

# KAMALA NEHRU COLLEGE

## (UNIVERSITY OF DELHI)

### The report read on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2016 at college day

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen! This is a proud moment for me as I take the opportunity to extend a warm welcome to the Honourable Chief Minister of Delhi, Mr. Arvind Kejriwal, Prof Harivansh Chaturvedi, Director Bimtech, Guru Vanashree Rao eminent exponent of Kuchipudi, Chairperson Governing Body Ms. Saba Naqvi, Treasurer, Governing Body Prof. Sahare, GB members, Colleagues, Friends, and dear children.

In its 51 year journey KNC has earned the distinction of being a centre of integrated learning and holistic education congruent with its vision and mission. This journey has been a progressive, exploratory odyssey into the world of knowledge and learning, transcending all barriers of culture, caste, language and religion. This is in accordance with the Vedic inscription on our college emblem that means: Without Knowledge, there is no Salvation. As a women's college with a name that reflects the texture and essence of our nation, KNC has moved ahead in its relentless pursuit of educating, empowering, training and enlightening all its students, so that they step into the outside world as liberally educated individuals who can think effectively and critically, and can communicate with precision, cogency and force.

To inculcate and encourage a culture of research amongst its faculty, KNC is probably the only college in the University of Delhi to have a multi-disciplinary, bi-lingual academic journal *Akademios* initiated in 2007. The journal now has an ISSN accreditation and this year it has graduated as a peer-reviewed research journal. The credit for this goes to our academic faculty member Ms Namita Paul and her team. As a unique one-of-a kind endeavour, *Akademios* contributes significantly to the dissemination of knowledge and research across the country due to its wide circulation. To further this objective, the College has secured membership of the coveted library network DELNET and we now have access to more than two crore bibliographic records and about 5200 libraries.

Amongst the myriad achievements of the members of faculty, Dr. Sarita Sharma of the Department of Sanskrit and Dr. Geetesh Nirban from Philosophy were both awarded The Raman Fellowship for Post-Doctoral Research for Indian Scholars in United States for the year 2013-14 and 2014-2015 respectively by the University Grants Commission. Dr. Carmel Christi of the Department of Journalism is currently pursuing her post-doctoral research in the US having been awarded the Fulbright-Nehru Postdoctoral Fellowship to pursue higher studies. Ms. Jyoti Raghavan also from the Journalism Department was awarded the Doctoral Degree in Sociology by Indira Gandhi National Open University in August 2015. Dr. Sona Mandal of the Department of Economics has been selected for Postdoctoral Associate-ship at The Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla. Ms Monami Basu also from Economics completed her Ph.D from IIT Delhi. Ms. Susan Thomas and Ms Amrita Singh of the English department have been awarded the 2016 Professional Development Grant to attend the TESOL Convention at Batlimore, USA in April, 2016.

I am extremely proud to announce the completion of three Innovative Research Projects awarded to KNC by the University of Delhi by our dedicated faculty members with their respective student teams and the current year has again brought great tidings with the award of four more such projects. Dr. Soma Sengupta of the Commerce Department successfully completed the UGC Major Research Project on "Social Marketing of Green Products. Dr. Kalpana Bhakuni was the lead Principal Investigator for the project on "Reinventing the Brand Positioning of Indian Tourism in the Global Market" that was adjudged as the 'Best Innovative Idea' showcased in 'Antardhwani 15'. In this context, three of our faculty members received the 'Teaching Excellence Award for Innovation' from the Vice Chancellor on the occasion of the 93rd Foundation Day of the University of Delhi .

Conferences, seminars, workshops and lectures are a routine feature of the KNC academic climate. The Department of English organized a two-day international conference on 'Urban Spaces' at the India International Centre, Delhi in February 2015 which opened with a keynote address by Professor Ravi

Sundaram. **The Plenary** Session on 'Inhabiting the City' saw Dr. Shilpa Phadke, Dr. Brinda Bose and others address issues of students' protests and children's spaces in the city. The Sociology Dept. organized a Conference on "Mapping Contours of Cultures: Overlaps and Contradictions" Eminent speakers like Prof. Sasanka Perera, Prof. Tulsi Patel and others were the invited panelists.

The Psychology and Hindi Departments took the initiative to host National Seminars in the college on 'Fundamentalism: Identities Unveiled' and 'Bharatiya Sahitya Mein Dalit Stree Ka Chitran Aur Chintain'

The distinguished speakers for the former were Dr. Sudhir Kakar, Prof. T. K. Oommen, Prof. Nagpal from Ambedkar University and Prof. Gurpreet Mahajan, from J.N.U.

Prestigious organisations like the ICSSR and Sahitya Academy associated with the Hindi Department of the college for the two-day seminar that had panelists from different regions of the country as well as from the US. Writers Urmila Pawar, former Editor of Rashtriya Sahara, Sri Vibhanshu Divyal, poet Rambabu Gautam, Prof. Sheoraj Singh Bechain and others, enlightened the august delegates and guests.

