

Report on Five-Day NSS Special Awareness Camp

NSS, The ICFAI University, Sikkim

Date: 17th April – 21st April 2026

Venue: Pangthang Village, FambongLho Wildlife Sanctuary and Lower Sichey (ICFAI Campus)

1. Introduction

The National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit of The ICFAI University, Sikkim organised a Five-Day NSS Special Awareness Camp from 17th April to 21st April 2026 at Pangthang Village, Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary and Lower Sichey. The camp was conducted under the theme “*Cleanliness, Environmental Conservation, Village Survey, and Sustainable Tourism*” to foster social responsibility and community engagement among volunteers. The camp witnessed the active participation of 30 NSS volunteers under the guidance of the Programme Officer, Debajit Boruah, along with faculty member Dr. Bindhya Rai, bringing the total number of participants to 32. The selected locations provided an ideal setting for experiential learning, enabling volunteers to interact closely with the local community and natural environment.

Throughout the five-day camp, a variety of activities were conducted, including cleanliness drives, awareness sessions, trekking, village surveys, cultural programmes, literary competitions and sports events. These activities were carefully designed to encourage the holistic development of students while simultaneously contributing to the welfare of the local community. The camp served as a valuable platform for volunteers to apply theoretical knowledge in practical situations, develop leadership qualities, and cultivate a strong sense of civic responsibility. It also aimed to promote sustainable practices and environmental awareness among both the participants and the local residents.

2. Objectives of the Camp

The primary objectives of organising the NSS Special Awareness Camp were:

- ❖ To promote the importance of cleanliness and hygiene within the community and encourage responsible waste management practices.
- ❖ To create awareness about environmental conservation, including the protection of natural resources, biodiversity and ecological balance.

- ❖ To conduct a village survey in Pangthang Village to understand the socio-economic conditions, needs and challenges faced by the local population.
- ❖ To encourage and educate participants and community members about the concept of sustainable tourism, with an emphasis on environmentally responsible travel practices.
- ❖ To provide experiential learning opportunities to NSS volunteers by engaging them in real-life community service activities.
- ❖ To develop essential life skills such as leadership, teamwork, communication and problem-solving among the volunteers.
- ❖ To foster a sense of social responsibility, discipline and civic awareness among students through active participation in community-oriented programmes.

3. Day-wise Report of Activities

Day 1: Community Service, Awareness & Experiential Learning

The first day of the NSS Special Awareness Camp commenced with the assembly of volunteers at the campus of The ICFAI University, Sikkim. The session began with the registration and attendance of participants, followed by an introductory briefing on the objectives and significance of the camp.

The Registrar, Joint Registrar and Programme Officer briefed the volunteers on the camp schedule, safety measures, discipline and team responsibilities. Volunteers were also encouraged to actively participate in community service and environmental awareness activities. The orientation session helped prepare the participants for the camp while promoting teamwork, cooperation and social responsibility.



Post-lunch, volunteers conducted a village survey, including household visits and data collection.

Later, volunteers visited FambongLho Wildlife Sanctuary for experiential learning and observation.



The day concluded with a painting competition among the volunteers, providing a creative platform to express ideas related to environmental awareness and social responsibility. This was followed by a reflection session and cultural interaction among the participants.



The paintings were evaluated on the same day and prizes were awarded immediately to the winners in recognition of their creativity and effective message delivery.

Day 2: Trekking, Quiz and Awareness

The second day started early with a wake-up session and breakfast, followed by a morning briefing on trekking safety and environmental discipline. The volunteers then participated in a trekking activity, which provided practical exposure to natural ecosystems and helped them understand the importance of environmental conservation and ecological sensitivity.



The volunteers then proceeded on a trek through the forest trails of Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary. During the trek, an interaction session was conducted with forest officials, who shared valuable insights on biodiversity conservation, wildlife protection, and the importance of preserving the ecological balance of the region..



In the afternoon session, a quiz competition was conducted based on the environment and sustainable tourism. The activity encouraged active participation and knowledge sharing among volunteers.



After completing the trekking and awareness activities, the volunteers assembled for a brief feedback session, where they shared their experiences and key learnings from the field.

Following this, the team returned to the campus of The ICFAI University, Sikkim, marking the conclusion of the first two days of the camp conducted at Pangthang Village and Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary. The activities provided the volunteers with valuable experience and practical exposure through experiential learning.

The remaining activities of the camp were subsequently conducted in the Lower Sichey area and within the university premises during the following days.

Day 3: Cultural Activities (Singing, Dancing & Skit)

The third day of the camp was relatively lighter in terms of structured field activities and was mainly devoted to informal group engagement among the volunteers. Participants gathered for a series of cultural interactions, where volunteers voluntarily presented songs, dance performances and short skits based on social and environmental themes. Although these activities were not organised as formal competitions, they created a relaxed and interactive atmosphere within the group. The session provided volunteers with an opportunity to express their creativity, strengthen interpersonal relationships and maintain enthusiasm throughout the camp. The skit performances, despite being simple in nature, reflected awareness of social and environmental issues, aligning with the overall objectives and theme of the camp.

Day 4: Literary Competitions

The fourth day of the camp was dedicated to literary and creative activities aimed at encouraging thoughtful expression among the volunteers. Activities such as essay writing, slogan writing and poem recitation were conducted on themes related to environmental conservation, cleanliness, and social responsibility.

