



**QUEEN MARY'S COLLEGE
(AUTONOMOUS)
CHENNAI - 4**

Affiliated to University of Madras



COLLEGE DAY - REPORT

COLLEGE DAY ANNUAL REPORT

2023 – 2024

This academic year, 2023-24, marks yet another milestone in our journey of excellence and learning. As we come together to commemorate the legacy of Queen Mary's College, I am thrilled to announce to this august gathering that the Staff and the Old Students' Association of Queen Mary's College joined hands together and celebrated this esteemed institution's 109th birthday on the 14th of July, 2023 in the Assembly Hall. 109 saplings were planted around the QMC Centenary pillar and 109 balloons were aired by our Former Principals – Dr. Eugene Pinto and Selvi. Uttara Prabhu, teaching, non-teaching staff, former and present students of the College. The day was filled with alumnae gatherings providing a wonderful opportunity for all of us to reconnect, share memories, and celebrate the spirit of our *alma mater*. The college band led a march to the decorated space and garlanded the bust of Queen Mary statue and the statue of De la Hey, the first Principal of QMC located in the Golden Jubilee Hall.

As a part of extended education, to trigger the thought process, observation skills and make the students realize the spirit of teamwork, the final year B.Sc. Physics students were taken on a field trip for a Plasma Exhibition Program on 6th July 2023 which was jointly organized by the Institute of Plasma Research, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu Science and Technology Centre, Chennai, and Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam, at Periyar Science and Technology Centre campus, Kotturpuram, Chennai. Again, on 20th July 2023 all the PG students went to IITM Research Park in Perungudi. They gained a lot of fresh knowledge from their interactions with Prof. Ashok Jhunjhunwala. Dr. Hemamalini Rajagopal, Head of the Department, Dr. J. Srividya and Dr. G. Usha accompanied the students. On behalf of Physics Association, a lecture on the Space Exploration program by Brahmastra team was conducted at the Assembly Hall on 21st July 2023 with the Resource person, Dr. Subash from the US Consulate in Chennai.

Independence Day, a significant day in the history of India, was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm in the Assembly Hall on 15th August 2023. Dr. M. Raziya Parvin, HOD of Historical Studies gave the heart-warming welcome address and Dr. B. Uma Maheswari, the Principal of the college delivered a stirring Presidential Address, reflecting on the significance of Independence Day and the role of education in shaping responsible citizens. The speech

inspired the audience to uphold the values of freedom, unity, and progress. The program was marked by the presence of retiring professors as Chief Guests of Honour, who were felicitated for their invaluable contributions to the institution. The highlight of the event was the task given to them to unfurl the national flag, symbolizing our collective reverence for the nation and its principles. This is the first programme organized by the Department of Historical Studies which is responsible for the College Student's Union for this academic year.

On 15th August 2023, the students from the Department of Music presented patriotic songs for Doordarshan on account of Independence Day celebrations. On 24th August 2023, the Department of DPHS organized a Workshop in collaboration with Akshay Foundations and VYLEARN on "Student Entrepreneurship and Empowerment" in commemoration of the "World Trainers Day - Aacharya 2023", Chief Guest Mrs. Madhumathi I.A.S., the Managing Director of TANSIDCO motivated the students.

The Teachers' Day Programme was organized by the Student Union under the student leader head Ms. G. Priyadarshini of III BA Historical Studies on 5th September 2023, was a testament to the collaborative spirit and collective efforts of the entire institution. Through a diverse array of activities and events, the programme succeeded in celebrating the invaluable contributions of our teachers while fostering a sense of unity, camaraderie, and appreciation within the academic community.

In observance of Breastfeeding Awareness Week on 3rd August 2024, the Department of Home Science in collaboration with IFTR and ICDS organized an awareness program for pregnant and lactating mothers. The final year undergraduate students created awareness about the benefits of breastfeeding, advice on foods that promote milk production and the importance of breastfeeding through various art programs. On 4th September, the final year post graduate students displayed posters on various benefits and importance of small grains. Our senior Associate Professor Dr. K. Kasthuri shared her opinion with the doctors, nurses and medical students working at the Government Children's Hospital in Egmore on the topic- "Millets as an Ideal Food in Contemporary Times".

On 7th September 2023, the Department of Chemistry marked the beginning of its collaboration with an international lecture featuring Dr. M. Shanmugasundaram, a distinguished Senior Staff Scientist at Thermo Fisher Scientific, based in Texas, USA. He delivered an inspiring and thought-provoking speech titled "A Take on Youth Future Health and Biotech R&D Trend: Drug Discovery Scientist Perspective." Dr. Shanmugasundaram

captivated the audience with his deep understanding of the intersection between youth health, biotechnology research, and drug discovery. The Department of Physics conducted a special lecture by Prof. S. Selvasekara Pandian, Director-Material Research Center and Emeritus Professor of Physics, Bharathiyar University, Coimbatore in “Battery Technology” on 9th September 2023 and enlightened the students in the subject.

