and moved outside, as we were about to go for collection of plant that day. As followed, we around the routes of Bungkulung and collected certain plants by the students. Also, we visited the tea garden just near the Manju’s river; roamed around the tea plantation.

Then, walking and collecting continued, but we had taken a break near the Manju’s river and we had a good time there. After staying for like an hour, we headed back towards our jungle camp. On returning the camp, everyone soon went for shower and then had our lunch. we headed to the place where everyone gathered. Everyone were having talks, were playing sing along, also to add up more fun. Then, we were called for ‘dinner’, but that day we had a little change in sleeping arrangement , where we arranged a homestay nearby for that night , as the weather was not quite good .After we reached homestay , we soon went to our bed as we were tired and also because we had to leave next morning for Darjeeling. The overall day was good, we learnt about various plants and also had fun during the evening time.

In the 3rd day, we woke up a little early, as we had to pack our stuffs and leave for Darjeeling the day. We got ready soon and got into the car, that were arranged to reach Darjeeling. After an hour of journey, we stopped by Mirik, where everyone of us had taken good walk around the lake, also seen some plants and tree fern there. We wandered there for an hour and then went for having our lunch in a hotel located nearby the lake. After the lunch, we left Mirik and also stopped by another spot named-Jorepokhari lake near Darjeeling.

Jorepokhari lake is quite beautiful place, one can experience a beautiful view of nature there. After spending sometime there, we headed back to our car and left for Darjeeling. The view of the place where we were about to stay. Just reaching there, we placed our luggage in our respective dorm and left for mall. We spent our evening in mall. Then, around 8pm we got called up for moving back to our hostel. Reaching there, we freshed up and had our dinner in due time and everyone went back to their beds. As it was a bit exhausting day for all. Though the day was hectic, but alongside we also had experienced a great beauty of nature.

That was 4th day of our tour. We were about to visit two important places that day, that are Padmaja Naidu Himalayan zoological park and Llyod botanical garden. Soon after waking up in the morning, we started to prepare to leave for the park (zoological). Once our breakfast was done, we walked towards the zoo and the road to zoo was also quite beautiful. After reaching the zoo, we were guided by lady Official of PNHZP who showed us around and also were giving us lot of information about the animals there. We have seen many animals and birds, such as show leopard, red panda, leopard cat, black panther, golden pheasant, grey peacock pheasant, silver pheasant and lot more.

We then also visited HMI, it was a good place. Also came across the attires of Himalayan conquerors like Tenzing Norgay. After staying for sometime, we then left the zoo and had our lunch. After lunch, we headed towards 'Llyod botanical garden' by the time we reached, it was almost the closing hour, so we got to spent there, a little time. But in that short time, we came across many unique plant species belonging to pteridophytes, angiosperms and gymnosperms. After returning to guest house, we went to have a little rest and also placed the plants we collected carefully. Then we had our dinner and went back to our beds. Talking about the day, it was good and fun. Also this was the last day of ours in Darjeeling as we were heading back to our home the next morning. We woke up early that day, packed our luggage and went for breakfast , and as soon as vehicle arrived we left for the way . Though we stopped by the 'rubber plantation' on the way and saw the extraction techniques, we were there for sometime and then went back to the car and also again stopped by '*Cinchona* plantation', and students had made some collection as well in the way.

The next time, we stopped by the bridge of 'Teesta River'(Kalimpong District) and collected plants of interest in between the way, we got Finally, we reached'Siliguri NBSTC Bus Stand', from where we soon got into bus to Cooch Behar and Alipurduar. And finally, after a long journey, everyone reached their destination, by late evening and this is how our excursion came to end. The Itinerary of the jour and list of participating students are given below:

