



BOTANICAL EXCURSION REPORT

Department of Botany

Santipur College,

Santipur, Nadia



Destination: Darjeeling, West Bengal

Duration: 4 Days and 3 Nights

Total participants : 17 no. (14 students +3 teachers)

Date of Journey: 9th June 2025 to 13th June 2025

Submitted by:

Ms Sapna Tamang

Head of the Department

Department of Botany, Santipur College

Submitted to:

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

Santipur College

Month and Year: June 2025

Introduction

The Department of Botany, Santipur College, organized an educational excursion to Darjeeling, West Bengal, as a part of the academic curriculum for the students of the department. This excursion aimed to offer students practical exposure to the rich Himalayan biodiversity, ecological variations, and conservation practices prevalent in high-altitude regions.

Darjeeling, known for its unique climatic conditions and diverse flora, provides an ideal natural setting for the study of plant species, forest ecosystems, and environmental interactions. The excursion was designed to bridge the gap between theoretical classroom knowledge and real-life field experiences, enabling students to observe and understand various botanical aspects first-hand. This report has been prepared and compiled by Ms. Sapna Tamang, Head of the Department of Botany and Faculty-in-Charge of the excursion.

Objective

The primary objective of this educational excursion was:

1. To provide hands-on learning opportunities regarding Himalayan plant diversity and ecology.
2. To enhance students' skills in field observation, plant identification, and ecological data collection.
3. To observe and study the natural habitats of various plant species and understand their adaptations to environmental conditions.
4. To create awareness about the importance of biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecological practices.
5. To integrate field-based knowledge with academic coursework for a comprehensive learning experience.

Participants details

A total of 14 students from Semester II, Semester IV, and Semester VI the Department of Botany participated in the excursion, accompanied by 3 faculty members Ms. Sapna Tamang, Smt. Sulagna Roy and Mr. Rajkumaar Sharma. All students submitted their parental consent forms before the commencement of the trip, as per college safety norms and guidelines.

Table 1: List of Students:

Sl no	name	Semester
1	Sneha Das	Sem II
2	Ankita Mahalder	Sem II
3	Subir Paul	Sem IV
4	Sourav Roy	Sem IV
5	Atanu Sadhukan	Sem IV
6	Bipra Das	Sem IV
7	Biswajit Mondal	Sem IV
8	Naveedul Rana	Sem IV
9	Debkumar Halder	Sem IV
10	Bipasha Nandi	Sem IV
11	Kankana Ghosh	Sem VI
12	Rimi Raha	Sem VI

13	Sudeshna Banerjee	Sem VI
14	Chandni Khatun	Sem VI

Accepted Quotation Summary from Tour Operator (Highlanders Travels)

Financial assistance

Details	No of person	No of Days	No of Vehicle	Per head cost	Total
Accommodation (Breakfast , lunch and dinner in Hotel)	17	3	-	1550/-	79050/-
Train tickets	17			950/-	16150/-
Vehicle costs	-	3	3	4700/-	42300/-
Breakfast	17	-	-	300/-	5100/-
Outdoor lunch during field visit	17			700/-	11900/-
Tickets at Tiger Hill, Zoo, HMI, Botanical Garden	17			500/-	8500/-
Guide fee		3			5400/-
Total amount					168400/-
Overall Discount					15315/-
Grand Total					153085/-
Per Head cost					9005/-

For this excursion, the Governing Body (GB) of the college had approved financial support for the students. As per the decision, the Governing Body provided 50% of the total cost per student. The remaining 50% of the cost per head was borne by the respective students themselves. In addition, the entire expenses for the accompanying teachers and staff were fully covered by the college. This arrangement helped to ease the financial burden on students while encouraging academic exposure through the excursion.

Financial Summary of the Excursion

The per head expenditure for each student was **₹9,005**.

Accordingly,
50% of ₹9,005 per student (i.e., ₹4,502.50) was provided by the Governing Body.

The remaining 50% per student (i.e., ₹4,502.50) was collected from the students.
A total of 14 students participated in the excursion.

