

**Gangadharpur Mahavidyamandir**  
**Department of History**  
**Academic Session: 2023-2024**  
**Education Tour Report**

***The Study Tour 2024: Bolpur-Santiniketan***

This year, the Department of History, along with the collaboration of other departments, had conducted a study tour to Bolpur-Santiniketan, where altogether sixteen students and two assistant professors – Dr. Biswajit Gayen and Mr. Animesh Gupta – participated in a total 105 members excursion team. The journey commenced from the Howrah Railway Terminus on 14<sup>th</sup> of March at 10.05 am by Santiniketan Express (train number 12337), and the entire team reached the destination by 1220 pm.



The weather was a bit hot in the afternoon, but it appeared gradually pleasant by the evening. The accommodation was moderate in local guest house namely Lodge Rituranga, around twenty minutes journey from the Bolpur-Santiniketan railway station. The local commute took care of our all the to-and-fro journeys, whether it be from railway station to the places of accommodation, or be it between various places of interests that the team visited.



The main attraction was the Viswa Bharati, the university established by Rabindranath Tagore, arguably the greatest Bengalee ever lived. We got a stint of its ambience while en route to our place of accommodation on 14<sup>th</sup> afternoon, but later on as a part of the excursion plan explored the institution quite thoroughly. Also various places of handicraft exhibition (for example, Sriyani Mela Prangan, Sonajhuri Haat) were the part of the visit which we did. But on 15<sup>th</sup> of March, the entire team visited the Rabindra Bhavan Museum where various artifacts of Rabindranth as well as of other members of the prestigious Tagore family are displayed. This well-preserved rich collection includes numerous photographs, memorabilia, articles of daily necessities like pen, umbrella, eyeglasses etc, rare editions of different books of Tagore, a replica of Nobel Prize awarded to Rabindranth Tagore (along with different editions of *the Songs Offerings*, the English translation of *Geetanjali* – the compilation of poetry or which he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1913), among others.





Apart from the Museum, a small team of students also visited the main library of the university, which was yet another greater exposure to the world of higher education for the undergraduate students. The library authority was very much keen to make the entire team visit different sections of the library including the main reading room, the repository section, the stack as well as the journal and e-resource sections. The organizing committee had taken into consideration the best possible way of experiencing the free liberal ambience of Tagore's Santiniketan in best possible way, given the limited time of this excursion. The Howrah bound train started on 15<sup>th</sup> of March at 1.00 o'clock in the afternoon, and by 330 pm, the entire team returned back, having a cherished memory of a study-cum-travel venture.

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