



**District Institute of Education & Training (DIET)
Hooghly**

**Report of
Educational Tour**

**Venue: 1. Hangseshwari Temple
2. Bandel Church
3. Hooghly Imambara
4. Sarat Chandra Smriti Mandir**

Held on 26/06/2025

For Session: 2023-2025 & 2024-2026

Acknowledgement

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the Educational Tour, making it not only possible but also a highly enriching and unforgettable experience.

Foremost, I extend my deepest appreciation to Dr. Chhanda Ray, the Director, SCERT, WB and his entire team for giving us quick permission and approval for utilizing the fund. Her guidance and support make our tour possible.

I am also grateful to the faculties and staff of DIET, Hooghly. Their expertise and passion make the tour successful.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge our learners, for their companionship and collaborative spirit throughout the tour.



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A. Introduction:

Tour is a journey for pleasure in which different places are visited. Educational tour is a journey that complements classroom learning by providing opportunities to gain knowledge through direct experience and real-world exposure outside the traditional learning environment. Educational tour bridges the gap between theory and practice.

Moreover, educational tours foster cultural awareness and appreciation. Learners get opportunity to interact with people from different regions, diverse traditions and rituals. This exposure helps to build values like tolerance, empathy and unity in diversity.

Educational tour enhances 21st century skills among learners. To make learners stress free, educational tour play an excellent role. In essence, educational tours are not just outings—they are valuable learning experiences that enrich students in a holistic way.



B. Objectives:

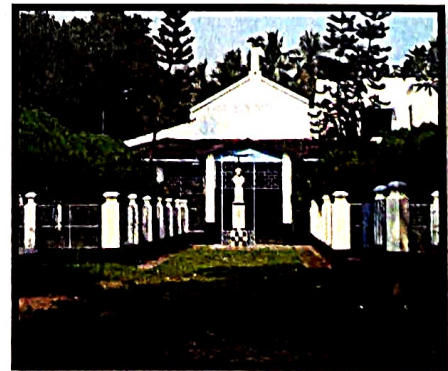
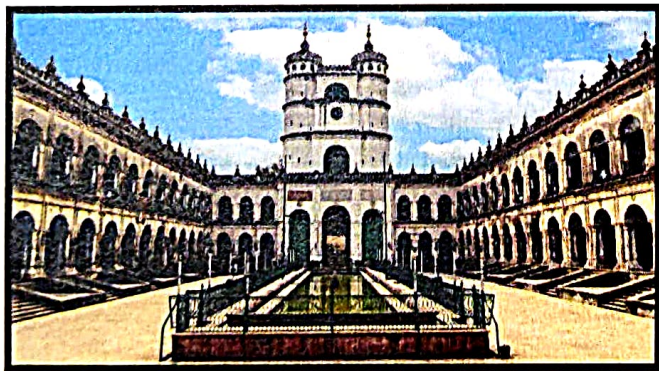
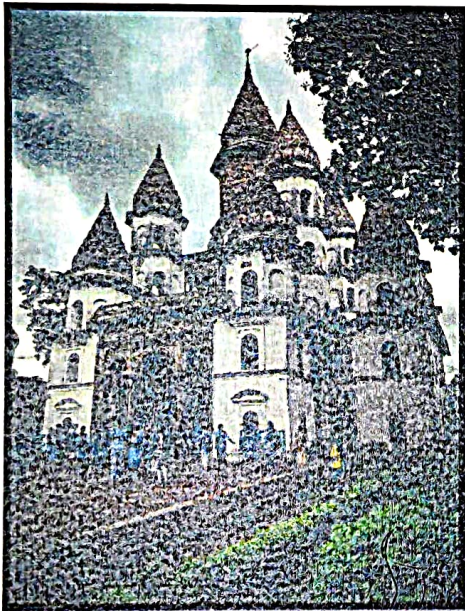
Educational tour aiming to achieve a variety of objectives for learners. Detailed breakdowns are given below:

