



DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

As part of the Diamond Jubilee celebration the Department of English, Shillong College organised the SC Datta Memorial Lecture at the Conference Hall. The lecture series assumed more significance this year as the lecture today was attended by Prof. Subir Datta, a retired faculty of the English Department, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata and son of the Founder-Principal of Shillong college after whom the lecture series was named. In his address, Prof Subir Datta reminisced the days when Shillong College was housed at Jail Road Boys school close to the then Principal's residence. He recalled how this institution of which he was a student, moulded and shaped many like him. He also expressed his gratitude to the many who had and still are taking forward the dreams of the pioneers who envisioned the establishment of the College and taking it to greater heights. Dr Sumit Chakrabarty, Associate Professor and Head, Department of English, Presidency University, Kolkata delivered a very thought provoking lecture which was entitled "Thinking Literature: The Cultural Politics of Context". In his lecture, he pointed out that there is a need for singularity of literature and hence intuitive understanding of art. He stated that a literary text is picked up by a reader for its' literary appeal and not for being a cultural text adding however that at times on reading the cultural history of the

moment becomes more important than the text itself. In this context, he said that the various theories and 'isms' are indeed essential towards understanding the texts but argued that such representations and utterances divests the text of its' marginality. He therefore urged critics and authors to avoid such contextualisation and rather present the text in its singularity and worldliness. As part of the programme and to share the experience of the early years of Shillong College a presentation entitled " Shillong College at 60" which featured students and faculty members who were part of Shillong College during the tenure of the Founder-Principal was also shown. The interactive session was made more lively by students and faculty members from various colleges of Shillong who were present at the lecture. ■

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
Shillong College