The importance of yoga is well known for health and its allied activities, therefore a workshop on Pranayama practices by Yoga Sironmani Dr. Balachandar was organized by the Department of Music on 25th September 2023 which proved beneficial to the staff and students of the College.

An extraordinary initiative was taken by the Department of Zoology to celebrate the *Big Butterfly* month from 1st September to 30th September 2023 which was not only commendable but also showcased a deep commitment to environmental awareness and biodiversity conservation. Having the Director of Collegiate Education as the Chief Guest for the Valedictory, adds a significant touch of prestige to the event, emphasizing the importance of such endeavors in academia. Furthermore, registering the butterflies as a stamp elevates the significance of these beautiful creatures and this initiative has inspired the individuals to appreciate and protect our delicate ecosystem.

The UN has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets and the Department of Home Science has been organizing various events every month in order to create awareness among the student community. I am very happy to state here that in commemoration of the UN year, a national level seminar on “Nutritional and nutritive properties of Small Grains” was organized by this Department on 15th September, 2023. Various advanced experts participated and gave lectures on recent topics related to small grains. Students presented their research on millets and discussed their themes. A compilation of research articles entitled “Specialities of Millets – Health and Nutrition” has been done by the students and brought out in the form of a book published with ISBN number. In commemorating the 80th birthday of the Department of Home Science, a felicitation ceremony was organized under the headship of Dr. Kalavani Ashok in order to honour the professors who have worked in this field.

Celebrated in many nations worldwide, *the Democracy Day* marks a crucial moment in history when people gained the right to govern themselves through fair and inclusive processes. Due to this importance, the Department of Sociology conducted the same on 20th September 2023. Distinguished Emeritus Professors of the department were the Chief Guests and they

discussed various aspects of democracy. It inspired the students to continue working towards building inclusive, equitable, and just societies where every voice is heard and every individual is valued.

The inauguration of the College Student's Union and the investiture ceremony of the newly elected student members marked a significant milestone in the academic journey of our institution. With the Principal as the chief guest, the event was held on 6th October 2023 in the Assembly Hall, with great pomp and grandeur, showcasing the democratic spirit and leadership potential inherent in our student body.

The popular annual event of our college – Tourex 2023 was organized by the Department of Geography on account of World Tourism Day with the theme of “Green Investment” under the headship of Dr. Geetha, Associate Professor and Head of the Department. Again, on 14th October 2023 the department organized a lecture entitled, “Geography and International Travel Experience” given by Dr. D. Thulasi Mani, a distinguished retired staff of the department during yesteryears.

The Department of Music conducted a workshop on Swathi Thirunal Kritis with the guest Dr. Jaya Mahadevan, All India Radio, Chennai Director during the Navaratri Music Festival on 20th October 2023.

The vibrant and culturally rich festival of Pongal organized by the Union in charge department was celebrated with immense joy and enthusiasm on 12th January 2024. This celebration was a delightful spectacle of traditional customs, cheerful camaraderie, and spirited competitions. The heart of the event revolved around traditional Pongal making and elaborate decorations that adorned the whole campus. The air was filled with the aroma of freshly cooked Pongal, and colourful Rangolis adorned the surroundings, creating a festive ambience that transported the students to the heart of Tamil Nadu's cultural heritage.

I am very proud to state here that our students winning the Republic Day prize for the eighth consecutive time is a testament to their unwavering dedication, hard work, and exceptional talent under the able guidance of Dr. E. Uma, Head of the Department of Physical, Health Education and Sports. Receiving this prestigious award from the Government of Tamil Nadu highlights the outstanding contributions of Queen Mary's College students to society and their commitment to excellence. This remarkable feat not only reflects the students' prowess but also speaks volumes about the institution's commitment to nurturing and fostering talent.

The Department of Computer Science association ***Tech Byte*** was inaugurated on 11th

January, 2024 where the session on “Essential Skill for Digital Era for Workplace” was handled. In continuation, a seminar on “Role of Cyber Law on Cyber Security” was organized on 26th February 2024 wherein the speaker Ms. Smriti Anandan (Advocate) emphasized the basic usage of mobile devices and security in cyber space among the student community. A seminar on “Cryptography - Essential Demo” was also organized on 28th February 2024 which gave information on Cryptography essentials.