1. **Experiential Learning** – Educational tour provide real-life exposures that complement classroom learning. Learners can apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations which leads better understanding and more retention.
2. **Development of 21st century skills** – Development of 21st century skills among learners may be possible through educational tour. Critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication are four learning skills which can be develop through educational tour.
3. **Develop Social Skills** – Educational tour encourages teamwork, cooperation, and interpersonal communication among peers.
4. **Promote Cultural Awareness** – Educational tour fosters appreciation and respect for diverse cultures, traditions, and heritage.
5. **Stimulate Curiosity and Interest** – Educational tour inspires learners to explore new areas of learning and research.
6. **Encourage Critical Thinking** – Educational tour helps learners to observe, to ask questions and to think analytically.
7. **Install Responsibility and Discipline** – Educational tour teaches learners the importance of punctuality, planning and self-management.
8. **Create Joyful Learning Experiences** – To make education more engaging, memorable, and enjoyable educational tour play a vital role.
9. **Strengthen Learner-Teacher Relationship** – Educational tour enhances the relationship between teachers and learners through shared experiences.
10. **Promote Environmental and Civic Awareness** – Educational tour helps learners to make understand social, ecological and historical responsibilities.



C. Selection of Field Visit Site:

To fulfil the above objectives, District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Hooghly organized an educational tour on 26/06/2025 for 184 students to visit four culturally and historically significant sites of Hooghly district namely—Hangseshwari Temple, Bandel Church, Hooghly Imambara and Sarat Chandra Smriti Mandir. Four buses were arranged for this educational tour. Journey was started by buses at 9.30 am from institution campus. After visiting above mentioned places, the buses returned to the institute by 5 p.m. By visiting these sites, learners were able to observe the unique styles of Hindu, Christian, and Islamic architecture, understand the cultural and historical significance of each site and appreciate the rich heritage of West Bengal. The tour also aimed to promote experiential learning, foster inter-religious harmony and enhance the students' observation, inquiry, and communication skills through real-world exploration.



D. Key Observations and Findings from Field Visits:

1) Hangseshwari Temple

Hangseshwari Temple a living example of India's spiritual richness, cultural richness, and artistic brilliance. Visiting this temple offered students a unique blend of experiential learning, philosophical insight, and architectural wonder, making it an ideal choice for a meaningful and value-based educational tour.

- **Location**

Bansberia, Hooghly, West Bengal.



- **Historical Importance**

Construction was started by Raja Nrisinhadeb Roy in 1799 and completed by his second wife Rani Sankari in 1814. The temple reflects the royal patronage of spiritual traditions in 18th–19th century Bengal. It is a window into the socio-religious history of Bengal's zamindari period.

- **Unique Architectural Design**

Unique Bengal temple architecture, specially the Ratna style with 13 towers, each resembling the lotus bud. This design reflects Tantrik philosophy and is said to represent the human body chakras.

- **Integration of Science and Spirituality**

The temple was designed based on the concept of "Tantrik Satchakrabhed", which refers to the six energy centers (chakras) of the human body. This offers learners a chance to learn how ancient Indian knowledge systems (IKS) integrated anatomy, spirituality, and architecture.

- **Art and Symbolism**

Learners can observe detailed carvings, domes, and symbolic structures. The spires are not just decorative—they are metaphysical symbols, making it a great case study in symbolism in religious architecture.

- **Exploration of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)**

The temple's structure is based on human anatomy and yogic chakras, offering an authentic example of indigenous knowledge in practice, suitable for NEP 2020's emphasis on integrating IKS in education.

- **Value-Based Learning**

The temple's story teaches devotion, resilience, and spiritual dedication. Rani Sankari's completion of the temple after the king's death reflects themes of perseverance and faith.

