

Report on Educational and Environmental Field Visit to Shali Mata Peak

Department of Environmental Science

The **Department of Environmental Science**, Centre of Excellence, Government College Sanjauli, in collaboration with the **Adventure Club** and the **Department of Journalism & Mass Communication**, organized an educational field visit to **Shali Mata Peak on 4 October 2025**. The programme aimed to provide students with firsthand exposure to the ecological, geographical, and cultural significance of the mid-Himalayan mountain ecosystem through experiential learning.

A total of **35 students**, including **27 girl students**, participated enthusiastically in the field visit under the guidance of **Dr. Lakhbeer Dhiman** and **Prof. Sandesh Kumar Kalta**. The programme successfully integrated environmental education with adventure-based learning and cultural awareness.

Objectives of the Field Visit

The field visit was organized with the following objectives:

- To provide students with practical exposure to the Himalayan mountain ecosystem, including temperate forest vegetation, biodiversity, and the ecological significance of forest landscapes through experiential learning.
- To promote environmental awareness and conservation ethics by understanding the interrelationship between biodiversity, sacred natural sites, and the environmental challenges associated with tourism and human activities in fragile mountain ecosystems.

Field Observations

The journey commenced from the college campus at 7:00 a.m., followed by travel to Khatnol village, the base point of the trek. From there, students undertook a nearly 7 km trek through dense temperate forests dominated by pine (*Pinus roxburghii*), deodar (*Cedrus deodara*), oak (*Quercus* spp.), and patches of rhododendron vegetation. Throughout the trek, students observed variations in slope, vegetation composition, microclimate, and soil characteristics that influence mountain ecosystems.

Faculty members explained the ecological functions of Himalayan forests, highlighting their role in watershed protection, carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, climate regulation, and soil stabilization. Students were encouraged to identify different vegetation types and understand the adaptations of mountain flora to varying elevations and environmental conditions.

The panoramic landscape from Shali Mata Peak provided an excellent opportunity to discuss mountain geomorphology, watershed dynamics, ecosystem services, and the significance of conserving fragile Himalayan environments.

Environmental Awareness Activities

At the summit, interactive discussions were conducted on environmental conservation and sustainable tourism. Students examined the effects of increasing tourist activities on mountain ecosystems, including litter generation, trail degradation, disturbance to wildlife, and pressure on local natural resources.

Special emphasis was placed on:

- Conservation of Himalayan biodiversity.
- Importance of maintaining clean trekking routes.
- Plastic-free tourism and responsible waste management.
- Role of local communities in protecting natural resources.
- Climate change impacts on mountain ecosystems and water resources.

Students actively participated in discussions on how sacred landscapes such as Shali Mata Temple often serve as informal conservation areas where traditional beliefs help preserve forests and biodiversity.

Learning Outcomes

The educational field visit enabled students to:

- Gain practical understanding of Himalayan ecology and mountain biodiversity.
- Appreciate the ecological significance of forest ecosystems in maintaining environmental balance.
- Understand the interrelationship between culture, religion, and environmental conservation.
- Develop awareness regarding sustainable trekking practices and eco-friendly tourism.
- Strengthen observational, analytical, and field-based learning skills.

The programme also encouraged teamwork, environmental ethics, leadership, and responsible citizenship among the participants.

Conclusion

The educational visit to Shali Mata Peak proved to be an enriching field-learning experience for the students. By integrating classroom concepts with real-world observations, the programme enhanced students' understanding of mountain ecology, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, and sustainable environmental management.

Photographs of visit:



News Clippings:

छात्रों ने शाली माता मंदिर का ट्रैक किया पूरा

शिमला। राजकीय महाविद्यालय संजौली के 35 छात्र-छात्राओं ने शिमला के समीप स्थित शाली माता मंदिर शिखर तक तक ट्रैक पूरा किया।

महाविद्यालय की प्राचार्या प्रो भारती भागडा ने इस साहसिक यात्रा के लिए विद्यार्थियों को प्रोत्साहित किया और कहा कि हम भी कर सकते हैं की भावना से परिपूर्ण यह ट्रैक आत्मविश्वास, साहस और सामूहिक ऊर्जा का प्रतीक है। इस यात्रा का संयोजन प्रो. संदेश काल्टा, सहायक आचार्य पत्रकारिता एवं जनसंचार विभाग तथा प्रो. लखबीर धीमान, सहायक आचार्य पर्यावरण विज्ञान विभाग द्वारा किया गया। विद्यार्थियों ने 9500 फुट की ऊंचाई पर स्थित मंदिर से अद्भुत दृश्यावलोकन किया और आत्म-संतोष, साधना और अध्यात्म का अनुभव प्राप्त किया।

दिव्य हिमाचल 6-10-25



दैनिक भास्कर 6-10-25

न्यूज ब्रीफ

संजौली कॉलेज के 35 स्टूडेंट्स ने शाली माता मंदिर में टेका माथा



शिमला। संजौली कॉलेज के 35 छात्र शाली माता मंदिर के एडवेंचर ट्रैक पर गए। कॉलेज के एडवेंचर क्लब व जर्नलिज्म के छात्र इस ट्रैक यात्रा में शामिल हुए। कॉलेज प्रिंसिपल प्रो. भारती भागडा ने इस साहसिक यात्रा के लिए छात्रों को प्रोत्साहित किया। उन्होंने कहा कि यह यात्रा आत्मविश्वास, साहस और सामूहिक ऊर्जा का प्रतीक रही। उन्होंने 27 छात्राओं की भागीदारी पर विशेष गर्व व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि संजौली की यह परंपरा रही है कि इस संस्थान के छात्र अनुभवजन्य शिक्षा और आत्म-विकास से जुड़े कार्यक्रमों में सदैव अग्रणी रहते हैं। यात्रा के संयोजक प्रो. संदेश काल्टा व प्रो. लखबीर धीमान मौजूद रहे। छात्र सुबह 7 बजे कॉलेज कैम्पस से बस में खटनोल तक रवाना हुए। इसके बाद लगभग 7 किलोमीटर लंबा सफर पैदल तय किया। 10 बजे प्रारंभ हुई यह यात्रा तीन घंटे के भीतर 9500 फीट की ऊंचाई पर शाली माता शिखर पर पहुंची।

Dr. Lakhbeer Singh

Assistant Professor

Department of Environmental Science

Government College Sanjauli, Shimla