The essay writing activity provided participants with an opportunity to express their understanding of environmental and social issues in a structured and analytical manner. Volunteers actively participated and presented their ideas with enthusiasm, reflecting their awareness, creativity and critical thinking skills.



Similarly, the slogan writing activity encouraged creativity and concise expression. Participants created impactful slogans highlighting the importance of cleanliness, sustainability and environmental protection.



The poem recitation session was conducted as an informal activity. The session focused on participation and expression rather than competition.

Overall, the day successfully promoted intellectual engagement and creative thinking among the volunteers.

Day 5: Sports Activities & Valedictory Function

The final day of the camp was dedicated to sports activities and concluding sessions. Various indoor sports events, including carrom and table tennis for both boys and girls, were organised among the volunteers. These activities were conducted in a friendly and participatory manner, encouraging teamwork, coordination, discipline and sportsmanship among the participants.



A valedictory session was subsequently organised in the presence of distinguished guests Prof. P.K. Rai, Senior Professor, School of Management Studies and Mr. Rohit Kumar Dey, Assistant Professor, School of Liberal Arts. The session highlighted the overall experiences of the camp, during which participants reflected upon their learning experiences and contributions throughout the programme.

During the session, Diwakar Pradhan and Jigme Yoezer were felicitated in recognition of their significant contributions towards coordinating and managing the camp activities

effectively. Both students worked closely with the Programme Officer and played an important role in ensuring the smooth execution of the daily schedule.



The Programme Officer, Mr. Debajit Boruah, appreciated the dedication, discipline and teamwork displayed by all the volunteers throughout the camp. The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks, marking the successful completion of the five-day NSS Special Awareness Camp.



4. Winners of Competitions

Painting

1st: Mr Yaso Hang Rai

2nd: Mr Tech Hachi

3rd: Ms Neelima Rai

Quiz

1st: Mr Diwakar Pradhan

2nd: Ms Yaram Pangge

3rd: MD Khatib



5. Learning Outcomes

The Five-Day NSS Special Awareness Camp provided valuable learning experiences to the volunteers by combining community service with practical exposure. The key learning outcomes of the camp are as follows:

- ❖ The volunteers developed a deeper understanding of environmental conservation and the importance of protecting natural resources through direct exposure to forest ecosystems and awareness activities.
- ❖ The camp enhanced awareness regarding cleanliness, hygiene and waste management, encouraging responsible behaviour at both the individual and community levels.
- ❖ Through the village survey conducted at Pangthang Village, participants gained insights into the socio-economic conditions, lifestyles and challenges faced by rural communities, thereby strengthening their sense of social responsibility.
- ❖ The activities promoted the concept of sustainable tourism, helping volunteers understand the importance of balancing development with environmental preservation.
- ❖ Participation in group activities and fieldwork contributed to the development of essential skills such as teamwork, coordination, leadership and problem-solving.
- ❖ Informal and interactive sessions improved communication skills, confidence and interpersonal relationships among the volunteers.
- ❖ The camp instilled a sense of discipline, cooperation, and civic responsibility, encouraging students to contribute positively to society.
- ❖ Overall, the experience contributed to the holistic development of the participants by integrating academic knowledge with practical learning and social engagement.

6. Conclusion

The Five-Day NSS Special Awareness Camp organised by the NSS Unit of The ICFAI University, Sikkim from 17th April to 21st April 2026 was a meaningful and enriching experience for all the participants. The camp successfully achieved its objectives of promoting awareness regarding cleanliness, environmental conservation, village engagement and sustainable tourism.

Through a combination of field activities, interactive sessions and participatory engagements, the volunteers gained practical exposure to real-life situations and developed a deeper understanding of social and environmental responsibilities. The camp not only contributed to community awareness but also played a significant role in enhancing the personal growth, discipline and teamwork skills of the volunteers.

The NSS Unit expresses its sincere gratitude to Prof. (Dr.) Jagannath Patnaik, Vice Chancellor; Dr. Rohit Rathi, Registrar; Mrs. Sandhya Rani Pant, Joint Registrar; and Dr. Vivek Pathak, Dean of Academics, for their constant encouragement, administrative support and valuable guidance, which played a crucial role in the successful organisation of the camp. The successful execution of the camp was made possible under the guidance of the Programme Officer, Mr. Debajit Boruah, whose continuous support and coordination ensured the smooth conduct of all activities.

Special thanks are also extended to NSS Sikkim, especially Laleeta Chettri ma'am, Tsten Bhutia sir and Babita Chettri ma'am for their valuable support and guidance. Gratitude is also extended to the forest officials of Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary for their cooperation and informative interaction sessions on biodiversity conservation. The NSS Unit further expresses its sincere appreciation to the President of the Fambong Lho Wildlife Development Society and the local community members for their continuous support and cooperation.

Appreciation is also extended to all the volunteers for their active participation, discipline and commitment throughout the camp. The cooperation and support of all concerned officials and stakeholders are gratefully acknowledged. Overall, the NSS Special Awareness Camp proved to be a highly impactful initiative that not only fulfilled its intended objectives but also inspired the volunteers to continue contributing towards society with a sense of responsibility and dedication.