



## M.O.P. celebrates 23<sup>rd</sup> graduation day

The twenty-third graduation day of M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women, which saw the graduation of 937 under graduate students and 205 post-graduate students, took place on Sept. 6, 2018, at Kamarajar Arangam.

Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan, principal of the college, stated in her address that of the 1142 students who received their degrees, 382 had earned first class with distinction. She added that nine courses offered by the college had recorded a pass percentage of 100 percent, nine other courses had recorded above 95 percent pass and three courses had recorded above 85 percent pass.

The chief guest for the event, Prof. S.C. Sharma, Director of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, reiterated the words of Nelson Mandela, saying, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world," and emphasized the virtue of education through multiple anecdotes, in his com-



Prof.S.C. Sharma, director of NAAC, presents the graduates with their certificates

mencement address. He also urged the graduating students to do selfless service to humanity at large and to be noble and righteous, as those are the qualities that real education will yield.

"Wherever they (students) go, whatever they do, they will always remain as a part and parcel of the college's tradition of excellence," said Shri Manoj Kumar Sonthalia, secretary of the college.

## Shringar 2018, a tribute to Gaana Saraswathi D.K.Pattammal

Shringar – the annual cultural festival organised by M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women – this year celebrated the legendary Carnatic musician, 'Gaana Saraswathi' Padma Vibhushan Smt. D.K. Pattammal in her centenary year.

Held at the college premises on Nov. 28, 29 and 30, Shringar 2018 was fittingly inaugurated by lauded musician Dr. Nithyashree Mahadevan, granddaughter of Smt. Pattammal.

"It is only because of the courage that Pattammal had during her earlier days that we artistes as women take the stage with pride and confidence," Smt. Nithyashree said during the inauguration, adding that her grandmother, who had served the cause of India's independence through her music, was "a public asset of our nation."

Welcoming the chief guest, Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan, principal of M.O.P. Vaishnav College, said, "I take great pride in hosting the centenary year tribute of D.K. Pattammal and having with us her illustrious granddaughter, who has grown under Pattammal's guidance and has her genes."

The inauguration also saw the screening of an original documentary on D.K.



Dr. Nithyashree Mahadevan

Pattammal, featuring interviews with eminent musicians and archival footage, produced by M.O.P. Vaishnav College. The complete documentary would soon be uploaded onto M.O.P.'s YouTube channel Rang Manch, Dr. Balakrishnan said.

As per tradition, the three-day festival featured alumni performers who have successfully continued their artistic journey after college.

Classical dancers Ananya Rajgopalan, Aparajitha Rao and Gowthami A, and vocalists Mathangi Kailasanath and Mrinalini Balasubramanian treated rasikas to some stirring performances over the three days of the festival.

## Gandhi quotient tested

In a unique contribution to the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi, M.O.P. Vaishnav organised an open quiz on the father of the nation on Oct. 2. Around 100 enthusiastic teams participated in the quiz, and high-quality quizzing ensued.

After a written preliminary round, prizes were awarded for the best teams composed of school students, all-women and senior citizens, and one in the open (or mixed) category.

The on-stage final was won by Mohammed Essa and Ilaiyabharathi T of Madras Medical College. The next two places were won by teams in the open category. Shri Devendra Oza, a Gandhian, and author of a book on voluntary movements based on the Gandhian approach, gave away the awards and addressed the audience. After voluntary retirement from the IAS, he served as the vice-chancellor of the Gandhigram Rural University in Dindigul for three years. He expressed the collective feeling of optimism in the hall when he said, "I'm surprised that these young people know so much about Gandhi," as he congratulated the winners and participants.

## From the Principal's desk



M.O.P. Vaishnav has always described itself as an institution that serves the cause of women's empowerment through holistic education. The diversity of reports on the pages on this newsletter bear this out. Readers will find accounts of co-curricular activities such as seminars, workshops and field trips, practice school activities such as subject-related exhibitions, competitions and campus businesses, and extra-curricular activities such as sports and cultural programmes.

I take pride in saying that M.O.P. walks the talk. The current top concern in academicians' conferences worldwide is the need for innovation in teaching methodologies to cater to today's student. M.O.P.'s engagement with the topic is not confined to conference halls. Our teachers regularly implement fresh ideas to help students understand the full import of the academic content.

Our social responsibility activities go beyond tokenism. On an ongoing basis,

systematised through our 'Pagir' initiative, departments undertake projects to help and engage with the less fortunate. On the environmental responsibility front, we are making steady progress in reducing plastic use on campus.

