

# Panel meet to mark 100 years of Loreto

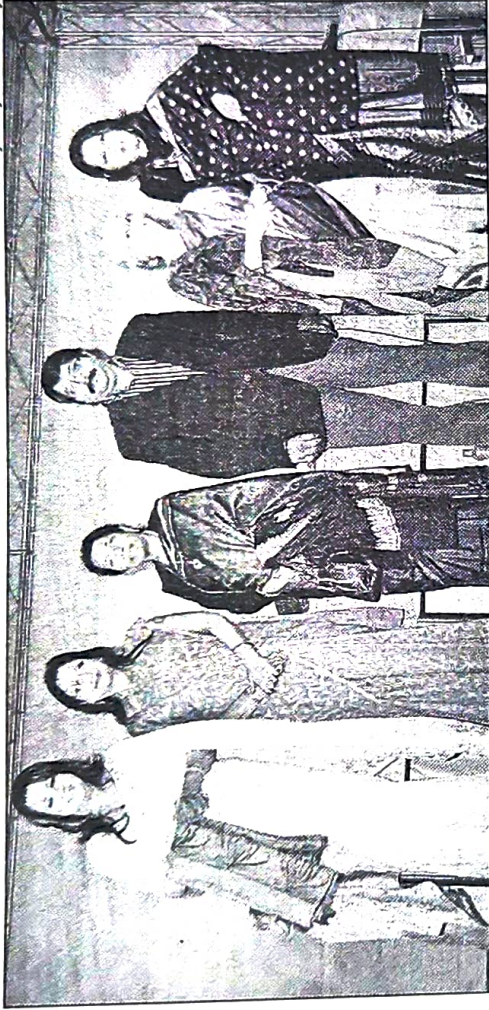
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kolkata:** The 21st century is indeed the century that belongs to women even if they are subjected to a lot of wrongs. That was the consensus at a panel discussion marking the centenary celebrations at Loreto College.

Speaking on the topic, "The 21st Century is a Woman's Century", was a diverse and esteemed panel comprising actor Moon Moon Sen, thespian Renu Roy, public relations corporate Rita Bhimani, chairperson of the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy Uma Ahmad, news-presenter Gitanjali Aiyar and head of the department of English, Calcutta University, Krishna Sen - all old school girls of the college. Filmmaker Ashoke Vishwanathan moderated the discussion.

Uma Ahmad who opened the discussion said that women today have indeed come a long way since the dark ages. She also felt that much has been said about the women achievers but not about those silent crusaders who have been fighting everyday. They are the actual winners - the homemakers

Aranya Roy Chowdhury



(Left to right) Moon Moon Sen, Renu Roy, Krishna Sen, Ashoke Viswanathan, Uma Ahmad and Rita Bhimani at the discussion on 'The 21st Century is a Woman's Century' at Loreto College on Wednesday

add, "This century can be ours only if the mindset changes which will propel a vast middle class."

There were others who acknowledged the support of men in helping them to move ahead. "We need the men to be around. But we definitely need to house train them," said Ahmad which received a thunderous applause. Moon Moon Sen shared some of her personal experiences. Krishna Sen the last panelist felt it was time women's issues entered the public sphere. "Women across the world are performing brilliantly. Yes, there are negatives but there should also be a platform where we can voice ourselves," she said.

The panel discussion was organized by the Loreto college alumni association. The centenary celebrations will see a vocal recital by Pandit Jasraj on February 2 with the keynote address being delivered by justice (retired) Leila Seth. The week-long celebrations will culminate with a western music performance and a fashion show organized by designer Anamika Khanna on February 3.

who anchors the lives of so many. Each woman on the dais had a story to share. On being asked by Vishwanathan if she had ever faced discrimination in her career spanning 31-years at Doordarshan, Gitanjali Aiyar said that discrimination was a part and parcel of life. She went on to mention prolific women achievers in

every sphere of human endeavour, especially politics and how some powerful women are essentially controlling our country. "Today women have broken the glass ceiling. We have proved ourselves and shown the world what we are capable of," said Gitanjali.

If Gitanjali spoke about the achievers, Rita Bhimani was quick to