On account of Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the Department of Tamil organized two workshops during 23rd and 24th January 2024. In addition, the department also organized a Seminar during 7th February 2024 and in commemoration of the birth anniversary of Devaneyya Paavaanar, a research workshop was also conducted. The Department of Tamil has renamed the Tamil Illakiya Mandram as “Velliveethiyar Tamil Ilakiya Mandram” and due to continuous research, the department has been elevated to the higher academic research department.

The Departments of French, Urdu and Hindi jointly held their Association inauguration meetings on 30th January 2024. The Guest speaker Mrs. Chitkala Shanker from TVS Educational Society gave a talk on “The Essence of Learning and Good Study Habits.” The students attended this engrossing and motivating speech and after this there was a short cultural programme with songs and ghazals. And the highlight was the trilingual skit in French, Hindi and Urdu with English explanations on the side.

The Department of Sociology inaugurated Socio-Beads club for inducting new members on 31st January 2024 and celebrated the 127th Birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The Chief Guest Mr. MJ Voltaire, Chief of the All India Committee Member of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, shed light on the unparalleled bravery, unwavering commitment of Netaji towards Indian independence.

The Department of Sanskrit organized a special lecture on 12th February 2024. Mrs. Chandra Former Head of the Department of Sanskrit, Presidency College spoke on “Beauty of Classical Sanskrit Literature.” She also gave a cash prize of Rs. 5000 to all the first-rank holders of first and second-year undergraduates and encouraged the students to pursue their studies and bring laurels to the department.

The Department of Economics inaugurated its association on 14th February 2024 with the Auditor Ms. S. Jayalakshmi as the Chief Guest. She delivered an elaborate lecture on Goods and Service Tax (GST) and its impact on Indian economy. The lecture was highly intellectual and interesting and it was followed by various on-stage and off-stage events, which

brought out the hidden talents of the students.

On 14th February 2024, the Department of Chemistry organized the Inter-Collegiate Chemistry Quiz competition titled "**QUEST**" for post-graduate students, aiming to commemorate the legacy of our former President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. The event attracted participants from various colleges, fostering healthy competition and academic camaraderie. The coveted Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam rolling trophy, symbolizing excellence, and dedication in the field of chemistry, was awarded to the deserving champions.

The association meeting of the Department of Historical Studies and the Archaeological Exhibition in collaboration with Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was inaugurated on 27th February, 2024 by Mr. Amarnath Ramakrishna, the Director of Keezhadi excavation. He delivered an informative speech about the archaeological excavations undertaken in the Vaigai River civilization of Keezhadi and Adhichanallur in Tamil Nadu. He stated that one of the notable aspects of the Keezhadi excavation was the discovery of a large number of Tamil-Brahmi inscriptions on pottery, providing valuable insights into the language and writing systems of the ancient Tamil society. These findings challenge previous historical narratives and contribute significantly to our understanding of the early Tamil civilization. The exhibition displayed pictures of the artefacts and excavated sites of the Indus Valley civilization and the Vaigai River civilizations. This historical event was an eye-opener for our students and it was received well by them as well.

The Department of Geography has organized an International Seminar in a graceful manner by inviting delegates from the Universities of Sri Lanka, Assam, and Central University of Karnataka on 22nd February 2024 under the theme "Global Sustainability and Scenario of Innovative Technologies". This academic exercise acted as a rich source of knowledge to budding geographers and researchers. The department has also organized a special lecture on "Urban Flood Management – A Case Study of Chennai" given by Dr. S. Janakarajan, the President of South Asia Consortium Inter-disciplinary Water Resource Studies, Hyderabad.

The Department of Biochemistry inaugurated their association on 28th February 2024 with the chief guest Dr. M. Sujatha, Director, Centre for Women Studies, Chennai. She delivered a lecture on Women's Health from Menarche to Menopause.

The Department of Mathematics at Queen Mary's College celebrated a significant milestone in its history as it commemorated its 75th anniversary with an International Conference on the theme "Mathematics and its Applications." Held on the 28th and 29th of

February 2024, the conference brought together esteemed mathematicians, scholars, researchers, and students from different parts of the country to explore and discuss various facets of mathematics and its practical implications. The highlight of the event was that the existing faculty from the Department paid tribute to its retired staff who have contributed significantly to its legacy since 1961. Their dedication, mentorship, and academic excellence continue to inspire and guide the current generation of mathematicians and educators.

