



## WILLIAMNAGAR GOVERNMENT COLLEGE

### DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Motto: Rise Up, Wake Up and Make a Change

Dated Williamnagar, the 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2024

## Department of Political Science

### Report on the Educational Tour to Sikkim

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Objective:** The objective of the educational tour was to provide the students of B.A.5<sup>th</sup> Semester, Department of Political Science, Williamnagar Government College, with an opportunity to experience and learn about the rich cultural, historical, and environmental heritage of Sikkim. The tour aimed to enhance students' understanding of regional diversity, promote experiential learning, and foster greater awareness of the interconnectedness of different cultures and communities.

**Journey to the Destination:** The educational tour commenced with the students and teachers of the department gathering at Williamnagar Government College for departure at 6:30 PM on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The group traveled to Tura and boarded the Siliguri night bus at 8:00 PM. Dinner was served at Paikan, Assam, before the journey continued through the night to Siliguri.

Upon reaching Siliguri, on the 26<sup>th</sup> October, the group was received by Rohini Tours and Travels. The first stop was at a Santa Banta Dhaba, Siliguri for breakfast and to freshen up. The journey to Gangtok was scenic, highlighted by the beautiful River Teesta, which captivated the students with its serene flow. A lunch stop at a riverside restaurant added to the enjoyment of the trip. By afternoon, the group reached Gangtok, where hotel attendants welcomed them warmly with a traditional greeting.

#### **Sightseeing and Activities (27<sup>th</sup> October):**

The day of 27<sup>th</sup> October was dedicated to exploring some of Sikkim's most iconic landmarks. The first stop was Nathu-La Pass, a historic mountain pass that stands at an elevation of over 4,300 meters and forms part of the Indo-China border. Students were able to witness the strategic importance of this pass and learn about its role in the trade and political relations between India and China. The visit sparked discussions on geopolitical dynamics, military presence, and border security.

Following Nathu-La Pass, the group visited Tsomgo Lake, also known as Changu Lake. The glacial lake, situated at an altitude of 3,753 meters, provided students with a breathtaking view



of the natural landscape. Students were fascinated by the folklore and stories associated with the lake, which added cultural context to their learning.

The final stop for the day was Baba Mandir, a site dedicated to the memory of Baba Harbhajan Singh, an Indian army soldier revered as a saint by locals and military personnel alike. The students learned about the legend of Baba Harbhajan and how his dedication and sacrifice have become an integral part of local beliefs. The visit to the temple served as lesson in how stories of heroism and spirituality can intertwine, creating a unique cultural landmark.

### **City Exploration (28<sup>th</sup> October):**

On 28<sup>th</sup> October, the teachers and students took the opportunity to explore the vibrant cityscape of Gangtok. The first stop was at Banjakhri Waterfalls, a popular site that provided an immersive natural experience. Surrounded by lush greenery and traditional sculptures depicting local folklore, the students learned about the legends associated with the Banjakhri, a mythical healer in Sikkimese culture. The teachers highlighted how such legends play a significant role in preserving local traditions and storytelling.

Next, the group visited Gongjang Monastery, an important religious site where students observed the serene atmosphere of Buddhist practices. The monastery visit included learning about the history of Buddhism in Sikkim and how monasteries function as centers of both worship and community learning.

The exploration continued with a visit to Tashi View Point, a site known for offering panoramic views of the Kanchenjunga range and other snow-capped peaks. The students were enthralled by the majestic views and took the opportunity to engage in photography activities. This visit reinforced the importance of preserving natural landscapes and the role of eco-tourism in supporting local economies.

One of the most exhilarating experiences of the day was the ropeway ride over Gangtok, which provided a bird's – eye view of the city and its surroundings. The students were excited to see the city's layout from above, and the teachers used this opportunity to explain the geography and urban planning aspects of Gangtok.

The day concluded with exploration of MG Marg Street, a bustling pedestrian-only zone that is the heart of Gangtok's commercial and social life. Students were encouraged to interact with locals, observe the various shops and restaurants, and immerse themselves in the local culture.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

The educational tour was an opportunity for students to extend their learning beyond the classroom. They developed a deeper understanding of the historical and cultural significance of Sikkim's landmarks and experienced first-hand the state's unique blend of natural beauty and heritage. The visits to the monasteries and historical sites fostered a sense of respect for different cultures, while the interactive discussions and exploration helped to enhance their social and observational skills. Additionally, the scenic landscapes and experiences like the ropeway ride provided lessons in environmental awareness and the importance of preserving such wonders.





### **Return Journey (29<sup>th</sup> October-30<sup>th</sup> October):**

On 29<sup>th</sup> October, after breakfast at the hotel, the group began their return journey to Siliguri. Upon arrival, they visited Siliguri Hongkong Market for shopping and enjoyed lunch at Hotel Aksara in Bidhan market. The journey continued with the Siliguri night bus to Tura, during which the group had dinner on the way. The group reached Williamnagar Government College around 9 AM on 30<sup>th</sup> October. After freshening up in the college, the students had a hearty brunch at the Soil Market, outside the college campus, before heading to their respective homes.

### **Conclusion:**

The educational tour to Sikkim was memorable and enriching experience filled with excitement and enthusiasm. It provided students with valuable educational insights, exposure to new cultural practices, and a chance to appreciate the beauty of nature. The journey fostered camaraderie among peers, strengthened teacher-student bonds, and inspired a broader perspective on learning and exploration.

The following are the names of the students and teachers who participated in the Educational Study Tour.

### **The List of Student Participants of the Educational Tour:**

Sl. No.	Names	Gender	Roll No.	Class	Phone Number
1.	Dimre N. Marak	F	PS22/A-531	BA 5 <sup>th</sup> Semester	8413825448
2.	Dilim S. Marak	F	PS22/A-530	BA 5 <sup>th</sup> Semester	9362847321
3.	Lecyakimkim M. Sangma	F	PS22/A-549	BA 5 <sup>th</sup> Semester	9863188942
4.	Akansa G. Momin	F	PS22/A-501	BA 5 <sup>th</sup> Semester	98633234261
5.	Tangkamchin D. Shira	F	PS22/A-589	BA 5 <sup>th</sup> Semester	8798725650
6.	Ambika N. Sangma	F	PS22/A-598	BA 5 <sup>th</sup> Semester	6009790642
7.	Nehalina D. Shira	F	PS22/A-559	BA 5 <sup>th</sup> Semester	9863350986
8.	Molbiritha Sangma	F	PS22/A-557	BA 5 <sup>th</sup> Semester	8118930334
9.	Newsha N. Marak	F	PS22/A-560	BA 5 <sup>th</sup> Semester	9863136467
10.	Dimush A. Sangma	M	PS22/A-532	BA 5 <sup>th</sup> Semester	8413977251
11.	Pijush Ch Marak	M	PS22/B-566	BA 5 <sup>th</sup> Semester	6009253630
12.	Sunchabirth N. Marak	M	PS22/B-587	BA 5 <sup>th</sup> Semester	9863651496
13.	Silkimra A. Sangma	M	PS22/B-585	BA 5 <sup>th</sup> Semester	9863436726
14.	Jestfield B. Sangma	M	PS22/A-542	BA 5 <sup>th</sup> Semester	8133884279