

## KRISHNA TRUST

### Annual Report (2021-22)

1. Last year (2021) the annual meeting of the Krishna Trust could not be held due to COVID surge. The meeting was held online. Previous year's minutes, the Annual Report (2020-21), and Annual Accounts of the Trust were circulated and unanimously passed. The auditor of the Trust Anil Kumar Ray and Associates was retained for 2021-22.

2. Even the Ninth Krishna Memorial Lecture and Award ceremony also could not be held by March 2022 due to sudden Omicron surge of the virus. Only after the surge subsided, the Ninth Krishna Memorial Award ceremony could be held in collaboration with the Calcutta Research Group on 8 April 2022, at Hotel Sojourn, Kolkata.

3. In the online meeting, held on January 29, 2022, it was decided by members present to build up a network that would facilitate collective actions for care and protection wherever possible. Keeping this in mind, special emphasis was given on awardees of previous years and a special slot was allotted for knowing about their work in recent times – especially in the time of the pandemic. .

4. The Award ceremony on 8 April started with Ranabir Samaddar (Chief Managing Trustee) speaking briefly on Krishna Trust and the aims and objectives the Trust seeks to achieve. Apart from this year's awardees, awardees of previous years were also present. Amina Khatun (Priya Manna Bustee), Sujeda Khatun, Anil Mistri, Sahina Javed, Naznin Mallick (educationist), Shantilata Tudu (ASHA worker from Murshidabad) and Jinan Rehana Islam (educationist from Murshidabad) all of whom had received the award in the previous years, were present to share their experiences in their respective fields.

5. Amina Khatun shared with others how along with teaching children of the bustee, she was actively working towards creating health awareness among local women in her area. From Sujeda Khatun the audience got to know her involvement in a programme of helping young women to create professional careers in Murshidabad. Anil Mistri continues to sensitise local people about the need to protect wild life including tigers and maintain ecology for a sustainable and better future. Sahina Javed continues to make it possible for young Muslim girls to play football. Naznin Mallick and Jinat Rehana Islam, shared how they try to stand by students fighting addiction, poverty, depression and family problems. Shantilata Tudu shared her experience as an ASHA worker, who worked as the first point of contact during the pandemic.

6. It merits repetition that Krishna Trust in collaboration with Calcutta Research Group has been engaged almost for a decade in giving recognition to women educationists, health activists, and caregivers working for the health and education of girl children and women. Krishna Memorial Awards were instituted with this aim. Krishna Trust is engaged in dialogues with social activists, educational institutions situated at the grass-root level, and caregivers working for the marginalised section of the society, particularly women. It was also after a series of meetings and consultations with other activists, people associated with 'care' in different ways, researchers and others that the list of this year's

awardees was finalised. Krishna Trust has planned a compilation of the experiences of grassroots social leaders in the difficult time of the pandemic. The Trust hopefully will be able to report on this in next meeting of the Trustees.

7. The recipients of the Ninth Krishna Memorial Awards for Women Educationists, Students & Caregivers (2022) were Dr. Subrata Goswami [Deputy Director (Medical), ESI MB Scheme, & Founder Endowed Chair (Pain Medicine), ESI Institute of Pain Management, Government of West Bengal], and Biswajit Mitra [Social Activist and Health Worker, Avijit Mitra Memorial & Charitable Society]. Dr. Goswami shared his experience of working at ESI Institute of Pain Management. He empathetically spoke of the patients in his institute, how pain, and pain related problems are perceived by employers, family members and society at large. He also spoke of the nexus between chronic pain and depression. He emphasised on care rather than surgery while dealing with various sorts of pain. The very idea of 'care' had reached a new dimension during the COVID 19 pandemic. In that background it was considered necessary to recognise the unsung warriors, who went beyond all expectations to stand by people, offer medical relief, when the state medical infrastructure and society as a whole were struggling to provide care to the ones in need. Biswajit Mitra is one such person who stood by his society in times of medical emergency, disregarding any threat to his health. The Awards were presented by Mahalaya Chatterjee, educationist, economist & member, Calcutta Research Group.

8. The conferral ceremony was followed by the Ninth Krishna Memorial Lecture, delivered by Dr. Sunandan Basu, renowned neuro-surgeon, Medica Super Speciality Hospital, Kolkata. Dr. Basu spoke of the condition of women's health in the country as well as in the state of West Bengal. He shared his experiences of visits to rural areas for the purpose of organising health camps during the COVID time, and discussed the public health scenario in rural West Bengal. While speaking on various health parameters, he highlighted that there is a huge chasm between provisions of men's health and women's health. He also emphasised the need for greater awareness of various aspects of public health in order to build a healthier tomorrow. The session was chaired by Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty, eminent historian, and former teacher of Presidency College, Kolkata, and a senior member of the Calcutta Research Group. A formal vote of thanks was offered by Madhurilata Basu.

9. Sabir Ahamed's public lecture, "Ashar Katha: Swasthya, Atimari, O Ashakarmi" was published by the Trust on this occasion. It was given on the occasion of the Trust's annual programme in the previous year (2021) and was a result of his research in 2020-21. The research was facilitated by Calcutta Research Group and Krishna Trust.

10. The Trust's web portal ([http://www.mcrg.ac.in/krishna\\_trust/index.html](http://www.mcrg.ac.in/krishna_trust/index.html)) hosted by the CRG as part of its website ([www.mcrg.ac.in](http://www.mcrg.ac.in)) continues functioning with new material being added.

11. 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 hosting Krishna Trust's web-based material.

12. The Statement of Accounts and Auditors' Report (2020-21) is enclosed herewith.