

## A Brief Report on Study Tour to Sikkim

Eight days study trip was organized by Department of Biotechnology, Pachhunga University College, Mizoram from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2024. The tour comprised 19 students of VI Semester students accompanied by one faculty, Dr. Ruth Lalfelpuii and one laboratory assistant, Amos VL Vensanga. All the students were directed to gather at AMC, Ch.Chhunga Bus terminal, at 1:00 PM.



The bus left Aizawl from the terminal at 2 p.m. After travelling 3 days and nights (From aizawl-Guwahati-Siliguri-Sikkim via bus) we reached our destination safely where we landed at Sikkim National Transport Bus station at 2 p.m. After unloading all our luggages we headed towards the hotel (Jain Group Hotel Potala, MG road). We then checked in the hotel around 4:00 p.m where we lodge for 3 nights.



On the fourth day of our study tour i.e; on 5<sup>th</sup> March, we had the privilege of visiting Department of Microbiology at Sikkim University, PCMG Building, Gairigoan, Tadong. Our visit aimed to gain insights into the academic and research endeavors by the students as it was a part of their academic curriculum. Our arrival was warmly greeted and met with gratitude by faculty members of the department. The program started with a warm welcome speech and brief overview of the University and the department academic programs, introducing all faculty members to the students by Head of the Department, Dr. Nagendra Thakur which was followed by brief introduction about the College, Department of Biotechnology, Pachhunga University College and a vote of thanks for their warm hospitality delivered by Dr. Ruth Lalfelpuii, Department of

Biotechnology, PUC. All faculty members of Dept. of Microbiology, Sikkim University, Dr. Anil Kumar Verma working in the field of Carbohydrate Active Enzymes, Dr. Buddhiman Tamang and Dr. Jyoti Prakash Tamang, expertised in food microbiology and Dr. Bimala Singh, specialized in cancer chemoprevention gave illuminating talk on their ongoing research, their findings which opened up a way for meaningful interaction with the students where students seized the opportunity to engaged with the experts posing thought provoking queries about the practical applications of their research which serves as a catalyst for students to deepen their understanding and broaden their knowledge in the field of microbiological research. After engaging talk, Dr. Anil Kumar graciously took the students on a guided tour of the laboratory facilities familiarizing equipments and instruments utilized in various experiments and analyses.



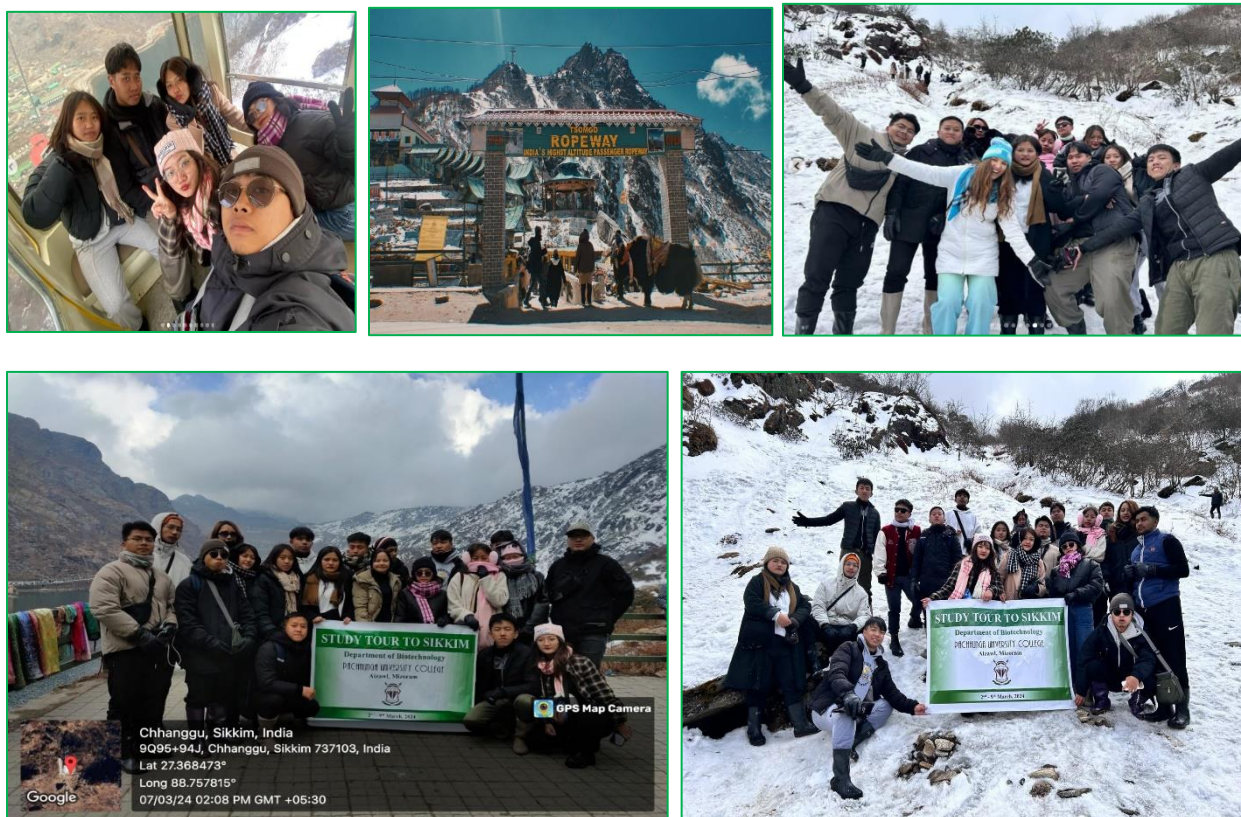
On the fifth day of our study tour i.e; on 6<sup>th</sup> March, we visited ICAR- National Research Center for Orchid, Pakyong, Sikkim. The visit aimed to explore the fascinating world of orchids,

