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The Mithibai Chronicles



The Mithibai Chronicles is a bimonthly newsletter of Mithibai College Jitendra Library. The main objective of this Newsletter is to provide information about New Arrivals and other library resources to library users. Additionally, it serves as a communication channel between a library and its users.

The current issue of The Mithibai Chronicles is a Special issue which features 'A Retrospect', the thoughts of Prof. R. D. Chawathe, Chairman of the Silver Jubilee Committee of Mithibai College. In his speech, Prof. Chawathe depicted the glorious history of Mithibai College for 25 years from its inception. In his lucid style, he portrayed the Foundation Day of Mithibai College, also giving due credit to the generous donors who founded the college. He delineated the growth of Mithibai College in terms of student enrollment, financial growth, student committees, competitions, awards, prizes and the laurels students brought to the college to make it a landmark in the suburbs of Mumbai.

We are sure this issue will help you visualise the moments of the Silver Jubilee function of Mithibai College.

***Mrs. Archana Garate
Librarian***

केवल कुछ समय के लिए पुस्तकों को रटकर ज्ञान अर्जित न करे, बल्कि पुस्तकों को ध्यान से पढ़कर पूरी उम्र भर के लिए ज्ञान अर्जित करे।



Newsletter at a Glance

- ★ Speech by Prof. R. D. Chawathe at the Silver Jubilee Celebration
- ★ Glimpses of the then Mithibai College

***HAPPY
READING!***



या कुन्देन्दुतुषारहारधवला या शुभ्रवस्त्रावृता।
या वीणावरदण्डमण्डितकरा या श्वेतपद्मासना॥
या ब्रह्माच्युत शंकरप्रभृतिभिर्देवैः सदा वन्दिता।
सा मां पातु सरस्वती भगवती निःशेषजाड्यापहा॥1॥

अर्थात्

माँ भगवती सरस्वती जो विद्या तथा ज्ञान की देवी है, कुन्द के फूल, चंद्रमा, हिमराशि और मोती के हार की तरह धवल वर्ण की हैं तथा जो हमेशा श्वेत वस्त्र धारण करती हैं, एवं इनके हाथ में वीणा-दण्ड शोभायमान रहती है, जो श्वेत कमलों पर आसन ग्रहण किये हुए हैं और भगवान ब्रह्मा, विष्णु एवं शंकर आदि देवताओं द्वारा हमेशा पूजी जाती है, वही संपूर्ण जड़ता तथा अज्ञान को दूर करने वाली माँ सरस्वती हर विपत्ति से हमारी रक्षा करें !

A RETROSPECT

Prof. R. D. Chawathe

Chairman, Silver Jubilee Committee

Twenty-five years ago, on June 20, 1961, Mithibai College of Arts and Chauhan Institute of Science was founded by Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal. It was indeed an ambitious programme. But, in all probability, few of the founder- fathers had visualized the phenomenal growth of this college that was soon to become a landmark in the suburbs of Bombay and to command a dominating position among the leading colleges of the city. Amrutben Jivanlal College of Commerce and Economics was added in the year 1980, and a complex was thereby formed that embraced the three mainstreams of education - Arts, Science and Commerce.

Before we take into account the glorious achievements of this institution in the last two and a half decades, let us acknowledge with due gratitude the contribution of the founders of this institution. They have been men and women with inspiring visions who have not only contributed generously in financial terms but have encouraged the institution to achieve the highest ideals in the field of education.

Mithibai College of Arts and Chauhan Institute of Science was started with generous donations of Rs. 3.25 lakhs from the trustees of Matushri Mithibai Balashram. Rs. 2.85 lakhs were donated by the sons of late Mohanlal Dayal Chauhan. To this was added the Chauhan Junior College of Arts and Science in 1976 with a contribution of Rs. 2.5 lakhs from the same Chauhan family. Shri Dwarkadas J. Sanghvi donated Rs. 12 lakhs towards the Amrutben Jivanlal College of Commerce and Economics.

These handsome donations certainly laid the foundation of the establishment, but to achieve the fabulous qualitative and quantitative growth that the college has achieved, it was necessary to have a great amount of foresight and dedication. For this, the college was fortunate enough to have a dedicated parent-body in Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal which offered every assistance at every stage. The encouragement which the parent-body has been giving to the Principal, staff and students is well known. Here is a concrete example—a unique feature of Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal. For the last five years Kelavani Mandal has been arranging a special function to felicitate those students of its institutions who have to their credit outstanding performance in academic or extra mural activities. The Mandal started with an expenditure of Rs. 15,000.00 in the first year which has now crossed Rs. 50,000.00 per year for this function where cash prizes are awarded to the meritorious students.

