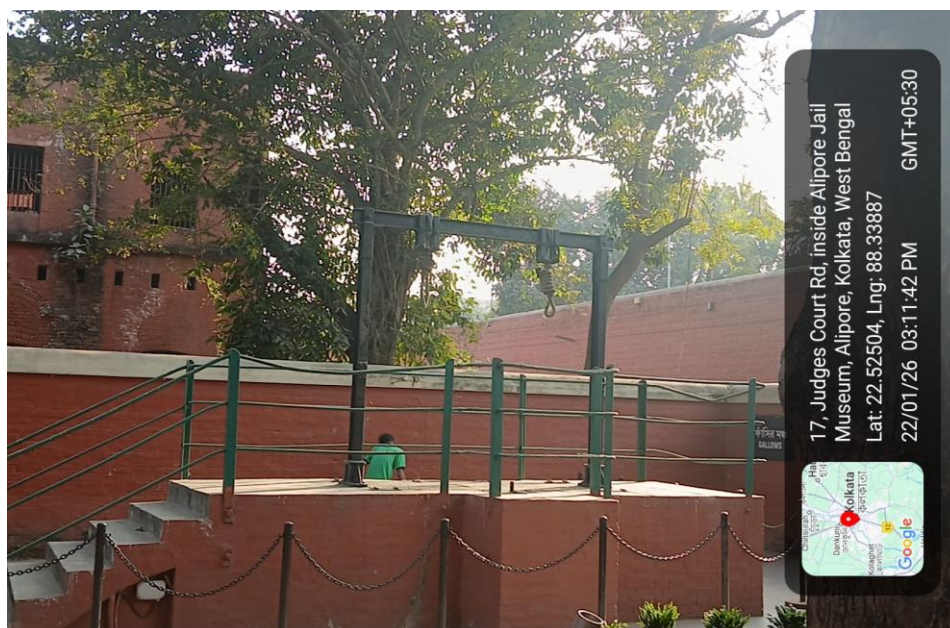


## AN ACADEMIC VISIT TO ALIPORE MUSEUM AND PARTICIPATION IN KOLKATA LITERARY MEET 2026: A REPORT

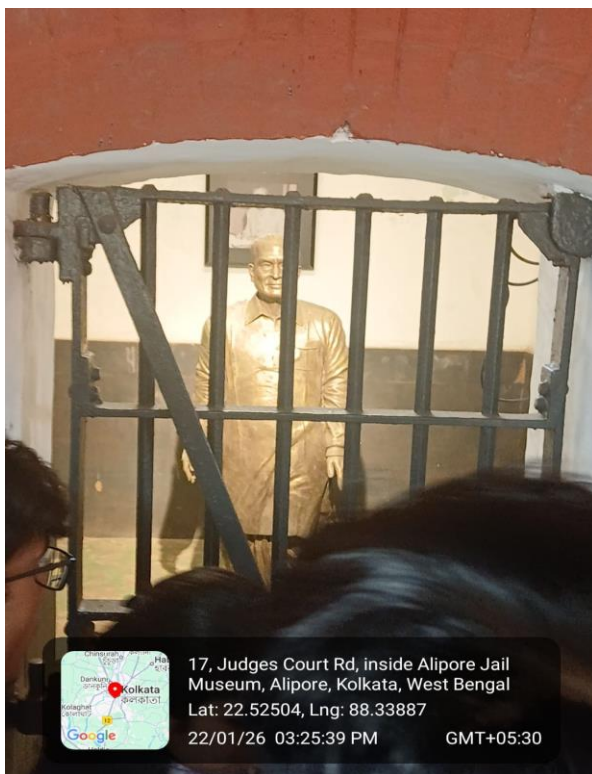
The Department of English, Heramba Chandra College, in association with IQAC, organised an Academic Visit to Alipore Museum and Exide Kolkata Literary Meet 2026, the venue of which was the Alipore Museum. The visit was made on 22 January 2026 by 44 students guided by the teachers of the department of English. Students of Semester 1 and 3 had the unique opportunity to learn experientially the history of the painful struggles of our freedom fighters and participate in the Literary Meet and the interactions with acclaimed and famous writers like Banu Mushtaq, Barbara Kingsolver and Jhumpa Lahiri. The entry fee of the Museum was sponsored by the college.



The students were deeply moved to see the gallows and the platform where the Indian revolutionary and freedom fighter, Sri Dinesh Gupta sacrificed his life for the country in 1931.



To see the cells where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, the Bidrohi Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam, Bidhan Chandra Roy, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and several other freedom fighters were incarcerated during the freedom movement was an emotional experience for all visitors.





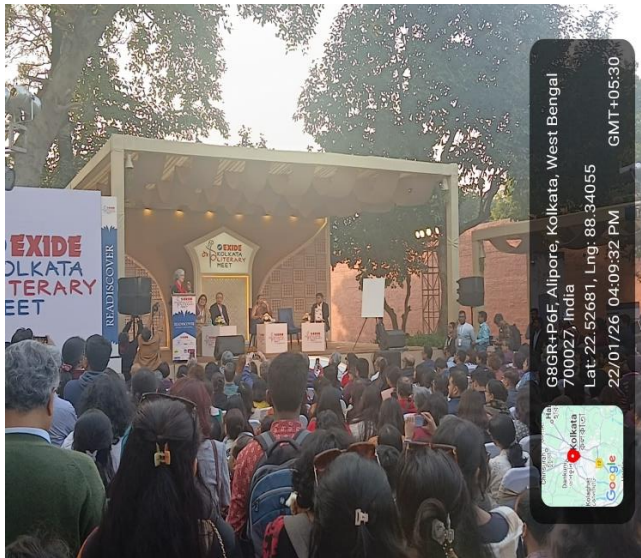


It was also soul-stirring to see the replica of Andaman Jails along with historical data in the Alipore Museum.



After 4 p.m. the teachers guided the students to the stage and the adjacent ground where the Exide Literary Meet 2026 had already started. The students and teachers were fortunate to listen to Banu Mushtaq, Jhumpa Lahiri and Barbara Kingsolver and participate in the interaction. The audience cheered Ms Mushtaq's assertion of the woman's right to smile and live freely and overcome the challenges of writing. Ms Lahiri spoke of the intricate relation of different phases of her writing with the diasporic experiences of an Indian origin writer in the west. Ms Kingsolver shared her feelings of coming to Kolkata and highlighted on the power of storytelling.





The students were asked to submit a report on the day's visit. The students of semester 1 got this as compliance for tutorial on the course of Skill Enhancement. The museum authorities awarded free pass and brochure to the students and teachers for all days of the Literary Meet. Some students were eager to visit the Literary Meet on their own on the remaining days.