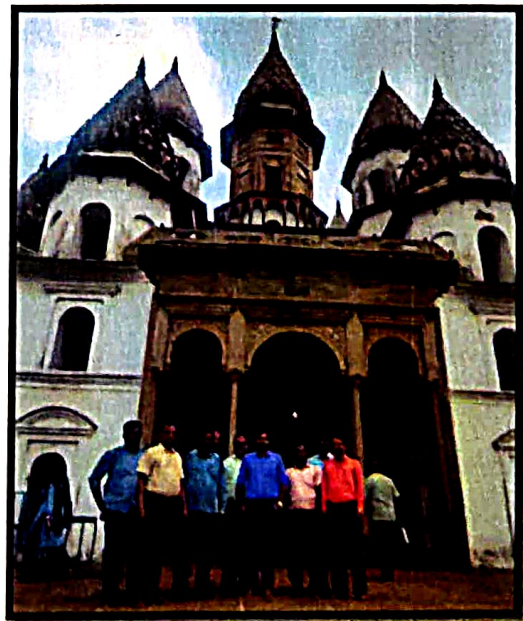
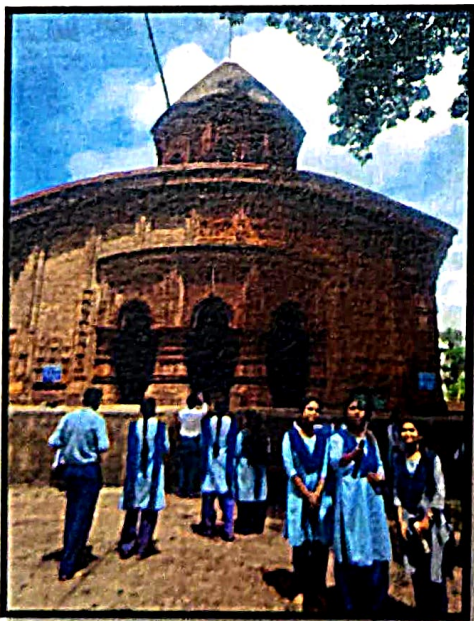
Multidisciplinary Educational Value:

History (Bengal's royal families, temple culture)

Art & Architecture (Tantric symbolism, structural design)

Philosophy (chakra system, spiritual cosmology)

Religious Studies (Shaktism, Tantra)



2) Bandel Church

The Basilica of the Holy Rosary, more commonly known as Bandel Church, stands as a prominent historical landmark in Bandel, Hooghly district, West Bengal. Bandel Church is one of the oldest Christian churches in West Bengal and India, built by the Portuguese in 1599 and dedicated to Nossa Senhora do Rosário (Our Lady of the Rosary).

- **Location**

Bandel, Hooghly, West Bengal

- **Reconstruction after Mughal Attack**

The church was destroyed in 1632 by Mughal forces and rebuilt in 1660 by Captain Gomez de Soto. This teaches learners about Mughal-Portuguese conflicts, resilience, and cultural continuity.



- **Portuguese Colonial Influence**

As a legacy of the Portuguese colony in Hooghly, the church reflects European settlement, trade, and missionary activities in Eastern India—essential for understanding India's colonial past beyond British rule.

- **Architectural Significance**

Bandel Church features Portuguese-Gothic architecture, with arched doors, a bell tower, vaulted ceilings, and a votive ship's mast donated by a sailor. These unique features make it ideal for learners of architecture, history, and art.

