



THE FOUNDER PRINCIPAL SPEAKS



LONG LIVE BIRJHORA MAHAVIDYALAYA

Dr. Mrigen Das.

My tenure of service as Principal of Birjhora Mahavidyalaya came to an end on the last day of April 2010 and thus my active, lively and joyful association for more than two decades with the College came to a halt. Since the inception of the College the period I had to pass through was weighty because I had to go ahead with the responsibility of establishing a new College, that too a degree Science College without having any past experience of its kind. It would be worth mentioning that Birjhora Mahavidyalaya till today is maintaining its unique character of being the only

degree Science College under the University of Gauhati. With the active support from benevolent public, cooperating and supporting Staff and Students, I had endeavored to escort the institution towards its good by fulfilling its mission.

Reminiscence provided by the occasion is filled with a sense of accomplishment. During the 24 years of its existence, the social accreditation and goodwill that the College has received is a potential source to go ahead with its mission. The College has acquired adulthood, having developed a beautiful campus, a range of undergraduate departments supplemented with 3 academic centers of distance and open learning namely – IGNOU, IDOL, G.U and KK Handique State Open University. From six teachers and forty six students at the inception it is a brisk but firm step forward to its present form i.e. around 40 teaching and non teaching Staff, 400 degree students of Science discipline. It's 40000 sq. ft. buildings spread over 50 bighas of land includes playground, gardens, orchidarium etc. The College library which started with a small collection of books in 1986 has more than 10000 books in its selves today and with internet facilities. Aseparate Seminar Hall, a lecture hall equipped with modern audio video systems, well organized Computer laboratories are added facilities for the teachers and the learners.

I consider the submission of the report of self study of the institution well prepared by our dedicated faculty members at the time of completion of only 16 years and forwarding it to NAAC for assessment, a most challenging and

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significant event. Subsequently, in the earlier part of 2004, NAAC has assessed and accredited our institution with overall p.c. 72.05 % and graded as B. Containing the impact of assessment and setting the College on path of continuous improvement was always an agenda of prime importance for all of us. It is hoped and I wish, the institution will be in a better grade during its re-accreditation. Grants allocated to this College by the UGC during its XI th plan if not enough but not meager can transform some of the weaknesses to its strength.

Now let me offer my heartiest congratulations to the newly admitted students, students reading in other classes and to the outgoing students. I would like to say to my students – these are challenging times, you will soon be going out into a fiercely competitive world. You will be facing the larger problems of social life. May I suggest that your response to the challenges of time should be neither a cynical retreat from your responsibility nor purposeless anger? You will go far if you have faith in yourselves and in constructive actions.

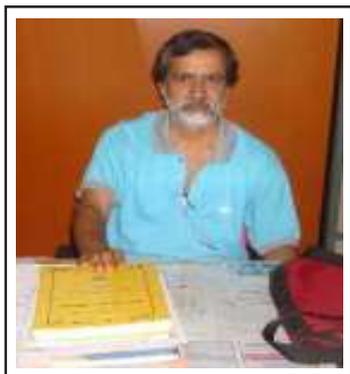
My sincere thanks go out to the members of editorial board of 'DAWN' for having enabled me to be with you through this page of the newsletter.

Long Live 'DAWN'. Long Live Birjhora Mahavidyalaya.

Migun Das.

From the Principal's Desk...

For the first time in 1986, when I was standing on the platform in front of the black board with a chalk pencil in one hand, I was trembling before the students; of course it was not



because of the subject matter that I had to teach, but the general fear psychosis of a student still persisted in my mind. Learning is a life long and continuous process as we all know; yet transforming myself suddenly into a so called college teacher from a student dominated my mind at that time and led to my feeling of nervousness.

The same feeling appeared in my mind on the evening of 30th April, 2010 when I had to take the responsibility of the college as Principal in Charge. The assurance given by the founder Principal Dr. M. Das, the Governing Body and also by my fellow colleagues to help me in every step consoled me a lot. But everybody knows that the role of an administrator and that of a teacher are on opposite poles. The balance between the two makes one a good academic administrator.

The University Grants Commission, State and Central Government give stress on the quality of Higher Education. Various schemes like Remedial class, Career Counseling etc. are there for the encouragement and up-liftment of the meritorious poor students, Schedule Caste, and Schedule Tribe students. Since students are the prime stakeholders in an educational institute, all these schemes will be futile without the students' active support and mass participation.

