

## Field Trip Visit to Victoria Memorial

On 29.04.2022

Organized by the Department of History, Prafulla Chandra College

In association with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), Prafulla Chandra College.

### ACTIVITY REPORT

Field Trip Report on the visit to **Victoria Memorial**, Kolkata on 29 April, 2022. 25 Participants of 6<sup>th</sup> Semester visited this historical site built as a memorial to Britain's Empress Queen Victoria. Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India, also an enthusiastic builder and conservator proposed a grand monument for her. In 1906 the Prince of Wales led the foundation of Victoria Memorial which was funded by Indian Princess, the British Government and Curzon himself. A magnificent monument was designed by Sir William Emerson and constructed by Martin & Company with white marble from Rajasthan. Its central dome is crowned with the "Angel of Victory" crafted in Italy. This impressive monument has lawns and gardens set in the Maidan of Calcutta being located at Queen's Way representing the majestic British architecture. It has the National Gallery with a museum housed within its realms. Our students were showed the famous pictures and statues of men who played a prominent part in the history of this country to develop a pride in their past. They were able to explored the collection of sculptures, paintings, lithographs and Mughal miniatures, armaments and other historical treasures. The Royal Gallery has portraits and exhibits of Victorian times and the portrait gallery has a valuable collection of manuscripts. The Armour Gallery has valuable collection of arms and the Sculpture Gallery includes sculptures of important social reformers of the time. Victoria Memorial also owns the largest collection aquatints of 18<sup>th</sup> Century artists. In addition, the Victoria Memorial has Calcutta Gallery which traces the city's evolution from its inception with maps, sketches and photographs, historical documents up to the Partition of India in 1947.

Apart from Exhibitions, debates and talk the students experienced the illuminating Sound & Light Show on the historicity of Calcutta. As a part of the curriculum the students were taken to gain a better understanding of this heritage site and expose them to the world outside classroom teaching. It was aimed at observation and experiences outside their everyday activities to develop their professional identity and critical thinking to guide professional practice. It will help the students to understand why certain subjects are taught and why social skills are required besides classroom teaching and learning process.

Number of participants: 25