

## *On the occasion of Annual Award Ceremony and publication of the Annual Report*

### *Director's desk*



Respected Chairman, Distinguished guests, Dr Rajendra S Shukla, Additional chief secretary, Department of Higher Education , Science and Technology and Biotechnology, Professor K N Ganesh, Prof. SanghamitraBandopadhyay, Prof. Mahan Maharaj, members of the

Governing Body, our scholars and awardees, students, guardians, my colleagues at different schools, colleges and universities and institutions, and JBNSTS, ladies and gentlemen,

I consider this as a great privilege to be with all of you in such an occasion where the budding scientists, doctors and engineers of our State will be felicitated in presence of such august gathering and luminaries of our country.

At the beginning of our program , I deeply mourn the demise of our former Director, MrsDeepawatiSen(1976-2000), who passed away on Oct 28, 2017. She was the architect of present JBNSTS and a visionary in education of gifted mind. Our heartfelt condolence to her family.

I take this opportunity to present before you the progress and achievements of our beloved institution during last one year. I am happy at the same time humble to submit before you that with the help and support of Department of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Government of

West Bengal, our friends, patrons and all of you, it became possible for us to break the old record of growth and touch new mile stone. We have progressed further in the path of development like previous two years since we started expanding the ambit of the organisation about three years back.

In this journey myself and my colleagues at JBNSTS acknowledge with all humility and respect, the encouragement, support, guidance and help, that we always receive from Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Smt Mamata Bandopadhyay, our mentor and guide in all our activities. In spite of her extremely busy schedule and workload, she always keeps track of all our activities and guide us at all junctures. She is the inspiration behind all our activities.

You all know that one of the major activities of JBNSTS since inception is to find out the talented students of our state and thereafter nurturing them to develop the scientific and technological manpower of this State, so to say the entire Country, and even the world. Senior Talent Search Test (STST) is being conducted by JBNSTS since 1960. This year also STST was carried out from August to October with the financial support of the Department of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Biotechnology. This examination is unique in its kind since the talented students are identified through three fold examinations, written, viva-voce and scientific creativity test. Altogether 90 scholars have been identified through this exercise who are being awarded today. Among them 40 scholars are pursuing their career in basic science while rest 50 scholars are either from Engineering or from and Medicine discipline.

All of us are aware that merit of the multi phased talent search test of STST has been recognized at the national level by Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India and all the successful STST scholars from basic science will be included under INSPIRE scholarship. For the rest of the scholars, it will be provided by JBNSTS with the financial support from Higher Education,

Science & Technology department, Government of West Bengal. I am happy to inform you that from this year, the scholarship amount for these scholars has been enhanced to Rs. 4,000/- per month. The book grant for all the scholars have also been increased to Rs. 5000/- per annum. We are grateful to the Department of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Government of West Bengal for this additional grant.

I am also happy to inform you that this year the number of participants is twofold compared to the last year. Number of centres for this examination has also been increased and I am happy that students from remote villages which hardly gets illuminated with lights of development and information, also participated and some of them have done excellent in the examination. Our target is to reach every nook and corner of this State to bring out the talents.

A nation can develop only with an inclusive vision for all sections of our society. It is a matter of regret that even after 70 years of independence, participation of girls and women in the field of basic science is not up to the mark in India. Of course there are exceptions, but those are only silver lines and cannot be generalised for the entire society. Keeping this in mind, from this year we have started a new scholarship “BigyaniKanyaMedhaBhriti” to encourage girl students who are pursuing Medicine, Engineering or Basic science in their graduation. 50 girl students, who have fared well in the STST examination, but could not reach to the final list of awardees, will be encouraged with this scholarship of Rs. 2,000/- per month. Department of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Government of West Bengal has readily come forward to provide funds for this scheme.

JBNSTS believes in nurturing the talented students through exposures to the world of science. In the modern world, it is unthinkable to pursue science without having the facilities for global networking and connection. Top ten boys and top ten girls from the STST awardees are being encouraged with a laptop

and licensed software for pursuing their future career with the fund provided by Department of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Government of West Bengal.

Keeping the tradition of the previous years, this year also we made the arrangements for Talent enrichment program for the Senior Scholars to visit different best laboratories of our country, located in Bengaluru. We are grateful to the scientists and authorities of these laboratories for their extended support to interact with our scholars. The fund was provided by Department of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Government of West Bengal.

