

Kayems (*KM College alumni*) Rejoice !

AFTER YEARS OF NEGLECT, KMC AUDITORIUM TO BE RENOVATED

The Kirori Mal College auditorium, which has nurtured much acting talent but has been lying unused and in great disrepair for years, might finally be renovated this year



Two years ago, DT had told you how the auditorium of Kirori Mal College, a Delhi University college known for its theatre societies, had been lying decrepit and unused for years because of disrepair and neglect. Now, after five years of negotiations with the college's governing body , the KMC auditorium is finally likely to be renovated soon. "We have held two meetings with the committee and things are finally moving," says Dinesh Khattar, Acting Principal of the College.

Keval Arora, (also an alumnus) faculty member and society Adviser, has been involved in these efforts since 2005."In 2005, there was only one problem with our auditorium. That problem of rooftop leakage has brought the auditorium to this state, which is so bad that we have not been able to use it for a long time now. But since the new acting principal was appointed in 2015, he has shown interest in the auditorium and a new committee has been formed to review the whole process," he says. The stage in the famous auditorium has nurtured talent of the likes of Amitabh Bachchan, Satish Kaushik, (*Kulbhushan Kharbanda , Dinesh Thakur , Rai Baswani , Dr H S Anand , S Anwar IAS , Rakesh Munjal*) and Sushant Singh and many more actors.

YOU CAN'T EVEN SIT IN THE AUDITORIUM'

We asked Arora if we could sit in the auditorium and talk, and he laughed and replied, "You don't know what you're talking about. The condition of the auditorium has worsened with time parts of it

have actually eroded. No institution like this one can work without cultural activities, and an auditorium is the hub of all these activities. Our students have suffered immensely because we had no auditorium."

WORK TO BEGIN THIS SUMMER?

Arora told us that since construction work cannot be carried out in the monsoons, they want to start the work in the summer. However, he remains skeptical. "We are already in the middle of April; I don't think it is easy to collect funds and get the paperwork done at this short notice. Our architects tell us that they are ready to start the work tomorrow, but so much has happened since all this started that we can only keep our fingers crossed," he says.

Last time, when the work was about to begin, the Governing Body's members had changed, and though all the paperwork had been done, renovation work could not start. "The architect came up with four designs and we were in talks with him throughout for changes and all the other details, but the project lost momentum he kept asking us what was happening and we had no answer. When we thought of resuming the work, he was the first one we considered, because he is also a theatreperson and understands what we want in our auditorium," Arora adds.

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Many distinguished alumni including Amitabh Bachchan and Satish Kaushik have in the past responded very positively to our request for donations to the College for a suitable memorial to Professor Frank Thakur Das but this is predicated on The College decision in this regard .

The KM College Alumni Association was founded after The Silver Jubilee 1979 - 1980 on the initiative of Principal Dr N S Pradhan , famed mountaineer Capt MS Kohli IN AVSM (Founder Prez) and Sydney Rebeiro (Founder Secretary and Vice - President). Advocate Rakesh Munjal and Padmashri (Principal) SL Dhawan also served as office - bearers in its formative years .