

Brief History of the College :

It had been a long cherished dream of the people of Santragachi to have a degree college in their locality. The dream gradually turned into a demand. At this turn, certain events also coincided. **Late Sudhir Kumar Ghosh** decided to donate his land and the building situated at Dharmatala in Ramrajatala. After that with the initiative of the then local MLA **Sri Satyen Ghosh** and some important persons of the area, a trustee was formed before setting up the college. It was 26th November, 1984. On 10th March, 1985 in a public meeting presided over by **Late Raghudas Baul** and attended by **Late Sudhir Kumar Ghosh**, the college was named after the leading educationist, respected public leader and ex-minister of Industry and Commerce (Govt. of W. B.), **Late Professor Dr. Kanailal Bhattacharyya**.

Before the commencement of fund raising programmes, a nine-member committee was set up with the then District Magistrate of Howrah **Sri Sumanta Chowdhury, IAS** as the President of the same. Some local bodies and many education lovers came in with monetary help. Under the leadership of the noted Engineer **Late Raghudas Baul**, a group of dedicated engineers came forward to lay down the plan and supervise the reformation of the old building and to establish new classrooms. With their cumulative support the old building was repaired and extended as per the need. Two new class rooms were also set up.

In the month of September 1985, the college received permission to organize courses in five subjects – Bengali, English, History, Philosophy and Education from Calcutta University. On 22nd September 1985, the college was officially inaugurated by **Late Prof. Sambhu Ghosh**, the then Honourable Minister of Higher Education of Govt. of West Bengal. With the setting up of the institution, the coveted dream of many a people was realized.

From September 1985 to January 1988, as the Founder Secretary, the then local MLA **Sri Satyen Ghosh** led the development and the management of the college. In December 1985, Sri Keshab Chandra Khanra joined the institution as the first permanent lecturer in the Bengali department. He temporarily shouldered the responsibility of the post of the Teacher-in-charge from 11th September 1986 to 19th January 1988. On 20th January 1988, **Sri Nripendranath Bhattacharya** joined as the permanent Principal. With the permanent Principal, the overall activity of the institution received a fresh new start.

The consistent good result of the college, coupled with the fact that there were not many degree colleges in a vast surrounding locality, saw a recurrent rise in the number of the students. But the infrastructure was inadequate to this growing number of students. Along with this, the need for University grant and the demand of the local student community prompted initiatives for infrastructure development. Fund raising operations were organised with the aim of setting up a new college building and the extension of the old one. A charity show organized by **Mrs. Mamata Shankar and her ballet troupe** and the State Government permitted **lottery events** raised considerable amounts. Along with these came the donation of Rs. 2 lakhs from the magazine "**DakshiniBarta**" with the personal initiative of the then local M. P. **Sri Priya Ranjan**

Dasmunsi and the donation of Rs. 1 lakh by noted donor of the locality, **Sri Debkumar Chowdhury**. This fund was utilized to establish a new building with two large classrooms and the teachers' room. During different phases of its construction, the contribution and tireless initiative shown by the teachers, non-teaching staff, students and the local people were outstanding. In the meantime, with the state-government grant of Rs. 50,000/- the old building was also repaired and reformed. New land acquisition for the construction of the **Science Block** and Enlisting the College as 'Govt.-aided College' under (Sec) **2(f) and 12(b) of UGC** vide order no.8-48/87 dated 22nd October, 1994 was initiated by the then Principal **Sri Nripendranath Bhattacharya**.

With the untiring effort of the authority from the academic year 1995-96 the college received a new dimension with the grant of permission to organize courses of the department of Commerce (Pass/General). Along with this, the plan to receive permission for few other subjects of Humanities and for the honours course of Commerce was still there. For further development in infrastructure a grant of Rs. 3 lakh 17 thousand was received from the M.P. Local Area Development Scheme of the then M. P. of Howrah Sadar, **Late Sushanta Chakrabarty**. Along with this Howrah Municipal Corporation donated another Rs. 17,000/- for the development of the college. These grants put together helped the extension of the new building to the second floor, under the supervision of H.M.C. With the retirement of the Principal **Sri Nripendranath Bhattacharya** in May 1998, Sri Keshab Chandra Khanra once again took up the responsibility of the Teacher-in-charge. After that Sri Kamal Kumar Basu was in charge of the post from August 1999 to 30-11-1999. On 1st December, 1999 **Dr. Dilip Kumar Sahoo** joined as the permanent Principal of the college. His appointment saw significant rise in the overall development of the institution.

From the M.P. LAD scheme of the then M.P. **Sri Bikram Sarkar** the college received a donation of Rs. 2 lakhs to build a new sector on the ground floor of the main block. Along with this, during the ninth five-year plan, UGC for the first time granted Rs. 6 lakhs for the college. With this there was a grant of Rs. 2 lakh 50 thousand to buy library books and xerox machine and an additional grant of Rs. 50 thousand to run the system of 'remedial coaching'. Calcutta University has offered us the responsibility of being the centre of B.A., B.Sc. and B. Com (Part I) examinations. At present our college is also the answer script distribution centre of B.A. (Part I) examinations of subjects like Bengali, Political Science, History, Education etc.