The Mandal always has been having extremely capable men at its helm. Shri Amrutlal B. Yagnik was the founder Principal of the college. In the words of the present Principal, Shri C. T. Bhastana, "during his tenure of seventeen years, he made a very valuable contribution to the development and progress of the college and built up an image of a very good educational institution". Principal Yagnik had the rare capacity to spot a person of ability and to induce him to join the then - newly founded college. The college had such luminaries in its teaching body as Shri Mansukhbhai Jhaveri, Shri Nissim Ezekiel, etc. There is no doubt that he had sensed in his one-time-student, Shri C. T. Bhastana, the exceptional combination of qualities of an excellent teacher, a great educationist and a very able administrator who would take the college to great heights.

On assuming charge as the Principal in 1978, Shri C. T. Bhastana immediately got a logo for the institution. It depicts two blooming lotus-buds together with a fully blossomed out lotus, with the inscription "Higher Still and Higher". This has been the motto reflected in his personal achievements and the achievements of the institution that he has steered. One has seen him shoulder immense responsibilities even as a Vice Principal, and now to be in charge of a complex that has a student body of around 7,600, his responsibilities must be awesome. More so, because he, a recipient of honours from ' Ankur ' and the Rotaract 'Best Teacher ' Award, believes in an all - round development of the student. There is no denying that under his stewardship, the college has carved out an enviable position for itself in the fields of social service, cultural activities and sports. Academically, the Mithibai Complex is rated with the best colleges of the city.

What has this progress of twenty-five years meant to him? As a young man whose head was then not touched with silver, he looked out of the window and saw a few students hesitantly walk into the then modest college building. Did he then visualize a day when overnight queues would be forming outside the present imposing buildings to secure admission in the same institution?

The college started with 364 students, Today, we have 7587 students. The college which had a tiny staff-34 Teaching and 19 Non-teaching - is now booming with 199 Teaching and 141 Non-teaching Staff members. The institution has set up very high standards even at post-graduate level; some students have already got their Doctorate and many are working for Ph. D. Recent addition of the full-fledged departments of Psychology, Physics, Statistics, Zoology, Botany, Microbiology, etc. has elevated the institution to much greater heights.

In spite of the phenomenal growth in the number of students and a number of problems arising, the standard of discipline has been very well maintained and the student-teacher relations are absolutely cordial. Guru Purnima is celebrated every year in the college in the traditional way.

Worthy causes have always found full support from the Students' Council of our college. The Council has systematically raised money for the financially handicapped students. The Council has also always come forward during periods of emergency whether it is war, flood or drought and contributed handsome amounts to the Vice-Chancellor's Fund and the Chief Minister's Fund, etc.

The Blood Donation Drive, organised every year by the Students' Council, attained new heights last year when the college reached a target of 523 bottles and offered the same to KEM Hospital. The college is proud to retain the KEM Trophy for maximum donation for the seventh successive year.

It has been heartening to see our students fight the drug-menace that threatens the society today.

The Students' Council jointly with other organisations like the Leo Club of Juhu has arranged exhibition and seminars on the problems of drug-addiction quite often. Our students also participated in the rally organised by Lions and Rotary Club against drug-addiction.

The importance of the work done by our N. S. S. Unit can be best judged in the words of Prof. Yerunkar, the N.S.S. Programme Co-ordination of the University of Bombay, who voiced his deep appreciation when he said "Mithibai is the only college in the whole Maharashtra which has succeeded so well in channelizing energy in the youth towards constructive work yielding such positive results. Delegates from other colleges should take an example from this". Apart from undertaking the work to help such social organisations as the National Association for the Blind, the Barbhaya Orphanage Centre and the Cheshire Home for the disabled destitutes and providing para-medical service to the paediatric wards of Hospitals and doing several other routine N. S. S. activities, the most ambitious project of N. S. S. Unit has been the adoption of an Adivasi area near Dahanu.