- **Declared a Minor Basilica**

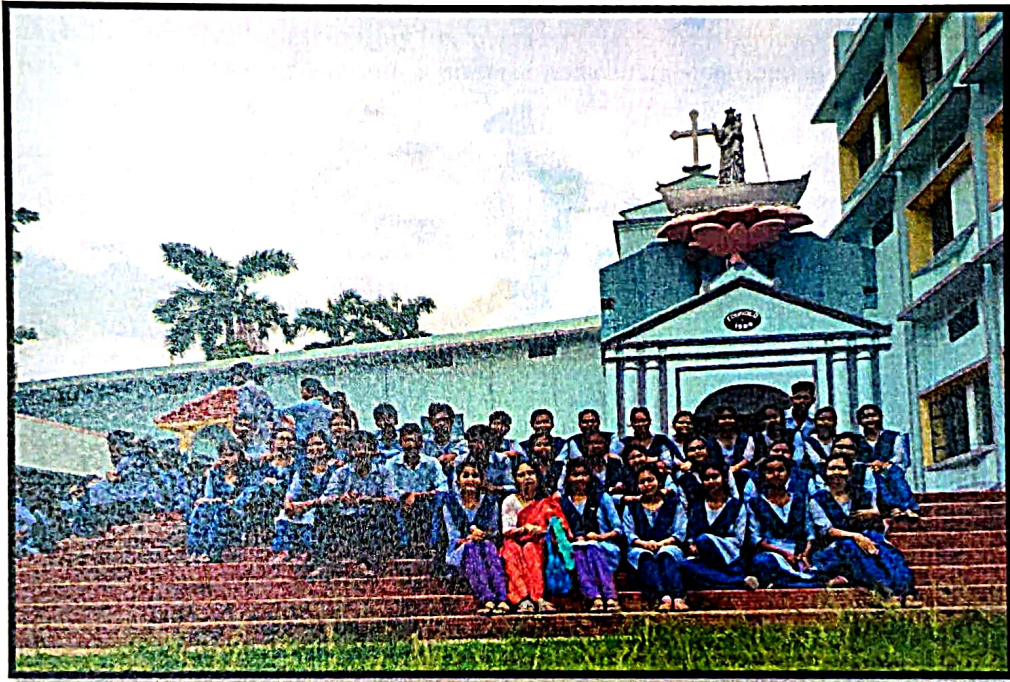
In 1988, Pope John Paul II recognized Bandel Church as a Minor Basilica, which highlights its global religious significance and makes it an active site for pilgrimages and Christian heritage.

- **Symbol of Religious Tolerance**

The church reflects how Christianity coexisted peacefully with Hinduism and Islam in Bengal. It fosters interfaith respect, inclusivity, and understanding of India's pluralistic society.

- **Promotes Cultural Awareness**

Students learn about Indo-Portuguese cultural exchange, including dress, language, music, and food traditions that still influence local Christian communities in Bengal during colonial period.



Multidisciplinary Educational Value:

Math: Geometry, symmetry, measurement of structures

English language: Descriptive writing, storytelling, vocabulary

EVS: Human-environment interaction, heritage conservation

Art & Architecture: Sketching, design appreciation, Gothic style

Social Science: Colonial history, religious harmony, civic values

Value Education: Tolerance, cultural pride, teamwork.