Late Sailendranath Das, Sri Bimal Kumar Das, Sri Sashanka Kumar Das, Sri Arun Kumar Das of Ramrajatala Kona Road donated a plot of land measuring nearly **18 Kothas** on 7th July 2000 for the purpose of the extension of the college. On that plot, with the financial grant from the state government and UGC, Sudharani Women's Hostel was set up, bearing the name of the mother of the respected donors. On 28th January 2002 the hostel was inaugurated by Honourable Minister of Higher Education of Govt. of W. B., **Sri Satya Sadhan Chakraborti**.

Though with the grant of U.G.C. the library is at present rich and varied in its collection, the attempt to develop it is still on. A comprehensive computer index of the books is maintained in the library for the benefit of the teachers and the students. With

the grant of Rs. 3 lakhs from U.G.C. a new block has been established. In order to equip skill to contemporary professional scope, college has initiated several skill development courses UGC vocational course (i) Interior Decoration and Beautification (ii) Travel & Tourism management, Short term (6 months) vocational course of Government of West Bengal vocational Education and Training. From the benefit of the grant of the Ninth Plan, the college has bought two computers with internet Access worth Rs. 1,25,000/- The ground floor of **Science Block** was constructed with the MPLAD grant of Rs 10 Lakh from the MPLAD scheme of Hon'ble, M.P. **Shri SwadeshChakraborty**. The work to build the first floor of the science block began with the grant of Rs. (Ten Lakh) 10,00,000/- from the M.P. LAD scheme of M.P. **Sri SwadeshChakrabarti**. With a grant of Rs.10 lakhs from the M.P.LAD of **Dr. Barun Mukherjee**, Honourable Member of the Parliament, Rajya Sabha the construction work of the second floor of the Science Block has been completed. Honourable member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) **Sri Debabrata Biswas** has granted Rs. 18,24,413/- from his MPLAD scheme to build college office and staff room and the work is duly completed. (Date of the letter 28.04.05) For the advancement of physical exercise among the students, the central government's youth welfare department has granted Rs. 3 lakhs for the purpose of building up a multi-gym. Vocational courses like Automobile Mechanics, Computer Application and Taxation Practice have been introduced by the college. U.G.C. has sanctioned Rs. 70,00,000/- (Seventy Lakhs) for the construction of Women's Hostel (Phase II) as a special scheme during 10th plan period. The project has been duly completed. The BEUP project proposed by **Dr. Jagannath Bhattacharya**, Hon'ble MLA 165-Shibpur AC. has also been completed. During 2006-07 D.P. I., Govt. of West Bengal, has sanctioned Rs. 8,03,000/- (eight lakh three thousand only) for the construction of building to the college authority. The construction work of D.P. I. fund has already been completed. On January 15, 2008, Hon'ble **D.P.I.** Govt. of West Bengal, also sanctioned Rs. 6,08,156/- (Rupees six lakh eight thousand one hundred fifty six only) for the construction of College Building. The project is already completed. Along with this, more than 1860 sq.ft. has been allocated for the purpose of gardening and beautification in the college premises. Construction work, in this regard, has been completed. Furthermore, two state of the art digitalised class rooms have been set up in the 3rd floor of the main building and the 2nd floor of the science block. The vocational centre of the college, affiliated to West Bengal State Council of Vocational Education & Training, has erected two workshops for the Automobile Mechanics Course, one on petrol engine (Maruti 800) and the other on diesel engine (Indica V2). For the convenience of the students, the canteen and the cycle stand of the college have been completely renovated. As a tribute to **Late Sudhir Kumar Ghosh**, the donor of the land on which the college had been established, and **Dr. Kanailal Bhattacharyya**, after whose name the college has been baptized—their bust statues have been inaugurated in the college campus. Along with all these activities, on 22nd Sep '10, Silver Jubilee of the college was celebrated. Silver Jubilee Committee was formed in this regard and several student welfare programmes were also initiated.

One reliable index of the quality of the academic exercises of a college is the performance of its students in different University examinations. In 1987 the students

