

NETAJI SATABARSHIKI MAHAVIDYALAYA

Department of Political Science

Report of Educational Tour

Visit to West Bengal State Legislative Assembly

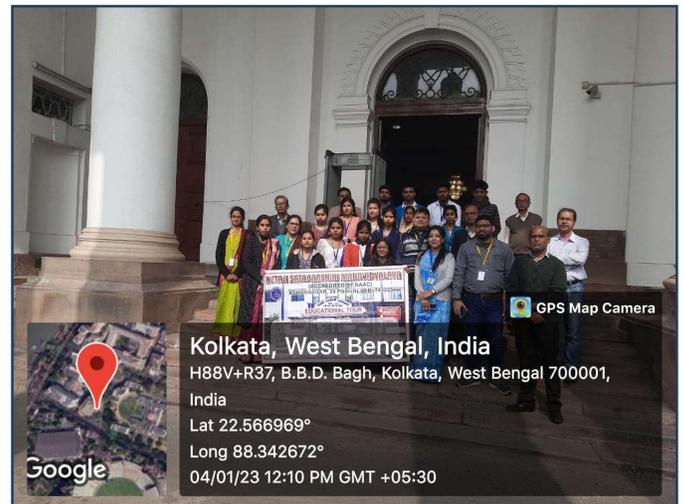
As an integral part of the departmental initiatives to introduce experiential learning among the students beyond the stated curriculum structure of the affiliating university, educational tours are organized by the department on a regular basis. The department firmly believes that these educational tours enable the students to explore new environments, to grasp concepts through visual learning and expose them to diverse situations and people and to learn from the experiences. It helps them to think critically, develop new ideas and empower them to understand societal and political processes.

Objective of the tour

An educational tour was organized by the department of political science to the West Bengal State Legislative Assembly on 4.1.2023. The objective of organizing the tour to the Vidhan Sabha was to introduce the students to the seat of policy making and parliamentary affairs of the state and help them to understand the importance of representation and active involvement in the political decision making process.



On Reaching the State Legislative Assembly



Infront of the Legislative Assembly

Plan and Activities

The Department of Political Science, Netaji Satabarshiki Mahavidyalaya visited the State Legislative Assembly on January 4th, 2023 as per the permission granted by Hon'ble Speaker, State Legislative Assembly. Altogether, 14 students from the department visited the Assembly under the Supervision of Anwesha Dasgupta, Milinda Majumdar, Dr. Jitendranath Barman, Sumita Chakraborty and Nawaz Mondal, Department of Political Science. The plan was to enable the students to get acquainted with

the Unicameral legislative structure, the assembly hall where the sessions are conducted, what are the procedures and enhance their understanding of the democratic decision making process.

On reaching the assembly the students were taken for a tour of the Vidhan Sabha, built in 1862 by the British for Bengal Presidency; the heritage building itself boasts of its political and administrative legacy. They were guided through the hall with portraits of erstwhile chief ministers of West Bengal and then to the corridor with chambers of the present ministers including the chief minister. The PRO, Mr. Ranjit Mukherjee took great initiative to explain to them the history of legislative assembly, the policies and decisions taken under various chief ministers, the inherent changes in the political landscape of Bengal and how that has further influenced the administrative decisions. The students had the opportunity to visit the legislative chamber and had their first experience to witness the place where the policy making affairs are conducted. As the Vidhan Sabha was not in session they had the scope to witness the setting of assembly with the Speaker seated in the centre and the ruling party on the right and the opposition on the left. The students took great enthusiasm in locating the seats of various ministers, chief minister and the leader of the opposition. They also got acquainted with the process of voting in the assembly and how yeas and nays are displayed on the board. The students enquired about the procedures of passing of bills and budget and some students asked about the debate on reintroduction of the Legislative Council that was abolished in 1969 and many other questions regarding pertinent bills or policies. They had the opportunity to meet a few high officials who with remarkable patience and interest answered their queries and provided them with valuable information. The students were also shown the building of the Calcutta High Court that is adjacent to the assembly depicting how the legislative and judicial structures stand side by side yet functions independently to uphold the democratic fabric of our nation.

Outcome of the tour

The educational trip has been fundamentally beneficial to the students in diverse aspects

- **Practical exposure:** The Students gained practical experience by visiting the West Bengal Legislative Assembly and witnessing how the legislative sessions are conducted. They were informed about various debates and bill discussions.
- **Gaining knowledge of political history:** This trip has induced the students with the rich political history of Bengal. Since the turmoil during the freedom struggle to the left front legacy and the present political scenario, the students gained substantial knowledge regarding the political transitions in Bengal. This will definitely enrich their opinions and understanding.
- **Scope for interaction:** Students had the opportunity to interact with dignitaries such as the Hon'ble Speaker and senior officials that helped them to clear doubts or misconceptions, form structured opinions and critically analyse issues. They initiated questions, discussions and the enthusiastic responses led to an enriching thought provoking environment.
- **Empowering the students:** This tour helped the students to understand the functioning of the State Legislative Assembly and the legislative process through experience. The exposure to the process enhances their engagement and most importantly empowers the young voters to form ideas about the political and legislative processes.

Future Scope

The educational trip to the legislative assembly has constructively assisted the students in attaining practical experience about the legislative process, imbibe in the rich political history which will further assist them to crystallize their opinion, enhance their awareness as young voters and encourage them towards political participation. The department has organized an educational tour to the local

municipality last session to help the students understand local self-government and this visit to the assembly was conceived to expose them to the state level legislative processes thus, to provide them with the holistic understanding of the federal structure of our polity. This trip positively paves the way to introduce the students to the workings of other wings like the judiciary to enable them to grasp how separation of powers in our constitution is maintained.



The West Bengal Legislative Assembly