understand their significance in Sikkim's biodiversity, and learn about ongoing research and conservation efforts. On reaching the orchid research center, we were warmly welcomed by Dr. Lakshman Chandra De, Principal Scientist (Horticulture) and Dr. Kalaivanan, Scientist (Plant Pathology). Dr. LC De provided the students with an overview of the center's mission and objectives who then embarked the students on a guided tour of the facility and different greenhouse where orchids were propagated. The students had opportunity to admire the breathtaking variety of orchid species on display from vibrant Phalaenopsis hybrids, Paphiopedilum villosum, to rare Dendrobium species. The collection showcased the stunning beauty and diversity of orchids in the country particularly in the North-Eastern region. Around 200 species of Orchids collections are present on the center. The students were also introduced to tissue culture room where they were explained briefly about the principles and methodologies of tissue culture, a sophisticated technique used for the mass propagation of orchids providing the students with a valuable learning experience gaining a deeper appreciation for the role of modern technology in conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. The tour was followed by interaction session where the student's curiosity and thirst for knowledge were fulfilled by the expert patiently giving answers to their queries. Vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Ruth Lalfelpuii. The program concluded with a delightful session of light refreshments.




The sixth day of our study tour i.e; 7<sup>th</sup> March, was utilized for sightseeing where we visited Tsongmo Lake (Changgu Lake), a glacial lake in Changu about 40 km from Gangtok, the capital city of Sikkim. Situated at an altitude of 3,753 meters above sea level, the lake is a sacred site valued by the local populace and a popular tourist destination for visitors from around the world.

The objectives of the visit were to explore the natural beauty and scenic landscapes surrounding Chhangu Lake and to engage in recreational activities and experience the peaceful environment of the lake. Upon arrival, we were all captivated by the breathtaking beauty of the snow-capped mountains and waters of the lake shimmered in the sunlight. We also had a chance to engage in various recreational activities at Chhangu Lake including yak rides, photography, riding in ropeway. We enjoy playing in the snow allowing us to experience snow for the first time. All these activities allowed us to immerse ourselves in the serene ambiance of the lake while enjoying moments of relaxation and leisure amidst the natural beauty leaving lasting impression on all of us.



On the sixth day of our study tour i.e; 8<sup>th</sup> March, we finally bid farewell to Sikkim at 10 a.m from SNT Bus Terminal starting our journey back to home where we reached Aizawl safely on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2024. The study tour was undeniably fun and fruitful one, providing us with a deeper understanding of the role of education in driving socio-economic development and environmental conservation in the region. We return enriched and inspired, armed with newfound knowledge that will undoubtedly shape students' academic and personal endeavors in the future.

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