M.O.P.'s sports prowess is well-known among those who follow collegiate sport. In an effort to take sport and fitness to all students, not just those who wear the M.O.P. jersey, all first-year students attend a weekly physical training class. Opportunities for sport are provided through a first-year sports meet as well as a college-wide sports day.

We at M.O.P. realise the importance of art for the human psyche. Our students regularly participate in cultural events and competitions organised around the city. And the events that we host are always eagerly anticipated. Over the last few years, our contribution to the Margazhi cultural festival in Chennai -- Shringar -- featuring top-notch alumni performers, has made it into the calendar of Chennai rasikas.

Every activity, from planning to execution, involves students to the fullest extent possible, resulting in lessons that would be limited in scope if restricted to the classroom.

Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan

## Hindi conference on Gandhism



Writers Mamta Kaliya and Suryabala felicitated

Commemorating the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women, along with the Central Hindi Directorate conducted a two-day national seminar on the topic "The importance of Gandhi's ideals in today's era". Addressing the gathering during the occasion, writer Mamta Kaliya expressed her concerns over the rampant rise in violence around the country.

Reiterating the same, Dr. Sudha Trivedi, the coordinator of the seminar, said, "We consider Gandhi to be our idol, but we have drifted away from his thoughts and ideals." Suryabala, another renowned writer, said, "Gandhi is the pride of our nation. The current generation needs Gandhi's ideals the most."

Shrinivasan, the deputy director of the Central Hindi Directorate and General Secretary S. Jayraj appreciated the efforts taken by teachers in making the language reach far and wide.

Among others present were writers Dr. Ahilya Mishra, Om Nischal, Dr. Latha Chauhan, Prahlad Shrimali, Ishwar Karun, Ramesh Gupt Neerad; S.K. Goenka, the PRO of the Hindi Prachar Sabha; S.Jayaraj, General Secretary of Hindi Prachar Sabha; Govind Mundda, General Secretary of Anu Bhooti and professors Dr. Ashok Kumar Dwiwedi, Dr. Gyaan Jain, Dr. Hussain Valli and Dr. Amar Jyothi.

## Annual up-skilling workshops organised



Prominent industry experts led the workshops in the domain of U-Commerce and artificial intelligence

With a view to producing workplace-ready graduates, abreast with the latest industry developments, the Department of Commerce put together an annual series of workshops on Nov. 24, 2018.

The sixth edition of the workshop series, titled 'Up-skilling for Workplace Success' was comprised of 20 parallel workshops on topics in the domain of U-Commerce and artificial intelligence. Prominent workshops included IoT (Internet of Things) and digital Transformation, big data applications in finance and social sciences, artificial intelligence and health care, HR simulation, Modern Chanakya (management strategy), block chain technology, and crypto currency and design thinking. More than 1,080 students participated in the workshops, which were led by eminent industry experts.

## Asiad medalists felicitated



The audience broke into spontaneous applause on Oct.4, 2018, at the felicitation of two M.O.P.ians who have done not just the college proud, but the entire nation. Sunayna Kuruvilla and Varsha Gautham represented India in the Asian Games held in Indonesia in Aug. - Sept. 2018. While Sunayna won the silver medal in women's team event in squash, Varsha grabbed the silver in the 49er sailing event. Varsha has two Asian Games medal to her credit, having also won in 2014, partnering a then-M.O.P. student, Aishwarya Nedunchezhiyan. Former Indian Cricketer Lakshmiopathy Balaji and Principal Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan awarded the champions with their medals.

## M.O.P. lifts A.L.Mudaliar trophy for 16th time



The victorious team

Adding another feather to its cap, M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women has won the prestigious A.L. Mudaliar trophy for the 16th consecutive year—this time grabbing a total of 32 medals and quashing five records in various events.

The 51st edition of A.L.Mudaliar meet conducted by the department of Physical Education, Madras University, held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium from Oct. 24-26, saw almost 1,200 athletes from 66 colleges around the city. The second day of the tournament witnessed three new records set by students of M.O.P. in the discus throw and 100-metre race events.

Karunya marked a distance of 43.50 metres in the discus throw event, grabbing the gold medal and also quashing the previous year's record of 40.88m set by Nithya, who also happens to be a graduate from M.O.P. A.P. Srija from B.Com A&F finished the 100-metres race in 11.7 secs, quashing the record set by K.N.Priya from JBAS College for Women in 2001. Similarly, M.Brindha cleared a distance of 47.73m and set a meet record in the women's hammer throw event. The last day of the meet had Harshini Saravanan winning gold in the long jump event and also setting a new record of 6.08m.

