

An institution which boasts of alumni in every field from actresses and film directors to social workers and fashion designers has just completed a memorable century!

Loreto College, established in 1912, celebrated its week-long centenary year closing ceremony from January 29 to February 4. The Loreto women — students, alumni, teachers retired and present — made sure that it was a week to remember.

Looking Back: The celebrations began with a walkathon on January 29 retracing the steps of Sister Delphine Hart, founder of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary in India, followed by the Mary Ward festival at Loreto College on January 30-31.

Woman Power: A panel discussion on 'The 21st century is a Woman's Century', by eminent Loreto College alumni was the highlight of February 1.

Speakers like Gitanjali Aiyar and Rita Bhimani cited examples like the Gulabi Gang movement and from Sharmila to establish the immense determination that characterises the 21st-century woman.

Moon Moon Sen narrated

experiences of meeting women while doing *jatra* who are so marginalised that they are forced to resort to prostitution.

Professor Krishna Sen spoke about how 21st century is a woman's century not because of individual achievers or localised movements but for the rise in social awareness about the evils of patriarchy among the masses. Uma

Ahmad, a human rights advocate and chairperson of the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy, and Renu Roy of Spandan were the other panelists. Ashoke Viswanathan moderated the discussion.

The Foundation Day: The centenary celebrations came to a close officially on February 2, the foundation day of the college.

Forty-five alumni achievers were felicitated along with retired teachers and other staff members.

Malabika Sarkar, the vice-chancellor of Presidency University, presided as the chief guest with Shashi Panja, mayor-in-council in charge of education, as the guest of honour. Though not an alumni

of Loreto College, Sarkar shared how it was the "first stepping stone of her career" as a teacher.

Former judge and ex-student of Loreto School Leila Seth delivered the keynote address. Giving a sneak peek into her 1947-1951 school self she said: "I was here in the hostel, and would often sit on the lawns and strike strategies as to how to sneak out of here." Through poems she expressed many school memories — of Xaverian boys, her best friend Moyna and trips to Magnolia. "The love and joy of the school is the most treasured part for me. I love the days I spent here," she later told t2.

The evening belonged to Pandit Jasraj and Amita Dutt who wove magic with their vocal and Kathak recitals respectively.

Curtain Call: The morning of February 3 saw Loreto students clash in the Loreto Centenary Quiz and the Past vs Present Debate. Anamika Khanna put together a short fashion show for her alma mater in the evening. The celebrations finally came to an end with the alumni picnic on February 4.

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(From left to right) Leila Seth, Uma Ahmad, Sister Tressia Aricatt, Sister Christine Coutinho (principal), Malabika Sarkar and Shashi Panja at the official closing ceremony at Loreto College on February 2

Jessica in an Anamika Khanna creation at Loreto



REMEMBERING LORETO

Moon Moon Sen: "My Loreto days are too long to be put into words. But the part that has stayed on with me is the back gate. I used to escape through that to meet my fiance when we were about to get married."

Kamalinee Mukherjee: "I spent my school and college years here, and what I remember best is the scolding. Even today when I came in, my head of the department reminded me of the time I spent on drama and choreography rather than in class."