3) Hooghly Imambara

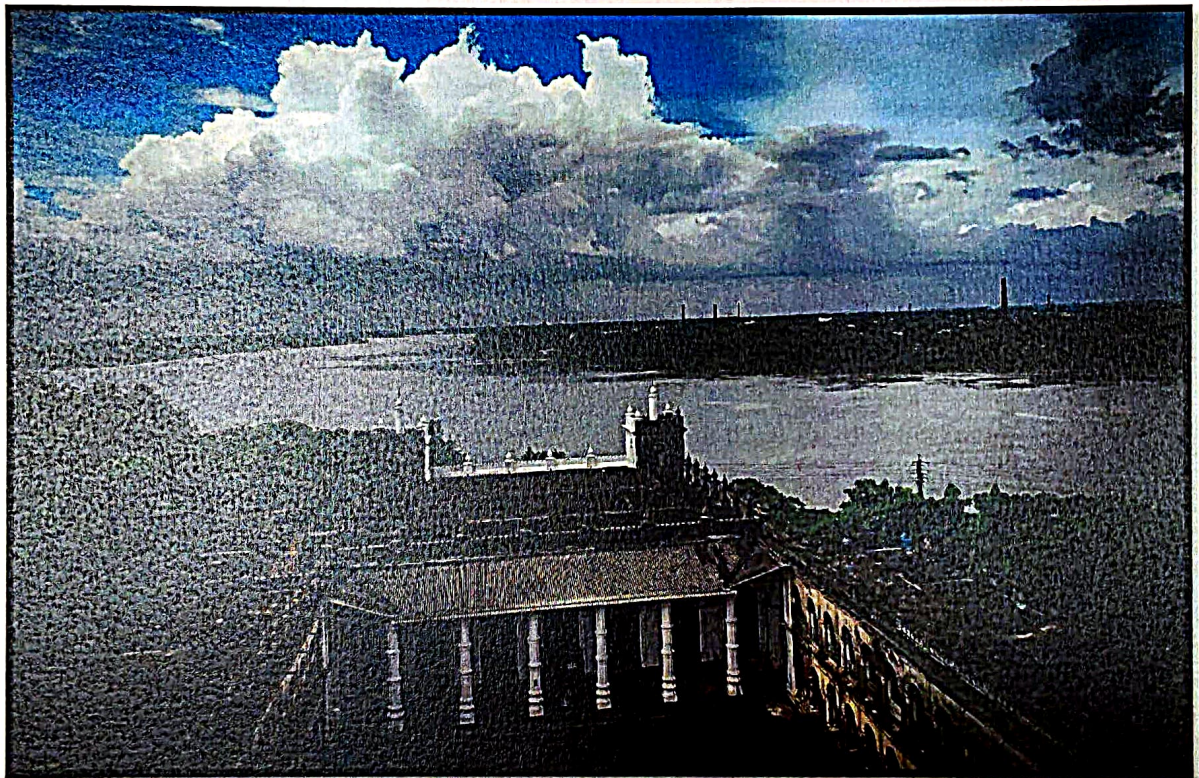
Hooghly Imambara is a beautiful and historically significant site reflecting rich architecture and cultural heritage.

- **Location**

Chinsurah, Hooghly, West Bengal.

- **Historical Importance**

Built between 1841 and 1861, the Hooghly Imambara represents the Islamic socio-religious legacy of 19th-century Bengal. It reflects the historical presence and cultural contributions of the Muslim community during British colonial rule.



- **Legacy of Haji Muhammad Mohsin**

The Hooghly Imambara was funded by Haji Muhammad Mohsin, a noble philanthropist who donated his entire fortune to public welfare. His story is a real-life example of selflessness, compassion, and service, offering learners role models from history.

- **Centre of Islamic Education and Charity**

Historically, the Imambara served not only as a mosque and congregation hall but also as a centre for Islamic learning and social service, supporting orphans, the poor, and learners, thereby introducing learners to the concept of social justice in Islam.

- **Architectural Splendour**

The grand design features twin minarets, a 120-foot-high clock tower, arched windows, and marble corridors adorned with calligraphy from the Quran. These features introduce students to Mughal-Persian influenced Islamic architecture.

- **Functioning Mechanical Clock**

The huge clock, installed in 1852, was imported from London and is still operational. It provides learners with a rare glimpse into Victorian-era mechanical engineering and timekeeping systems.

- **Cultural Significance**

The Imambara is still used for religious gatherings during Muharram and other Islamic festivals, giving learners the opportunity to explore living traditions and observe ritual practices with cultural sensitivity.

- **Religious Literacy and Pluralism**

It allows learners to learn about Shia Islamic beliefs, rituals, and aesthetics, promoting inter-religious awareness when combined with visits to churches or temples, fostering inclusive thinking.

- **Art and Aesthetic Appreciation**

The walls and ceilings of the Imambara are adorned with Islamic geometric patterns, floral motifs, and Urdu-Arabic calligraphy, making it a live resource for learners of visual arts and design.

- **Connection to Riverine Trade and Urban Planning**

Its location by the Hooghly River connects it to Bengal's River trade history, enabling learners to explore themes like urban planning, transport routes, and settlement development.

- **Boosts Cultural Pride and Awareness**

For Indian learners, especially in West Bengal, the Imambara is a reminder of the region's inclusive and syncretic culture, helping them take pride in India's diverse heritage.

