



Turning the Pages of History.....

Statement by the Principal



■ **Prin. D. A. Dabholkar**

Dr. Radhakrishnan, Your Highnesses, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my proud and happy privilege this auspicious morning to place before you a few significant facts about our college.

The Chintamanrao College of Commerce has started functioning from the 20th June this year. It is an example of the rapid fruition of an idea, well conceived and ably executed. It was only a little more than a year ago that the Sangli Rotary Club had the happy idea of celebrating the 71st Birth day anniversary of His Highness by establishing a Commerce College at Sangli. It was a happy idea in more senses than one.

Here almost as a rare exceptional case the people of a State, more than twelve years after its merger, were spontaneously coming forward to pay their tribute



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to the ruler. Here was the happy; thought to commemorate the occasion with the establishment of an educational institution. The choice of the type of the college to be started was also instinctively made in response to the felt needs of the times and of the area. The Commerce College should play a very useful role in this area which is fast growing into a big commercial and industrial centre.

The happy idea found its legs. The Satkar Samiti organized for this purpose undertook to collect a lakh of rupees. H.H.Shrimant Rajasaheb of Sangli graciously accepted the idea and with a princely gesture offered to contribute a lakh of rupees of his own to the Commerce College project. At the request of the Satkar Samiti the Deccan Education Society accepted the responsibility to start and conduct this College. For the Deccan Education Society this is a worthy climax to its close association with a noble prince for over the last four decades.

With all this, some people were still skeptical regarding the response to the College. These doubts were also dispelled by the actual figures of enrolment. We had to close admissions to the Pre Degree Class, and for the First Year B.Com class the enrolment slightly exceeded our expectations. The Second Year B.Com and the Final Year B.Com classes will be started in 1961 and 1962 respectively. We expected an enrolment of about 110 during the initial



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year. The number on the roll to-day is 157. There are clear indications that this number even this year could have been over 200 and we could have opened two divisions for the Pre Degree class, but for some accidental factors. The doubts in the minds of the people regarding the need for a separate Commerce College can thus be said to have been laid at rest.

Sir, this is brief statement regarding our College, which has for the last three months awaited its Formal Inauguration at your hands with eager patience. If anything the Sangli people were completely set in their minds that they shall have you as the Chief Guest for this Function. Sir, if I may so reveal, this time you tried to excuse yourself from visiting the Willingdon College saying that you had visited that institution too often. The Deccan Education Society is grateful to you Sir, for the kindness with which you have consistently treated its institutions. But may I assure you Sir, your visits can never be too often, and we shall feel it keenly if at anytime you have to arrange your programme of visit to Sangli without a visit to our institutions. Our College is at present holding its classes in the Willingdon College building but we shall shift to our own building in the adjacent grounds in about a year or so. Be it our privilege to welcome you there when you next come to Sangli.

Our feelings for His Highness have always been of deep affectionate gratitude.

We request you Sir, to offer on our behalf to their Highnesses our humble



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tokens of love on this auspicious morning; an engraving in silver of the front portion of the Gajanan temple which you have just now visited. We offer this to His Highness with a prayer in our heart to Shree Gajanan that His blessings be always with him. To Her Highness we are offering a " "saaOBaagyakrMDk" on this auspicious occasion.

The flow of endowments has started. I am happy to announce three such donations today. Rs.5200/- have been donated by Shri.Narayanrao Ganoba Khokle to institute an annual Scholarship of Rs.200/- Shri.Keshav Vinayak Bhide has donated Rs.2000/- to institute two annual prizes of Rs.37.50 each. This very morning a well wisher who wishes to remain anonymous has donated Rs.2500/- to institute an annual prize of about Rs.100/-.

I sincerely thank all these donors for the happy start which have given to this College.

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