

NOTABLE EVENTS IN VIDYAPITH DURING DECEMBER 2012 TO DECEMBER 2013

Vidyapith observed its 90th Annual Day on **1st December, 2012** in two sessions – the first being the **Prize Distribution Ceremony** held in its Vivekananda auditorium at 2 pm and the second the **Drill Display** arranged in the open air at 7pm. Swami Sarvabhutananda, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Kolkata presided in the former, with Sri Gautam Mohan Chakraborty, DG & IGP, Traffic, WB and Sri Tarun Goswami, City Editor, The Statesman, Kolkata in the chairs of guest-of-honour and chief guest respectively. They gave away the prizes to the students for their distinguished achievements in curricular and co-curricular activities during the year 2011-12. Swami Sarvabhutananda released the school annual magazine ceremonially. Students presented Vedic chanting and songs.

The latter half of the programme was attended by the Deputy Commissioner, Deoghar, Superintendent of Police, Deoghar and the legendary veteran master of physical culture Sri Kamal Bhandari added to the same dignitaries mentioned above. Vidyapith boys demonstrated under the guidance of Swami Atidevananda, excellent skill and power of endurance in numerous individual as well as combined feats. These performers were painstakingly prepared by their teachers, namely Sri Anki Chettri, Sri Sadhudas Chakraborty, Sri Sanat Halder, Sri Subrata Sahu, Sk. Allaudin and Sri Jhulan Ranjan Sarkar respectively, all specialists and experienced in their own field of sport. In between, a Manipuri boy gave a spell-binding solo performance of Manipuri traditional sword dance. The entire extravaganza took over two and half hours to be completed.

A laser show of one hour duration on Swami Vivekananda was arranged in the

evening of **2nd December 2012**. The event was the production of Sri Manick Sorcar the eldest son of the legendary magician Late P. C. Sorcar. Its idea and purpose was to enlighten the local people with Swamiji's life and message in a spectacular way. The show being the first of its kind in the town aroused a widespread public interest. People of all walks of life cutting across all cross sections of society and students of various institutions thronged to witness the extravaganza. The superintendent of police, Deoghar presided over the event and Viswashree Sri Kamal Bhandari was present as the Chief Guest.

The Prize Distribution Ceremony of the Inter-school Cultural Competitions organized as part of Swamiji's 150th birth anniversary celebration was held on **9 December, 2012**. Sri H. K. Verma, Retd. District Judge presided and Sri Rajiv Lochan, District Education Officer, Deoghar acted as the Chief Guest. The function began with Vedic invocations by Vidyapith boys and Swami Sarvagananda, Secretary, Vidyapith formally welcoming the dignitaries. Boys and girls from 28 local schools participated and received prizes and certificates for distinguished performances in Essay competition, extempore speech, Shloka-Antakshari and quiz on Swamiji. Total 270 competitors participated in different competitions. A short Sanskrit play on Swamiji's life was presented by Baidyanath Sanakrit Sansthanam after the prize distribution. Two booklets, one in Santhali and the other in Manipuri on Swamiji's life were released by the dignitaries. The entire programme was anchored by Sri Ram Sevak Singh Gunjan, Principal, Red Rose School.

Admission Test for class VI for the session 2013 was held on **23 December 2012**

at Vidyapith campus where 2250 (approx) candidates appeared while total about 700 candidates appeared at 15 other centres in different states. Only 80 students admitted for class VI in 2013.

On the occasion of **Holy Mother Sri Sri Sarada Devi's 160th Birthday** Special Puja, Homa, Bhajan was held in the shrine on **4 January 2013**. Apart from the inmates of Vidyapith more than 300 devotees had taken noon Prasad. More than 500 local Nara-narayan were fed on this occasion.

A marathon rally of local students was flagged off by the Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission Vidyapith, Deoghar to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Swamiji on 5 January 2013.

Swami Vivekananda's 150th Birth Anniversary (12 January 2013): An open-air morning special assembly presided over by Dr. Gourab Ganguly, Principal, A. S. College, Deoghar was conducted with all Vidyapith students, Balakendra children, teachers, staff and monks attending. Dr. Sk. Maula Ali felicitated the Chief Guest. It began with floral tributes at Swamiji's image and the programmes comprised of songs, reading from Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda etc. Local schools e.g. Dinabandhu High School, Bharti Vidyapith and Takshasila Vidyapith garlanded Swamiji's statue installed at a public place and then spontaneously joined the assembly, carrying Swamiji's picture and placards containing his sayings. The students of Takshashila Vidyapith enacted Swamiji's world famous "Chicago Address".