Multidisciplinary Educational Value:

History (Colonial Bengal, Islamic reform)

Architecture (Islamic and Mughal styles)

Civics (Philanthropy, minority rights)

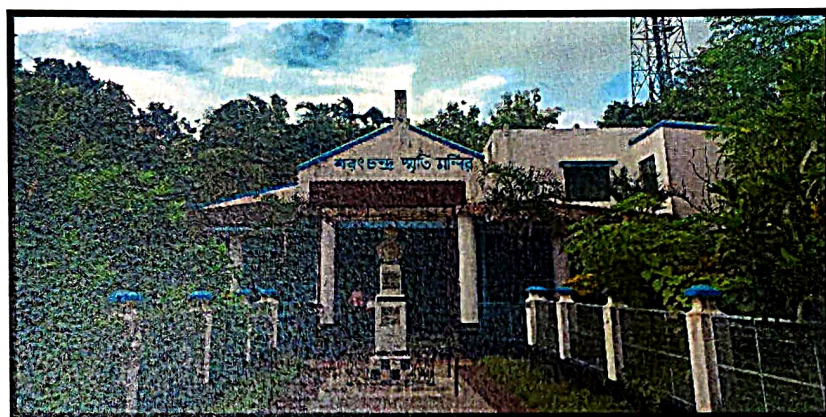
Religious Studies (Shia traditions, Islamic ethics)

Art (Calligraphy, design).



4) Sarat Chandra Smriti Mandir

Sarat Chandra Smriti Mandir is not just a house—it is a living museum of literature, social change, and Indian identity. An educational tour here helps learners to connect with the soul of Indian literature, appreciate language and expression, and explore how words can inspire revolutions and empathy. It is a perfect destination for schools aiming to promote literary values, creativity, and cultural sensitivity. By visiting this place learners can collect information for essays, literary reviews, creative writing, field reports, and even visual documentation (photos, sketches) to support classwork and co-curricular activities.



- **Location**

Debanandapur, Bandel, Hooghly, West Bengal.

- **Associated with a Literary Icon**

Sarat Chandra Smriti Mandir is the ancestral residence and memorial museum of Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, one of the greatest Bengalis and Indian novelists. Visiting this site offers learners a chance to connect with the life, struggles, and creative environment of the literary genius behind works like Devdas, Parineeta, Biraj Bou, and Palli Samaj.

- **Inspiration for Bengali Literature and Writing**

The house, located in Debanandapur village, Hooghly district, is where Sarat Chandra was lived and wrote many of his major works. This inspires learners to appreciate literature, storytelling, and creativity, encouraging budding writers and readers to value regional and national literature.