The Department of Commerce organized a special lecture on “Professional Education and Career Opportunities for Commerce students” by Mr. Girigharan practicing Chartered Accountant, on 24th January 2024. His speech was inspiring, thought provoking and tailored for commerce students. In addition, a Value-added certificate course in collaboration with CCA organization, Mylapore, was conducted by the department on “TALLY ERP 9(5) with GST” during this academic year and around 49 students benefited from the same.

PG Department of Computer Applications conducted its association Technola 2024 on 5th March, 2024 wherein Dr. E. Uma, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Physical Education served as the chief guest and addressed the students gathering. As a part of this meeting, various intra-departmental events were conducted and the students showcased their talents by enthusiastically participating in all the events.

On 6th March 2024 the Department of Sociology organized an awareness programme on Breast and Cervical Cancer. The lectures were given by eminent doctors from Stanley Medical College and Tagore Medical College which provided an insightful overview of breast cancer, including its onset and risk factors. The students and staff gained knowledge about the various stages of breast cancer, enabling a better understanding of the disease.

I am very much delighted to highlight here that on this International Women's Day i.e. 8th March 2024 the Department of Sociology attempted to create awareness about gender issues and celebrated the achievements of women in the field of sociology. To commemorate the event the students made videos and sang songs highlighting the women empowerment and gender equality.

The Department of Botany's initiative to organize a TANSICHE sponsored one-day National- level workshop on “Research in Integrated Areas of Science and Technology” on 28th February 2024 is truly commendable. Such workshops play a crucial role in fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and advancing knowledge in the field of science and technology.

I am glad to state here that our popular event Annual Sports Day signaled a day of

athletic excitement wherein the Chief guest – Dr. Johnson Prem Kumar, Principal, YMCA College of Physical Education delivered inspiring speech after officially declaring the Sports Day open by hoisting the college flag and igniting the Olympic torch. All the departments showcased their unity and discipline through a captivating march past, impressing judges and spectators alike. The Head and Director of Physical Education, Dr.V.Sujitha presented an insightful annual report, highlighting a spectrum of intramural events that engaged students, teaching staff, and non-teaching staff alike. The cultural segment dazzled with displays of karate, yoga, silambam, and aerobics with lezim, showcased the diverse talents of the students. Finally, the Chief guest along with the principal honoured the winners, while acknowledging the dedicated efforts of the sports committee and coaches in nurturing talent. Special recognition was extended to the dedicated members of the college sports committee and coaches who played pivotal roles in nurturing talent.

QMC Festa '24 – the annual cultural extravaganza happened in a grand manner on 29th February, 1st and 2nd March, 2024. Organized with meticulous planning and dedication by the Department of Historical Studies and the College Student's Union members, under the headship of Dr. M. Raziya Parvin, the event showcased the collaborative spirit of the entire college community. Dr. B. Uma Maheswari, the Principal delivered a thought-provoking Presidential Address, emphasizing the importance of cultural events in nurturing talent and fostering a sense of community. Her words resonated with the audience, underscoring the significance of the occasion. It was a grand celebration of talent, creativity, and cultural vibrancy wherein the students of the entire college enjoyed to the core level with special guests from various fields.

The PG and Research Department of Physics conducted an Inter-collegiate Physics Quiz 2024 for Madame Marie Curie Rolling Shield on 19th February 2024. Students from the Chennai city colleges participated enthusiastically. Madame Curie Rolling Trophy was handed over to the students of Madras Christian College, Chennai for having won overall first place and prizes were distributed to the winners of the quiz competition and essay competition.

On 15th March 2024, the Department of Tamil organized the popular event “Mutthamizh Vizha” in a grand manner with a distinguished Chief guest, Kalaimaamani Andal Priyadarshini (writer) organized under the headship of Dr.R.Sivashakti, Associate Professor and Head of the department and the programme was well received by the student community.

I would like to inform this august gathering that the student's union in-charge department organizes the College assembly every Wednesday in the morning for Shift I and

afternoon for Shift II students with the aim of updating the students and the faculty on recent developments in college, announcing upcoming events and applauding the achievements of students and staff members. This is the place where the principal meets the students regularly and it proves the fact that she upholds genuine care and dedication towards fostering a positive learning environment.

Achievements: Staff and Students

Dr. E. Uma, Associate Professor and Head, Department of DPHS received International Achiever Award 2024 from Pathanjali College of Yoga and Research Centre, Chennai at World University Service Centre for her outstanding achievement and dedication in the field of Physical Education.

Dr. M. Raziya Parvin, Associate Professor and Head, Department of History has published a Book entitled “Saluting Women in Indian History” in September 2023 and I am happy to state here that this book has won the Golden Book Award 2024 given by Wings Publication International. On account of Women’s Day, this book was released by Hon’ble Dr. Justice Anita Sumanth in the International Women’s Day programme held at the C P Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation, Chennai.

