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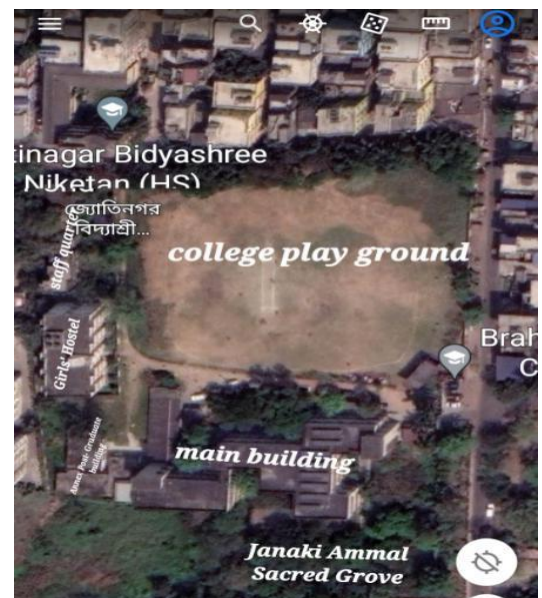
### 7.3.1: Portray the performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust.

#### ‘Janaki Ammal Sacred Grove’- A In Situ Biodiversity Conservation and Maintenance Effort in a Highly Urbanised Area.

- Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) have an all-encompassing role of nation-building by empowering youths with the much-needed knowledge, values, and training for leading a fulfilling life and positively impacting the society. The HEIs are the cradle for creating tools for the advancement of knowledge and progress of mankind. The HEIs can ignite young minds towards aspirations to reach outer space as well as manage the well-being of our planet Earth. Courses such as Plant Ecology, Environmental Studies, Natural Resource Management, and others expose the younger generation to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Sacred groves are a traditional approach of biodiversity conservation where a community does not disturb a patch of forest considering it to be sacred. It is believed that the Van-Devi or forest deity would be offended and punish the person who disturbs or takes anything from that forest. Sacred groves are found all around the world. The undisturbed condition of the sacred grove makes it a relic of forest ecosystems and provides a safe haven for wild flora and fauna in the age of concrete jungles.

- **Maintaining Biodiversity:**

Plantation drives are organized by Swacchta Action Plan Committee and NSS unit at Regular intervals to enhance green coverage and increasing plant biodiversity. This way landscaping is also done by planting trees, shrubs and creepers to maintain a hue soothing for mind and eyes. College has a Sacred Grove which helps to maintain floral and faunal diversity to a great extent. Slashing and burning of invasive plant species is done on a regular basis to maintain the diversity of native plant species.





# BRAHMANANDA KESHAB CHANDRA COLLEGE

(NAAC ACCREDITED GOVT. SPONSORED DEGREE COLLEGE FOR UG & PG)

111/2, BARRACKPORE TRUNK ROAD, BON-HOOGHLY,  
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- The college is a green campus and GREEN can acronymically be called as “Global Readiness in Ensuring Ecological Neutrality”. The BKC College is committed to conserve an area of 01 (one) hectare as Biodiversity Conservation Site. The Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose Eco Club of Botany Department, BKC College innovated a sustainable approach to Biodiversity Conservation by setting up a Sacred Grove within the college premises in 2016.
- The college administration pledges to conserve this area as an institutional In-Situ Biodiversity Conservation Site through the Conservation Policy (Ref: BKCC/GB-Agg 2/ /Green Policy/2017 dated 08.09.2017.)
- This grove has been named after the renowned botanist Edavalath Kakkat Janaki Ammal as ‘**Janaki Ammal Sacred Grove (JASG)**’ to inspire the young minds towards natural science and biodiversity conservation.
- The Green team of Swachata Action Plan (SAP) Committee of the college, an initiative of Ministry of Education, GoI, is maintaining the grove along with the Eco-Club from 2020.
- The lockdown of 2020 was proof that the biodiversity of the college campus is unique and the sacred grove became a safe haven and wetland corridor for the migratory bird *Anastomus oscitans*. The trees in the campus especially those of the Janaki Ammal Sacred grove became the playground for the paradise flycatcher, koyel, doyel, yellow footed pigeon, stork billed kingfisher, white crested kingfisher, oriole, barbet, owls, eagle, kite, parrot, greater coucal etc. and around 36 species of butterfly. Faunal diversity assessment was done by the Department of Zoology under the supervision of Dr. Madhumita Roy. In the grove 3 species of amphibia, 13 species of reptiles, 55 species of birds, 11 species of mammals. Were encountered.
- The grove has been a learning ground for Ecology and Taxonomy for PG Botany and UG Botany and Zoology students. The grove is one of the criteria for bagging the ‘**One District One Green Champion**’ award from Swachhta Action Plan , MHRD, GoI in 2021 by the institution.
- The Eco Club students and Zoology addon course students regularly audit the green of the campus by systematic identification, quantification, and analysis of tree, shrub, and herbaceous components of the campus. This creates awareness among the students regarding their surroundings and the importance of species diversity. It also develops their skills for data collection and analysis to get an idea of the ecological footprint of the institute.