The **Republic Day** was celebrated with usual éclat. Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Singh, Member of Rajya Sabha was the Guest in Chief of the day. He hoisted the tri-colour and delivered speech to encourage the boys. The

Vidyapith banders and Parade Troopers displayed brilliantly as usual. The students of class X performed Cultural activities and presented a nice drama "Pareshan Nagar" in the evening.

Annual Sports Meet was enthusiastically organized on **31 January 2013** by the students and staff of Vidyapith in which renowned Mohun Bagan footballer and Coach Shri Biswajit Bhattacharya was the Chief Guest. The medallions were given away to the winners on the spot by the Guest in Chief.

On the occasion of Swamiji's 151st Birthday Special Puja, Homa, Bhajan etc. were held on **3 February 2013** in the shrine. About 1000 people took noon prasad.

Srimat Swami Vagishanandaji Maharaj, Trustee of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math and Adhyaksha, Ramakrishna Math, Cossipore arrived at Vidyapith on **13 February 2013**.

Sri Sri Saraswati Puja held on **14 February 2013** in elaborate manner with usual éclat and grandeur. This year outside Saraswati Puja was on the next day.

Hindi version of Sangeet Kalpataru was released at Hindi Vidyapith on **9 March 2013**. This book is translated by Dr. Mohnananda Mishra and published by Hindi Vidyapith, Deoghar to be marketed by Ramakrishna Mission Vidyapith, Deoghar.

Sri Ramakrishna Birth Tithi Special Puja, Homa, Bhajan was held on **13 March 2013** in the shrine. Apart from the inmates of Vidyapith more than 300 devotees had taken noon Prasad. More than 500 local Nara-narayan were fed on this occasion.

Dol Purnima and Sri Gauranga Mahaprabhu's Birth Tithi were observed on **27 March 2013** with colour and enthusiasm. A

cultural programme, including a drama staged by class VIII students, was the highlight of the day.

Bengali New Year's Day was observed through different programmes on 15 April 2013. In the morning the entire Vidyapith family walked to Lord Vaidyanath Temple to offer Puja. In the evening, students of Vidyapith presented a drama on Swami Vivekananda. Shri Krishnanand Jha, Dr. Mohanananda Mishra and Shri Tanmoy Karmakar were felicitated. The drama was witnessed by monks, inmates of Vidyapith, guardians and various local dignitaries like Sri Joy Jyoti Samanta, S. D. O., Deoghar; Shri P. R. Jha, DDM, NABARD, Principals of different local schools, etc.

Admission test for class XI (for non-Vidyapith students) was held on 21 April 2013 at three centres e.g. Deoghar, Patna and Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Kolkata.

Swami Sarvaganandaji left Vidyapith to take charge as Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur on 22 April 2013. Swami Tyagarupananda assumed the charge as Secretary.

The staff Literary Association Programme was held in the evening on 14 May 2013. The staff of Vidyapith presented their skills in different cultural aspects.

The Vivekananda Rath arrived at Deoghar from Ramakrishna Math, Jamtara on the **5 July 2013**. Two of our monastic brothers, Swami Achalatmananda and Br. Arun accompanied the chariot during the journey from Jamtara to Deoghar. The chariot arrived around 10.15 a.m. and was received at the Plus-two campus. Boys of classes XI and XII put on an impromptu performance – chanting of Vedic hymns, songs on Swamiji, reading from Swamiji's works – at the Plus-two school

campus. The chariot impressed all with its two idols of Swami Vivekananda, one in the front and one in the rear. Flower tributes were offered by all present – swamis, students, workers of Vidyapith etc.

The Rath was then brought into the Vidyapith secondary school campus where it was put for display in front of the Main Temple for the benefit of students and visitors to Vidyapith. After dusk, the brilliant lights decorating the Rath created a heavenly ambience and students thronged the Rath for catching a view of Swamiji's replicas in the chariot.

Elaborate preparations were made for the journey of the Vivekananda Rath through the town of Deoghar, due to be held the next day. Seven schools were formally invited – the Secretary, two other monastic members and one senior staff member personally going to the schools for the purpose. A survey was subsequently conducted – a party which included the driver and the helper (of the Rath) went to check the exact roads through which the Rath will pass during the elaborate procession being planned in the town of Deoghar.

