

A BRIEF HISTORY OF NAVA NALANDA (1967 – 1991)

Inception

NAVA NALANDA is a co-educational school with Nursery, Primary & Secondary sections, conducted in the medium of English and committed to a national legacy, as embodied in its name. It launched its career on February 1st, 1967 at No.25, Southern Avenue, Kolkata – 700 026 under the initiative of a band of enthusiastic organizers and devoted teachers. The Managing Committee, at the time of its inception, included the Chairman Sri A. C. Dasgupta, Secretary, Steel Re-rolling Mills' Associations of India; the Secretary & Rector Sri Arya Mitra; the Headmistress Sm. Bharati Mitra; Sm. Geeta Dasgupta, teacher, Gokhale Memorial Girls' School' Sm. Geeta Ghosh, Headmistress, Kamala Girls' High School; Dr. Supriyo Roy, Prof. In Geology, Jadavpur University; and the Late Rathindra M. Mitra of East India Pharmaceuticals Ltd.. Among the Patrons were, the Late D. N. Sinha, Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court; the Late A. K. Mukherjee, Judge, Calcutta High Court; and the Lady Pratima Mitter.

Evolution

The school started with Nursery – I, Nursery – II, Preparatory Class & classes I, II, III, IV & V, covering the age groups from 3+ to 10+, with the scheme of gradual upgradation by adding one class on the higher side every year. In this process, the school was duly elevated upto Class X by 1972. In 1974 the secondary section of the school was recognised by the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education, and in the same year the first batch of 7 students appeared at the school final examination of the Board. In 1976, the school shifted over to the Madhyamik syllabus of the Board, and since then it had been a study of continuous success and regular increase in the number of “stars” and first division candidates, including some high rankings in the Madhyamik Examination, without any failure. The outstanding results including those of Amitesh Maiti of the 1980-batch, Indranil Mukherjee of the 1984-batch and Sudipto Kundu of the 1991-batch, who stood 4th, 11th & 6th respectively, in the Madhyamik Examination, and Anup Kumar Ghosh of the 1990-batch who scored nearabout 90% marks in the same examination. These attainments have evoked the guardians' confidence on the school, as a result of which, starting with 25 students and 8 teachers n the opening day, the school-register at this moment recorded approximately 4800 students and 160 teachers. The accommodation

problem has led the school authorities to decentralize the school into three different sections, namely, the Nursery, the Primary and the Secondary section, operating in different rented buildings in the same locality. From July, 1990 a branch has been opened in Jodhpur Park, which is now operating with the Nursery section. From July 1991 another branch has been opened in Santiniketan, which is now running with four classes, from Nursery-I to Class II, with a scheme of elevation upto the secondary level by adding one class on the higher side every year.

Extra-curricular activities

From its very inception, along with these academic activities, the school has given equal emphasis upon extra-curricular aspects, so as to ensure the fullest development of juvenile faculties. The great enthusiasm, created by these activities, have played a vital role in the successful exposure of the students to numerous inter-school competitions on music, dance, recitation, drawing, quiz and debate every year. Similarly, annual celebrations of the Teachers' Day, the Independence Day, the birthday celebrations of great men, etc. are also organised by the students with great enthusiasm. These and such other programmes have frequently been graced by the presence of dignitaries, such as, the Late D. N. Sinha, ex-acting Governor of West Bengal of West Bengal, the Late litterateurs Moitreyee Devi and Pramatha Nath Bishi, the renowned journalist Sri Amitava Chowdhury, the eminent freedom fighter Sri Ganesh Ghosh, the ex-Vice Chancellor of the Visva-Bharati University Sri Nemaisadhan Basu, the hon'ble minister of West Bengal Sri Prasanta Sur and others.

Sports & Games

Similarly, sports and games have been given equal importance, apart from our Annual Athletic Meet, which is one of our popular annual events, our school is a regular participant in inter-school football, cricket and table tennis tournaments, having emerged champions in the South Calcutta District inter-school cricket in 1982. the eminent Bengal cricketer Raja Venkat and the budding cricketer Abhijit Chatterjee, who represented the junior Indian team, are products of our school.

