Report on Visit to Kolkata Book Fair as an Experiential Learning

On 5th February 2025, the Department of Sanskrit, Gurudas College, organized an experiential visit to the Kolkata Book Fair at Boimela Prangan, Karunamoyee, Salt Lake, where four faculty members and nine students actively participated. The visit aimed to explore academic resources, rare manuscripts, and newly published works relevant to Sanskrit studies and interdisciplinary research. The team visited several notable book stalls, including Sanskrit Pustak Bhandar, which featured classical Sanskrit texts and commentaries, Asiatic Society, which showcased rare manuscripts and scholarly publications on Indian and Southeast Asian history, and the Rare Book Stall, where unique out-of-print editions were found. The group also explored the Calcutta University Press stall, which provided critical editions and research journals, and various international publishers such as Penguin, Oxford and Motilal Banarsidass, where they discovered translated works and global perspectives on Indology and Sanskrit literature. This visit provided a valuable learning experience, allowing students to engage with primary and secondary sources beyond their regular curriculum. At the same time, faculty members identified useful books for academic and research purposes. The interactive discussions and hands-on exposure to diverse texts enriched the participants' understanding. They fostered a deeper appreciation for Sanskrit literature, historical studies, and interdisciplinary research, visiting a truly enriching academic endeavor.

Students exploring interdisciplinary resources to enhance their research and academic studies