

M.O.P. celebrates 25 years of excellence

M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women embarked on its journey of excellence in women's education 24 years ago on July 13, 1992, and thus celebrated its entry into its silver jubilee year on July 13 this year at the Music Academy.

Lauding the college for rendering stellar service in the area of women's education despite constraints of space, chief guest Dr. G. Viswanathan, Chancellor, VIT University, Vellore, particularly congratulated the institution for grooming many state-, national-, and international-level sportswomen. "M.O.P. stands for excellence," said guest of honour Dr. P. David Jawahar, registrar of Madras University.

Dr. Viswanathan also declared open a Centre for Excellence at the college. The Centre has four mission goals, and has been launched to pro-

mote skill development in students, principal Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan said. The Centre would work to: **Improve academic excellence.** Towards this end, the Centre will lead the launch of a slew of certifi-



Dr. Viswanathan, Dr. P. David Jawahar, Mr. Manoj Kumar Sonthalia and Principal, Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan

of by students simply for skill development, over and above curricular for-credit courses. Twenty certificate courses of forty hours' duration each have been planned. Some of the noteworthy ones are financial modeling, personal investment plan-

ning, due diligence, presentation and anchoring skills, mobile apps, python programming, fashion culture and ad film making. **Promote self-reliance.** This year, M.O.P. has launched 32 extra-cur-

as quiz, music and interior design clubs, where students can pursue their interests in a spirit of camaraderie, free of academic pressure. **Expand opportunities.** The Centre for Excellence will also oversee efforts to broaden the horizon of students by facilitating inter-

national internships through partnerships with universities abroad **Give back to society.** With the goal of contributing towards the education of the girl child, the college organised a marathon on August 7. Proceeds from the marathon were donated for the cause of education. Accredited at the highest "A" grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in its third successive cycle, M.O.P. has never been about resting on its laurels. This year at the college will be about taking stock and strategizing to expand the scope of coverage and raise the bar in terms of women's empowerment. The college was incepted in the year 1992 with just three departments. Today, 24 years later, the college stands tall with 15 UG departments, 7 PG departments and 1 research department with a student strength of 3400 and staff strength of 170.

VV Sabha celebrates Golden Jubilee

For half a century now, Shri Vallabhacharya Vidya Sabha (V.V. Sabha) has remained committed to its founding mission of spreading education. The result of this commitment can be seen today in the form of several prominent city educational institutions managed by the Sabha, including D.G. Vaishnav College and M.O.P. Vaishnav College.

The Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Sabha were held at the Madras University Centenary Hall on July 23 presided over by Tamil Nadu Governor His Excellency Dr. K. Rosaiah.

The Founder Patron of the Sabha, His Holiness Goswami Shree 108 Shree Mathureshwarji Maharajshree, whose teachings motivated the establishment of the Sabha, also graced the occasion.

The Sabha was born more than 50 years ago after a group of public-minded Chennai residents rallied around the cause of education,

inspired by a discourse delivered by His Highness Goswamiji, in which he spoke on the need to dispel ignorance and ensure the spread of *vidya* or knowledge.

Thanks to generous grants made by donors, the Sabha established D.G. Vaishnav College in 1964, M.O.P. Vaishnav College in 1992, Kola Perumal Chetty Vaishnav Senior Secondary School in 1972, and Kola Saraswathy Vaishnav Senior Secondary School in 1975. The Sabha also supports the M.O.P. Vaishnav Primary School.

The initial momentum has not declined, but has only grown stronger. The quality of the students passing through the portals of these premier city institutions stands testimony to the dedication of the Sabha to the cause of dispelling *avidya*, as advised by H.H. Goswamiji. At present, more than 14,500 students are being educated at the five institutions managed by V.V. Sabha.

Student Cabinet 2016-17 sworn in

The student cabinet of M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women for the academic year 2016-17 was sworn into office at the college premises on July 5, 2016.

"Leadership is not about dictating terms -- it is about empowering others," said chief guest Major Dr. M. Venkataramanan, Principal, D.G. Vaishnav College, Chennai. "It is upto you, the leaders of tomorrow, to uphold the spirit of camaraderie."

The 32 ministers and deputy ministers from seven ministries, and along with 160 members of parliament, step into office in a landmark year for the college,

as its silver jubilee celebrations get underway. Delivering the welcome address, Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan, Principal, M.O.P. Vaishnav College, congratulated the "heroines" of the day, and acknowledged the support lent by their parents, who were invited to attend the investiture of their wards.

