

## **Field trip to Thurbotea factory Mirik, Mirik lake on 26th May 2024 for the students of 2nd , 4th and 6th Semester Botany Honours students, Kurseong College**

On May 26, 2024, Kurseong College organized an educational field trip to the Turbo Tea Factory in Mirik followed by a visit to the picturesque Mirik Lake. The trip aimed to provide students with practical insights into the tea production process and the ecological significance of the Mirik region. A total of 10 students from the 2nd, 4th, and 6th Semester Botany Honours participated in this enriching experience and they were accompanied by three faculty members Dr Sujata kalikotay, DrThangjamThoibi Devi and Mrs PrakritiGazmer. All the students were instructed to gather at Kurseong Railway Station at 8 am and they safely reached Mirik via Dudhia at about 11am. A sharing taxi was hired for the purpose.

Mirik is renowned for its sprawling tea gardens and scenic beauty. The Turbo Tea Factory, located in this serene town, is one of the significant producers of high-quality Darjeeling tea. The trip aimed to blend academic knowledge with real-world applications, particularly in the fields of botany.

Our first place of visit was Mirik helipad area where our students got an opportunity to observe different plant species. They collected different plant species for the preparation of herbarium. Many geo tagged photos were taken for the remembrance.

The second stop of the trip was the Turbo Tea Factory. Upon arrival, the students were welcomed by the factory staff, who explained the history and significance of tea production in the region.

Students were guided through the various stages of tea processing, including plucking, withering, rolling, fermenting, and drying. Each phase was detailed by an experienced tea master, emphasizing the importance of quality control and traditional methods.

The tour concluded with a question-and-answer session, allowing students to clarify their queries regarding tea cultivation, environmental sustainability, and the economic impact of the tea industry.

After the insightful visit to the tea factory, the group proceeded to Mirik Lake, which is a popular tourist destination and a significant ecological site.

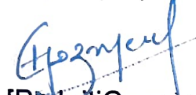
Students enjoyed a leisurely walk around the lake, soaking in the breathtaking views of the surrounding hills and lush greenery. They observed various flora and fauna, gaining a better understanding of local ecosystems.

Facilitated discussions took place, focusing on environmental conservation and the impact of tourism on natural resources. Students shared their thoughts on sustainable practices that could be implemented to preserve the beauty of the place.

The field trip to Turbo Tea Factory and Mirik Lake was a remarkable educational experience for the students of Kurseong College. It provided valuable insights into the tea industry and highlighted the importance of environmental awareness and conservation. The interactive sessions and hands-on activities not only enriched the students' knowledge but also fostered teamwork and communication among peers.

The trip was well-organized, and students left with a deeper appreciation for their local culture and environment. Such experiences are vital in complementing classroom learning and helping students connect theoretical knowledge with practical applications.

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