

## DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

**Name of the Event:** Excursion: to Taki, a town in the border of India and Bangladesh

**Category:** Excursion

**Date Held:** 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2025

**Time:** 7:00 am. – 7:45 pm.

**Venue:** Taki, West Bengal.

**Number of Participants:** 25 Students (05 from Semester 1 + 09 from Semester 3 + 11 from Semester 6) and 4 faculty members.

**Brief Description of the Event:** The Department of Journalism and Mass Communication organized an educational excursion titled “*A Visit to Taki*” as part of its academic enrichment initiatives. The excursion focused on exploring cultural and environmental narratives, offering students a deeper understanding of the region's heritage and natural surroundings. The purpose of the excursion was to introduce our Sem 1,3&6 students to the significance of experiential learning and field-based observation, particularly in understanding rural and borderland cultures, local storytelling traditions, and environmental aesthetics.

During the visit, students engaged in sightseeing activities, exploring the scenic beauty and cultural backdrop of Taki—a picturesque town located along the Ichamati River. Guided by faculty members, the students observed and documented aspects of rural life, local customs, and historical landmarks, gaining a deeper understanding of how space and community shape narratives. They also had informal interactions with locals, adding ethnographic dimensions to their academic perspectives. The *Mini Sundarban* in Taki is a serene and picturesque mangrove area that offers a glimpse into the biodiversity of the famed Sundarbans. Located along the banks of the *Ichamati River*, this spot is home to a variety of mangrove trees and small wildlife, creating a tranquil environment ideal for nature walks and photography. Often visited during excursions, the Mini Sundarban serves as an educational site where students can learn about ecosystem preservation, local flora and fauna, and the importance of wetland conservation.

**Outcome of the Event:** The educational excursion to Taki, including a visit to the *Mini Sundarban*, provided students with valuable experiential learning that extended beyond traditional classroom teaching. One of the key learning outcomes was the *development of observational and documentation skills* essential for journalism and mass communication. Students were encouraged to take field notes, capture photographs, and interact with local people, helping them understand the nuances of rural reporting, cultural representation, and storytelling grounded in real-world contexts.

The visit to the Mini Sundarban played a particularly important role in shaping students' awareness of *environmental journalism*. As they explored the mangrove ecosystem, they gained insights into ecological conservation, climate change impact, and biodiversity — topics that are increasingly vital in today's media discourse. Observing this unique habitat

firsthand allowed students to appreciate the challenges faced by such sensitive ecosystems and recognize the journalist's role in advocating for sustainable development through responsible reporting.

Furthermore, the excursion fostered interpersonal communication, teamwork, and cross-semester collaboration, enhancing students' confidence and social skills. They also learned the significance of ethical engagement when reporting on communities, ensuring respectful representation of local traditions and lifestyles.

By immersing themselves in the lived experiences of a culturally rich and environmentally significant region like Taki, students deepened their understanding of the socio-political and ecological fabric of borderland areas. These are often underrepresented in mainstream media, and firsthand exposure equips budding journalists to highlight such narratives more authentically.

Overall, the visit not only enriched academic learning but also inspired many students to consider *careers in field journalism, documentary-making, and environmental communication*. The Mini Sundarban visit, in particular, emphasized the importance of grounding journalistic practice in direct observation, empathy, and awareness of pressing global issues, marking a significant step in their professional development.