Discursive knowledge has been reinforced practically through a variety of workshops conducted over the past year. The Journalism Department organized a workshop on Creative Writing conducted by Ms Libby Paul of the University of South Carolina in July 2015. The Psychology Department hosted a six-day workshop on "Alternate Therapies" with resource persons Dr. Amit Sen and Dr. Kavita Arora as well as a Workshop on Dance and Movement Therapy by The Creative Movement Therapy Association of India in August 2015. Under the mentorship of Dr. Archana Ojha final year students of the History Department participated in a two-day workshop conducted by INTACH in January 2015. The Mathematics Department organized a very successful workshop on the Maths-based much-in-demand domain of Actuarial Science besides other workshops such as on Mathematica and LaTeX. Under the aegis of the Department of English, **Toni McLaughlan from The University** of Delaware has been inducted as Visiting Faculty for the current academic year as part of a collaboration with the English Language Fellow Programme of the Regional English Language Office of the American Embassy.

KNC follows the proud tradition of commemorating the profound contribution of its reverent founder-Principal Dr. K.K. Gorowara by organizing the Annual Gorowara Memorial Public Lecture Series where the subjects addressed are in keeping with the KNC vision of empowering women through holistic education. The focus of these lectures rests on inspiring and exposing the students to encouraging ideas and experiences of eminent personalities from diverse walks of life. The College has had the privilege of hosting speakers like Prof. Ramchandra Guha, Mr. Muzaffar Ali, Dr. Vandana Shiva, Mr. Harsh Mander, Dr. Sonal Mansingh and Prof. Krishna Kumar in the past and this year it was Prof. S. Irfan Habib who spoke on 'Reading the Past: Some Reflections'.

A valuable opportunity was provided to the student-fraternity by the Department of Political Science that collaborated with the Canadian High Commission in India to organize an interactive Panel Discussion on 'Economic Independence and Skilled Empowerment of Women in the South Asian Region' on February 1st, 2016. The Panel comprised the Premier of the State of Ontario, Canada, Ms. Kathleen Wynne and women parliamentarians from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India. We are proud to acknowledge Dr Nupur Ray for this initiative.

**Academics** has always been our forte and this is made manifest in the numerous positions that the students have secured not only in the South Campus but also at the University level. Even at the college level, there has been a steady rise in academic performance by our students so much so that the prizes for academic and extra-curricular excellence are now distributed over two different days dedicated solely for the purpose. 46 students from second semester, 39 from fourth semester and 43 students from the sixth semester are being awarded on this auspicious occasion today. The sponsored prizes were distributed on the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month at a special function.

Several of our students have made their way to international forums and have secured admission in institutes of higher learning in India and abroad. We are proud to mention that Ms Aakriti Tandon, student of BA (Hons.) Journalism has received a USD 60,000 scholarship for pursuing an MBA programme at Emory University in Atlanta, USA, Ms, Simple Rajrah of the Department of Political

Science received a full scholarship for a three-week workshop at Kings College, London and Ms Neha Nanda of The Mathematics Dept. was one of the 6 candidates at the All India Level to be offered a 1lac 20 thousand rupee scholarship to pursue an integrated Ph.d Programme at the prestigious Indian Institute of Science Education and Research in Mohali Chandigarh.

Under a unique academics- oriented cross cultural initiative on the part of the college, we have had 30 foreign exchange students since 2011 as part of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Society for the International Education of Students. KNC is perhaps the first college to have organized an interdisciplinary Credit Course at the undergraduate level in collaboration with a foreign university namely Concordia University, Montreal.

Amongst other laurels, worth a special mention is the inauguration of the French Language Laboratory in early 2015 and with that KNC earned the distinction of being the first College in the University of Delhi to do so. We are also happy to announce the approval of the University for offering French as a Discipline Course in the BA Programme IN OUR COLLEGE. The course would commence in the new academic session.

The students of KNC are at the forefront when it comes to raising awareness on social issues and proving themselves as forerunners of change. The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit at KNC relentlessly works for social causes like cancer awareness, literacy programmes, upliftment of under-privileged children and the like. The NSS Benevolence Blood Donation Camp was organised in the College in association with Blood Connect and earlier with The Indian Red Cross Society. In August 2015 the NGO Pratyek organized the 'Nine is Mine' campaign at the JLN stadium which saw the participation of 75 Volunteers from KNC. The Women's Development Cell and NSS jointly conducted a workshop in the month of September in collaboration with Crowd Guard from **Zurich** which aims at raising consciousness among the youth on the concept of safety issues in public places.