Our college N. S. S. Unit constructed a linking road which was a boon to local population who named it the 'Mithibai Marg'. They also changed the name of their village Patharpada to 'Mithibai Nagar'. A primary school has already been provided in Savta and the process of providing a High School by indirect help is on. The N. S. S. Unit celebrated the Republic Day last year by organising 'Youth Integration Day' in Mithibai Nagar, where 54 delegates from 27 different colleges of the Bombay University participated. The spontaneous praise that the N. S. S. Unit received from eminent social workers and the public, speaks volumes for its dedication in the field of social service. Reference to Balwadi, Prin. C. T. Bhastana Youth Centre and Health Centre provided this year is made in the Annual College Report.

To ensure that talented students find a proper platform and to create an atmosphere where every student imbibes the spirit of culture, the Dance and Music Society of the college conducts various programmes throughout the year. There is a regular participation in prestigious inter- collegiate competitions such as the Youth Festival conducted by the Bombay University.

Prizes have been won in varied items as the Classical Dance, the Folk Dance, the Vocal and the Instrumental Music- (both light and classical) - the Mime and the Drama. Over the years, our talented boys and girls like Nayanjyoti Ghosh and Dhruvajyoti Ghosh, Preeti Koppikar, Anita Pillai, Bhairavi Patel, Foram Desal, Prafulla Pinto, Bhavdeep Jaipurwala, Navin Shivram and Divyakumar Gowda, have brought in a splendid haul of gold and silver.

The importance achieved by our institution can be judged by the fact in 1985-86, our students represented the Bombay University in the fields of folkdance, classical dance, singing and miming, in the competition conducted by the Association of Indian Universities at Kolhapur where out of 5 First Prizes won by Bombay University as a whole, 3 were won by our items. Although the medium of instruction is English, Marathi, Gujarati and Hindi languages have found full expression through artistic and literary forms. All these languages including English have their own Associations. The college has a vigorous participation in debates, elocutions, essay-writing and short-story competitions conducted at the intercollegiate level in all languages. Plays in all these languages are regularly staged. Plays in all the four languages - English, Marathi, Gujarati and Hindi - are presented daily at the Annual Day Celebrations. O'Neill's 'Ile' and Chekov's 'Proposal' were great successes with the latter being televised for the Moscow television in the House of Soviet Culture. The Gujarati play 'Kaan' picked up 4 gold medals in the Youth Festival 1982-83. The Marathi plays 'Bhajan' and 'Kokok' were widely appreciated. Of the many prizes won in debates and elocutions, the most significant achievement has been the winning of the prestigious Lions Juhu United Nations Trophy for seven successive years. Many times, our Hindi elocution and debating teams have lifted the 'Balraj Sahani Trophy' in the inter-collegiate competitions organized by IPTA. We remember our talented students who, over the years, have brought us many laurels in the areas of Dramatics and Debates. Pramathesh Metha, Irshad Hashmi, Sanjay Dahale, Shakuntala Kattoju, Krishna Kattoju, Sangeeta Vidwans,

Anita Sanzgiri, Hanif Mohammed, Pankaj Naram, Rajiv Narula, Subroto Banerji, Indira Naik, Amitabh Sinha, Juzer Udaipuri, Muktha Menon, Jagruti Patel, etc. have done us proud.

The College Film Society, looking to the film as an art, has fulfilled an important function by exposing the students to the works of national and international masters, and by creating an interest in serious films. To achieve this purpose, discussions and seminars are held that are attended by eminent film personalities.

The Gymkhana provides facilities for the students to indulge in almost any sports activity of their choice, whether it is concentrating intently on the chess board on the table or trekking up the rocky mountain paths. The first to burst into the national scene with their splendid performance were the badminton duo: Ami Ghia and Sujata Jain, who won national championships. Ami Ghia who had begun winning national championships at the tender age of fourteen years and has represented India in innumerable international championship events. She has been a proud recipient of 'Shiv Chhatrapati Award' and 'Arjun' Award too. To name just a couple of the many others, Deepak Jadhav excelled in cricket to be awarded the National Sports Talent Scholarship. Armin Arethna won a national award in cycling in 1980-81 and Mahesh Nagarkatti displayed outstanding skill in swimming at the national level. Very soon the international sports - panorama was invaded by our boys and girls. Jasmin Arethna won the championship at the National level in cycling before figuring in the International scene with 2 Bronze medals

won at the Asian Cycling Meet held at Seoul. Syed Arshad Askari represented India at the Junior International Track and Field Meet at Seoul. Kavita Sood, who had already swum to achieve many glories in the national scene, represented India in the Water- Polo World Cup held in France in 1985. Bijoy Jain had already made us proud by becoming the youngest among the fastest men to swim across the English Channel in 1983.

