

### **Educational Field Trip to Meghalaya from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025**

The Department of Botany organized a two-day educational field trip to Meghalaya on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 for the undergraduate students as part of the field study component of the curriculum. The trip aimed to enhance students' practical understanding of biodiversity, ecological systems, and conservation efforts in the region.

#### **Day 1: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025**

The journey began early in the morning from North Gauhati College, and the team reached the first destination by mid-morning.

1. **Experimental Garden, Barapani:** Students visited the Experimental Garden at Barapani, where they observed a wide range of plant species maintained under experimental and research conditions. The visit provided insights into plant propagation, medicinal plant conservation, and the maintenance of native and exotic flora, especially *Nepenthes khasiana* (Pitcher plant).
2. **ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region:** The group then visited the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) complex, where scientists and staff members briefed the students on current research initiatives in agriculture, horticulture, and sustainable farming practices suited to the North Eastern Himalayan region. The interaction helped students understand the practical applications of their academic knowledge.
3. **Lunch Break:** After the academic sessions, the group proceeded for lunch.
4. **Elephant Falls:** After the lunch break, the group proceeded to the scenic Elephant Falls, where students had the opportunity to observe the local flora and ecological features of the area. The site visit also offered a recreational and refreshing break amidst nature.

5. **Police Bazar (Shillong):** In the evening, the group visited Police Bazar, the commercial heart of Shillong, where students engaged in shopping and experienced the local culture and food.

## Day 2: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

The second day was dedicated to exploring Cherrapunjee (Sohra), one of the wettest places on Earth. During the visit, students explored prominent ecological and geological sites, including Maismai limestone caves, waterfalls, and viewpoints overlooking the vast plains of Bangladesh. Students were also able to observe unique vegetation adapted to high rainfall conditions, gaining insights into ecological adaptations, biodiversity, and environmental conservation in high-precipitation zones.

After a fulfilling exploration of Cherrapunjee, the group began the return journey in the evening and reached Guwahati safely the same night.





