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KHARAGPUR COLLEGE

KHARAGPUR

Estd.: 1949

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"Celebrating the Legacy of Excellence: Kharagpur College Alumni Appreciation"

Sri Debendra Kumar Bagchi: A Beacon of Resilience and Grace — A Proud Son of Kharagpur College

Kharagpur College has long been more than just an institution of learning—it is a cradle of dreams, a forge of character, and a lighthouse guiding generations through the ever-shifting tides of life. Over the decades, its redbrick corridors and humble classrooms have witnessed countless stories of struggle, triumph, and transformation. Among its many proud sons and daughters, one name that shines with quiet dignity and unwavering perseverance is that of <u>Sri Debendra Kumar Bagchi</u>, <u>Science undergraduate</u>, <u>Batch of 1962–1965</u>.



His journey is not of glamour or headline-grabbing fame, but something far more enduring—a life of sincere public service, deep humility, and an indomitable spirit. From a childhood shaped by the heartbreak of Partition to

holding senior positions in the West Bengal Civil Service, Shri Bagchi's life is a testament to what a determined student from a modest background can achieve with the right education, guidance, and inner will.

He walked into the college gates as a young man carrying the invisible weight of displacement, poverty, and trauma—but walked out armed with purpose and a lifelong commitment to excellence. Even today, decades after his last class at *Kharagpur College*, his life continues to inspire, reminding us all that true success lies not in titles or wealth, but in the integrity with which one serves society.

It is with immense pride and affection that Kharagpur College remembers and honours him—not only as an alumnus but as a symbol of what it truly means to rise above circumstances with grace.

□ Early Life & Family Background:

Sri Debendra Kumar Bagchi was born on 21st April 1946 in Porabari, Tangail—then part of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), a place known for its famed *Chamcham* and cultural richness. His early life was filled with warmth and tradition, until the Partition of 1947 uprooted his family, forcing them to flee their homeland.

By 1956, the Bagchi family settled in a 75-square-foot room in Subhashpalli, Kharagpur. Despite hardship, young Debendra's parents nurtured in him the values of dignity, discipline, and education. He studied at Subhashpalli Janakalyan Vidyayatan, passing his School Final in 1961 with pride.

That same year 1961, he entered the Pre-University Science stream at Kharagpur College—a life-changing milestone. With dedication and support from mentors like Professor Himanshu Bhushan Sarkar, who arranged a Rotary Club stipend (Rs. 100 per year), Debendra pursued his studies with gratitude, determination, and a vision to uplift his family's future.

Academic Achievements:

- Successfully cleared the **Pre-University and B.Sc. Part I examinations** with notable success in 1965.
- Passed the Public Service Commission (PSC) Clerkship Examination in 1966 while still a student.
- **Joined Government service as Lower Division Assistant** in the Department of Fisheries on 25th March 1966.
- Completed **B.Sc.** (Science) in 1966 and received Graduation Certificate from Vice Chancellor of Calcutta University Shri B. Malik.

| Illustrious Career in Public Service:

- 1972: Promoted to Upper Division Assistant, Department of Fisheries
- 1986: Became Head Assistant, Municipal Affairs Department
- 1990: Promoted to Section Officer (Group A Post), Information & Cultural Affairs Department
- 1995: Appointed as Officer on Special Duty (O.S.D.), Health & Family Welfare Department
- 1996: Promoted to Assistant Secretary, Personnel & Administrative Reforms Department
- 2002: Became Deputy Secretary, WBCS Cell
- 2004: Promoted to Joint Secretary, IAS Cell, P&AR Dept.
- 2006: Superannuated on 31st March 2006

Post-Retirement Service:

- Hearing Officer, Kolkata Municipal Corporation (22 months)
- Chief Personnel Officer, East-West Metro Rail Project (1 year)

Personal Loss & Present Life:

In September 2016, Sri Debendra Kumar Bagchi's wife underwent a major surgery. Though the family held on to hope, she tragically passed away on October 5, 2016, just 12 days after the operation. Her passing was an irreparable loss and remains the deepest sorrow in Shri Bagchi's life—a void that time has not been able to fill.

Today, at 79 years of age, he resides in Belgharia, quietly embracing the rhythm of a retired life. His only daughter, an officer in the West Bengal Police, remains deeply caring and attentive despite her demanding schedule. One of his greatest joys comes in the form of his 11-year-old granddaughter, a bright young student at Adamas International School, who visits him every week and brings youthful cheer into his home.

El Sri Debendra Kumar Bagchi now spends his days in quiet reflection, finding comfort in reading books, watching television programs, and staying engaged with the world around him. Though he lives alone, he remains closely connected with his extended family and loved ones, who continue to be a source of emotional strength and companionship.

Ever the **positive thinker**, Shri Bagchi firmly believes that **every tomorrow holds the promise of a finer day**. His enduring optimism, shaped by a life of challenges and achievements, continues to inspire those around him.

* Legacy of a Life Well-Lived:

Sri Debendra Kumar Bagchi's life is a living testimony to the power of resilience, education, and integrity. Reflecting on his journey, his life has been filled with ordinary moments, carried forward by extraordinary strength. It is not the grandeur of events, but the quiet perseverance behind them that defines his legacy. From humble beginnings to occupying top ranks in West Bengal's administration, his journey is one that Kharagpur College proudly salutes.

His story will inspire the younger generations of Kharagpur College to pursue excellence—not only in academics or career, but in every walk of life, with humility, resilience, and purpose.