

One Day educational Tour To Giri Ganga, A Historical Place situated at the Lap of Mountains

On 24th October 2024 Government Degree College Chail –Koti organized one day Educational Tour for the Students to Giri Ganga a Historical Place situated at the Lap of Mountains. The Giri Ganga is a 7 km easy to moderate trek from Khada Patthar in the Pabbar valley that lies in Himachal's southeast corner. In fact, it is one of the most serene and perfect hideouts for those who wish to ditch the mundane.

Historical Importance of the Place

The **interesting legend tale** says that an ancient sage wanted to create a place in Himachal, having the same energy and power as Kashi. For that purpose, the Nirmand village of Shimla district was chosen by him. Therefore, he and the accompanying sadhus brought the sacred Gangajal in their kamandals (vessels) from Haridwar. They followed the ancient path that went through the dense forests of the Nagan valley in Shimla. They stopped to rest at the Kuppar Bagyal meadow at the top of a peak. During this time, the **Ganga Jal** that they were carrying accidentally spilled on the ground. A stream of water was formed at that spot and it was hence named the Giri **Ganga River**. The place was named after this stream.

Kharapathar- Trekking base

The base village of Kharapathar at an altitude of 8770 feet lies approximately 77 km from the state capital of Shimla. The staggering height of the village sets the view apart from others. It also offers breathtaking view of the millions of stars at night which in itself is a rare sight as compared to the chaotic cities. This is also a well known part of the apple belt of Himachal dotting the hills with red & green. Camping and fishing are also undertaken here.

Trip Delights

Students enjoyed the trek through the thick deodar forests, which witness the rare Himalayan flora & fauna dotted with lush apple orchards. They got to know the savor majestic views of the Kuppar valley and visited the ancient temple which is said to be built by the Pandvas in the 13th century. On the way they enjoyed the chirping of birds' en-route the trek. Reaching there they relaxed and absorbed the panoramic view of the hills by the Giri Ganga water stream. They met the locals and shared a conversation over a cup of tea to get an insight into their culture and lifestyle. They relished fresh hot meals with a different menu at famous Bhagwati Bhojnalaya Khadapattar. On the way back they witnessed apple orchards and different educational institutions based in Theog and Kotkhai like; DAV College Kotkhai, Apple Fruit Mandi Parala, Sainj, HPMC Plant, Sanj, ITI Theog, Government College Theog, Wild Life Century, Kufri. It was very learning tour for the students.

