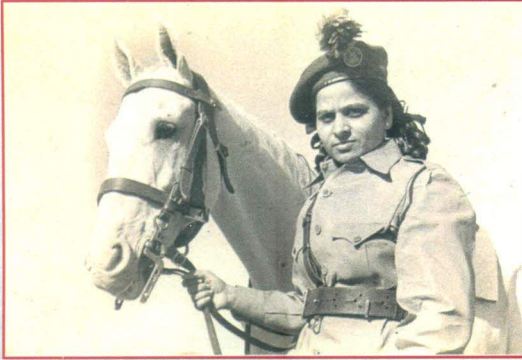




Ritambhara Vishva Vidyapeeth's

Malini Kishor Sanghvi College

A Salute to our Beloved Chairperson Padma Bhushan Smt. Poornimaben Pakvasa
from the Principal and Staff of Malini Kishor Sanghvi College.



You walked alone for long, but the sweet mellow fragrance of good deeds attracts everyone and, those who are mesmerized by it are sure to follow and contribute for a noble cause.

As Majrooh Sultanpuri has put it:

“ मैं अकेला ही चला था जानिब-ए-मंज़िल मगर
लोग साथ आते गए और कारवाँ बनता गया ।”

On the eve of your caring for the downtrodden for a

century, we all wish to honestly compare YOU with millions. You led a life for others, whereas millions live for themselves. You are a flower that decided not to be the decoration of a flower pot but, to spread your fragrance to the life of the most backward and deserving.

We all crave for worldly benefits but, YOU 'DIDI' have walked off the beaten track, you are that flower which decided to bless that road not oft taken. You decided to nourish the desire of others.

Nonetheless, like so many steadfast living beings in the past, who made a difference to life for innumerable, you maintained your stead, you chose your path and come what may, you walked on, not bothering about the following....for you had chosen the path of the path of the 'Florence Nightingale'.

Today, Ritambhara Vishva Vidyapeeth is soft and motherly nurtures of yours. It is draw continuous nourishment from your life inspires us to throw away the garb of That, your legacy continues to guide ultimate 'truth' that is the meaning of life Please bless us on your completing a betterment and well being of thousands a difference in their lives. They may not mother, whom we fondly call 'Didi'.

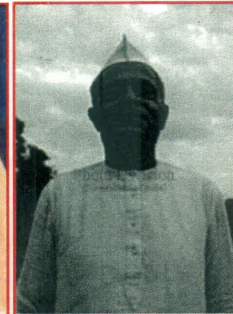
Worldly recognitions are but metaphors



existing proudly and strongly on the our wish from God almighty that, we being, from your deeds and that your selfishness and embrace selflessness. 'Ritambhara' to seek and yearn for the itself.

century of struggling for the of those girls to whom you have made have seen God, but they have seen a

to which people like you give meaning.



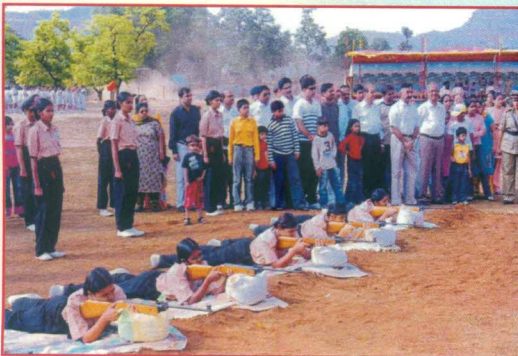
Her parents Late Smt. Chanchalben & Shr. Vrajlal Sheth, Hon. Shri Mangaldas Pakvasa (Father-in-Law), Smt. Poornimaben and Shri Arvindbhai Pakvasa and her three children Smt. Aartiben Mehta, Shri Anujbhai Pakvasa and Padma Vibhushan Dr. Smt. Sonal Mansingh.

Hon'ble Padma Bhushan Smt. Poornimaben Pakvasa

Fondly addressed as "Didi" Poornimaben Pakvasa was born on 1st October 1913, in Ranpur in a wealthy and progressive family of freedom fighters. She therefore says "Freedom runs in my blood". She has lived a full life dedicated to the upliftment and betterment of women, specially the tribal women. At the tender age of 8, she resolved to become a freedom fighter after hearing to a stirring call from Mahatma Gandhi. At 18, she organized a salt satyagrah in Saurashtra and was promptly arrested and jailed. This was another turning point in her life, for in jail, she met her 'foster mother' Smt. Kasturba Gandhi.



She recalls the experience 'She (Kasturba Gandhi) trained me in yoga, lathi charge and self defence techniques. In return, I taught her to read and write'. These two projects became the purpose of her life. She held her first camp in self-defence in the Sabarmati jail. Regarding education she says 'In jail I realized that not many girls were as lucky as I am. I knew I had to bridge this chasm. Every girl regardless of her background should be educated. Education is the key to independence.' She married Shri Arvindbhai Pakvasa another freedom fighter, the son of the Governor Shri Mangaldas Pakvasa. About



her father-in-law, she fondly has been ever thankful for giving her full freedom and inspiring her to work for a noble cause.

Bridging the Chasm: While the nation was rejoicing on gaining independence, she was on a different mission. She knew that the long



journey to true freedom from illiteracy, superstition, poverty and backwardness had just begun. In 1953, she formed the 'Shaktidal' for social welfare activities and for the physical, spiritual and cultural education of women. In 1967 'Shaktidal' was transformed into Ritambhara Vishva Vidyapeeth and it expanded its focus to include education in a big way. The trust includes R.N. Shah High School, Malini Kishor Sanghvi Junior & Degree Colleges, P.R. Shah BMS College and Smt. R. D Gardi School at Saputara. In 1974, with just 15 girl students, enrolled by door to door pleas and appeals, she started a school at Saputara for the tribal girls of the Dang district of Gujarat. Today more than 1050 girls are provided with free boarding, lodging and education up to 12th standard under the loving care and guidance of 'Didi'. Traditional crafts and trades like incense stick making, bee-keeping, handicrafts are also taught to make the girls financially self-reliant. At the age of 98, to inculcate the highest values in young children, she has authored a children's book 'Bachchudi'.

Her life is a story of devotion, sacrifice, commitment and above all passion. To leave the governor's residence and to reside in the remote tribal area of Saputara demands extreme sacrifice and speaks volumes of her work. Her life motivates and inspires and her luminous personality not only enlightens but also dispels darkness of illiteracy, superstition, and feebleness.

In response to her service to society she was conferred the 'Padma Bhushan' in 2004 by the then President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

The 'Naari Ratna' was awarded "Matrushree Santokba Manav Ratna" award by SRK Enterprise in 2013.

Shaktidal segment of RVV conducts self defence training camps for young women and many more. Till date more than 30,000 young girls and ladies have been trained by them.

Her life epitomizes the words of Walt Whitman 'I do not give lectures on a little charity, when I give, I give myself'.



Leading Dignitaries with Smt. Poornimaben Pakvasa



With former Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

With former Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai.



With former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.



With former President Shri APJ Kalam.



With former Defence Minister Shri George Fernandes.



With Shri Morari Bapu.



With Freedom fighter Ms. Ushaben Mehta & Philosopher Shri Haribhai Kothari.



With former Minister Shri Shantilal Shah at mountaineering camp.

BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS



Ritambhara Vishva Vidyapeeth

Shri Jitendra Mafatlal Mehta Educational Complex

Nirmaladevi Arunkumar Ahuja Marg, J.V.P.D. Scheme, Vile Parle (W), Mumbai - 400 049.