The student cabinet of M.O.P. Vaishnav College is designed to mirror the Union Parliament, so that the experience serves as a practice school in democratic leadership and decision-making for the members of the cabinet, and in responsible and participatory citizenship, for the rest of the student body.

From the Principal's desk...

This is a red-letter year for M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women – a time to look back with pride and to look ahead with determination. This is the silver jubilee year of the college. A quarter century has gone by since we began.

M.O.P. is committed to academic excellence, self reliance and social consciousness.

Excellence has always been our watchword. In this silver jubilee year, we have embarked upon an effort to institutionalise all-round achievement by launching a Centre for Excellence. This Centre will oversee efforts in four thrust areas for students: skill-development through a slew of certificate courses; self-reliance and personal satisfaction through 32 extra-curricular and co-curricular clubs; global exposure through international internships; and social consciousness through a campaign to support the education of the girl child.

With the launch of the Centre for Excellence, my hope is that our efforts to achieve our fundamental goal will gain further momentum, and all M.O.P.ians turn out to be self-actualised individuals who make meaningful contributions to society.

I wish to reiterate and acknowledge the immense contributions of our benefactors the M.O.P. Charities; our managing body, the Vallabhacharya Vidya Sabha – particularly all the Secretaries of the Board of Governors who have steered the institution in the right direction; and the successive principals who have helmed it ably. Of course, the heart of an educational institution is its students, parents and staff, and I thank all of them for choosing to be associated with this college and for helping raise it to this stature.



Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan

In short

The students of M.O.P Vaishnav College had the opportunity of attending a summer school at Kingston University, London, United Kingdom. The course -International Business Programme was enhanced further when students were taken to Barclays Bank for an Industrial Visit (IV) where a Task on App development Content for Fintech Startup saw students of M.O.P Vaishnav bag the first place.

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Ananya S. of III Journalism was selected to participate in the Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders and New Media, funded by the U.S. Consulate General. During the five-week programme hosted by the Foundation for Understanding through Students at the University of Washington in Seattle in June - July 2016, she undertook extensive journalism coursework and volunteer community activities, as well as reporting assignments.

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Department activities have started with a bang, with several department clubs being inaugurated for the academic year. Inaugurating the People's Club, the club of the Department of Sociology, Dr. S. Venkatraman, Vice-President of Education and Training, India Cements Ltd., addressed students on career opportunities available for students of sociology today. Principal Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan inaugurated the Pi-Beta Club of the Department of Mathematics, which, along with the college, marks its silver jubilee this year. Along with the department club, Prakriti, the Department of Food Science Management also inaugurated this year's edition of Beyond Breads, the popular on-campus student-run food outlet

A century of legacies

Long standing well-wisher and member of the board of governors Shri. S. Parthasarathy turns 100 this year and the college came together on Aug. 20 to seek his blessings and wish him well.

The felicitation kicked off with the screening of a documentary in which several friends and associates of Shri. Parthasarathy talked about their times with him, and his involvement in the nationalist movement. Principal Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan welcomed and congratulated Shri Parthasarathy on reaching the hundred year mark.

"His enthusiasm and energy levels are infectious," she said. The rest of the event featured dear friends of Parthasarathy sir taking the stage to give him their best wishes.

Shri. P. Haridas, former secretary of the board of



Parthasarathy sir celebrates his 100th birthday

governors, was the first to take the podium to deliver his felicitations. He described Parthasarathy sir as a man who followed the principle of "simple living and high thinking."

Mr. B.S. Raghavan reflecting the thoughts of many present, said that Shri. Parthasarathy had not turned 100 years old, but rather "hundred years young."

His practice of reading multiple books every day and his habit of walking to every place, despite his advanced age were particularly remarked upon.

After expressing his gratitude for the overwhelming wishes he had received, Shri Parthasarathy proceeded to praise students, staff, the institution, and the country at large. Referring to the victory of M.O.P. in having its students spread across the globe, he joked that the only thing left was to "send students to the Olympics."

On the occasion, the teaching and non-teaching staff who have rendered their services to the institution for three or more years were felicitated by the managing body, Shri Vallabhacharya Vidya Sabha.

Mommy's day out

In a unique initiative to facilitate students' transition from school to college, as well as equip parents to deal with this change, M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women organised a workshop for the mothers of first year students on June 25 at the college premises.

Even as their wards let their hair down at a freshers' day celebration elsewhere on the premises, around 220 mothers gathered in the auditorium to be addressed by professional counsellors on what they could expect from a college-going child, and how they could help their children in their journey of higher education.

