

Report on
One-Day State-Level Seminar
Organized by
Departments of Botany and Zoology, in collaboration with IQAC, Basirhat College
Date: September 23, 2023

Seminar Topic: Retrospective of Indian Mission to Antarctica

Our environment is constantly changing, and as our environment changes so does the need to become increasingly aware of the environmental issues that are causing these changes. With a massive increase in natural disasters, warming and cooling periods, and different types of weather patterns, people need to be a lot more cautious with the way they lead their lives with respect to the types of environmental issues our planet is facing. Major current environmental issues may include climate change, pollution, environmental degradation, and resource depletion.

Climate change poses the greatest long-term threat to the continent, Antarctica. Human driven climate change is causing this continent to transform before our eyes. Like some countries, India constructed its first ever research base in Antarctica in 1983 named **Dakshin Gangotri**, superseded by the **Maitri** base from 1989. The newest base commissioned in 2012 is **Bharati**, constructed out of 134 shipping containers. Under the programme, atmospheric, biological, earth, chemical, and medical sciences are studied by India, which has carried out 40 scientific expeditions to the Antarctic.

On 23rd September, 2023, the Department of Botany jointly with the Department of Zoology, organized a State Level Seminar where Dr. Punarbasu Chaudhuri, Associate Professor in Environmental Science, University of Calcutta, shared his own experience and delivered his talk about “**Retrospective of Indian Mission to Antarctica**”. The seminar was inaugurated by the Principal of Basirhat College, Dr. Ashoke Kumar Mondal, by watering the plants. After the inaugural speech by the Principal, brief speeches by the IQAC Coordinator and the Teachers’ Council Secretary followed. Dr. Chaudhuri was felicitated by gifting him with a potted plant. The seminar took place from 12.00 pm to 3.00 pm.

At the end of Dr. Chaudhuri’s lecture, after the question answer session, feedback was taken from the participants.

