

**KRISHNA TRUST**  
**(DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024)**

1. The eleventh annual meeting of the Krishna Trust was held on 6 September 2024. The Annual Report (2023-24), and Annual Accounts of the Trust (2023-2024) were circulated and unanimously passed. The auditor of the Trust, Anil Kumar Ray and Associates was retained for 2024-25.
2. The Eleventh Krishna Trust Annual Programme to confer Memorial Awards for Women Educationists, Students and Caregivers (2024) and hold the Eleventh Krishna Memorial Lecture, was held on 15 March 2024, in Sojourn, Kolkata. The programme began with an inaugural song by Sreetapa Chakrabarty (Assistant Professor, Rabindra Bharati University). Sibaji Pratim Basu (Managing Trustee, Krishna Trust, and Professor, Vidyasagar University and a Member of CRG) recited the poem *Smriti* written by young Rabindranath Tagore. The Director of the Calcutta Research Group (CRG), Shyamalendu Majumdar gave the welcome address and chaired the session, while the President of CRG, Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury (Professor, Rabindra Bharati University) opened the ceremony with a brief introduction to the Krishna Trust.
3. Anwasha Sengupta (Assistant Professor, IDSK), spoke on *Chotoder Jonno Banglaye Itihas Lekha*, and the translation of the work in English and Assamese. Anwasha went on to elaborate the contributions to the series titled *Itihas-e Haatekhor*, with the objective of bringing out books of History for children suitably illustrated and written in a particular pedagogic mode. Six books under the series have been published, and work is in progress on three more books on textile, food and sports. She mentioned that this project is part of the work of the Institute of Development Studies Kolkata (IDSK) in collaboration with the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS). Debarati Bagchi (Senior Research Associate and the Deputy Head of the Max Weber Stiftung, Delhi) added that the need for a comprehensive understanding of public history had encouraged the researchers and authors to take up the initiative. While working on ideas of workshops with children, discussion sessions with experts, writers, and fellow academics, the necessity of incorporating methodologies in history-writing, especially for teachers who mentor and guide young children became evident. This was especially relevant to make possible easy reading of complex instances in history and planning for orientation material for young adults in colleges.
4. Sabir Ahamed (Senior Researcher, Pratichi Trust, and Member of CRG) presented the Eleventh Krishna Memorial Award to Nabanita Bag and Manisha Dolui, students of Bali Dhanamani Model High School, Balideep, Sundarban. Like last year, this year also the scholarship awardees were identified through a two-day visit to Balidweep, Sundarban, by the Chief Managing Trustee Ranabir Samaddar and a Trust associate, Samaresh Guchait in September 2023. Discussion was held with the Headmaster of the school, Sahadeb Mondol, on continuing the scholarships for selected students of the Dhanamani High School,
5. Sahadeb Mondol received the award on behalf of the students, and shared the struggles of everyday life of students in the Sundarban. The islands of Sundarban that forms the largest mangrove reserve of the world are constantly hit by storms and cyclones that raze school buildings to the ground, in addition to causing saline water intrusion in agricultural fields. Girl children in the schools are often trapped in the vicious cycle of early-age marriage, and on being reported to police, minor newly-wed brides are sent away to orphanages, with only huge effort being occasionally brought back to mainstream education. Teachers continuously work to encourage academically good students in the school. Sahadeb Mondol thanked the

Krishna Trust for the scholarship awards to the girl children for their achievements in the midst of dire circumstances.

6. The second award went to Beauty Chatterjee (Social Activist, Maya Foundation, West Bengal) for her relentless effort and inspiring work in helping mid-day meal service to 38 schools. Out of these 38 schools Maya Foundation leads in running school kitchens in 11 schools. The organisation also supplies cooked meals to hospitals and supports the livelihood of a number of women working with the kitchen services, as well as providing expense-free night shelter facilities for women. Beauty Chatterjee briefly outlined her experiences of learning, and strengthening Maya Foundation, an organisation that supports health, well-being, and financial independence of more than 100 women today. She emphasised the changes in society that such organisations have helped in bringing in by extending work in children's orphanages and old age homes. She ended with a note of encouragement that the award helps to foster.