ITINERARY OF TOUR

Date & Time (Departure)	Origin	Date & Time (Arrival)	Destination	Distance (Km)
10/05/22 (8.30 am)	Cooch Behar Bus Stand	10/05/22 (1.00 pm)	Siliguri Bus Terminus	142
10/05/22 (2.00 pm)	Siliguri Bus Terminus	10/05/22 (5.00 pm)	Darjeeling Town	80
11/05/22 (7.00 am)	Darjeeling Town	11/05/22 (8.30 am)	Senchal Forest	14
11/05/22 (11.00 am)	Senchal Forest	11/05/22 (11.45 am)	Jorebungalow	5
11/05/22 (12.30 pm)	Jorebungalow	11/05/22 (1.30 pm)	Darjeeling Town	9
11/05/22 (2.30 pm)	Darjeeling Town	11/05/22 (2.45 pm)	Lloyd Botanical Garden	2
11/05/22 (4.45 pm)	Lloyd Botanical Garden	11/05/22 (5.00 pm)	Darjeeling Town	2
12/05/22 (9.00 am)	Darjeeling Town	12/05/22 (10.00 am)	Dawaipani (via Lebong)	14
12/05/22 (1.00 pm)	Dawaipani	12/05/22 (2.00 pm)	Darjeeling Town	14
12/05/22 (3.00 pm)	Darjeeling Town	12/05/22 (4.00 pm)	Risheehat Forest Busti	15
12/05/22 (5.00 pm)	Risheehat Forest Busti	12/05/22 (6.00 pm)	Darjeeling Town	15
13/05/22 (8.30 am)	Darjeeling Town	13/05/22 (10.15 am)	Mungpoo <i>Cinchona</i> Plantation	35
13/05/22 (12.15 pm)	Mungpoo <i>Cinchona</i> Plantation	13/05/22 (2.30 pm)	Kalimpong Town	43
13/05/22 (3.30 pm)	Kalimpong Town	13/05/22 (4.30 pm)	Relli River Valley	13
13/05/22 (5.30 pm)	Relli River Valley	13/05/22 (6.30 pm)	Kalimpong Town	13
14/05/22 (8.30 am)	Kalimpong Town	14/05/22 (10.00 am)	Munsong	22
14/05/22 (1.00 pm)	Munsong	14/05/22 (2.30 pm)	Kalimpong Town	22
14/05/22 (3.30 pm)	Kalimpong Town	14/05/22 (4.15 pm)	Dalapchand Farm, Regional Research Station (Hill Zone-UBKV)	15
14/05/22 (5.15 pm)	Dalapchand Farm	14/05/22 (6.00 pm)	Kalimpong Town	15
15/05/22 (7.00 am)	Kalimpong Town	15/05/22 (8.30 am)	Lava Forest	32
15/05/22 (11.45 am)	Lava Forest	15/05/22 (5.15 pm)	Cooch Behar	170

LIST OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS:

Sl. No.	Name of the Students	Semester
1	Paromita Paul	II
2	Aditi Paul	
3	Ritu Sarkar	
4	Shreya Ghosh	
5	Purbasha Das	
6	Smritikana Roy	
7	Murshida Parvin	
8	Alamin Haque	
9	Debaraj Goon	
10	Sushanta Barman	
11	Ankan Ray	
12	Sidharth Thapa	
13	Annapurna Paul	
14	Jinat Tuhina Parveen	IV
15	Sumana Karjee	
16	Subham Adhikary	
17	Niladri Adhikari	
18	Aditya Roy	
19	Shan Kumar Karjee	
20	Jishu Chakraborty	
21	Soleman Hossain	
22	Aditi Sinha	VI
23	Kritika Shaw	
24	Barnali Sarkar	
25	Sumedha Saha	
26	Sancharee Biswas	
27	Moumita Ray	

28	Muskan Sharma	
29	Chumki Roy	
30	Akash Ghosh	
31	Samrat Debnath	
32	Wasim Akram Sarkar	
33	Mrinmoy Chanda	
34	Sayak Panja	
35	Samiran Barman	
36	Anisur Rahaman	
37	Dwipayan Debnath	
38	Subrata Bepari	
39	Souvik Sarkar	
40	Sourav Das	

Some relevant photographs with respect to the Students' Seminar are attached below:



Figure: Photographs with respect to Educational Tour 2021-2022 at Darjeeling, Kalimpong and their adjoining areas.