Although our individual cricketers had already made their mark at the national level, Mithibai Cricket team rose to a commanding position only last year with the Degree College Team lifting the prestigious 'Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola Cup' and proving its supremacy in the Bombay University international cricket tournament in which nearly 70 colleges participated. Our student, Jayaprakash Jadhav captained the Bombay University Cricket team at the Inter-University Cricket tournament. He represented Bombay at the Ranji Trophy Tournament. The Junior College Cricket team won the 'Dr. P. T. Solomon Shield' and the 'Topaz Trophy' by winning the Cricket championship in Cricket intercollegiate tournament conducted by the Junior Colleges Sports Association of Bombay.

The completion of 25 years of our N.C.C. unit is symbolised by the initiation of a Rifle Training Club. There have been many significant achievements in the course of its impressive history. Margaret D'Souza and Alpana Gaur were chosen to represent India at Canada in the Cultural Exchange Programme. Ruma Lakhwana was chosen to represent Bombay University at the Republic Day Parade in the Capital. Some of

our boys are holding commanding positions in the defence and police forces.

On the academic side, the First Rank in the University (in a subject and overall amongst all students in the Degree level), a large number of students in the First Ten Ranks, a large number of Endowment Prizes and Gold Medals from the University - all this is now a common feature every year. In the field of sports, apart from innumerable achievements, four outstanding points may be mentioned; (i) the Best Sportswomen of India (1985) was our student; (ii) ours is the first college to win cricket championship both at the Degree College and Junior College in the same year (1986-87), (iii) Asif Ismail won the 'Triple Crown' at the international tennis tournaments; (iv) Sanjiv Jadhav was the only student from Bombay in the 'Young India (under 19) for Australia' team for International cricket tournament. There are records which have been created at the intercollegiate level, University level and International level - only two of them may be mentioned. (i) When our Gujarati Drama 'Kaan' was presented at the Youth Festival, all the three Gold Medals for the Best Actor, the Best Actress and the Best Production came to our college and the judges afterwards declared that the acting of one other girl was so fine that a fourth Gold Medal was specially being awarded that year. This fourth Gold Medal also came to our college: (ii) when our student, Bijoy Jain swam the English Channel from Dover in England to Cap Gris Nez in France in 8 hours and 42 minutes he became the fastest

Asian to swim the channel and the second fastest man in the world to do so and the youngest in the world in the fastest men to do so, having swum at the age of 18 years and one week.

We may end with a note of satisfaction by drawing our attention to only specific highlights of our examination results this year.

At the H.S.C. Arts Examination:

1) our Student, Neena Maini stood First Class Second in Psychology by obtaining 96/100 marks.

2) our student, Vinita Mathrani stood First Class First in Psychology by obtaining 97/100 marks.

At the H.S.C. Science Examination:

First Class First in Biology in the Board is our student, Bela Mehta who got 100/100 marks.

At the B.A. Degree Examination in Psychology, where our result is 100%, there are six students of ours in the First Ten: Upasana Saraf 8th, Anuradha Munjal 6th, Sunita Kaul 5th, Bharati Kalal 3rd, Susan Correa 2nd, and Roxana Patel 1st.

Our result at the B.Sc. Degree Examination, may be said, with all humility, to be superb. Our result was 97% against 72.3% of the University with only 7 pass classes, 110 Second Classes, and 200 First Classes out of 317 successful students. Thus, more than 63% of our students found their place in First Class.

In the overall results of 6794 students at the B.Sc. Degree Examination for all subjects, the list of the First Ten in the University finds Five of our students- Sharmila Talpade 9th, Shalini Rao 7th, Poonam Gupta 4th, Shilpa Nanavati 3rd and Madhumita Lodh 1st. Thus, our student Madhumita Lodh stood First amongst 6794 students at B.Sc. Last year also our student Ranjana Ranade was First in the University amongst 7084 students.

We are confidently looking forward to achieve still greater heights in every field under the dynamic leadership of our beloved Principal, Shri C. T. Bhastana, who has been working so hard for “Higher Still and Higher”, with full encouragement from the Management of our parent body Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal.



Mithibai College Old Buildings



Mithibai College in 2025





सुनहरा भविष्य बनाने के लिए अनिवार्य है; किताबों से मित्रता करना ।

ताकत का नया स्रोत कुछ लोगों के हाथ में धन होना नहीं है, बल्कि कई लोगों के हाथ में पुस्तकों का होना है।

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