7. Dr. Meenakshi Gangopadhyay, a physician, eminent health activist, and Secretary of Bengal Social Service League, delivered the Eleventh Krishna Memorial Lecture on "Health of Women, Particularly Girl Children." Her discussions veered around women's right to health and access to affordable healthcare practices, especially health problems of adolescent girls. As a health activist and a gynecologist by profession, Dr. Gangopadhyay shared her experiences of often coming across cases of teenage pregnancy. Being victim of rape, domestic abuse, the vulnerable adolescent young girls live on the edge policy fault lines and have barely any say in decisions about their own health care. Many girls end up in the mushrooming rickety health clinics in the city that put these girls through the risk of abortion without sufficient care. Adolescents are neither minors nor are adults to access the full rights to voice their opinions. Although 10 years of age is considered as the formal age of being considered adolescent, yet normally in India girls enter puberty at the age of eight years. Health and sex education in schools are inadequate to prepare the child through this transition to understand her own body. The lack of clarity in sex education, especially reproductive practices results in teenage pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases. It is important to undertake active engagement with school children on accepting different traits of sexuality and awareness of sexual behaviour. Preference for male children in South Asia has resulted in malnutrition, physical retardation, anemia, and other health problems among girl children. Newer lifestyle expectations of achieving "size zero" have increased chances of adolescents developing erratic eating habits and becoming anorexic. Amidst the urban poor there has been an increase in juvenile delinquency. The National Programme for Youth and Adolescence Development funded by the central government and various other programmes run by the state government like Kanyasree, Sabujasathi etc., aim to create an inclusive society and incorporate youth in the socio-economic structure of the society. Yet these are inadequate. It is essential to change the attitude of parents, society, and the state from an inspectorial-judgemental role to preparing young adults with adequate knowledge about health practices. Towards that end, it is necessary to involve more grassroots activist, and prepare the children to be active agents in future for social change.

8. The lecture was well received by the audience comprising former awardees, members of the Calcutta Research Group, friends of Krishna Trust, activists, academicians, and journalists who always enrich such events. The event ended with a formal vote of thanks by Trustee and a CRG Member, Uttam Kumar Roy.

9. The Tenth Krishna Memorial Lecture on "Innovative Public Actions, New Politics of Health, and Life Emerging from the Pandemic" delivered by the eminent public health activist of Pune, Dr. Abhay Shukla (and reported last year in the Annual meeting of the Trust) was published. Copies of the published lecture

were distributed among members of the audience and Trust associates. The lecture has been uploaded on the Trust website - [http://www.mcrpg.ac.in/krishna\\_trust/Tenth\\_Krishna\\_Memorial\\_Lecture\\_2023.pdf](http://www.mcrpg.ac.in/krishna_trust/Tenth_Krishna_Memorial_Lecture_2023.pdf)

10. The Trust's web portal ([http://www.mcrpg.ac.in/krishna\\_trust/index.html](http://www.mcrpg.ac.in/krishna_trust/index.html)) hosted by the CRG as part of its website ([www.mcrpg.ac.in](http://www.mcrpg.ac.in)) continues functioning with new material being added. As in previous years, the Trust acknowledges the generous help of the Calcutta Research Group and its staff in organising the Annual Krishna Memorial event and for hosting Krishna Trust's web-based material. It includes among others continuously updated information on Alzheimer's Disease -

<[http://www.mcrpg.ac.in/krishna\\_trust/kt\\_alzheimers\\_publications.asp](http://www.mcrpg.ac.in/krishna_trust/kt_alzheimers_publications.asp)>. In this connection, the Trust also acknowledges the continuous help of Madhurilata Basu and Sabir Ahmed in planning and organising the activities of the Trust.

11. The Trust looks forward to greater involvement of past awardees in its activities.

12. Trustees will be happy to know that the book, *Krishna Living with Alzheimer's* has been translated in Bangali for wider dissemination by the eminent journalist and Trust associate Rajat Ray. It will be published now. Krishna Trust acknowledges with gratitude the consent of Ritu Menon (Women Unlimited), who had published the original book in English exactly ten years ago – in 2014.

13. Efforts are on to produce a short visual material on the activities of Krishna Trust.

14. The Trust acknowledges with gratitude donations made by Subhas Ganguly (Rs. 10,000/) and Ranabir Samaddar (Rs. 100,000/) in last financial year (April 2023-March 2024); it has also received donations in this financial year till August 2024 (April-August 2024) from Arup Kr. Sen (Rs. 8000/), Paula Banerjee (Rs. 10,000/) and Subhas Ganguly (Rs. 10,000/). The Trust thanks them for continuing support.

15. The Statement of Accounts and Auditors' Report (2023-24) is enclosed herewith.