



**GARGI COLLEGE
ANNUAL REPORT
1974-75**



Chief Guest :

Professor R. C. Mehrotra, M.Sc D Phil (Alld), Ph.D,D.Sc. (London)
F.R.I.C., F.N.A.Sc. F.A.Sc. F.N A.

Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi.

Saturday, 1 March 1975, at 11 a. m.

Madam Chairman, Prof. Mehrotra, Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I on behalf of the students—the karamcharies, the teaching and the administrative staff of this college, extend a warm welcome and express my personal thanks to you, for having so readily accepted our invitation to be the Chief Guest on what we all consider to be an important day in the life of our institution which has yet two more years to complete the first decade of its history. If the building programme had not received a serious set back due to various reasons, we might have had the pleasure of your coming to our new and impressive building. In the past seven years, we have not had scientist of your eminence to grace this occasion. Therefore we wish to reassure you that our joy is redoubled by the fact that you are not only the head of this growing and important University of the metropolis but also a scientist of world-wide reputation.

Your academic achievements are far too numerous to mention in this brief address of welcome, and besides, are too well known to those who belong to your discipline and in particular to your field of specialization.

What you have achieved in the span of three decades can easily be held as a model for those who have any spark of academic ambition still alive in them to emulate. We are deeply impressed by the fact that you do not only hold the highest academic honours that any scholar could wish for, and the consequent world wide reputation that you enjoy, but also your assumption of this high office as Vice-Chancellor with its attendant difficulties, has in no wise dimmed your zeal for teaching, for research, and above all for inspiring and guiding research work. This combination, if I may say so, is unique, for the burden of administration, even of a small institution by the sheer weight of petty details, can crush whatever enthusiasm one might have for teaching or research.

We welcome you to our college—one of the twenty colleges started by the Delhi Administration, but among them few are offering, as we are, Honours in various science subjects plus having Bachelor of

Science Degree in Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology. We would wish you to know some thing of what we have been able to achieve for ourselves against difficult, if not insurmountable odds, and of being able to generate the *esprit-de-corp* amongst the students and teachers, and the sense of pride in the institution which indeed from any point of view, is the life and hall mark of any good institution. We record below some of the academic, cultural and sports achievements of the last academic year.

Admission to various courses taught was keenly sought for, but due to lack of accommodation the actual intake in the first year was only a fraction of the total applications received.

On 15th August, 1974 we had 1197 students on the rolls of the college as against 1243 in 1973. 539 students were admitted to B. A. (Pass) Course, 48 to B. Com. (Pass) and 286 to the B. A. (Hons.) courses. In B. Sc. (Genl.) Group B. we had 230 students, and 94 in B. Sc. (Hons.) courses in Botany and Zoology. The intake of Science students was 5 more than the previous year.

The growing demand for higher education has always been posing a tremendous problem. In spite of the very limited accomodation for class rooms and laboratories, we have been readily agreeing to the suggestion of the University of Delhi in admitting more students, particularly in Science courses.

Our fifth batch of students appeared in the final Degree examination of the University of Delhi held in April, 1974. Our results have been encouraging. The B.A. (Pass) percentage was 82.9%. In Hindi (Honours) we secured 87.5%, in Sanskrit (Honours) 88.89% and in Political Science (Honours) 94.4%. Miss Sushma Rani from B.A. (Sanskrit) Hons. Ist Year secured 70% marks whereas Miss S. Sitalakshmi secured 68% marks in the same examination. Miss Gurpreet Mahajan from B.A. (Hons.) Political Science secured 68.5%, standing 3rd in the University. Our Science results have been still more encouraging. In Botany (Honours) our result was 100% and in Zoology (Hons) 95.8%. The B. Sc. (Genl.) Group B, results were also encouraging. Miss Madhu Pande secured first position while Miss Punita secured second position in the University in the first year of B. Sc. (Hons.) Botany. Nearly 35 students from our college have got admissions in the various medical colleges this year on the basis of competitive examinations, which is indeed very creditable.

To help the B. Sc. (Hons.) students, more facilities were provided in the laboratories and have been greatly improved within the limited space available. A new Psychology Laboratory has been housed in one of the class rooms.

All our efforts in setting up proper laboratories with necessary equipment would have been futile but for the active help and co-operation of the University of Delhi and the U. G. C. in releasing timely grants for equipment and other services. We earnestly thank the authorities for their prompt action.

B. A. (Pass) Course in Commerce was added to the subjects taughts this year. Keeping in view the growing need for job-oriented courses, we have requested the University of Delhi for permission to start such courses. Our request for Honours courses in Economics, English, Chemistry and Carnatic Music, B. A. Pass courses in Geography, Education and Sociology, M.A. Courses in Hindi and Political Science, and B. Sc. (General) Group 'A' Course is under consideration by the University of Delhi.

The increase in number of students and the subjects offered necessitated the appointment of additional staff. The strength of the teaching staff has risen from 76 during the previous year to 81 at present.

The rigid conditions imposed by the University for placement of teachers in the Selection Grade were successfully fulfilled by Mrs. Ranjit Bhalla, (Department of Political Science) Dr. (Miss) S. Mahapatra, (Department of Hindi) Dr. (Mrs.) Krishna Mehra, (Department of Physics) and Dr. (Mrs.) A. Chintamani, (Department of Botany). The cases of (Mrs.) Bharti Bhattacharya and Dr. (Miss) K.K. Pushpavathy, (Department of Botany) Mrs. C. K. Khurana, and Dr. (Miss) Prem Saxena, (Department of Chemistry) Dr. (Mrs.) Sharda Sachdeva, (Department of Hindi) and Dr. (Miss) A.R. Goswami, (Department of Sanskrit) have recently been recommended by the Selection Committees and their cases have been forwarded to the University. I congratulate all of them on their success. With the addition of these lecturers, we have now seventeen lecturers in the Selection Grade.

