

## **Report of the educational excursion on 21.12.2022**

### **Department of English**

#### **Netaji Satabarshiki Mahavidyalaya**

On 21.12.2022, the Department of English and Library Committee of Netaji Satabarshiki Mahavidyalaya arranged an educational excursion for the students who were taken to the National Library and the Central Library of University of Calcutta. The HOD of the department of English, Smt. Shiuli Sarkar and the librarian of Netaji Satabarshiki Mahavidyalaya, Dr. Moutusi Basak along with other faculty members accompanied the students on this educational visit to these foremost libraries of the country. The college arranged a bus which carried around 65 students along with the teachers to this tour. The bus reached National Library first around 11 a.m. The librarian of the college, Dr. Moutusi Basak played a pivotal role as she spoke to the officials of both the libraries beforehand informing them of the excursion. The officials duly cooperated taking care of the students and showing them some exceptional and special places of these temples of learning. At the National library, the students were shown the vast reading room, explained the process of issuing books and the decorum of the library. They were taken to the stack rooms where they were shown the wide array of books and interpreted as to how they are arranged conveniently. They were also shown the rare book collection. It was an invaluable experience for the students as well as the teachers as they travelled back in time in their minds when they saw the priceless books, manuscripts and documents of antiquity. Some of these are the very first published version of the Indian Constitution, a Latin book on Botany almost 550 years old, two Persian epics and the holy Quran with their pages made of Gold. There was also ancient Buddhist manuscripts written on Birch barks, paintings by Rabindranath Tagore and a spectacular 360 degree anonymous painting of the city of Lahore. It was a memorable experience. The experience at the Central Library of University of Calcutta was more didactic. The in charge explained the students about the hardcopies as well as e resources and how to access them. The C.U. central library also had a huge collection of open access books and these stacked across 10 floors and the students touched and felt these documents as they joyously glided their way through the pages. The official on duty clarified that a vast collection of books pertaining to English literature and Social Science is present. The students of English honours were particularly benefitted as they would have to hugely bank upon the library facilities to further their academic pursuit as higher studies especially research in literature is more library work oriented rather than field survey. They also started understanding how higher studies in English is becoming more interdisciplinary. Moreover the sensitive minds of the students of literature got a huge mental boost and inspiration witnessing the placid surrounding of the library conducive to study and thinking and also the inexhaustible supply of books. The archive section would particularly help them for research. The teachers also explained them about the heritage of the University and the very plot of land of College Street which gave birth to the Bengal renaissance. The Central Library also had its collection of rare books dating back as early as 1550 A.D. There was a section for the visually impaired. The architectural brilliance of both the libraries were something to witness. The students enjoyed themselves very much along with this invaluable learning experience. At the end of this wonderful day, everybody safely returned to their homes with fond memories and newly gleaned inspirations to cherish.