



Draft National Education Policy decoded

M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women organised a panel discussion on Aug. 8 on the draft National Education Policy (NEP) 2019, that has been proposed in order to bring about reforms in India's education ecosystem.

The panel included Dr Vasudha Kamat, member of the drafting committee of NEP 2019, Mr. K.N Ramaswamy, director of BharatiyaVidyaBhavan, Chennai Kendra, Dr. S. Venkatraman, senior consultant at UNESCO education wing, Mr. Gopi Koteeswaran, CEO of LatentView Analytics, Mr. Josh Foulger, managing director of Foxconn International Holding and Dr. Thangam Meganathan, chairperson of Rajalakshmi Institutions, and was chaired by Principal Dr Lalitha Balakrishnan.

One of the most important fea-



Panelists at the discussion, organised at the Parliamentary Session of the Student Cabinet

tures of this policy is compulsory vocational training at the undergraduate level. While this is important for employability, a concern was raised about inclusiveness. "We must keep in mind the rural population, especially the womenfolk there. They must be given basic education, but it has not been included," Mr. Venkataraman said.

Expressing approval for the vocational training proposal, Mr Foulger



said that despite the advent of artificial intelligence, "we are in need of people to control the machinery and conduct repair that takes place on a day-to-day basis."

The deliberations were held in response to an appeal from the Ministry of Human Resources Development to all higher education institutions to respond with their recommendations on the draft policy.

M.O.P. reaches out to rural communities

In keeping with one of M.O.P.'s mission goals of creating socially responsible citizens, the college this year has undertaken a two-pronged campaign to lend a hand to rural communities near Chennai. The two thrust areas are: enabling revenue generation through small businesses – 'Thozhil Seyyalam Thozhi'; and supporting the Swachh Bharat campaign by spreading awareness about cleanliness and hygiene.

All departments of the college, with their first-year students, have identified a village in the vicinity, understood the specific needs of the community, and have been conducting one-day programmes with the campaign goals in mind.

The 'Thozhil Seyyalam Thozhi' campaign got underway with a visit to Thiruverkadu village by BBA students on July 13. Student-run workshops attended by around 100 women focused on imparting skills such as making agarbattis, paper bags, chaat, sandwiches and beverages, and candles, with free training materials.

The students of the Sociology Department kicked off M.O.P.'s Swachh Bharat awareness campaign with a visit on Aug. 7 to Rayamangalam village in Tirupporur Taluk, 76 km from Chennai. Addressing students from classes four to eight, the M.O.P. students used presentation, discussion and street play techniques to address topics such as 'washing hands the right way' and menstrual hygiene.

A tree plantation drive was also organised, in which 100 saplings were planted in a school campus.

Over 300 delegates attend international food science conference



A two-day international conference, 'Foods 2019: ITAF' on Innovations and Technological Advances in Food, was organised by the School of Food Science, M.O.P. Vaishnav

College for Women on Aug. 5 and 6. The conference aimed at bringing together researchers, food experts, students, entrepreneurs, central and state government ministries, corporates and industries to discuss the multiple disciplines in food science and technology.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr. P. Duraisamy, Vice Chancellor of the University of Madras. The guest of honour, Ms. Sucharita Dutta, Country Director – India, Nutrition International, Canada (HQ), shared her experience on food and nutrition security.

More than 365 delegates registered from various universities and colleges. Apart from the technical sessions, the delegates exhibited and presented their scientific research works through posters and oral presentations.

The second day of the conference witnessed three power-packed technical sessions. Ms. D. Sabitha, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, and Chairperson and Managing Director of TANCEM, Government of Tamil Nadu, presided over the valedictory function.

From the Principal's Desk

M.O.P. Vaishnav recognised early on that academic accomplishments alone would not define a meritorious graduate. Thought leaders around the world believe, and we agree, that social responsibility, too, will be imperative in tomorrow's citizens.

The creation of socially responsible citizens became one of the four mission goals of our Centre for Excellence, which was instituted in our silver jubilee year in 2017.

