



REPORT ON NATURE CAMP PROGRAMME



Submitted by

Eco-Club, Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College (NBBGC), Tadong

Submitted to

**ENVIS Centre, Forest and Wildlife Department
Government of Sikkim**

On February 18, 2026, the Eco-Club of Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College (NBBGC), Tadong successfully conducted a Nature Camp Programme at the alpine wetland Memencho Lake. The programme was organized with the support of the ENVIS Centre, Forest and Wildlife Department, Government of Sikkim, with the objective of promoting environmental awareness and experiential learning among students.

A total of thirty-six students participated in the camp, accompanied by Dr. Nima Tshering Lepcha, Eco-Club Coordinator along with other faculty members. The programme was further enriched by the presence of two resource persons, Dr. Raksha Mukhia, Under Secretary, who enlightened the students on the importance of higher education and shared her Ph.D. research experiences from alpine field studies, and Mr. Nilesh Chettri, Under Secretary, who addressed the students and highlighted the importance of preparing for competitive examinations and striving for academic excellence alongside environmental responsibility.

The primary aim of the nature camp was to transform classroom-based environmental theory into practical conservation action. The programme provided students with firsthand exposure to high-altitude wetland ecosystems, enabling them to understand the ecological significance and vulnerability of such fragile habitats. Upon arrival at Memencho Lake, participants were briefed on safety protocols, high-altitude precautions, and the ecological importance of the lake and its surrounding catchment area. The briefing emphasized responsible behavior, proper waste management, and respect for local biodiversity.

Following the orientation session, students began their field exploration. Memencho Lake, known for its pristine waters and unique wetland biodiversity, served as a natural laboratory. Students observed aquatic vegetation, alpine flora, and signs of local fauna. Faculty members guided them in identifying plant species and understanding ecological processes such as nutrient cycling, water retention, and the role of wetlands in carbon sequestration and climate regulation. The rugged terrain and cold climatic conditions provided students with an authentic outdoor learning experience, strengthening their adaptability, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.

In addition, ecological observations and field techniques such as data collection, species identification, and herbarium preparation were demonstrated. Students were also trained in the proper pitching of camping tents under forest conditions and introduced to basic survival skills in high-altitude environments. Various nature camp activities, including team-building exercises, fishing techniques, and outdoor games, were conducted. These activities helped students develop practical field skills and strengthen their connection with nature.

A significant highlight of the camp was the cleanliness drive conducted around the lake area. Students actively collected plastic waste and other non-biodegradable materials left behind by visitors. This activity served as a powerful reminder of the impact of human activities on fragile alpine ecosystems. Through direct involvement in the cleaning drive, students experienced environmental stewardship in action, reinforcing the idea that conservation begins with individual responsibility and collective effort.

The programme concluded with a reflection session, during which students shared their observations and experiences. Many expressed a deeper understanding of ecosystem sensitivity and the urgent need to protect high-altitude wetlands.

The Eco-Club of NBBGC extends its sincere gratitude to the ENVIS Centre, Forest and Wildlife Department, Government of Sikkim for their financial and logistical support. The Nature Camp Programme proved to be a meaningful initiative in fostering environmental awareness and nurturing responsible, conservation-minded citizens. The Eco-Club also expresses its heartfelt thanks to the Fisheries Department, Government of Sikkim, for granting permission to visit the unexplored wetland Memencho Lake, which greatly enriched the field-learning experience of the students.

Photo Plates: Nature Camp Activities



