

## Mamata to attend 80 yrs of alma mater

*Jhimli Mukherjee Pandey TNN*

Kolkata: There is a lot of excitement on the Jogomaya Devi College campus these days. It is gearing up to receive its most celebrated alumna on Friday. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee, who had graduated from the college in 1976 will be returning to the campus after a long hiatus of 36 years. The college will be celebrating the day as a landmark –that of completing 80 years of its existence.

The college administration had requested the CM to be part of the programme, way back in March. But a confirmation from the chief minister's office came only a few days back, leaving the campus in a joyous mood.

It will not be a routine visit where the CM would just lecture and leave. It is supposed to be a nostalgic and emotional visit and she might even visit classrooms where she attended lectures as a student. This is not all. The college administration will organise a special re-union of Mamata with her former teacher. And despite her age, octogenarian Kalyani Chattopadhyay cannot wait to meet the girl who had gheraoed her with others in the staff room!

Though Banerjee was a student of political science (Hons) in the college from 1974-76, she studied Bengali as a pass subject. Chattopadhyay taught Bengali in the college and despite the fact that pass subjects are not treated very seriously by honours students, there was no missing Mamata. "She was a firebrand student leader already, so firm in her conviction that no one could stop admiring her, leave alone ignore her," said an emotional Chattopadhyay.

The college, which was established in 1932 as the morning section of Ashutosh College exclusively for women by Shyamaprosad Mukherjee, was later re-christened Jogomaya Devi College. Today, after successfully completing 80 years in women's education, the college is on an expansion mode. This plan will be laid before the CM during her visit. "We need 20 bighas of land for the modern courses that we wish to start now. I hope the CM allots us a plot at a special price as we cannot afford the market rate," said principal Gargi Nath.



Mamata Banerjee

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