## Achievements 2018

In the 58th Senior Open National Athletic Championship tournament held at Odisha on October 2, C.Kanimozhi won gold in the 100m hurdle race and Harshini Saravanan won silver in long jump.

In the Reliance Foundation Youth Sports Athletics (RFYS) National Championship tournament held at Mumbai on Nov. 16, M.O.P. bagged the best institute award, winning a cash prize of Rs.3 lakh, while Harshini Saravanan was awarded the best athlete award.

In the 79th All India Inter-University Nationals tournament held at Mangalore on Nov. 28, Harshini Saravanan won gold in long jump and C.Kanimozhi won silver in the 100m hurdle race.

In the 34th National Junior Athletics Championship tournament conducted by the Athletic Federation of India at Ranchi on Nov. 2, Harshini Saravanan won silver in the long jump event.

M.O.P. participated in the Tamil Nadu Inter-University Athletic Meet held at Chennai and bagged a total of eight medals in various events with two gold, four silver and two bronze.

M.O.P. won the Inter-zone Basketball



M.O.P. presented with the best institute award along with a cash prize of Rs. 3 lakh at the RFYS Championship

Tournament held at DG Vaishnav College in October.

M.O.P. won the South-Zone Chess Tournament held at Vel Tech University on Oct. 16.

M.O.P. won the All-India Inter-University Squash Championship held at Mumbai on Oct. 18.

M.O.P. won the 6th League Championship Tournament conducted by the Hockey Unit of Vellore at Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium, Chennai on Nov. 10.

## M.O.P. deeply misses one of its own



M.O.P. Vaishnav College suffered a great loss on Oct. 9 when Mr. P.V. Ramesh, long-time sports coordinator of the college, died due to cardiac arrest. He was 54. A life-long sports fan, Mr. Ramesh was dedicated to the institution and to the young athletes in his charge. With his able support, the sports department garnered many national and international laurels for the college. Besides, many editions of VASPO—the national collegiate women's sports tournament—were successfully conducted by M.O.P. Vaishnav, with enthusiastic participation by teams across the country, thanks to Mr. Ramesh's efforts. The sportswomen who have benefited from his commitment as a talent scout will remember him as someone who cared for them. To M.O.P., of course, Mr. Ramesh is irreplaceable.

*Ramesh had the uncanny knack of spotting talent, was a great motivator and was always there for the institution. His knowledge of Sport, as also, the pride he felt when our students excelled was remarkable. His wide network of friends and cheerful countenance are hard to come by. Truly one who has left a big void.*

- Dr. Lalitha Balakrishnan, Principal

*Ramesh sir was the one who has always encouraged me through every phase of my life. He was always just a call away and would readily drop everything to help anyone in need. From the very beginning, it was not just my dream but also his for me, to win a medal in the Asiad 2018, and when it happened he was the happiest of all. It is such a tragic loss, but I am sure that he is watching over us and is proud of our achievements.*

- Sunayna Kuruvilla, squash player, silver medalist, Asiad 2018

*Ramesh sir was a very optimistic person. He motivated me a great deal and was always there to help me balance sports and academics. Everytime I am at college, I think of him and miss him a lot.*

-Yashini Sivashankar, International table tennis player

## In brief

**BBA:** As part of practice school, second year students of B.B.A Shift I and Shift II put up stalls under the banner 'Educator's Emporium' on Sept. 5, displaying a variety of products from pop sockets for phones to trendy gift items.

**COMMERCE:** The department organized a national-level seminar on U-COMMERCE (Ubiquitous Commerce - UBICOM) on Oct. 6. The summit was led by 13 eminent professionals on topics such as Internet of Things (IOT) and human interactions, artificial intelligence for consumers, block chain technology and more.

**B. COM (A&F) SHIFT I:** The department, under the banner of Consumer Club, organized a series of guest lectures by experts in consumer education on topics such as consumer rights and responsibilities and consumer grievance and redressal forum.

**B. COM (A&F) SHIFT II:** Tax to Talent, held on Oct. 5, was a series of events organised around the concept of taxation. Expert judges chose the best tax advisor and best tax plan, among other top performers.

**B. COM (MARKETING MANAGEMENT):** The department's flagship event, Marketing Week, organised between Aug. 28 and 31, saw the students organise an 'Uzhavar Sandhai,' comprising a variety of rural-based commodities and a village puppet show. The week also encompassed competitions, lectures and flipped classroom activities.

