



CITY COLLEGE

Affiliated to the University of Calcutta
102/1, Raja Rammohan Sarani, (Amherst Street)
Kolkata - 700 009, Phone : 033 2350 1565, Office : 033 2360 7463
E-mail : principal.citycollege@gmail.com
Website : www.citycollegekolkata.org
GST No. 19CALC00619D1DE

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7.3.1: Portray the performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust within 1000 words.

City College, Kolkata: A Legacy of Excellence, Tradition and Modernity

City College, Kolkata, stands as a respected institution with a rich history spanning 143 years, contributing significantly to the intellectual landscape of Bengal and beyond. Established in 1881 by Anandamohan Bose, the college has evolved over time, seamlessly blending tradition and modernity, and continues to be a beacon of educational excellence. This essay explores the institutional distinctiveness of City College, focusing on its historical roots, commitment to inclusive education, modernization efforts, academic achievements, and notable alumni.

• *Historical Roots and Inclusive Education:*

City College emerged during the Bengal Renaissance, a period of socio-cultural awakening in the 19th century. Founded on January 6, 1879, as a high school by Anandamohan Bose, the institution aimed to provide comprehensive education to students of all castes and creeds. The Brahma Samaj Education Society played a crucial role in elevating City College to its status as a prominent learning institution. The support of figures like Pandit Shivnath Shastri and Rastraguru Surendranath Bandyopadhyay facilitated the establishment of the school, which later expanded into a first-grade college in 1881.

Despite its historical legacy, City College has remained committed to inclusivity, providing high-quality education without discrimination based on caste, creed, or economic status. This commitment is evident in its geographical accessibility, attracting students from various parts of West Bengal, including remote regions. The college's central location in Kolkata, within 1 km of Sealdah rail station and MG Road metro station, makes it a convenient choice for a diverse student population.



Sitalprasad Chattopadhyay
Principal
CITY COLLEGE
KOL-9

- ***Modernization and Technological Integration:***

In the dynamic landscape of education, City College has successfully adapted to changing times. One notable example is the adoption of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) module, facilitating efficient administrative activities, online admissions, fee collection management, and students' information tracking. This integration of technology reflects the institution's commitment to providing a seamless learning experience while embracing contemporary administrative practices.

The college recognizes the significance of modern technologies in education. The use of Learning Management Systems (LMS) for efficient data management, uploading study materials, and other academic activities demonstrates an understanding of global educational trends. City College strategically employs a mix of traditional and modern tools to ensure holistic academic progress.

- ***Academic Excellence and Global Outreach:***

City College has consistently upheld academic standards, offering a diverse range of courses across 15 departments. These departments are equipped with highly competent teaching and non-teaching staff, modern libraries, and laboratories, ensuring the fulfillment of today's educational requirements.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development recognized City College's potential in 2013, selecting it for the Community College Scheme pilot project. This initiative underscores the institution's commitment to job-oriented specialties, positioning itself as a new destination in the state for skill development and vocational education.

- ***Notable Alumni and Government Takeover:***

City College boasts an impressive list of alumni who have played pivotal roles in shaping the socio-cultural and political landscape. Several luminaries as scions of Bengal Renaissance including Deshbandhu Chitta Ranjan Das, Sir Surendranath Bandyopadhyay, Dr. Rajendra Prasad (Former President of India), Harendra Kumar Mukhopadhyay (Former Governor of West Bengal), Umesh Chandra Dutta, Bhashacharya Suniti Kumar Chattopadhyay, Jibananda Das and Muhammad Shahidulla, Acharya Brajendra Sil taught at this College and did us a proud generation to follow. The institution takes pride in its lineage, with luminaries from the Bengal Renaissance contributing to its legacy.

There are many notable alumni and teachers: Sunil Gangopadhyay, Soumitra Chattopadhyay, P. K. Banerjee (alumni), Sankha Ghosh (Jnanpith awardee and teacher), Narayan Ganguly (teacher) to name a few.

City College has three notable alumni with Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award, Dr. Prof. Birendra Nath Mallick (Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Laureate, Neurobiology, 2001. Alumni, Dept. of Physiology), Dr. Prof. Bhaskar Saha (Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Laureate, Immunology, 2009. Alumni, Dept. of Physiology), Dr. Prof. Pradyut Ghosh (Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Laureate, Inorganic chemistry, 2015. Alumni, Dept. of Chemistry).



Suniti Kumar Chattopadhyay
Principal

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City College has two Sahitya Akademi Award winner teachers Sri. BratyaBasu, Sahitya Akademi Award winner (2021) for his Book: Mirzaffar O Onnana Natok (Collection of Plays). He is an Indian Actor, Stage Director, Playwright, Film Director and Politician and Ex-Assistant Professor, Department of Bengali, presently Hon'ble Minister of Education, Govt. of West Bengal.

Dr. Subodh Sarkar, Sahitya Akademi Award winner (2013) for his Book: Dwaipayan Hrader Dhare (Poetry). He is an Indian Bengali Poet, Editor, Translator and Ex-Associate Professor, Department of English, City College, Kolkata.

On 3rd November 2017, City College underwent a significant transition when it was taken over by the Government of West Bengal. Since then, it has operated as one of the state's aided colleges, maintaining its commitment to providing quality education.

Currently, the college accommodates 2653 (Male 1498 & Female 1155) students (2022-2023) and 71 full-time Professors of which 40 Assistant Professors (Male 34 & Female 6) and 30 Associate Professors (Male 18 & Female 12) and one Professor (Male) along with that 29 (Male 10 and Female 19), Part-time faculty (State Aided College Teacher), contributing to its vibrant academic community.

- **Conclusion:**

City College, Kolkata, embodies a unique blend of tradition, modernity, and inclusivity. Its historical roots, commitment to inclusive education, integration of modern technologies, academic achievements, and notable alumni collectively contribute to its institutional distinctiveness. As the college continues to evolve, it remains a symbol of educational excellence, leaving an indelible mark on the educational landscape of Bengal and the nation.



Bital Prasad Chattopadhyay

Principal
CITY COLLEGE
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