

Visit to the Asiatic Society 2024-2025

Educational trip to different eminent libraries of Kolkata form an integral part of the educational mission of Library Society to spread awareness among students aware regarding functions, resources, services, and educational importance of libraries in lifelong self learning. The Central Library of Loreto College with the Library Society organised visit to the Asiatic Society for Under Graduate and B.Ed. students. 36 students from UG Semester 6 and B.Ed visited the Library on April 9, followed by 36 students from UG Semester 2 on May 8, 2025. The visit was designed to give students direct exposure to archival practices, manuscript preservation, and the intellectual legacy safeguarded by the institution. The visits began with Dr. Pritam Gurey, Librarian of the Asiatic Society, welcoming them and giving them an introduction to the rich cultural heritage of the Institution and it's enormous contribution towards research conducted over years in Indology and other periphery areas. Personnel from the Society guided our students through the Museum, the Library and reading room, the stack area, the journal section and the preservation and conservation section. The library is a treasure trove of knowledge, with many interesting books, some dating back to 19th century or before, on India's rich cultural heritage and history. Students gained insights into India's history and traditions and also discovered books from other countries. They got to see firsthand how delicate and intricate the process is of preservation and conservation of old books and manuscripts. They observed both aqueous and non-aqueous deacidification techniques being applied to fragile documents. The visit to the Asiatic Society was an eye-opening experience that left a lasting impression on the students. The visit inspired the students to continue exploring the rich cultural heritage of India.

Learning Objectives:

1. To explore the cultural and historical context of India through primary historical sources.
2. To develop observational and analytical skills by examining original historical objects.
3. To foster appreciation for archival institutions and their role in preserving heritage.
4. To understand the importance and techniques of preserving ancient manuscripts and artefacts.

Learning Outcomes:

The field trip to the Asiatic Society was a multidimensional learning experience that bridged the gap between classroom education and real-world historical research. From viewing rare manuscripts and observing conservation practices to discussing the institution's legacy with staff, the visit offered a holistic perspective on India's scholarly and cultural richness. The sense of awe and pride evoked by such a treasure trove of knowledge deeply impacted every student, igniting both academic curiosity and a renewed respect for India's historical traditions.

1. Students will gain knowledge about the historical significance of artefacts from different eras, such as the Maurya Dynasty and colonial Kolkata.
2. Students will demonstrate increased awareness of India's archival and conservation efforts.
3. Students will develop a deeper respect for heritage institutions and the importance of cultural preservation.
4. Students will be able to describe basic preservation techniques for ancient manuscripts.

Visit On April 9, 2025



The Librarian Dr. Pritam Gurey addressing our students and faculty



The Librarian with our students and faculty in Humayun Kabir Hall







Picture Courtesy: The Asiatic Society

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16H1naK6Vh/>

Visit On April 9, 2025









Picture Courtesy: The Asiatic Society

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