Cultural attainments

The cultural activities of the school have earned it a place of distinction in the world of dance and music. Its ballets, such as the "Meghnadbadh Kavya" the "Mahabharat" and the "Potita", produced on the public stage, and its juvenile productions of the "Khirer Putul", the "Parir Parichaya"

and the “Suo-Ranir Shadh”, presented on the television screen, have earned plaudits from the press and viewers alike. The annual Rabindra Jayanti celebrations, held within the school premises, are participated by the school children and distinguished singers, among whom there had been eminent artistes like Sm. Suchitra Mitra, Sm. Kanika Banerjee and the Late Hemanta Mukherjee, Debabrata Biswas, Chinmoy Chatterjee and Sagar Sen.

The Managing Committee

The present Managing Committee of the school consists of :—

- President* : Sri Animesh C. Dasgupta,
Secretary, Steel Re-rolling Mills’
Association of India
- Vice-President* : Prof. Prasanta K. Ghosh,
Principal, Maulana Azad College.
- Secreatry & Rector* : Sri Arya Mitra
- Headmistress* : Sm. Bharati Mitra
- Members* : Dr. Supriyo Roy,
Professor, Jadavpur University.
Sm. Geeta Ghosh,
Ex-Headmistress, Kamala Girls’ High
School.
Dr. Chitra Roy,
Professor, Lady Brabourne College.
Sri Lakshminarayan Roy,
Headmaster, Kalidhan Institution.
Sri Hrishikesh C. Dasgupta,
Retired Officer, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.
Sri. B. Gupta Bakshi,
Area Sales Manager, Rassik Woodworth
Ltd.

Silver Jubilee celebration programme

NAVA NALANDA, on the auspicious occasion of its 25th birth anniversary, has planned a year-long series of programmes, cultural as well as in the field of sports. The proposed plan chalked out is as follows :—

1. *Opening ceremony followed by cultural programme by present and ex-students of the school on 1st February '92 at the Rabindra Sarobar Stadium.*
2. *Ex-students' re-union on 2nd February '92 at the Parish Hall.*
3. *A two-day-long variety programme on Kabiguru Rabindra Nath Tagore on 9th and 10th may '92 at the open Air Theatre (Nazrul Mancha).*

The programme includes :—

- a) *invitation of eminent artistes and different institutions on Rabindra Sangeet to perform in the fields of dance, dance-drama, songs, recitation etc.*
 - b) *a drawing festival portraying some of the themes from Tagore's compositions.*
 - c) *a discourse of Rabindra-literature.*
 - d) *felicitations of some eminent personalities.*
4. *Presentation of "Raj Kahini" – a dance-drama, based on the the stories of Abanindra Nath Tagore in July '92 at Rabindra Sadan by the students and ex-students and other artistes of NAVA NALANDA.*
 5. *Exhibition on Independence Movement on the Independence Day.*
 6. *Teachers' Day, on 5th September '92, to be celebrated by felicitating the teachers of the school. This will be followed by some programmes on literacy drive.*
 7. *Inter-school competitions on music, debate, quiz, drawing and painting and inter-school cricket tournament will be organised during October, November & December '92.*

8. *Closing ceremony, preceded by the annual school sports in January'93 will drop the curtain on our Silver Jubilee Celebrations.*

Silver Jubilee celebration of
NAVA NALANDA
February 1st, 1992
Rabindra Sarobar Stadium, Calcutta

PROGRAMME

Part – I (10 a.m. – 11 a.m.)

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| 1. | Arrival of the Chief Guest | 10.00 a.m. |
| 2. | Opening Song | 10.05 a.m. |
| 3. | Welcome address by the Rector | 10.10 a.m. |
| 4. | March Past by the Students | 10.15 a.m. |
| 5. | Lighting of Lamps by the Chief Guest
accompanied by chorus song | 10.30 a.m. |
| 6. | Songs by Smt. Suchitra Mitra | 10.40 a.m. |
| 7. | address by Chief Guest | 10.50 a.m. |

Part – II (11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)

1. Cultural programme of ballets and songs by the students of Nursery, Primary, Secondary sections and ex-students.
2. Short addresses by the dignitaries, teachers & guardians.
3. Address by the President.
4. Vote of thanks.
5. Closing song.