Total contribution collected from students: ₹4,502.50 × 14 students = **₹63,035**

Total contribution from the Governing Body for students:

₹4,502.50 × 14 students = **₹63,035**

Additionally, the full expenses for the 3 accompanying teachers were fully covered by the college.

Total expenses for 3 teachers: ₹9,005 × 3 = **₹27,015**

Grand Total of Excursion Expenditure:

Students' total expenditure: ₹9,005 × 14 = **₹1,26,070**

Teachers' total expenditure: ₹27,015

Overall Total: ₹1,26,070 + ₹27,015 = **₹1,53,085**

Itinerary and Academic Activities

Day 1/(Date 09/06/2025): Departure from Sealdah Railway Station

The excursion commenced with the assembly of students and faculty at Sealdah Railway Station in the evening. The group boarded the designated train for an overnight journey to New Jalpaiguri (NJP), marking the beginning of the academic field visit to study Himalayan ecosystems.

Day 2/(Date 10/06/2025): Arrival at NJP and Transfer to Darjeeling

Upon arrival at New Jalpaiguri (NJP) in the morning, the participants had breakfast at the Rohini. The group then proceeded towards Darjeeling via reserved vehicles, traversing through the foothills and lower montane regions characterized by subtropical vegetation zones. After checking in at the hotel and having lunch, students were given time to acclimatize to the altitude. In the evening, the group visited Mall Road (Chowrasta), providing an opportunity to observe ornamental horticulture practices and exotic plant species commonly cultivated in urban hill stations. The day concluded with dinner and an overnight stay.

Day 3/(Date 11/06/2025): The day began with an early morning visit to Peace pagoda than after Tiger Hill, Tiger Hill, within Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary near Darjeeling, is a high-altitude ecosystem of great academic value, offering a living laboratory for studying Eastern Himalayan biodiversity, montane forest ecology, and the adaptation of plant species like *Rhododendrons*, oaks, and bamboos to temperate climates. It supports diverse wildlife, making it relevant for conservation biology and habitat management studies. Additionally, the area is significant for understanding watershed ecology as it hosts the Senchal lakes that supply water to Darjeeling, highlighting the link between forest conservation and ecosystem services. It also provides a vantage point to observe Himalayan geomorphology, climatic variations, and the cultural landscape of the region.

Students observed plant species adapted to colder climates and thin atmospheric conditions, noting shrubland, grassland species, and epiphytic flora. Subsequently, the group visited the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park. Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park in Darjeeling is a premier high-altitude zoo dedicated to the conservation, captive breeding, and research of rare and endangered Himalayan fauna such as the snow leopard, red panda, Tibetan wolf, and Himalayan monal. It serves as an important center for wildlife education, biodiversity conservation awareness, and scientific research, including genetic studies and ex-situ conservation programs. The park plays a vital role in maintaining ecological balance by preserving species native to the fragile Himalayan ecosystem while also collaborating with global conservation networks... This visit highlighted the interrelationship between flora and fauna in montane ecosystems and rare endangered species *Ailurus fulgens*. The next academic stop was the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI) Museum, where students explored exhibits related to the flora of high-altitude trekking routes and survival vegetation. The day concluded with dinner and an overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 4/(Date 12/06/2025): Visit to Lloyd's Botanical Garden

A major academic highlight of the excursion was the visit to Lloyd's Botanical Garden, which conserves a wide range of native Himalayan as well as exotic plant species. Students engaged in the identification of ferns, gymnosperms, orchids, *Rhododendrons*, and other specialized high-altitude species. There was also an interactive session with the garden staff, where students learned about plant conservation methods, ex-situ conservation strategies, and herbarium techniques. After lunch at a local restaurant, the group engaged in additional local exploration, providing further informal learning opportunities related to the region's vegetation. Dinner and overnight stay followed.

Day 5/(Date 13/06/2025): Return Journey via Mirik

After breakfast and hotel check-out, the group proceeded toward Mirik. En route, they visited Simana View Point and nearby Tea Gardens, where students were introduced to the cultivation practices, pruning techniques, and ecological importance of *Camellia sinensis* (tea plant). The group also visited the Indo-Nepal border area and Mirik Lake, where they observed aquatic vegetation and collected samples of aquatic plants for academic analysis. Following lunch at Mirik or Dudhia, the group returned to NJP to board the train for the return journey to Sealdah, marking the conclusion of the academic excursion.