of this college for the first time appeared in University examination. From then on, the percentage of the successful candidates has been over 70%. From 1988-90 this rate was up over 80%. In 2006-07 it was 86%. In 2007-2008, the rate moved up to an overwhelming 98%. This was made possible by regular classes, encouraging students to appear in the college examinations, minute correction of their answer scripts and corollary activities like organization of special classes after the selection tests and many such student oriented measures. The conducive role played by the exemplary relationship between students, teachers and non-teaching staff and the effective use of the library also need to be mentioned in this context. In the 2007-2008 academic session, the Department of Science has been inaugurated with courses on subjects like Zoology, Botany and Physiology. The college has received a special instrument grant of 22 lacs, 85 thousand 668 rupees from the UGC and 15 part-time teachers were approved by the DPI (32-PTT dt 15/2/11, G.O.-122 EDNCS 3rd Feb, 2011). The college has got the sanction for Zoology and Physiology honours courses during the 2012-13 academic session. Botany honours course started in 2013. Notably, to facilitate the admission process, the college has initiated online submission of admission forms from 2015. With the donation of Rs. 50,000/- from our respected donor **Late Debkumar Chowdhury** books on Zoology and Geography have been purchased in the College Library. The Women's Hostel (Phase II) has been inaugurated by **Prof. Rabi Ranjan Chattopadhyay**, Hon'ble Minister in charge of Technical Edu & Trg. Govt. of W.B. on 15th July, 2011. The entire cost of Rs. 70 Lakh has been borne by UGC. **Mr. Jiten De** a local wellwisher of the college, donated Rs. 20,000/- for the development of the college. **Mr. Sitaram Yechury** Hon'ble M.P. Rajya Sabha donated from his MPLAD (Rs. 20 lakh) for the construction of the 3rd floor of the Science Block. **Mrs. Kanak Giri** donated Rs. 50,000/- for the upkeep & maintenance of College Garden. Ex-Donor Deb Kumar Chowdhury donated Rs. 50,000/- for the welfare of the college library.

From 01.12.1999 - 31.07.2016 all the developmental works (infrastructural & academic) were executed under the active leadership of **Dr. Dilip Kumar Sahoo**. Dr. Sahoo was also instrumental to carry forward all the UGC sponsored (National & International) seminar and University of Calcutta approved NSS Special Medical Camp during the year 2000 - 2015. Under the able guidance and dynamic leadership the college also successfully completed three consecutive cycles of **NAAC Accreditation, (2004, 2009, 2014)** during the tenure of Dr. Sahoo. N.S.O.U Study Centre (E-09), DDE Vidyasagar University (V.U. - 18) PG Study Centre and W.B. State Council of Technical Education Approved Vocational Courses were established for the advancement of learning under Regular and Distant Mode. With the assistance of **RUSA Grant** (Rs. 2 Crore) 1st Instalment College Auditorium and College Canteen were also fully decorated and upgraded during the tenure of Ex - Principal, Dr. Sahoo.

Dr. Dilip Kumar Sahoo retired as Principal of the College on 31.07.2016 Professor Keshab Chandra Khanra was appointed by the governing body to function as teacher-in-charge of the college from 01.08.2016 with the recommendation of **Dr. Kaustubh Lahiri** to take over charge as Principal of the college by the West Bengal College service commission form 10.12.2016, Prof. Khanra relinquished charge as T.I.C. on 09.12.2016. **Dr. Kaustubh Lahiri** joined College from 10th December, 2016 and has

carried forward the developmental work. Utilized the 2nd and 3rd installment of the RUSA fund. Under the 2nd installment completion of up-gradation of College premises and New Building was completed. Under the 3rd installment of Rs.10 lakhs procurement of books, equipment for laboratories was done. Constructed Virtual classroom with ICT facilities under the financial assistance of West Bengal government. 4 smart class rooms have also been constructed, funded by RUSA to cater to students need. He has been instrumental in setting up of fully equipped GIS enabled Geography Laboratory. Introduced general course in two new subjects namely Journalism and Mass Communication and Food and Nutrition from 2019-20 academic session. UGC approved B.Voc (3 years Degree Programme) in Beauty Therapy and Aesthetics have been introduced to adapt students for professional training and placement. Under his effective guidance the library is now on a digital platform with cloud based KOHA software facilities to facilitate faculties and students to access the library from any place.

He revived the Career Counselling and Placement Cell which has been instrumental in creating job opportunities to students after completion of their studies. Under his effective guidance following initiatives have been undertaken namely:

- Industry visit for students, setting up of modern laboratory equipment in collaboration with TCG Life Sciences, Salt Lake, Kolkata.
- Diploma in Computer Application for students at minimal cost in association with WEBEL TECHNOLOGY LTD, Govt. of West-Bengal Undertaking.
- TALLY and GST courses (6 months) in association with TALLY INSTITUTE OF LEARNING from April – 2019.
- Introduced Self- Defense classes for female students.

Introduced the ICC (Internal Complaints Committee) as per VISHAKHA GUIDELINES against sexual harassment of women and RTI Committee to empower all and promote transparency and accountability in every aspect of the College. He has encouraged 'Students and Faculty Exchange Programme' with our neighbouring Colleges namely Bijoy Krishna Girls' College, Howrah and PrabhuJagatbandhu College, Andul, Howrah in subjects like Political Science, Education, Philosophy and Geography. The College has also applied for the introduction of M.A in Geography and Bengali affiliated to University Of Calcutta.

At present the College is preparing for the impending 4th cycle of NAAC Re-Accreditation under his effective guidance and leadership.