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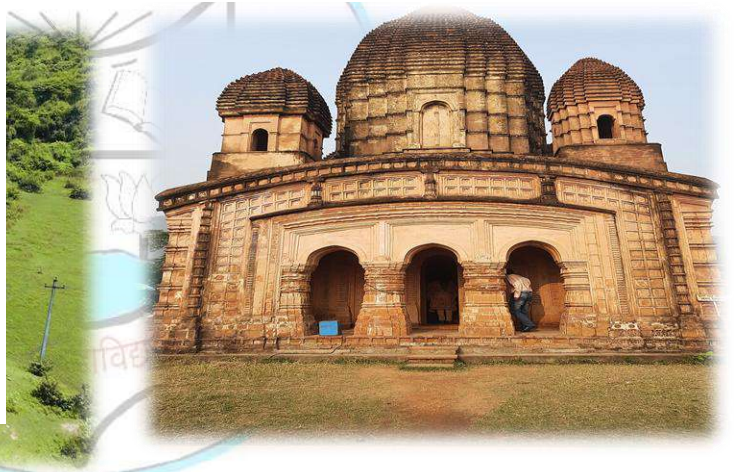
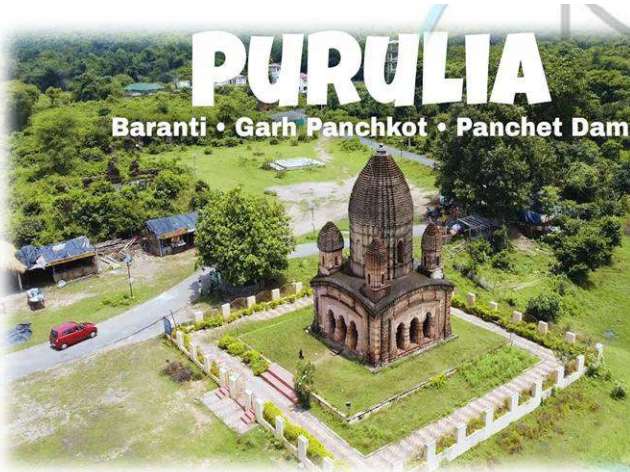
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(Permanently affiliated to Vinoba Bhave University, Hazaribagh)

Educational Tour ***Geography*** ***Department*** **27-09-2025**

Panchet Dam



Gar Panchkot, West Bengal, India

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Lat 23.606473° Long 86.769363°

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The Department of Geography, **Sariya College, Sariya**, organised an academic excursion on 27th September 2025 for the students of Semester VI (Major Paper – 15) under the topic “**Contribution of Excursion Site to Tourism Development.**” The selected sites for the study tour were ***Panchet Dam*** and ***Garh-Panchkot***, two prominent locations that reflect the interrelationship between geography, environment, and tourism potential in Jharkhand and West Bengal regions.

A total of 60 students, accompanied by 01 teaching staff members **Miss. Chayra Nisha Aind** and 01 non-teaching staff **Mr. Rajesh Kumar Mandal**, participated in this academic trip. The excursion was conducted under the leadership of **Mr. Asit Diwakar**, Head of the Department of Geography. **Dr. Shilesh Mohan**, Assistant Professor, extended his full cooperation and guidance throughout the program. The trip aimed to enhance geographical understanding through field-based learning and observation.

Objectives of the Academic Excursion

1. To understand the geographical features and environmental setting of Panchet Dam and Garh-Panchkot.
2. To study the role of these locations in promoting local and regional tourism.
3. To analyse the human-environment relationship and socio-economic development associated with the sites.
4. To observe the impact of tourism on natural landscapes and local livelihoods.
5. To provide practical exposure to students regarding the application of theoretical concepts of geography in real-world scenarios.

Observations and Study Findings

The primary objective of the excursion to **Panchet Dam** and **Garh-Panchkot** was to understand their geographical features and environmental setting. Panchet Dam, situated on the Damodar River, represents a classic example of a multipurpose river valley project that influences the region's topography, drainage, and ecosystem. The surrounding landscape, with hills, forests, and water bodies, provides a diverse physical environment for geographical observation. Garh-Panchkot, located near the Panchet Hill, reflects the interaction between natural and cultural landscapes. Its terrain, vegetation, and historical ruins offer valuable insights into how human settlements adapt to and modify their physical environment over time.

