

Department of Political Science, Salesian College, Siliguri Campus

Two-day Excursion to Lava and Kalimpong

We, the first year students of Political Science (Honours) along with the faculty members, undertook a tour to Lava and Kalimpong on 14 and 15th December 2013. We would like to share our experience of the journey with the college community. We started on the 14th morning from the college campus after the prayer and blessings by Rector Fr. Nirmol Gomez. At Oodlabari, we had our breakfast, continued our journey, and at Gourbathan, we stopped for a bit and went for a small walk around the area. We finally reached the beautiful town of Lava at around 12:45 pm, checked into a Hotel, settled down, and after resting for a bit, we went out to have our lunch. After lunch we went to the Jamgyong Kongtrul Monastery which was a very beautiful place and extremely peaceful. We also got the opportunity to listen to the prayers and chanting by the Monks. From the Monastery, we went for a walk to a resort on top of Lava, which was maintained by the Department of Forest, Government of West Bengal. It was a very beautiful place and there were numerous cottages which pocket marked a section of the hills, surrounded by trees. It was extremely cold, and even when the icy wind was kind of piercing our bones, the group braved on immersed in and enjoying the surrounding serene beauty. Then we came back to Lava and spent the rest of the evening in shopping. Having had our dinner, we retired back to our hotel where we continued in the joyful mood of talking, sharing and playing fun games. Further all of us gathered at the dance floor and danced to the tunes of peppy numbers from our playlist. We went to sleep late in the night, our mind and body relaxed!

After a sound and peaceful sleep, we got up fresh and rejuvenated. The morning was very pleasant and extremely bright. After the breakfast, we bid goodbye to Lava and headed for Deolo, Kalimpong. The travel through lush greenery on both sides was heartwarming and memorable. In between, we stopped at Hanuman Mandir. Deolo was really beautiful and, blessed with bright sunlight; we had the privilege to watch the vast stretch of the Himalayas crystal clear. It was an enchanting experience and words fail us to describe it. We also realize the importance of preserving and conserving our environment, which sustains our existence. We spent a nice time at Deolo, with some of us went for horse riding, walking around the park and enjoying the sun. From there we went to Mangal Dham, a beautiful temple of Lord Krishna. From there we continued towards Kalimpong, stopping for about an hour, shopping and walking around the town. We left Kalimpong at around afternoon, and had lunch at Ghalkhola. We reached the college at around 5 pm. The journey was extremely entertaining and memorable. It resulted in a

good bonding between teachers and students alike. Despite initial uncertainties, the determination of both the teachers and the students resulted in a trip which marked the beginning of a beautiful friendship which god-willing will last for life.....!!!