The college today is at a cross road; though it has crossed twenty four glorious years in its academic odyssey, still it has miles to go. The year 2010-11 is the silver jubilee year. The college fraternity along with the sponsoring body of the college has already decided to observe this occasion with various programmes throughout the year. For the success of all these programmes, participation of students, parents and local people is a prime criterion. The role of the alumni – the protagonists of the main drama is crucial to the silver jubilee celebrations. The unity and teamwork among all the components will not only make the programmes successful but also will give a new dimension to the academic scenario of the college. Let us be optimistic.

THE COLLEGE FELICITATES AND BIDS FAREWELL TO THE FOUNDER PRINCIPAL DR. MRIGEN DAS

The 30th of April 2010 marked a momentous change in the history of Birjhora Mahavidyalaya. On that day, the members of the Birjhora Mahavidyalaya family bade a tearful farewell to the founder principal of the college, Dr Mrigen Das. On that day the principal, Dr M Das held a meeting of all teaching and nonteaching staff of the college where he updated the gathering on various college matters. Later on, he handed over formal charge to the new principal in charge Dr K K Sarma.

The Teachers Unit of the college bestowed a 'phoolam gamosa' and a bouquet of flowers to Dr. Mrigen Das as a mark of their respect and love. Various members of the staff also felicitated Dr. M Das with 'Phoolam Gamoosas'.



A 'phoolam gamosa' and a bouquet of flowers were also given to Dr K K Sarma by the members of the staff to welcome him as the new principal.

On the 4th of May a formal public function was held in the college premises to felicitate Dr Mrigen Das. It was attended by local dignitaries including the honourable MLA Mr Phanibhushan Choudhury. Members of the founding committee of the college also attended the meeting. Speeches were made by different members of the gathering which highlighted

the memorable moments in building up Birjhora Mahavidyalaya from its nascent state and the developments leading to its present position. The invaluable contribution of Dr. Mrigen Das, which went beyond his official duties towards establishing a successful institution, was emphasized by all. Dr. Mrigen Das was a part of the dedicated team who worked for the establishment of the college way back in 1986. At the culmination of Dr. M Das's dynamic career it can be rightly said that he built the very foundations that made this college such a success.



Members of the Birjhora Mahavidyalaya family presented Dr Mrigen Das and his better half Dr. Belamalati Das with gifts as a mark of their affection and esteem. The secretary of Birjhora Mahavidyalaya Teachers Unit, Mrs Hemanti Bala Roy Barman read out the citation. A tree plantation ceremony was also



held on that occasion. A delicious lunch was also organized for all guests present on the occasion.

As the Birjhora Mahavidyalaya family bids farewell to their founder principal, their warmest thoughts remain with him. We wish him and his family good health and happiness always. We also expect to have his valuable insight, advice and guidance for the smooth functioning of our college in the future.

COLLEGE EVENTS

- Dr. Khanindra Kr Sarma, Mr. M. Das and Dr. A. Deka attended a seminar cum workshop at Gauhati University where the modalities of the proposed semester system to be introduced in colleges affiliated to it were discussed. On their return they shared the knowledge with the college staff at a seminar held at the college premises for this purpose.
- The twenty fourth annual college festival of Birjhora Mahavidyalaya for 2009-2010 was held from fourth to eighth January 2010. The festival included host of events that tested the talents of the students in the field of sports, literature, art, music and dance.

The principal Dr. Mrigen Das inaugurated the festival by hoisting the college flag. The vibrant, fun-filled four days had the students participating in cricket, volleyball, cycling, athletic events, carom, table tennis. The literary section competitions included short story writing, on the spot poem writing, news reading extempore speech competition, debate and quiz. The cultural events had song and dance competition in various categories like Jyoti sangeet, Bhupendra sangeet, Borgeet, Folk song, Assamese modern song, Bengali modern song among others.

The annual college wall magazine “**UTTARAN**” reflecting the creativity of the college students was inaugurated by the principal Dr Mrigen Das. An interdepartmental wall magazine competition was also held.



