

Visit to Rammohun Library and Free Reading Room

The Loreto College Library Society organized an educational visit for the students of Semester III and Semester V to the Rammohun Library and Free Reading Room on September 16, 2025.

This year marks the 121st year of the Library and Free Reading Room. It was founded in 1904 to honor the exceptional reformer Raja Rammohun Roy. It is a remarkable center of Indian enlightenment, mental growth, and cultural growth. Great scholars and luminaries, including Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose, Pandit Shibnath Shastri, and many more, have met and contributed to the resplendent history of this legacy. Students participated in a guided tour to the rare book section of the library and appreciated the invaluable delicate volumes of literature that had been saved for their future generations. A discussion on the censorship of intellectual literature and critic banned books was also conducted, stressing the lack of censorship in free thinking. The students also visited the Rammohun Museum, where they saw some of the rare currencies, coins, letters, and personal keepsakes of Raja Rammohun Roy. A feature of special interest was the revolving table used by the reformer himself, which provided a personal link to his extraordinary legacy. One of the students' favorite activities was listening to the unique Manna Dey and many other archival recordings on the old record player. The library's collection was enriched and highlighted through this engagement with folklore. The Festoons were carried out with a group picture that signified the essence of learning, togetherness, and value associated with this pioneering monument.

Objectives of the Visit

- To make students aware about the importance of the Rammohun Library and Free Reading Room in the evolution of Reading Rooms in the country.
- To make students aware about the Rammohun Library's collection of valuable and unique resources.
- To stimulate students' and engage them in the discussions of critical thinking about the censorship of books and censorship in general.
- To provide students with some of the recorded materials and other resources to cultivate an appreciation of cultural advocacy.
- To motivate students to develop an active interest in working with libraries as centers for information, history, and imagination.

Learning Outcomes

- An appreciation of the life and contribution of Raja Rammohun Roy and other notable personalities associated with the library was gained.
- There was an appreciation of the value of books that are considered rare, valuable, and even banned, with regard to literary and societal influence.
- Students gained an appreciation of books as archival records and collection of archival documents, protected by means of archival containers.
- The visit helped foster the appreciation for libraries as active centers of history and culture.
- Students were enthusiastic about the prospect of undertaking similar activities in the future, which would be arranged by the Library Society.













