

CELEBRATING 43 YEARS

A BRIEF HISTORY

NAVA NALANDA **MISSION EDUCATION, VISION VALUES.** **SCHOOL MOTTO : SHAPING TOMMORROW** **AFFILIATED TO : 1. WBBSE ,2.WBBHSC**

on the 1st of February, 1967, a group of enthusiastic workers and nine teachers embarked upon an ambitious project, with 24 children of varying age groups from 3 to 10 facing them in the prayer assembly on the laws of 25 Southern Avenue, Calcutta. The name of the project was derived from our richest national heritage in the domain of education, thus fixing the target apparently beyond reach. 29 years have lapsed since then and the target is still miles away. But venture for negotiating the distance continues.

With gradual rise in roll strength, recognition as 10-Class High School was obtained in 1974 from the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education. The headlines were struck in 1980 with **Amitesh Maity** of the school occupying 4th rank in the Madhyamik Examination. He was followed in regular interval by more rank holders, namely, **Indranil Mukherjee** (11th in 1984), **Sudipto Kundu** (7th in 1991) **Rajesh Bhattacharya** (16th in 1993), **Arijit Roychoudhury** (10th in 1995), **Toya Chatterjee** (9th in 2002) and **Tomoghno Biswas** (3rd in 2005). Incidentally, **Tamoghno's name also appeared in the 4th position in the Higher Secondary Examination, 2007.**

The Headmistress and the Management of Nava Nalanda believe in supplementing textual study by extra – textual activities of versatile nature, being aimed at complete development of juvenile faculties. This purpose is served by the Annual Educational Exhibition, the Teacher's Day, the Independence/Republic Day Celebrations, the Wall Magazines, the periodic magazines entitled "The Heritage" for the senior students and "The Legacy" for the kids, the Annual 'Nalandashree' Competition consisting of Inter –school contests on debate, elocution, quiz, music, recitation, 'sit and draw' and essay – writing competitions.

The 'Nalandashree' Competitions can boast of having discovered a brilliant singer with bright prospects, **ANEK DHAR**, who has recently topped the contestants in the Sa-Re-Ga-Ma-Pa music competition in the Zee Bangla television channel.

Musical and dramatic programmes on the public stages of Rabindra Sadan, Kalamandir, Nazrul Mancha and on the television screen flower the budding talents of the school with plaudits from the audience, the viewers and the press.

These programmes include, to quote a few Rabindranath Tagore's Suo –Ranir Sadh, Parir Parichay , Kalmrigaya, Pratham Puja, Chandalika, Chitrangada, Aruproton , Abanindranath Tagore's Khirer Putul and Rajkahini . Michael Madhusudan Dutt's Meghnad badh Kavya, the epic Mahabharata and others. The boulevard on Southern Avenue, in front of Nalanda Bhavan, has become famous in the city for its Annual 'Rabindrasmaran' festival on the 25th of Baishakh, which is enriched with dance programmes of the Nava Nalanda, children combined with solo performances by renowned specialists in Tagore songs and poems.

The interest of Nava Nalanda students in games and sports is testified by their commendable team performances in inter-school cricket, football, table tennis, swimming and rowing. Two invitation trips to Bangladesh by Nava Nalanda cricket team rank among the memorable games events of the school. On the level of individual performances, the school can boast of its ex-students, **Raja Venkat** (School Final, 1975), the ex-cricket Captain of Bengal, and **Poulami Ghatak** (Madhyamik_2000), thrice national champion in table tennis.

Service to humanity always goes along with Nava Nalanda's name, and this drew Nava Nalanda close to **MOTHER TERESA**, who graced the school with her presence on its foundation day, the 1st February , 1997.

THE SANTINIKETAN UNIT

Meanwhile a separate unit of the school started functioning in Santiniketan since July, 1991 in response to local demands. Its roll strength as on date is 503, distributed among 12 classes from Nursery I to Class X, functioning in rented buildings. A 3-storied building, owned by the institution and standing majestically on 6¹/₂ bighas land, is ready for occupation with sufficient space and future provision for boarding house.

THE HIGHER SECONDARY UNIT

_____ With about 450 students on the average coming out with each Madhyamik Examination, need was felt for opening the Higher Secondary unit. Long overdue on account of acute space problem, this unit was ultimately brought into existence on July 19, 2004, enjoying recognition of the West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education, with permission to introduce Science and Humanities streams. Accommodation was provided at 24, Kabir Road with 130 students enrolled in class XI on the opening day and a few more to follow later on. Apart from the existing teachers of the Secondary section, the Higher Secondary unit is aided by some eminent personalities in the teaching line, either on full-time or part-time basis. However, fresh accommodation problem is apprehended from the next academic session, with the opening of class XII and the anticipated increase in the number of admissions to class XI. This demands an additional accommodation, preferably self-owned, at the vicinity of the secondary department. Thus in 2005, a separate unit for Higher secondary came into existence at 55 Purnadas Road, where an elaborate unit was set up.

