

# Netaji Satabarshiki Mahavidyalaya

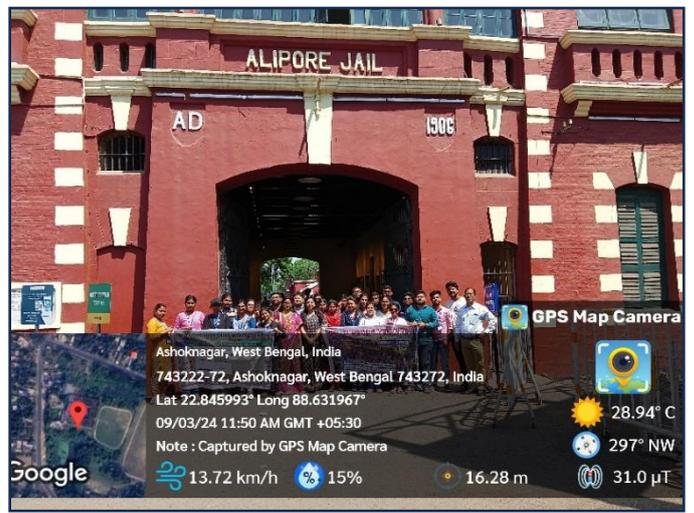
## Department of Political Science

### A Visit to Alipore Jail Museum and Netaji Bhawan (Report of educational tour,2023-24)

Experiential learning is an engaged learning process whereby students “learn by doing” and by reflecting on the experience. This gives an opportunity for students to engage intellectually, creatively, emotionally and socially to develop critical analysis and synthesis. A designed learning experience that includes the possibility to learn from natural consequences, social interactions and environment. Political science is a dynamic subject that renders the integration of class room teaching with social interactions and the faculties of this department unanimously promotes the idea of experiential learning through educational tours.



At college gate: Leaving for the educational tour



Infront of Alipore Jail Museum

For the academic session 2023-24, the students were taken to visit two important historical and political landmarks of Kolkata. The Alipore Central Correctional Home is a national historic landmark located in the heart of Kolkata. This 116-year-old building, along with the Presidency Jail, is on the Grade I list of heritage sites of Kolkata. Constructed in 1906, and spread over 15.2 acres, this colonial era institution held notable freedom fighters who were incarcerated here, this includes Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose, Chittaranjan Das, Dinesh Gupta, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy to name a few. From being a silent witness to the brutalities inflicted on the freedom fighters of the country, the Alipore Central Correctional Home is now transformed as a memorial and museum to honour the sacrifice of those who fought for the independence of India. The students saw the gallows and various prison cells of notable inmates have been curated for visitors to preserve the memory of individuals who lost their lives fighting for India’s independence. The museum project can broadly be categorised into ten parts: gallows, watchtowers, special cells, general cells, detention cells, jail canteen, jail hospital, hospital building exhibition, segregation ward, and an art studio. There is also provision for QR voice guide that provides information as we proceeded in the museum. The students were enthralled by the inherent historical presence and the political implication of the place. They

took photos and recorded relevant information to map the struggle for independence as etched in the brick red walls of the erstwhile central jail.

We then visited Netaji Bhawan, the ancestral house of Subhas Chandra Bose. The Netaji Museum established here in 1961 under the aegis of Netaji research Bureau which has transformed it into a state-of-the-art biographical museum organised on the basis of large number of photographic, documentary and video materials on Netaji's journey collected by NRB from across the world.



**Inside Alipore Jail Museum**



**Infront of Netaji Bhawan**

The students were taken for a guided tour of the place where they started with the 'political testament' written by Netaji in 1940 and then were shown the famous 'Wanderer car' which Sisir Kumar Bose drove Netaji to his first leg of 'Great Escape' in 1941. The museum has an impressive collection of photographs, documents and hand written letters which has been meticulously divided into the Central gallery, the European room and the Asia room to give further semblance to the great journey Netaji took to secure India's independence. The videos and documentaries of Netaji enthralled the students. The students were intrigued and they asked questions to concerned museum personnel for relevant information or clarifications. They were also asked to prepare a report on how the visit to Netaji Bhawan contributed to their understanding of Netaji. They were then taken to the Freedom library which stores valuable and rare books and periodicals.

The educational tour helped the students to understand the historical and political nuances that marked the India's struggle for independence. They gained an in-depth knowledge about various notable people who were fundamental to this struggle and shaped the formation of new India. The students also got a chance to learn about world politics or the great power struggle amidst which India was striving for its independence. This understanding of the past will assist them in critically examine the present Indian politics and help them develop holistic perspective.