Finally, on the **6 July, Saturday**, the Rath was flagged off from Vidyapith by the Deputy Commissioner of Deoghar, Sri Rahul Purwar at 7.50 a.m. The rally was attended with all enthusiasm by monks, staff members and students of Vidyapith school, Vivekananda 150 Community Computer Centre and of Vivekananda Balakendra; Students (boys and girls) and teacher-escorts of 3 schools of Deoghar viz St. Michael Anglo Vidyalaya, R. Mitra +2 School, Dinabandhu High School; Members of Sarada Sangha etc. A total of more than 400 persons joined the procession which traversed a distance of more than 7 km. Announcements, readings from Swamiji's

works and *jaykara* filled the air of the town as the procession passed through the different places of Deoghar viz. Tewari Chowk → Electricity Office → Bus Stand → Tower Chowk → Mandir More → Shiksha Sabha Chowk → Laxmipur Chowk → Bilasi Town → Hindi Vidyapith → Jalsar → Tewari Chowk → Vidyapith.

The Vivekananda Rath had a good audio system on which a running commentary of the procession was provided. A separate vehicle was also organized in which boys and monastic members continuously sang and read inspiring messages from Swami Vivekananda. The whole ambience was wonderful and all who joined the procession were for the time being, transported to different realm, as it were. The procession finally converged to Vidyapith at 10.15 a.m., where tiffin and sarbat were served to all who joined the rally.

Thereafter, the Rath went to Deoghar College on 8 July where a UGC sponsored seminar on Swami Vivekananda was held. It was also went to a school at Chandan (Bihar) on the 9 July, accompanied by 5 monks of Deoghar (headed by Swami Atidevananda) and employees where a grand programme was organized by R. G. Vidyapith. About 1000 persons attended the programme there.

67th Independence Day was celebrated with usual grandeur at Vidyapith premises. The National Tri-colour was unfurled in the morning by Lt. Col. Deepak Sharma of Sikh Regimental Centre, Ramgarh. Thanks to 2 Sikh Jawans from Sikh Regiment, Ramgarh, whose training enabled our boys to give an excellent parade show at the Vidyapith ground this year. Our cadets led by the Vidyapith Band Party also accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour to the Honourable Guests and the Deputy Commissioner, Deoghar at K. K. Narone Stadium, Deoghar. The display of Band was

specially appreciated. Vivekananda Balakendra also observed the Independence Day in a befitting manner. In the afternoon a Football Match was organized between Baidyanath vs. Basukinath, in the main campus. In the evening a drama on the freedom struggle, “Lahu Ka Mole” was enacted by the class IX students.

It was a great pleasure for all the 100 beneficiaries (children) of **Gadadhar Abhyudaya Prakalpa** to enjoy a Football and a Kabaddi Tournament for **Vivekananda Challenge Cup** at Thariara on the Independence Day. The tournaments were organized at the said village, about 28 km away from Vidyapith, by the Vidyapith staff with a special motto to encourage the tribal boys and girls in games and sports.

The **Biennial Educational Exhibition** of the Vidyapith was inaugurated on 22 August 2013 by Swami Suviranandaji Maharaj, Assistant Secretary, Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math, Howrah in the presence of Dr. Debiprosad Duari, Director, Research & Academic, M. P. Birla Institute of Fundamental Research, Kolkata. In the evening of 22, Swami Suviranandaji Maharaj delivered a speech. Swami Atidevananda felicitated Swami Suviranandaji Maharaj. From 22 - 24 August, Dr. Debiprosad Duari presented a Science show at Vivekananda Auditorium. Students from class VII to XII as well as 6 other local schools participated in 18 departments during the exhibition. This Biennial Educational Exhibition was open for general public till 24 August, 2013. More than 2000 visitors witnessed this exhibition and it was appreciated by one and all. The students of Vivekananda Balakendra also were allotted a full room and displayed their items beautifully. We have also arranged a Mobile Exhibition Van from 22 – 24 August 2013. Swami Suviranandaji Maharaj inaugurated the

renovated Sadbhavananda Dham on 23 August 2013 in a small gathering.

On the occasion of **Shri Krishna Janmashtami** our boys performed “**Akhanda Geeta Path**” at the temple on 28 August 2013. As many as 256 students attended the entire 18 chapters of Gita that continued for 3 hours. They have been rewarded for their actions. A friendly football Match was held between teams **Krishna** and **Arjun** formed from class X. In evening a competition was organized for the boys who decorated respective hostels and the best decorated hostels, Junior and Senior, received the best award.

Teacher’s Day was celebrated at the Vivekananda Auditorium in a befitting manner on 5 September 2013. A praiseworthy cultural function was followed by a sumptuous dinner organised by class XII boys in honour of monks and teachers. From class VI onward attended the function.