Since then, the Centre has been spearheading our annual social responsibility campaign, taken forward and implemented by all departments. In 2017-18, the campaign was dubbed 'Daan,' or charity, as part of which departments coordinated student efforts to donate resources – tangible goods or intangible, yet valuable resources such as skills, mentoring and voluntary services.

In 2018-19, we undertook the campaign 'Pagir,' or 'to share,' in which we shared resources which we had in abundance with those less fortunate.

This year, we have expanded our social responsibility activities geographically, and are now reaching out to rural communities near Chennai. Our campaign is two-pronged: one, 'Thozhil Seyyalam Thozhi,' focusses on imparting income-generating skills to rural women, and the other spreads awareness about the Swachh Bharat campaign.

Some departments have already implemented their campaigns in areas on the outskirts of Chennai or even several kilometres outside the city.

While the government, with its vast resources, institutes programmes for development, it is a proactive citizenry, working with a spirit of volunteerism, that can help bridge the last-mile gap so that the truly needy are benefited. We have been inspired by many selfless social activists, and we hope our small contribution inspires others, too, as that volunteerism becomes the norm for young Indians.



Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan

M.O.P. celebrates International Yoga day



The dignitaries with students

More than 1,000 students of M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women gathered to observe the International Day of Yoga on June 21 at the University Union Grounds, Chetpet, with a coordinated yoga routine under the guidance of a yoga instructor. The morning's proceedings, also attended by Prof. P. Duraisamy, the vice-chancellor

of the University of Madras, Dr. R. Srinivasan, Registrar, University of Madras, and Dr. V. Mahadevan, director of physical education at the university, included a special yoga performance by an M.O.P. student, Ms. Harshitha. Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan, principal of M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women, remarked on the benefits offered by yoga, and said, "Yoga helps us to be fit not just physically but mentally and emotionally as well." Prof. P. Duraisamy said, "Yoga is the state of harmony at every level of existence and offers holistic experience in every aspect of wellness."

Fresh talent inducted into Cabinet



Student Cabinet 2019-2020

The newly constituted Student Cabinet for the year 2019-20 was installed into office on July 12 at M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women. The investiture ceremony was presided over by Mr. Kiruba Shankar, author, public speaker, and CEO of Business Blogging. "Everyone is not a born leader. But everyone can become a good leader by paying attention, grasping information and constantly learning," he said. Prime Minister of the Cabinet Pushpavalli A, Deputy Prime Ministers Adarshia E and Meenakshi A, and 37 ministers and deputy ministers, were presented with their badges. Leaders of the various department clubs and class monitors were also installed into office.

M.O.P. students attend summer course in U.S. university



Students at the valedictory ceremony

During the summer of June 2019, 14 students from the School of Business of M.O.P. Vaishnav College For Women, attended a summer course on 'Digital Marketing and International Business' at the Manning School of Business, University of Massachusetts in Lowell. The three-week course covered topics including international business, communication, strategic leadership, search engine optimization, platform business, digital marketing, virtual reality, augmented reality, mixed reality, web design, analytics and customer relationship management. The students were taken on industrial visits to corporate houses in Burlington and Boston.

IN BRIEF

B.Com CS: The department club conducted Corpo Rappo 2019 on Aug. 7. Six events were held on-stage and off-stage. The overall trophy was bagged by the third years.

B.Com (A&F) shift I: The department organized an inter-collegiate fest, Commercio on Aug. 10, attended by 17 colleges around Chennai. Three on-stage and three off-stage events were conducted, and the overall trophy was won by Loyola College.

BBA shift II: The student club of the department, Mercatus, conducted the intramural co-curricular activities on Aug. 13. Three on-stage events and three off-stage events were organised. The third years won the overall trophy.

Economics: The Department organised a students' panel discussion on Budget 2019-20 on July 10. The panelists were the office bearers of the department Club.

Electronic Media: Sam Daniel, Chief Editor of NDTV, conducted a seminar on 'The Current Trends in Broadcast Media' on July 15. He gave the students inputs on how news media works and the challenges faced by journalists.

Computer Science: The Department organized a two-day workshop on Embedded Microcontroller and IOT for 1 year students on July 2 and 3. The resource-person for the workshop was Prof. Dr. Kumara Sathyan, retired professor of Madras Christian College.