**ELECTRONIC MEDIA:** Second year students went on photography field trip to Mahabalipuram and Dr. Arun's Photography Museum, Kovalam on Sept. 20. A workshop on screenplay writing was conducted for II and III years by Mr. K Dinakar, film scriptwriter and Editor, Bhagya Magazine on Nov. 13.

**JOURNALISM:** Among other workshops and guest lectures, students attended a lecture by Mr. Rangaraj Pandey, then editor-in-chief of Thanthi TV, on Sept. 25.

**PSYCHOLOGY:** Students attended guest lectures by experts including Ms. Hemamalini, jail psychologist, Central Prison II, Puzhal, Tamil Nadu Prison Department, on psychological disorders among jail inmates, and Dr. Venkateshwaran, Psychiatrist, Global Health Hospitals on treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration to society.

**SANSKRIT:** The flagship annual intercollegiate event of the department, Sumeru, was held on Sept. 1. A myriad of events was conducted, and Vivekananda

College emerged the overall winners.

**SOCIOLOGY:** Students attended a one-day workshop at Tamil Nadu Women's Development Corporation on Dec. 10 for hands-on-experience on sustainable impact at unit level by deploying terrace gardening. Among other workshops and lectures, Ms. Suguna Kiran, 'Vital for India' project co-coordinator and Mr. Devendra Oza, Gandhian and philanthropist, addressed students on Sept. 26 as part of the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.

**VISUAL COMMUNICATION:** Under the auspices of the Create Club, students taught their peers on topics such as watercolour painting, doodling and caricature, portrait sketching and basic make-up for studio photography.

**M.A. (HRM):** The HR Conclave was held on Sept. 1 at the MMA Management Centre. The event was inaugurated by Mr. R. Venkatanarayanan, President – HR, IT & Education, Rane Group and President, NHRD Chennai Chapter. Lectures were given by top industry professionals.

**MBA:** The Breakfast with CEO series saw talks by Mr. Vijay Sekar, CEO of gobrands360, on new forms of digital marketing Ms. Bharathi Bhaskar, public speaker and senior vice-president, Citibank India operations, on following one's passion and by Ms. Surekha Raj, found-

er, Skylarks HR Solutions, on how to overcome one's limitations to scale great heights in life.

**M. COM:** Students attended workshops by Ms. Vidhya, chartered accountant, on accounting standards, and by Mr. Murali Kalinda of Finmark on mock trading; and talks by industry experts including Mr. B.M. Rajan, senior manager, business finance, on investigation of variances, and Mr. Rajasekar, chartered accountant, on tax planning.

The IQAC of the college organized a one-day workshop titled 'Good to Great' on Oct. 25 to throw light on the seven criteria listed by NAAC under the new evaluation mechanism for assessment and re-accreditation. Inaugurated by Dr. K. Duraipandian – Controller of Examinations, Academy of Maritime Education and Training (AMET) and addressed by a roster of eminent subject experts, the seminar was attended by top administrators from several city colleges.

The Department of Accounting and Finance Shift II under the Ministry of Youth Affairs organised an alumni meet on Sept. 1 at a beach resort in Chennai. Participants took a trip down the memory lane, recollecting and cherishing their memories at their alma mater.

## M.O.P. gives back

As part of the social responsibility initiative, Pagir, instituted by the college in its silver jubilee year of 2017-18, the Department of B. Com (Corporate Secretaryship) this year took up the project of sharing of essentials such as rice, dal, books, clothes and stationery with the students of the C.S.I School for the Deaf. A self-defence session conducted by Mr. Nagaraj – Chief of Commando Force, Police Department, was organised for the students.

Under the banner of Pagir, the Department of B.Com (A&F) Shift I, in association with Rajan Eye Care Clinic, organised 'Nethra Daan', an awareness program on eye donation, on Sept. 5. Around 150 students of the college volunteered to pledge their eyes.

The Department of B. Com (A&F) Shift II, as part of the Ministry of Youth Affairs, helped M.O.P. celebrate Literacy Day on Sept. 8, by collecting and distributing notebooks and other stationery items to the primary and middle school students of M.O.P. School, Triplicane, and Chennai High School, Kotturpuram.



**Rural outreach:** M.O.P. Vaishnav College along with Ekal organised a six-day camp at 5 villages near Yercaud. 51 students from the department of Journalism went for the camp and conducted sessions on menstrual hygiene, self defence, financial literacy and more.