Botanical Observations / Fieldwork

During the visit to Lloyd's Botanical Garden, students observed and documented various Himalayan and exotic plant species including ferns, orchids, medicinal herbs, and temperate flora. Field notes and sample collections were taken at Mirik Lake for educational purposes. Students also studied ecological adaptations and conservation methods practiced in high-altitude regions.

Conclusion

The educational excursion organized by the Department of Botany was a highly fruitful academic endeavor. It provided students with valuable exposure to field-based botanical studies, allowing them to apply

theoretical knowledge in practical situations. The students gained deeper insights into plant diversity, ecological relationships, conservation practices, and the natural habitats of various species within the Himalayan region. This excursion successfully fulfilled its academic objectives by bridging classroom learning with on-field experiences. Such initiatives not only enhance scientific understanding but also foster environmental awareness and a sense of responsibility toward biodiversity conservation among students. The tour has significantly contributed to their academic growth and personal development.

Acknowledgement

The Department of Botany, Santipur College, expresses its sincere gratitude to the President of the Governing Body of the college Dr. Braja Kishore Goswami, for approving and supporting this academic excursion. We are also deeply thankful to Dr. Subrata Roy, Teacher-in-Charge of Santipur College, for his unwavering support, administrative assistance, and motivation, which greatly contributed to the successful execution of this excursion. Our sincere appreciation goes to all faculty members of the Department of Botany for their active participation, supervision, and cooperation in ensuring the academic effectiveness and smooth conduct of the tour. We also sincerely acknowledge the support and cooperation of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Santipur College, for facilitating this academic program. And lastly, We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Highlander Travels for their efficient coordination, comfortable arrangements, and warm hospitality throughout the entire journey. We gratefully acknowledge all those who contributed directly or indirectly to the successful completion of this excursion.

Attach supporting documents

Photos of excursion

STUDENTS OBSERVING PLANT DIVERSITY



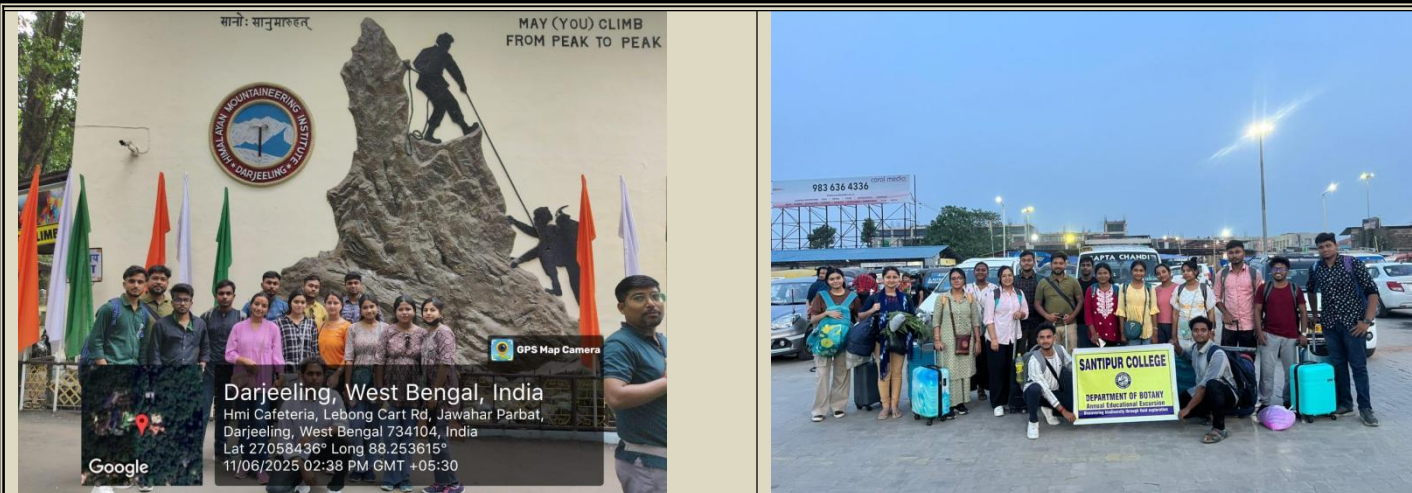
STUDENTS OBSERVING PRESERVED PLANT SPECIMENS AND INTERACTING WITH THE HERBERIUM INCHARGE