- **Preserved Heritage Site**

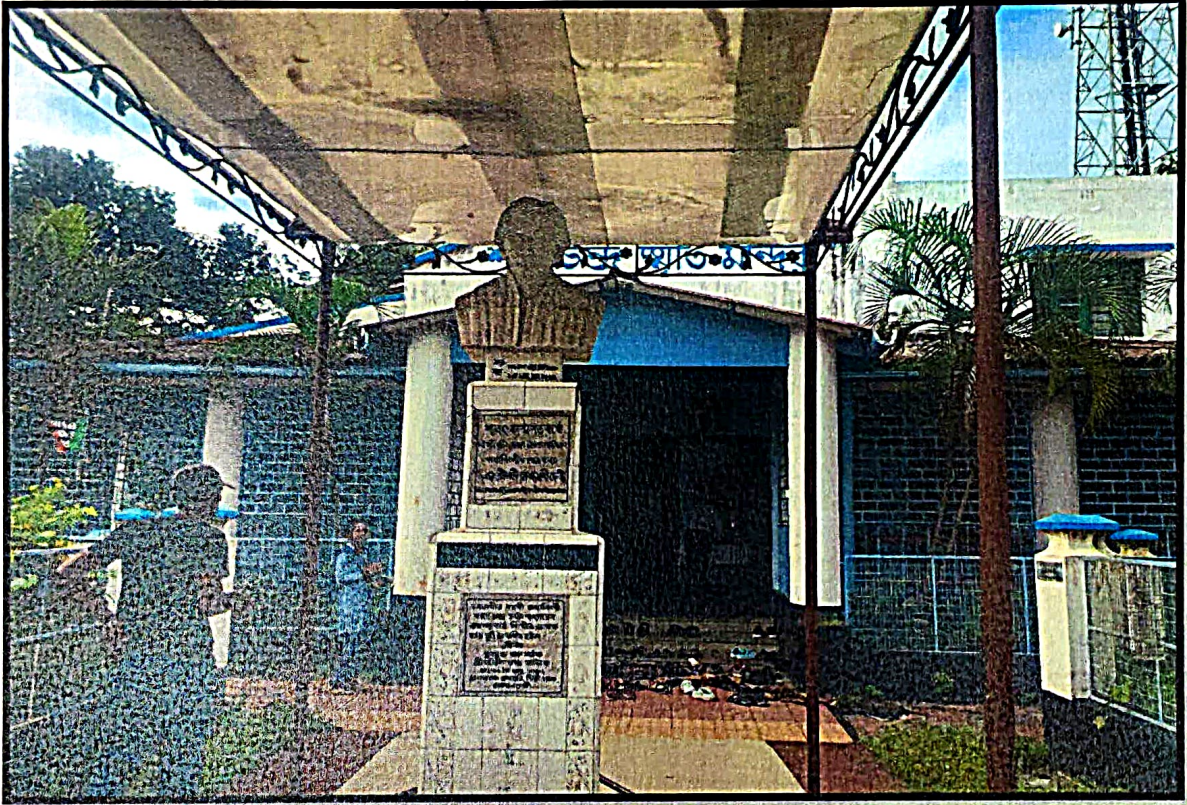
Now a museum and cultural centre, the house preserves personal belongings, manuscripts, letters, and photographs of Sarat Chandra, allowing students to witness authentic historical artifacts related to Indian literary history.

- **Promotes Bengali Language and Cultural Learning**

Sarat Chandra wrote in Bengali, but his works have been translated into many Indian languages and adapted into films. A visit helps learners to understand the power of regional languages and their contribution to Indian identity and cinema.

- **Exploration of Social Themes**

Sarat Chandra's writing was deeply rooted in social reform, addressing issues like women's rights, child marriage, poverty, and caste discrimination. Visiting his house enables discussions on how literature can shape social awareness and bring change.



- **Historical and Emotional Connection**

The house is simple and modest, reflecting Sarat Chandra's humble lifestyle. Walking through his living space builds an emotional connection with history, offering a personal, human perspective on India's literary heritage.

Multidisciplinary Educational Value:

Bengali Literature – Novels and characters

History – Colonial and post-colonial Indian society.

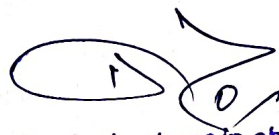
Sociology – Class, caste, and gender issues in Bengal.

Art and Film Studies – Book-to-film adaptations.



E. Conclusion

In conclusion. The educational tour to Hangseshwari Temple, Bandel Church, Hooghly Imambara, and Sarat Chandra Smriti Mandir, organized by District Institute of Education and Training, Hooghly, was a resounding success. The trip provided learners with an unique and enriching experience that extend beyond traditional classroom learning. We were able to delve into concepts of Bengali, English, Mathematics, Environmental Science, History, Geography, Educational Studies, Contemporary Studies, Literature, Culture, Architecture etc, apply theoretical knowledge in real world contexts and engage in interactive activities that fostered deeper understanding. The opportunity to interact with experts in the field further enhanced our learning and sparked a spirit of inquiry and curiosity. Overall, the educational tour proved to be an invaluable component of our academic journey, leaving a lasting impact on our personal and intellectual growth. We are grateful for this enriching experience and believe such educational tour are crucial for a holistic and well-rounded education.


26/11/25
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