Dr. (Miss) Veena Bhatnagar has successfully completed her doctorate degree in her field of specialization. I extend to her my heartiest congratulations.

Quite a few of our faculty members are actively engaged in research. Mrs. Vidya Sharma, Lecturer in Hindi has already submitted her thesis for the Ph.D. Degree. Three other lecturers of the Department of Hindi, Mrs. Radha Aggarwal, Miss Manju Taneja and Miss Pushp Lata are working for their Doctoral thesis at the University of Delhi.

Several lecturers are working for the M. Phil degree at the Jawaharlal Nehru University. Mrs. Manjeet Singh has completed her M. Phil Degree. Miss Ishrat Sultana, Lecturer in the Department of History. Miss Sudha Baliga and Mrs. Minoti Chatterjee, Lecturers in the Department of Political Science have submitted their dissertation. Mrs. C.K. Khurana and Mrs. Manju Avinashi (Department of Chemistry) have completed their M. Phil and are working for their Doctoral thesis.

Dr. (Mrs.) Lalita Sehgal has been publishing papers to various well known Botanical & Scientific journals.

Dr. (Miss) A.R. Goswami of Sanskrit Department has made major contribution towards Indological studies.

Miss Atreyi Chatterjee from the Department of Economics has been actively engaged in research on the subject of Urbanization Population and Family Planning and has contributed several papers and given lectures at several seminars and conferences.

Members of the faculty have been participating in All India Conferences in their fields of discipline. The All India Science Conference sponsored by the Delhi University was well attended by the teachers and students of this college.

The Library Department, as in the past, has been quite active in selecting books for the students and the staff.

During the year under review, 2360 volumes were added to the Library, increasing the total library collection to 21258, as against 18,898 during the previous year.

A recurring grant of Rs. 15,000/- was received from the U.G.C. in addition to Rs. 10,000/- as non-recurring grant for books in Psychology and History. Besides this, a sum of Rs. 37,000/- was collected from the students at Rs. 30/- per student as Library and Reading Room Fee. Thus the total amount available for the Library was Rs. 62,000/- .

The library continues to provide bibliographical service to its readers. Fortnightly lists of new arrivals are regularly supplied to the Staff Room and Common Room with a copy displayed on the Notice Board.

May I add an extra word whose relevance springs from the continued state of transition in which our Universities and College education, is going through in general and in particular, our own University which fortunately does not carry some of the deeper strains which some prestigious Universities of the past, are manifesting. But this does not mean that we are entirely free from trouble. The old system was suddenly dislocated and its balance upset by an incursion of all types of forces which have sprung up within the University. The last five years have witnessed the arrival and departure of four eminent educationists who valiantly tried to channelise these forces and work out reform in the examination system; participation of students and teachers in various academic and administrative bodies—none too easy a task in a country which is so new to the experience of democracy and where the essential pre-conditions of functioning in a democratic mode are either non-existent or have yet to be worked out.

The great misfortune, in my judgement, of our universities, both here and else, is the inroads which political parties have made both in the student and teaching bodies, with disastrous consequences. I would like to believe that it is our business as teachers and students to learn to draw the line—sharp and clear between the academic world and the political world, as the more experienced and maturer democracies in the West have; we must learn to treat an academic issue as an academic issue and the problems of administration within the academic world as our problems, which we have to solve in our own way without the undue interference by official authorities, least of all by political leaders, whose insidious and subtle shadow hangs around the

University and College—vitiating the atmosphere and making it difficult for the University authorities, and teachers and students to resolve their domestic problems in their own manner. Therefore, I feel strongly that we have to collectively preserve and cherish the autonomy of the university to be able to take decisions freely, so that we can call our soul our own.

We sincerely hope that with your wide experience of teaching and administration, in nearly half a dozen universities, will enable you to solve some of the unresolved issues and to restore the balance that we lost a few years ago. A little bit of imaginative and sympathetic understanding and above all the human touch can go a long way in easing the tensions which sometime emerge when morally legitimate demands made by this section or the other of the academic community are, rudely rejected.

We, in our own way, working within the constraints like all other institutions—have tried our best to preserve our balance and unity against those forces which have undermined the life of the University and of some unfortunate sister institutions. For this, I think, the credit goes entirely to our student leadership in the first place—which has refused to be drawn into the maelstrom of University and student politics, if only to preserve their integrity and unity; secondly to the growing teaching faculty which has absorbed the shock of growing numbers in its stride and achieved a harmonious relation with the students. Thirdly, to the administrative staff and the Karamcharies whose whole hearted co-operation at all colleges functions has been for me as Principal, a heartening sign.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not record my deep sense of appreciation of the wonderful co-operation, and encouragement which I had received from the previous Governing Body particularly to its Chairman Kanwar Rajendra Singh—which encouragement and co-operation is now cheerfully extended to me by the present Board constituted in November, 1974 with Smt. Nirmala Malhotra as its Chairman and Smt. Prabhojot Kaur, Treasurer. I hope that with their help we would get over the stumbling blocks which have come up unexpectedly and temporarily stalled our building project, so that

we shall be able to move to our handsome new building within a year. I ardently pray and hope so.

And now in the end, Sir, may I repeat my personal gratitude to you for the time that you have spared us, amidst your numerous heavy responsibility in a new environment and I will now ask the President of the Student's Union to present the Union report before I request you to give away the prizes.

(Mrs.) Indira Thakurdas

Gargi College,

1 March, 1975.