

REUNION MELA 2024

The **Reunion Mela 2024**, organized by the Gokhale Memorial Girls' College **Alumni Association**, was a much-anticipated and vibrant celebration of the institution's spirit, bringing together the past and the present under one roof. Held on **Sunday, the 22nd of December, 2024**, from **11:00 AM to 4:00 PM**, the event took place within the scenic and nostalgic premises of the college at **1/1 Harish Mukherjee Road, Kolkata, West Bengal, India**. The event was sponsored by Indian Bank, Chowringhee Branch.

The primary objective of the Reunion Mela was to **reconnect the alumnae with their alma mater** and to celebrate the enduring bonds shared between former and present members of the institution. It served as a platform for interaction among the **alumnae, teaching and non-teaching staff (both current and retired), and the present student body**. In addition, the event aimed to:

- Foster a sense of belonging and community among all stakeholders.
- Provide a platform for **entrepreneurial expression** through curated stalls.
- Encourage **membership renewal and registration** with the Alumni Association.
- Highlight the **achievements of former students**, thus inspiring the current generation.
- Promote **social responsibility** by inviting participation from NGOs and social enterprises.

The Mela was inaugurated with much enthusiasm and energy by Mr. Sushanta Das- Zonal Head, Indian Bank, Kolkata Central Zone and Mr. Ranjit Kumar Jha, Branch Head, Indian Bank, Chowringhee Branch. The entire college campus was festively adorned, with colorful bunting, signage, and thematic decor to welcome the guests. The gates were open to all alumnae, their families, faculty members, and friends of the institution.

One of the most engaging features of the event was the vibrant **stall section**, which was a celebration of creativity, business acumen, and community collaboration. These stalls were carefully curated and featured categories such as:

- **Fashion and Lifestyle**
- **Food and Beverages**
- **Handicrafts and Home Decor**
- **Games and Fun Activities**

The stalls were **open to participation from alumnae, current students, entrepreneurs, and NGOs**. The stall charges were nominal to encourage wide participation which enabled budding entrepreneurs, especially students and new alumni, to showcase their talents and products without financial barriers.

The stalls featured a diverse array of offerings: from home-cooked delicacies and handcrafted jewelry to sustainable fashion items, handloom sarees, DIY kits, and interactive games. The inclusion of NGOs added a socially conscious dimension, promoting causes like women's empowerment, environmental sustainability, and education for underprivileged.

A dedicated **Alumni Association Desk** was set up at the event to facilitate **membership renewals and new registrations**. This initiative saw an **overwhelming response**. It became a key engagement point for those looking to stay connected with the college community.

Games like **Lucky Draw** and **Lucky Dip** were the crowd pullers of the day with variety of attractive prizes for the winners. One of the most innovative and heartfelt attractions was the **Wish Song Desk**, where attendees could dedicate songs to their friends, teachers, or batchmates. These desks were manned by volunteers and provided a personalized touch to the event. But enthusiasm peaked at the **Fashion Show** with children of the Alumni along with their mothers made their gorgeous presence on the ramp.

Adding a special starry charm to the event was **RJ Lajbanti**, a notable ex-student of the **Department of Political Science**, who is now associated with **Radio Mirchi Kolkata**. As a well-known radio personality, she actively promoted the Reunion Mela 2024 through her social media handles and radio shows in the weeks leading up to the event. Her involvement not only created buzz around the event but also served as a living example of how GMGC nurtures talent that thrives in the real world.

RJ Lajbanti also made a live appearance during the Mela, conducting fun interviews with alumnae, announcing song dedications at the Wish Song Desk, and sharing anecdotes from her college days. Her warmth and humor were contagious, and her presence elevated the event's profile.

Gokhale Memorial Girls' College, true to its legacy of academic and cultural excellence, **extended full support to the Alumni Association** in organizing the Mela. The college administration ensured smooth logistics, provided security, and facilitated cleanliness and maintenance. The **support staff** were actively involved both on the **eve of the event and throughout the day**, making sure everything ran seamlessly—from arranging seating and stall spaces to handling waste management and providing medical assistance when required.

The Reunion Mela 2024 was not merely an event—it was an experience. The sprawling college courtyard echoed with **laughter, shared memories, and vibrant conversations**. Long-lost friends found each other again. Teachers met their former students, many of whom are now successful professionals, educators, entrepreneurs, artists, and homemakers. The younger students, while manning their stalls or simply walking around, were inspired by the stories of those who once walked the same corridors.

The event also served as a **fundraiser** to support various alumni activities over the year.

The **Reunion Mela 2024** was a glowing success, meeting and exceeding its objectives. It rekindled old friendships, celebrated the achievements of GMGC alumnae, and provided a joyous, inclusive space for cultural and entrepreneurial exchange. More than just an annual gathering, it was a reaffirmation of the enduring connection between the alumnae and their beloved alma mater.

With this edition setting a new benchmark, the Alumni Association and the college community look forward to making the Reunion Mela an even grander affair in the years to come.