The excursion aimed to study how Panchet Dam and Garh-Panchkot contribute to the growth of local and regional tourism. Panchet Dam, with its vast reservoir, scenic hills, and recreational potential, attracts visitors for boating, sightseeing, and picnics, thereby supporting local livelihoods through tourism-related activities. Similarly, Garh-Panchkot, known for its ancient ruins, temples, and cultural heritage, serves as a major attraction for history enthusiasts and nature lovers. Together, these sites enhance regional tourism by offering a blend of natural beauty and historical significance, promoting eco-tourism and cultural tourism while generating income and employment opportunities for nearby communities.

The study aimed to analyze the human-environment relationship and socio-economic development associated with Panchet Dam and Garh-Panchkot. These sites reflect how human activities interact with natural surroundings to promote sustainable growth. The construction of Panchet Dam has improved irrigation, power generation, and fishing opportunities, directly supporting local livelihoods. At the same time, tourism around the dam and Garh-Panchkot has encouraged small-scale businesses such as handicrafts, local food stalls, and transport services. The harmonious balance between nature and human development in these areas

demonstrates how responsible resource use and environmental preservation can lead to economic progress and improved living standards.

The purpose of this study was to observe the impact of tourism on the natural landscapes and local livelihoods of Panchet Dam and Garh-Panchkot. Tourism has brought positive economic benefits to the region by creating employment opportunities and supporting local businesses such as hotels, transport, and handicraft sales. However, it has also led to certain environmental challenges like littering, noise pollution, and degradation of natural habitats. The increasing tourist influx demands sustainable management practices to protect the area's ecological balance. Observations highlight the need for eco-friendly tourism initiatives that preserve natural beauty while ensuring steady income and livelihood opportunities for local residents.

The main objective of the excursion was to provide practical exposure to students regarding the application of theoretical concepts of geography in real-world situations. Through field observation and data collection at Panchet Dam and Garh-Panchkot, students were able to connect classroom learning with actual geographical phenomena. They studied landforms, water resource management, vegetation patterns, and human settlements in their natural settings. The trip helped students understand how physical and human geography interact in shaping the environment. Such field experiences enhance analytical thinking, observation skills, and research abilities, enabling students to apply geographical theories effectively to practical and environmental challenges.

Panchet Dam, built across the Damodar River, is one of the significant multi-purpose river valley projects under the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC). The site showcases the importance of river valley projects in water management, irrigation, hydroelectric power generation, and recreation. The surrounding landscape, with its scenic beauty and water reservoir, attracts a large number of visitors, thus contributing to the local tourism industry.

Garh-Panchkot, located near the Panchet Hill, is a historical and cultural site that holds archaeological significance. The ruins of the ancient fort, temples, and the picturesque surroundings make it a potential heritage tourism spot. The area's natural charm and historical value together present great opportunities for sustainable tourism development. Students observed that eco-tourism and heritage tourism could be promoted here with proper planning and conservation measures.

Suggestions from the Excursion

1. Development of better tourist facilities and infrastructure around Panchet and Garh-Panchkot.
2. Promotion of eco-friendly tourism practices to preserve the natural environment.
3. Enhanced awareness among local communities regarding the economic benefits of tourism.
4. Regular maintenance and conservation of heritage structures at Garh-Panchkot.
5. Integration of these sites into regional tourism circuits for wider visibility.

Conclusion

The academic excursion proved to be highly informative and enriching for the students. It provided a valuable opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-life geographical phenomena. Students gained practical insights into the importance of river valley projects, historical heritage, and tourism development.

Such field visits play a vital role in shaping geography students' analytical and observational skills. The excursion to Panchet Dam and Garh-Panchkot successfully fulfilled its academic objectives and highlighted the significant contribution of these sites to regional tourism and sustainable development.

Gallery