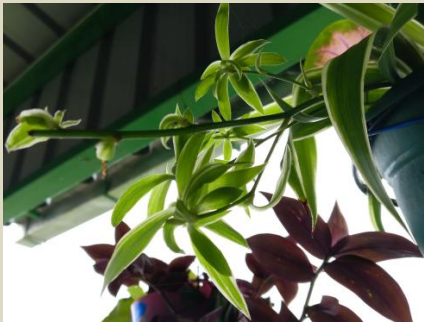


GROUP PICTURES















Photographic documentation of some native and rare Plant species of Darjeeling

Sl.no	Images	Scientific name	Common name	Family
1.		<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	Hydrangea	Hydrangeaceae
2.		<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i>	Spider plant	Asparagaceae





3.		<i>Tradescantia sp</i>	Inchplant	Commelinaceae
4.		<i>Galinsoga parviflora</i>		Asteraceae
5.		<i>Pteris biaurita l</i>	Thin leaf brake	Pteridaceae
6.		<i>Tradescantia sp</i>	Moses in the cradle	Commelinaceae




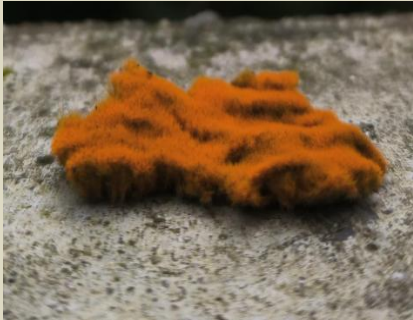

7.		<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	Japanese Red-cedar	Cupressaceae
8.		<i>Sicyos edulis</i>	Chayote	Cucurbitaceae
9.		<i>Drepanostachyum sp</i>		Poaceae
10.		<i>Arisaema tortuosum</i>		Araceae
11.		<i>Hedychium gardnerianum</i>		Zingiberaceae

12.		<i>Dahlia pinnata</i>	Dahlia	Asteraceae
13.		<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	Hydrangea	Hydrangeaceae
14.		<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>		Papaveraceae
15.		<i>Phlebodium pseudoaureum</i>	False golden polypody	Polypodiaceae
16.		<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>		Aspleniaceae

17.		<i>Dahlia pinnata</i>		Asteraceae
18.		<i>Potentilla indica</i>		Rosaceae
19.		<i>Bergenia ciliata</i>		Saxifragaceae
20.		<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>		Apiaceae
21.		<i>Rhododendron falconeri</i>		Ericaceae

22.		<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison hemlock	Apiaceae
23.		<i>Stellaria graminea</i> L.		Caryophyllaceae
24.		<i>Potentilla indica</i>	False strawberry	Rosaceae
25.		<i>Erigeron bellidioides</i>		Asteraceae
26.		<i>Fragaria</i> sp.	Wild strawberry	Rosaceae

27.		<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>		Plantaginaceae
28.		<i>Hypericum sp</i>		Hypericaceae
29.		<i>Pelargonium zonale</i>		Geraniaceae
30.		<i>Ornithogalum thyrsoides</i>		Asparagaceae

31.		<i>Dryopteris wallichiana</i>		Polypodiaceae
32.		<i>Mecardonia procumbens</i>		Plantaginaceae
33.		<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>		Dennstaedtiaceae
34.		<i>Trentepohlia sp.</i>		Trentepohliaceae
35.		<i>Selaginella helvetica</i>		Selaginellaceae

36.

*Alternanthera
philoxeroides*

Amaranthaceae

*Note : Many species are under the process of identification and documentation**

Submitted by:

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Sulagna Roy

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Date: 13/07/2025