The prize giving ceremony and a colourful cultural evening which included performances by alumni marked the end of the celebrations



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- The Saraswati Puja for 2010 was celebrated in the college premises on the 20th of January . The Puja ceremony was performed in an atmosphere of profound devotion and solemnity, followed by “*Pushpanjali*” and chanting of “*Saraswati Bandana*”. This was followed by *Prasad* distribution and a ‘*Pritibhoj*’. The presence, support and contributions of the college family were responsible for the success of the annual event



- Birjhora Mahavidyalaya has brought out the 10th edition of the college magazine this year. The college magazine ‘*PURBAKASH*’ was released by the principal Dr. M. Das during a simple ceremony attended by the staff and students of the college. ‘*PURBAKASH*’ not only highlights the

events and achievements of the college but also showcases the creative talents and writing skills of the Birjhora family, along with inspiring messages by honorable people related to the college.



- A seminar on ‘**Environmental Studies**’ was held on 19th May 2010. Mrs Hemanti Bala Roy Barman and Mrs Arundhati Mech spoke on the occasion. This was a part of the requirement of submitting a feedback after attending a refresher course on environmental studies at the Academic Staff College/Gauhati University .Mrs H Barman spoke on the legal aspects of environmental education while Mrs A. Mech’s lecture dealt with the genesis and evolution of environmental studies.

- The Career and Counseling Cell of the college organized a lecture on “**Opportunities in the Banking Sector**” on 24th of June 2010. Mr Diganta Saikia, Branch Manager, State Bank of India, Bongaigaon branch was the guest speaker. He spoke on the present scenario of the banking sector in India and the job opportunities available there. He explained about the recruitment process and the appropriate preparation of students who chose banking as a career. He also suggested that coaching should be arranged in the college campus for interested candidates. An interactive session followed the talk. Mrs Purnima Devi, Dept of Zoology offered the vote of thanks on the occasion



NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OFFICE

- The Scheme of Remedial Coaching at Undergraduate Level by the UGC has been introduced in the college. This coaching would be available to students of Birjhora Mahavidyalaya to overcome their weakness in academic performance. The remedial classes are being co-ordinated by Mr Munindra Nath Thakuria, Dept. of Chemistry. Classes have begun from the month of June 2010.

SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS / EXTENSION WORK

- Mr Munindra Nath Thakuria, Selection Grade Lecturer, Dept. of Chemistry, Birjhora Mahavidyalaya, Bongaigaon, presented a research paper entitled “**Removal of Cu (II) from drinking water samples by adsorption using rice husk**” in the International Congress of Chemistry and Environment, 2009 held at Ubonratchathani, Thailand from 21st to 23rd January, 2010.

- Mr B K Saha, Dept of Zoology participated in a training program from 27th to 29th January 2010 on “**Bioinformatics: Recent Trends in Biological Sequence analysis**” under the guidance of Gauhati University, sponsored by Bioinformatics Centre and DBT, Govt. of India.
- Mr Hemanta Kumar Saud, lecturer, Dept of Economics had extended his services as external monitor (Polio) for SIA January and February 2010 in Goalpara and Barpeta district. This responsibility was entrusted to him by W .H.O, NPSP Unit, Bongaigaon.
- Mr Hemanta Kumar Saud, lecturer, Dept of Economics delivered a lecture on “**Protection of Environment and Waste Land development**” on the occasion of National Integration camp organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra, Bongaigaon. More than 150 youths from Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, West Bengal, Manipur and Assam participated in the interactive lecture session held on 4th February.
- Dr Ranu Roy and Dr Ananta Borah of Botany department participated in training cum awareness program on “**Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers’ Rights**” organized by

the IPR Cell, Assam Agricultural university, Jorhat in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bongaigaon on 25th February 2010 at Bongaigaon. This one day program was sponsored by Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, Govt of India and addressed the need to recognize and protect the rights of farmers in respect of their contribution made at any time in conserving, improving and making available plant genetic resources for the development of new plant varieties with due emphasis on protection to the plant breeder

- Mr B K Saha, Dept of Zoology presented a paper at a national seminar on **"Assessment, conservation and value addition of Biodiversity"** held at NEHU, Shillong on 22nd and 23rd of April '10. This seminar was held under the auspices of "University with potential for excellence(UPE)".
- Mrs Beauty Das, Dept of English attended a UGC sponsored national workshop on **"Policies and problems of higher education in Assam"** organized by Handique Girls' College in collaboration with the Assam College Teachers' Association (ACTA) on 4th and 5th of June 2010. Eminent educationist and internationally acclaimed scientist Prof Yash Pal addressed the gathering and observed that rejuvenation of the education system is the need of the hour.
- Mr M Das, H.O.D, Dept. of Mathematics participated in a workshop **"Changing Profile of ODL Learner: New strategies for Counseling and Tutoring"**, organized by Institute of Distance and Open Learning, GU in collaboration with Distance educational council, IGNOU, New Delhi on June 23rd 2010.