The NCC unit of KNC imparts training in Disaster Management, drills, rock climbing, rifle shooting and helps conduct the Swachhata Abhiyan. NCC cadet Ms. Ananya brought honours to the College by representing the country in Sri Lanka. In September 2015 the NCC was awarded a certificate by the *Limca Book of World Records* for the 'Largest Yoga Performance' by a single uniformed youth organization simultaneously at multiple venues on International Yoga Day. This year our cadets were part of the Republic Day Camp as well the parade.

The College is sensitive towards the differently-abled and our EOC/Enabling Unit works in complete synergy with the Administration to make modifications in the existing infrastructure to make the campus barrier-free for them. The College periodically upgrades and maintains its infrastructure and as part of the extension of the College building an extra floor is to be added to the existing structure besides lifts and additional ramps. The relevant NOC's are already in place.

To mark the observance of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for all (2014-2024) The IARC Centre for UN conducted a short term course on sustainable energy under "RIO plus 22 UN Sustainable Energy for All India Programme" in collaboration with the Department of Political Science of the college followed by the UN Certification Exam .

KNC promotes environmental consciousness and women's empowerment with equal zeal. Green Beans, the environment club, has been conducting an Add-on Certificate Course on Environment in collaboration with the Department of Environment, Govt. of NCT of Delhi. This year the society has taken up collaborative research with the Disaster Research Centre, JNU where the aim is to conduct Community Resilience Studies and disaster preparedness. The International Centre for Culture and Education acknowledged KNC for its participation in The Green Revolution Global Certification

Programme that educates inspires and acts against climate change. This programme is supported by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

An overwhelming number of Sports awards reiterates our strong belief that sports are an integral part of education and contribute significantly to character building, discipline, leadership, time management and

a balanced physical, spiritual and mental strength. We bagged the first position in the football Adidas Uprising Tournament as well as at the Shiv Nadar University Basketball Tournament in October 2015 and the second position in the CII Soccer Festival held in December 2015. Last year KNC was declared the Inter College Boxing Champions with four Gold Medals, two Silver Medals and one Bronze Medal. Pooja, Kanika, Shivani and Heena represented Delhi University at the All India Inter-Varsity Boxing Championship where a Gold and a Bronze Medal came our way. KNC also bagged a gold and two silver medals in Boxing in the Delhi Olympic Week in October 2015. Bhawana and Jasjot Kaur won the Bronze Medal in Gymnastics at the Delhi Olympic Week. Delhi State Judo Championship fetched us two Silver medals and a Gold Medal. Having won a battery of medals in India Jyoti represented the Indian Kurash team in the 63kgs. weight category and secured the third position at Chinese Taipei, China, 2015. Athletics and Cricket were not far behind either.

Like our strong academic foundation, our extra-curricular cultural activities too win us laurels all the time. Accolades in the form of many firsts and others including Special Mentions have been received by the College student fraternity in several inter-college competitions. To mention a few we have members from Nupur The Indian classical and folk dance society winning awards at Ramanujan College, PGDAV College, Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Management, Ambedkar University, IIT Roorkee, Indian music awards by Sangeetika members at Miranda House, Lady Irwin College, Sri Venkateswara and at Daulat Ram College, the fashion team Glitz at Symobsis, Lady Irwin College, Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences, NSIT, University College of Medical Science and others, and the quiz team Kaleidoscope at Gargi College, Kirori Mal College, SRCC and Deen Dayal Upadhaya College.

The constant endeavour of Expressions through the world of creative writing to promote global appreciation, bonding, peace and harmony through collaborative literary evenings with Poetry Across Cultures is commendable. Cross Cultural Evenings organized with the support of The Cultural Attaches of various Embassies have seen interactions with poets and writers across the world. Time constraint prevents me from mentioning the numerous other societies, their outreach programmes and other achievements here. They, however, find place in the detailed College Report.

Our dynamic Placement Cell familiarizes students with the necessary skills for career opportunities and facilitates their internships in the corporate sector. This year we have had corporates like Ernst & Young, KPMG, Oberoi Group, Wipro, Google and Zomato so far, and companies like Capital IQ, Lime Tray and promising Start Ups are in the pipeline for campus placements.

The College has a strong Alumni Association and the institution is proud of its alumina who occupy respectable positions in society and are doing commendable work in their respective fields. One of our alumina is currently Deputy Dean, Students Welfare, University of Delhi.

Our accomplishments could not have been possible without the constant support and encouragement of the esteemed members of our Governing Body, the University of Delhi and our now superannuated Principal, Dr. Minoti Chatterjee. We acknowledge with gratitude their contributions in the smooth functioning of the College. I would conclude by expressing immense gratitude and heartfelt thanks to our dynamic academic and administrative colleagues, to our spirited and enthusiastic students and last but certainly not the least to our superannuated colleagues who've been very encouraging and supportive in every endeavor along our journey on the growth path with a sense of optimism and a desire to work relentlessly to achieve our vision.

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