Junior Talent Search Test (JTST), which was introduced only two years back to “Catch them Young” was successfully conducted with a record participation of 6678 students. This year, number of scholarships has been further increased from 125 to 200. The book grants to the scholars have also been increased to Rupees two thousand five hundred per annum. In addition, 50 students, who have fared well in the written test and viva-voce combined, will get one-time encouragement award of two thousand rupees.

Not only the identification, we organised several nurturing camps for both the two groups of scholars in the last year where eminent scientists, researchers, even famous personalities from other fields of life participated to broaden the canvas of our scholars.

West Bengal District School Scheme is a continuous program in which we take up a number of schools for one year and nurture the pre-secondary students belonging to class VIII and IX throughout the year by organising series of training workshops of five days duration. Secondary schools from remote areas and backward areas are normally selected. This year, we have covered 16 schools from Darjeeling and other Districts. This program is also supported by

Department of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Government of West Bengal.

A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning. Teachers training program is a part and parcel of JBNSTS activities since it is the teachers who ultimately ignite creativity amongst the talented students. Thus, developing motivation and imparting skills on science education is very much needed. This year we have already organised several teachers' training workshops. We have decided to organise such training not only at our Kolkata Centre but in districts with the fund sanctioned by Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India. So far, we have organised such workshops at Jhargram, Muragachha of Nadia District, Siliguri, Suri of Birbhum, etc. Another such program will be organised at Berhampore, Murshidabad District from 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2017, just one day after this ceremony. Another such training programme will be organised at Sagar, South 24-pargans District at the end of January, 2018. The teachers of the respective districts are extremely happy, since experts from different parts of West Bengal use to travel and share their experiences.

Success of the Teachers Training programs has also been recognised by different quarters. JBNSTS has been selected as the Mentor for Science Teachers Training in Kolkata District under SarvaSiksha Mission and RashtriyaAvishkarAbhiyan program from this year. We hope this program will motivate the teachers to design innovative methods of joyful teaching-learning interactions .

JBNSTS is pioneer in organising 5-day long INSPIRE camps where the INSPIRE scholars are nurtured and motivated by very eminent scientists, awardees of Padmasree, Bhatnagar and Swarnajayanti etc. JBNSTS has the credit of successfully organising 55 such camps since this program started.

JBNSTS was also the co-organiser in the State Level Youth Science Fair, 2016 and successfully organised “Meet the Scientists” programme during the fair.

The construction of annex building for expansion is being carried out by Hooghly River Bridge Construction. All statutory clearances from different quarters have already been obtained. The progress of work is being closely monitored by us along with Department of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Government of West Bengal. We are grateful to Hon’ble Chief Minister of West Bengal to take special initiative to set up this Innovation Centre for young talents after visiting our campus in June, 2015.

In the meantime, there is extreme shortage of space in the old building, the third floor of the existing building is being constructed by Public Works Department (PWD) with temporary structure. The work is expected to be completed in next three to four months. Two class rooms and one medium size meeting room will be created at the rooftop. The work has already been initiated.

A state of art Biotechnology laboratory is being set up for the Secondary and Higher Secondary students to create interest regarding biotechnology. Practical classes for the Secondary and Higher Secondary students will be organized here during Students’ camps. I am happy to inform you that erstwhile Biotechnology Department, now merged and emerged as Department of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Government of West Bengal has not only provided fund for setting up the laboratory, but also provided a Project Scientist and two project assistants for coming five years for mentoring and looking after this laboratory. The work of laboratory is almost completed and will start functioning shortly.

Albert Einstein once said “Imagination is more important than knowledge”. Unfortunately the burden of syllabus and peer pressure for so called “achievements” in examinations is forcing our young talents to forget all

imagination and to pursue in a mechanical manner for career building. In JBNSTS, we on the other hand, want to ignite imagination among these young talents for building up a strong and well-built scientific manpower base for our nation. I really dream that with participation, support and encouragement of all sections of Society, it will be possible for us to produce many such talents who will rule the world of science and JBNSTS will be acclaimed universally for creating such scientific manpower.

“You may say I'm a dreamer. But I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us.”

Thank you all!!!