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- The College has about 88% (21568.71 m sq) of the total area covered by different plant life forms. Of this 88%, 11% is wild forested area of the Janaki Ammal sacred grove, 50% is grass playground, 27% non- concrete areas with large trees of the college campus. A plant list of the college was prepared by collating the botanical documentation carried out from 2015 to 2022 by Eco-club members of the Botany Department under the supervision of Eco Club coordinator, Dr. Biswarupa Ghosh. The college has rich plant diversity with 74 plant species; 30 tree species, 3 shrub species, 34 herbaceous species and 7 climber species. The number of trees in the sacred grove represents 50% of the total number of trees in the entire campus. It is interesting to note that most of these trees are age-old and were planted by the earlier administration since the establishment of the college in 1956. The tradition of increasing the plant diversity of the college continues even today.
- The important matured tree species growing in the college premises were *Alstonia scholaris* (chatim), *Swietenia mahogany* (Maghony), *Peltophorum pterocarpum* (radha chura), *Phoenix dactylifera* (khejur), *Sterculia foetida* (baksho badam), *Terminalia arjuna* (arjun), *Dalbergia sisso* (Sisham), *Terminalia catappa* (kath badam) and others. The most dominant species recorded were *Peltophorum pterocarpum*, *Albizia lebeck* and *Ficus bengalensis*.
- The college has a rich herbaceous diversity of around 45 species growing in various seasons of the year. Many of these wild species are medicinally important such as *Tinospora cordifolia*, *Eclipta alba*, *Stephania sp*, *Sida acuminata* and others. Other medicinal plants such as *Aloe vera*, *Oscimum scantum*, *Plectranthus sp*, *Mentha*, *Cissus quadrangularis* and others have been planted in the medicinal plant garden to enrich the medicinal plant population of the college campus.
- A gate was put up at the entrance of the sacred grove in honour of Janaki Ammal and trees are labelled with appropriate signages.
- A medicinal plant garden has been created adjacent to the sacred grove to increase the pollinator availability of the area. It also helps the student learn about the use of different medicinal plants and improve their Traditional Medicinal Knowledge/TMK.
- A museum on Janaki Ammal and flora and fauna of the grove has been established in the sacred Grove.
- A small waterbody has been renovated as a mode for recharging the ground water and also to provide water source to the birds and other species in summer.
- Students and local people are invited to visit the sacred grove and learn about community conservation practices such as the sacred grove that act as carbon sinks and contribute to mitigating global warming and climate change.



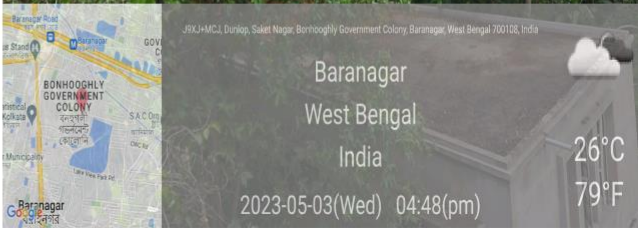
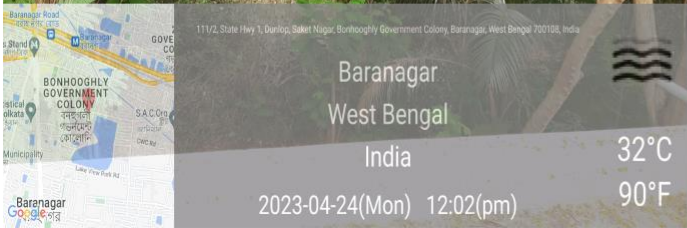
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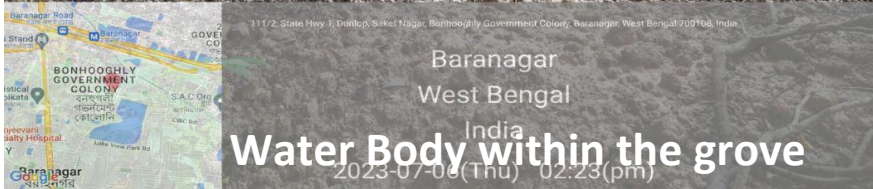
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## View of Janaki Ammal Sacred Grove



Phone : 2577-5878



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**Biodiversity studies by students in Janaki Ammal Sacred**



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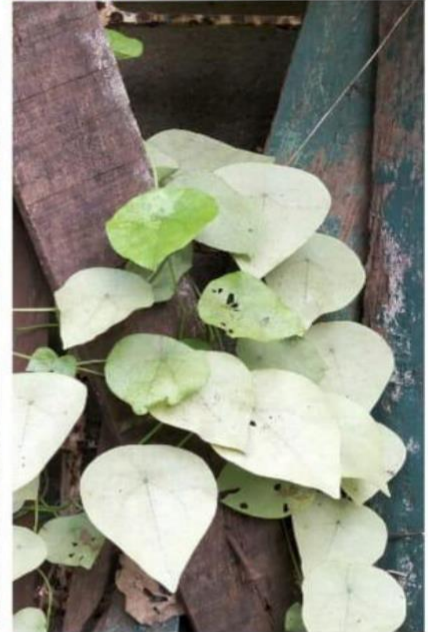
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## Green Audit: an ecological and taxonomic study of Janaki Ammal Sacred Grove.



Latitude: 22.649209  
Longitude: 88.381633  
Elevation: 10.49±1 m  
Accuracy: 9.7 m  
Azimuth: 246° (SW)  
Pitch: -5.1° (-2.2°)  
Time: 04-07-2022 14:25  
Site: Janaki Ammal Sacred Grove PG Sem II



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**PG Sem II students of Botany Dept. BKC College, Kolkata on 7.04.2022.**



**Sensitization program by Eco Club, Botany Department towards the importance of Sacred Grove Ecosystem Services in an urban location for the neighbouring schools and colleges.**



**Sensitization program by Eco Club, Botany Department towards the importance of Sacred Grove Ecosystem Services in an urban location for the students of the colleges.**





**Biodiversity Museum in the Sacred Grove visited by school children of the neighbourhood.**

Phone : 2577-5878



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## MEDICINAL PLANT GARDEN



**Plantation at medicinal plant garden**