The MOMs (Mothers of M.O.P.) Club has been set up create an ecosystem both at the institution and at home that would nurture students in all ways as they make the move from adolescents to adults.

In an institution of higher education, students' well-being requires three things: the resolve of the students themselves, the

college, explaining the rationale behind the initiative. "It's a three-point triangle, and all have to be in sync."



The mothers being briefed about the workings of the club

hand-holding of teachers, and the support of parents, particularly mothers, said Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan, principal of the

While adolescents require greater independence for practical as well as emotional reasons as they enter college, parents should

still set rules and boundaries for them, counsellor Ms. Rajani Nandakumar said. "Rules are like roots. It grounds them," she said.

Life coach Hemalatha Manu Anand gave the audience techniques for building the emotional intelligence of their teenage daughters.

"I came in looking for advice on handling my child as a teenager. I think the sessions helped us understand the real world (our children live in). I appreciate how honest the counsellors were," said Ms. Chitravalli, mother of Sai Parthana, a student of B.Com. Accounting and Finance.

This year, the MOMs Club plans to hold workshops for mothers of students at various stages of their tenure at M.O.P., including one for mothers of final year students on their career aspirations.

PENN KALVI MINIATHON: M.O.P. Runs to Educate

M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women is celebrating its silver jubilee year. On this occasion, "Penn Kalvi" a miniathon was

international athletes and students. The total prize money amounted to Rs. 50,000. The principal of the col-



conducted on August 7th, at Island Grounds, Marina. A part of the proceeds of this run was donated to the charity partners Agaram Foundation, run by actor Surya and Devi Foundation, run by actor Vishal, for the cause of educating girl children.

The guests for the event were AIG of Police, Asra Garg, who flagged off the 10 km run and actor Vishal who flagged off the 5 km run.

The run saw 4000 participants including corporates, Olympians,

lege, Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan, said that the college was established in 1992 for women's education and as the college steps into its 25th year, the Penn Kalvi Miniathon was organized to sensitize people towards the importance of educating the girls.

"We took this up because if every member of the society is aware that the girl child is educated and given not only a degree but all the basic skills required for life, the girl can support herself and her society. That will pave way for a progressed nation," she added.

ALL FOR ONE AND A CLUB FOR ALL

Manoranjan is an initiative of MOP to kindle creative interests and allow students of different departments to explore hobbies they wouldn't otherwise get the time to do. For a few hours every Thursday, students go beyond their comfort zones and explore new areas of interest such as theatre, public speaking, pencil sketching and self defense.

It's a platform for amateur debaters like me to know more aspects of debating. This is a club where I can improve my skills and apply those skills in life.

-Archishma,
I Journalism, Debate Club

Manoranjan has been so far the best

platform both for honing our skills and to express ourselves through our hidden passion. This has definitely been an enlightening process for me especially since I have always loved singing and music

- A. M. Padma
III Sociology, Western Music Club.

Every theatre session was a new and enriching learning experience. We engaged in a few theatre games which forced us to think beyond our limits. The theatre games were fun-filled and helped us unleash the harnesses of our imagination horses.

- Bhavadharini S.
B.Com (A&F) Shift 1, Theatre Club

NEW WUNDERKINDS AT M.O.P.

This year, with the theme, 'Wander Wonders', Abhilasha the freshers' talent show, witnessed over 558 participants and around 2500 audience.

Every department was given a festival and the country that it is celebrated in. The students were encouraged to embrace the culture of their country and festival and use it to their advantage.

Countries like India with celebrated festival of Holi, Italy with the Venice Carnival and Greece, with their August Moon Festival were represented. There were eleven events as part of the cultural programme, among

which few individual and few were group events. The events attempted to capture as many talents as possible.

The events ranged from creative writing, classical dance and light music. Kalidas Jayram, lead in the infamous Cadbury Bubbly advertisement and Shakthishree Gopalan, Indian music artist were among the chief guests.

The Department of Visual Communication took the first place, while Electronic Media bagged the runners' place. Vishruthi Girish, Electronic Media, and Pavithra, B. Com A&F Shift II, were named Ms. Abhilasha.



PENN KALVI - Flash mob to promote the miniathon



Food Science Management dept club office bearers



Students attend international internship



An alumna speaks at the annual alumni meet on Aug. 15



Student Cabinet 2016-2017



Department of Mathematics inaugurates its club

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