PUBLICATIONS

- Dr O. P. Sah Department of Physics has published one research paper namely **"Nonlinear excitations of kinetic Alfvén waves in electron-positron-ion plasmas"** [17 (2010) 032306; published online 12 March 2010] in the journal **"Physics of Plasmas"** an international journal of American Institute of Physics, USA. This is the third research paper published by the author under UGC sponsored ongoing major research project in the department of Physics of this college.
- M.N. Thakuria, Department of Chemistry has published a research paper **"A study on Municipal solid waste management in Bongaigaon, Assam"** in an international journal *Nature Environment and Pollution Technology*, in Dec, 2009.
- Dr Ananta Borah, lecturer in Botany has written a book **"ASOMOR UDBHID ARU CHORAI"** (Plants and Birds of Assam) jointly with Dr. Ranjan Kumar Das of Tinsukia College published by Tezpur University in March 2010. The book has valuable information on indigenous plants and birds of Assam with photographs and descriptions.
- Mr. Paresh Chakravarty, Department of Chemistry has published a research paper **'Removal of lead(II) from aqueous solution using heartwood of Areca Catechu powder'** in an international journal *DESALINATION* (June 2010) which is an Elsevier publication from Amsterdam, Netherland.



EXAMINATION NEWS

The university examinations part I, II, and III were held smoothly at the college from February 2009 to April 2009. A total number of 104 candidates in 1st year, 82 candidates in IInd year and 79 candidates in IIIrd year wrote the university examinations from the college.

SCHOOL CHILDREN VISIT THE COLLEGE.

The primary school children of KV New Bongaigaon visited the college as a part of an educational tour of their school. The children were escorted around the herbal garden and orchiderium and introduced to the different plant varieties. They also visited the biological science laboratories and saw the different specimens on display.



RESEARCH PROJECT

Dr Ranu Roy of Botany Department has been awarded a Minor research Project by the UGC. The project is entitled "A Study on the traditional variety of rice plant cultivated in the Bongaigaon area of Bongaigaon district of Assam". She is working on the morphology as well as chemical properties of seeds of different varieties of rice growing in Bongaigaon locality.





BMTA NEWS

The Teachers' Unit of Birjhora Mahavidyalaya met on 8th May'2010 to select the office bearers for the 2010-2011 session. The officebearers with their respective portfolios are as given below

- President ——— Mr M. Karki
- Vice President ——— Mr M. Das
- Secretary ——— Mr N. K. Das
- Joint Secretary —— Mrs A. Mech
- Treasurer ——— Dr. G. K. Medhi

A delegation from BMTA attended the Annual Zonal Conference of this region held at Bongaigaon college on 20th June. Mr M N Thakuria was nominated from our college unit as the zonal representative for the current year.

Dr Dinesh Deka, Mr Pronoy Deka, Dr Amal Deka were the representatives from Birjhora Mahavidyalaya for the annual ACTA conference held at Nagaon from 24th to 27th June. The revised pay scale according to UGC notification, early publication of rules governing provincialised colleges, common annual educational calendar and comprehensive policy for higher education were discussed at the conference.

There is no denying that change is a factor in our lives. The human experience is filled with necessary losses and triumphs. Yet some individuals find it hard to accept change as a way of life. In our habits, personal life and in our workplace we tend to create a familiar environment around us, rarely wanting to venture outside our comfort zone.

Yet change is inevitable for evolution.. Instead of resisting it, we should understand that it provides us an opportunity to grow as human beings. It has been said "***When God closes one door He opens another.***" Accepting changes simply means focusing on the door that is opening rather than on the door that has just closed.

The Editorial Board extends their gratitude to the principal Dr K K Sharma for giving them the opportunity to publish this newsletter. We remain grateful to the staff and students of the college for their help, realizing as always the team effort needed for bringing out this newsletter.

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