The cause of service to the community has frequently brought the Nava Nalanda students on the road, either for propagating against pollution, or for begging money for the blind or the Red Cross, or for delivering several truck-loads of Christmas gifts, collected from their school-mates, to the orphans under Mother Teresa's care. The presence of the gracious Mother in one of the school programmes on February 1, 1993 is one of the better-remembered events in Nava Nalanda's history.

THE NAVA NALANDA

EXTRA-ACADEMIC INVOLVEMENTS

The teaching method of NAVA NALANDA is characterised by a balanced combination of textual knowledge and off-the-text experience, so as to shape into complete education. This aim is sought to be achieved by, what is known as "extra-curricular activities", though it virtually forms an integral part of NAVA NALANDA's curriculum. Some of these are :

The teacher's day celebration on 5th September. It stands as a symbol of mutual love and respect between the teacher and the taught.

The Independence Day & Republic Day celebration. These are connected with some memorable discourses on our freedom struggle, national integration and related subjects by the late acting Governor Dipnarayan Sinha, eminent educationists, such as, the late Chinmohan Sehanabish, Anila Debi and Nemaisadhan Bose, Sri Ramaranjan Mukherjee, Pabitra Kumar Sarkar and Tirthankar Chakraborty, distinguished literateurs and journalists like the late Pramathanath Bishi and Santosh Kumar Ghosh, Sri Amitava Chowdhury and Sri Gour Kishore Ghosh, and last, but not the least, the legendary Ganesh Ghosh, whose absorbing recapitulation of the Chittagong Armoury Raid created a spell on the audience on August 15, 1974.

The Heritage & The Legacy. These are the annual publications for and by the seniors and the kids respectively, which are loaded with contributions from varying age groups, ventilating their thoughts and feelings.

Games & Sports. Our annual Athletic Meets are participated by hundreds in the presence of sports personalities of national repute, such as, Sri Chuni Goswami, Sri

Gurbux Sing, Sri Prasanta Banerjee and others as the Chief Guest. Commendable performances have been recorded in inter-school cricket, football, table tennis, swimming and rowing competitions. Our under – 19 cricket team, visiting Bangladesh on an invitation tour in , returned with pleasant memories. Our inter-class mini-football for the primary department and Nalanda Cup Cricket Tournament for the Secondary and Higher Secondary departments figure among our more popular winter sports items. With all this background, NAVA NALANDA take pride in having produced the ex-captain of Bengal Cricket team, RAJA VENKAT, and the thrice national table tennis champion, POULAMI GHATAK.

Excursions. Temporary relief from class room monotony is provided by periodical outings and picnics on the rarely – found greeneries in and around Kolkata, or educational visits to the museum, the planetarium, the meteorological office, the press, and so on. These are often supplemented by week-long trips to far-away sites of Santiniketan – Bakreswar – Masanjore (1975), the antiquities of Rajgir – Nalanda – Bodh Gaya (1977 & 1983), the historical relics of Varanasi – Sarnath – Chunar (1979), the artistic and sculptural excellence of Ajanta – Ellora (1981), the golden triangle of Delhi – Agra – Jaipur (1985) and the picturesque Vizag – Araku Valley (2004).

Social Service. The cause of service to the community has always brought our boys and girls to the forefront, collecting enormous amounts for the Red Cross, or some Ramkrishna Mission village reconstruction project, or for the victims of Orissa flood, Gujarat earthquake, the Kargil war, the Tsunami, or, for one of their own school-mates, whose fight with death on the hospital bed is costing his parent’s fortune. It was indeed a life-time’s experience to have Mother Teresa visiting NAVA NALANDA on the 1st February, 1993 and personally acknowledging the truck-loads of Christmas gifts sent every year from the school to the orphans under the Mother’s care.

Nalandasree contest. The winter ushers in the long-awaited Nalandasree intra-school contest on varied items, such as, Sit-and-draw, Story/Script Writing, Recitation, Vocal Music, Dance, Solo Acting, One-Act Play, Quiz, Antakshari, Debate, Elocution and so on in the midst of overflowing enthusiasm.

THE NALANDARATNA AWARD:

Cultural activity. This has always been a part and parcel of NAVA NALANDA. The ‘Sharadotsav’ in September-October for the seniors features dance, music and dramatic items, combined with literary seminars, while the pre-winter vacation programme for the juniors invariably centre around the arrival of Santa Claus, followed by the chanting of Nursery rhymes and ending with Christmas Party. These activities have frequently reached the public stage and the television, with such productions as Abanindranath Tagore’s KHIRER PUTUL, Rabindranath’s NATIR PUJA, TAASHER DESH, KALMRIGAYA, PARIR PARICHAY, SUORANIR SAADH and a feature on the birth of Christ, entitled ABIRBHAV, based on Achintya Kumar Sengupta’s work. Added to this, were the classical stage presentations of ballets based on Michael Madhusudhan Dutt’s MEGHNADBADH KAVYA, the great epic MAHABHARAT and Abanindranath Tagore’s RAJKAHINI, in which the NAVA NALANDA children joined the professionals to add to the quality of the productions.