Mathematics: The π - β Club of the Department organised a workshop on 'Data analytics using R' on July 30. The workshop was conducted by S. Rohini, certified trainer with Amitysoft Technologies Private Limited.

French: The language club held its

intercollegiate event 'Espoir 2019' on Aug. 17. It conducted three on-stage and three off-stage events. Loyola College bagged the overall title among the 15 colleges that participated.

Visual Communication: The Department organized three installments of 'Dil se – master class series' featuring producer-director Mohan Raja, commercial photographer Chandra Prakash and Cinematographer Sujith Sarang. Students from other colleges were also invited.



Hindi: The language club organized an intercollegiate competition on Aug. 17 where 16 colleges participated and the overall trophy was won by Guru Nanak College.

M.Com: The Department conducted intramural activities under the banner 'Synergize' on Aug. 13 and 14.

MBA: A panel discussion on Union Budget was organized in association with Business Standard on July 9.

HRM: The Think Tank Expositions lecture series for this academic year was initiated on 8 August by Rajeev Menon, AVP, Talent Acquisition, Cognizant Technology Solutions.

Psychology: The Department hosted a guest talk on 'Ethics and Needs

for Professional Supervision in Practice' on June 25. The session was addressed by Dr. Vasuki Mathivannan, Counselling Psychologist and Founder-President of Indian Academy of Professional Supervisors and Dr. Keerthi Pai, Consultant Clinical Psychologist at Apollo Hospitals and Founder of Element H Psychological Support Services.

Journalism: The Department club organised a lecture by Dan Shelley, executive director of the Radio Television Digital News Association, U.S.A., on Aug. 21, on the topic 'Balancing Media Ethics in the Age of Countering Disinformation.'

English: M.O.P Vaishnav College for Women, in association with Goal Quiz, conducted an inter-collegiate sports quiz on cricket World Cup on Aug. 25, with T.N Raghu, sports journalist and commentator, as the quiz master. The quiz saw 80 teams from various colleges competing in the preliminary round before the top six made it to the final. Sri Venkateshwara College of Engineering emerged champions and bagged the prize money of Rs. 10,000.

Sanskrit: The Department organized an intercollegiate event 'Sumeru 2k19' on Aug. 17. The overall trophy was bagged by Vivekananda College.

Sociology: The Department, in association with NGO Young India Foundation, organized #Why25 campaign for educating young people about civic engagement in connection with International Youth Day on Aug. 12.

Tamil: Painthamizh Mandram, the Department club, hosted the intramurals on Aug. 13 and 14 and intercollegiate events on Aug. 17. Gurunanak College won the title 'Vaagai Soodiya Kalloori.'

SPORTS



The photographs above show scenes from Freshers' Sports, an inter-departmental tournament among the first-year students, organized by the Ministry of Sports on July 12 and 13. The various events conducted by the ministry were kho-kho, throwball and badminton. In other news in sports, the Convenors' Meeting was organised on July 23 by the college on behalf of the University of Madras, wherein Physical Directors from all over the city, come together to discuss and decide on the conduct of the tournaments for hockey and chess organised for women at the A-zone level. The A-zone chess tournament for women was held on Aug. 16 in the college. Students from 26 colleges participated, out of which M.O.P Vaishnav College won the tournament.

SNAPSHOTS

FUN AND FRESH



Scenes from a series of fun events organised for freshers. There was an orientation programme for freshers on July 4, which included many cultural events. A fun freshers' day on July 6 was built around the theme 'floral and flawless.' On July 27, the annual inter-departmental cultural event Abhilasha, which is exclusive for the first years, took place. The theme for the event this year was 'Comedy Junction- relive the humour' and the chief guests were actors Nasser, Dhruv Vikram and director Gautham Vasudev Menon.



M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women celebrated Independence Day with flag-hoisting by Ms. Rakshna Suresh Prabhu, NCC Senior Under Officer, All-India Best Cadet gold medalist 2019, and M.O.P. alumna.



On June 21, M.O.P. celebrated World Music Day with a scintillating performance by Kalaimamani Mr. Rajhesh Vaidhya. Playing creative medleys and indulging audience requests, his band sent listeners into raptures.