State Level Contest of National Science Seminar held at Ranchi on 10 September 2013. Sriman Diptiman Kundu of class IX got the 1st Prize.

A friendly football match between the medical and the engineering group of students was held on 15 September 2013 as usual at the Sports Complex at Senior Secondary School.

20 – 21 September 2013: (Seminar: 150 Yrs of Swami Vivekananda): A two day long State Level Seminar on ‘**Unity in Diversity: Swami Vivekananda’s relevance to meet the challenges of 21st Century**’ was organized at Vidyapith to commemorate Swamiji’s 150th Birth Anniversary wherein a total of 713 delegates (including escorts) from 28 institutions participated. Out of 713 delegates- 169 male delegates participated from Mamarkudur, Bokaro, Chakradharpur, Ranchi, Ghatshila, Jamshedpur and Vidyamandira

(Belur Math) as resident delegates. The local delegates included boys and girls of different schools and colleges. The seminar was addressed by Swami Balabhadrananda, Assistant Secretary, Ramakrishna Math & Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math, Howrah; Swami Nikhilatmananda, Ramakrishna Mission Sevashrama, Allahabad; Swami Shashankananda, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Morabadi, Ranchi; Swami Radhakantananda, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyapith, Deoghar; Dr. D. N. Gautam, Ex-DGP, Bihar and Ex-Security Advisor, Jharkhand, Patna; Dr. Smita Dey, Ranchi University, Ranchi; Shri Motilal Dwary, Ex-Assistant Education Officer, KVS, Govt. of India, Deoghar; Dr. Om Prakash Verma, Vivekananda Vidyapeeth, Raipur; Prof. Kamal Kishor Singh, Associate Professor of Deoghar College, Deoghar; Shri Kishnanand Jha, Ex-Minister, Govt. of Bihar, Deoghar; Shri R. S. Singh, Principal, Red Rose School, Deoghar; Dr. Ratna Banerjee, Ex-Head of History Department, Nirmala College, Ranchi; Shri Shekhar Nath Jha, Principal, S. J. Academy, Deoghar; Dr. Sumanlata, Hindi Department of Madhupur College, Madhupur, Deoghar; Fr. R. Antony Raj, S. J., Novice Master, Jesu Bhavan, Jamshedpur and Dr. Sadma Shahin, Woman Scientist, Patna University, Patna.

In the evening of 20 September 2013 a beautiful drama on Swami Vivekananda was enacted by the boys of Vidyapith followed by Katha Vachan by Swami Nikhilatmananda on ‘*Shri Hanumanji tatha Swami Vivekananda*’ while on 21 September 2013 in the evening Swami Divyabratananda of Ramakrishna Math, Shyampukur Bati, Kolkata presented melodious bhajans.

Wide publicity of the programme was arranged through Print Media, Electronic Media, hoardings and banners. The whole

programme was telecast by a local channel also for the people of Deoghar.

The Silver Jubilee of Vidyapith ex-students reunion was celebrated at Vidyapith campus during **16-17 November 2013**. More than 125 ex-students participated with their family members. Swami Suviranandaji Maharaj, Assistant Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math was the Chief Guest on the occasion. We express our thanks to Dr. Biswajit Sen, MD (PGI), New Delhi and Sri Prasenjit Sen for donation of an ECG Machine (Model KME-Krishna Medi Equipments, New Delhi) in memory of his father Late Surajit Sen.

The Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandal from Udaypur presented a puppet show on 'Swami Vivekananda: his life and message', at the Vivekananda Auditorium on two days – 21 & 22 November 2013. A total of approximately 700 people witnessed the wonderful show on the first day – including the students of the school, the staff members of the Ashrama and their family members. On next day nearly 500

people from the town of Deoghar, including the students of Vivekananda Balakendra, witnessed the show.

Admission Test for class VI for the session 2014 was held at Vidyapith campus where 2026 candidates appeared while a final total of 2733 candidates appeared at 11 other centres in different states. 80 students will be admitted for class VI in 2014.

On the occasion of **Holy Mother Sri Sri Sarada Devi's 161st Birthday** Special Puja, Homa, Bhajan etc. was held in the shrine. Apart from the inmates of Vidyapith a large number of devotees and lord people took noon Prasad. The total number of persons coming for lunch prasad was around 1500. Christmas Eve was observed in the evening with due grandeur.

Monks, Teachers and staff members of Vidyapith went for a picnic at Pandaveshwar, Jarmundi nearer to Basukinathdham, Dumka on 25 December 2013. ■