Nava Nalanda Mela. An air of festivity marks the Nava Nalanda Mela, a biennial festival, starting from 1993, being accommodated on the boulevard in front of the main building at 25 Southern Avenue. It presents an array of art and craft products by the students, a wide variety of village handicrafts from the sources of their origin, forgotten delicacies from the kitchens of the teachers and cultural programmes by the “Bauls’ from Birbhum, the ‘Santals’ from Chotanagpur, the ‘Chhou’ group from Purulia, and of course, colourful items by the NAVA NALANDA children themselves.

Rabindrasmaran. NAVA NALANDA has its firm footing on oriental culture, with the thoughts and ideals of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore as its guiding star. In the fitness of events, therefore, the celebration of Rabindra Jayanti became one of the main features of the school activity, almost from the inception of the school, being participated by hundreds of children and joined by maestros – Sm. Suchitra Mitra, Sri Dwijen Mukherjee and the late Kanika Banerjee, Hemanta Mukherjee, Debabrata Biswas, Chinmoy Chatterjee, Ashoktaru Banerjee and Sagar Sen. Since 1996 this programme has been shifted to the Southern Avenue boulevard, so as to accommodate thousands of

school children, their guardians and the local residents. In fact, NAVA NALANDA's 'Rabindrasmaran' is now hailed as one of the main attraction of the city on the 25th Baishak.

FACING THE AUDIENCE

The earliest public appearance of the Nava Nalanda children was Abanindranath's *Khirer Putul*, presented trice on the public stage and telecast thrice on the Doordarshan screen. Other Doordarshan programmes include Rabindranath's *Natir Puja*, *Taasher Desh* and *Kalmrigaya*, a Christmas Day programme entitled *Avirbhav*, based on Achintyakumar Sengupta's work, and a number of musical programmes. Two comparatively recent Doordarshan programmes, adapted from Rabindranath's *Parir parichay* and *Suoranir Saadh*, shine fresh in the viewers' memory. While Nava Nalanda Music School's *Shyama*, *Chitrangada*, *Mayar Khela*, *Rituranga* and *Chandalika* have drawn packed houses, a feature of novelty make its dance-dramas based on *Arupratan* and *Potita*.

It was Nava Nalanda again, which presented THE FIRST-EVER STAGE PERFORMANCE of Michael Madhusudan Dutt's *Meghnadbadh Kavya* and *Mahabharat* times without number, with a combination of school students and professionals.

LOCATION OF THE SCHOOL :

AT KOLKATA:

1. 25, SOUTHERN AVENUE, KOLKATA- 700026: DIAL 2466-3711/2465-1816
2. 24, KABIR ROAD, KOLKATA-70026 : DIAL : 24651777
3. 68, LAKE AVENUE, KOLKATA-700026 : DIAL : 2465-9498
4. 2F, BOWALI MONDAL ROAD, KOLKATA- 700026 : DIAL : 2464-6542
5. 192, JODHPUR PARK , KOLKATA- 70068 : DIAL : 2412-8638
6. 2/1, GOBINDAPUR ROAD, KOLKATA – 700045 :
DIAL : 2417-6111/55486088.
7. 162/B/193, LAKE GARDENS, KOLKATA – 700045 : DIAL : 55408202
8. 55/5, PURNADAS ROAD, KOLKATA- 700029. DIAL : 2464-5112.

AT BOLPUR:

9. RATANPALLI, SANTINIKETAN
10. SHYAMBATI, SANTINIKETAN
11. ANDREWS PALLI, NAVA NALANDA ROAD, SANTINIKETAN.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN PUBLIC EXAMS:

MADHYAMIK EXAMINATION , 2007

Total appeared –406 , 1st Divn –371: 2nd Divn –35: Star-215,
Highest marks –771(96.4%) secured by Sourabh Banerjee.

HIGHER SECONDARY EXAMINATION ,2007

Total appeared – 186 ,75% and above –113,
Highest marks –452 (90.4%) secured by Tamoghno Biswas , ranking 4th in West Bengal and the first among candidates from Kolkata.
Second Highest – Sudipto Tung-442, ranking 14th in West Bengal and 8th among the candidates from Kolkata.

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ADMISSION PROCEDURE

1. **TO NURSERY –I** : AGE : 3YRS 4MONTHS PLUS
(APPLICATION TO BE SUBMITTED IN SEPTEMBER,ADMISSION ON THE BASIS OF ADMISSION TEST).

2. TO CLASS –XI(science/eco-stats-maths/arts) : on the basis of marks secured after the publication of CLASS-X results)