Four Professors from the Department of Tamil won awards. Dr. R. Anuradha, Associate Professor of Tamil has won the Valarthamizh Maamani award given by the Pannatu Thamizhmozhi Panpattu Kazhagam, Chennai Valarchi Kazhagam and Tamil Nadu Open University during August 2023 and she has also bagged the Aasiriya Chemmal award given by Thamizhaga Kalvi Aaraichi Valarchi Niruvanam.

Dr. Kamala Murugan, Associate Professor of Tamil was presented with a prize of Rs.15000 for the best book by the Sekkhizar Forum.

The Department of Tamil received the award entitled “Thamizhagatthin Thalai Sirantha Kalloori” by the Thiruvayaru Kalvikkazhagam.

Dr. S. Kamaladevi, Associate Professor of History has edited a book entitled “Socio-Economic Dimensions of Social Sciences published by Ryan Publishers during the year 2023.

Dr. D. Vijayalakshmi, Associate Professor of Economics received the Teaching Excellency Award during September 2023 given by Zen Academy and Mutthamil Sangam, Chennai.

Dr. Easwari Ramesh, Associate Professor of Economics received the Best Woman Icon Award given by the NGO named Dream Kalam. She has published two books entitled “Entrepreneurship Development” and “Urban Economy”. Dr. Easwari Ramesh has organized various programme in association with the Government. She served efficiently in the planting of *oru koadi panai vidhai nadum pani* in Chennai and received an award for the same.

Dr. K. Hima Bindu, Assistant Professor of Corporate Secretaryship was awarded the PhD degree in June 2023 and Mrs. P. Rekha, Assistant Professor of Commerce was conferred with the Doctorate on 14th March 2024.

Dr. B. Revathi Mani from the Department of Biochemistry underwent a Japanese course along with the second-year students of the department and presented a wonderful skit which was well appreciated by everyone and were given certificates and medals.

The faculty from the Research Departments of the institution has published articles in the National and International Journals.

Six research scholars gained their PhD from the Department of Tamil during this academic year. One research scholar from each of the Department of Mathematics and Historical Studies received their Doctorate from the University of Madras during the year 2023.

I register my heartiest congratulations to Ms. Ramyasri and Ms. Yuvabharathi from the Department of Zoology on their remarkable achievement in clearing the UGC NET Examination for Lectureship and Junior Research Fellowship held during the month of December 2023. Ms. Sheela, a visually challenged student from the Department of Historical Studies also cleared the UGC Net Examination during 2023.

S Lokeshwari II M.Sc. Botany won second prize in Essay Competition conducted by Ayush Mandal Research Institute, Government of India.

In commemoration of Kalaignar centenary celebrations, “Rational Reformed Chemmal Artists Group” organized debate, essay, and seminar competitions for the students. Mr. Karthik, PhD Research scholar gained prize in the seminar competition. On the birthdays of Ambedkar, Anna and Periyar the Department of Tamil organized the district level competitions in

collaboration with the Tamil Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu and our students won various prizes in the same. It also organized various competitions of the Higher Education Department and the students won prizes.

Ms. G. Priyadharshini of III BA Historical Studies has won several medals and cash prizes in the Essay writing, Poetry writing, Debate and Speech competitions held at the Inter-Collegiate and State levels. Ms. Bhagyalakshmi and Ms. Shalini, the visually challenged students from the Department of Historical Studies have won the gold medal and cash prize of Rs.50,000 in the programme organized by the Government of Tamil Nadu Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority.

Many students from the Department of Historical Studies participated and won various prizes in the Inter-Collegiate events held during different periods of this academic year and won various prizes.

The students from the Department of Botany participated in the Inter-collegiate competitions held at Presidency College, Stella Mary's College and Women's Christian College and won many prizes.

Ms. Sri Ranjani from the Department of Sanskrit, participated in several Inter-Collegiate competitions and won various prizes.

Ms. Srujana and Ms. S. Sivaranjani of III BCom CS won third prize in the State level Cooking without fire competition held at St. Thomas College, Chennai.

On 21st February 2024 the state level Inter-University Music competition was organized by the Tamil University, wherein Ms. G. Mirlani first- year PG student of Music department won the third prize.

The students from the Department of Biochemistry participated in various Inter-collegiate events and the final year students won the first place in the event of Wealth out of Waste held at DG Vaishnav College. Ms. Divya and Vinothini of III BSc Biochemistry won a cash prize of Rs.2500.

Three students of the Creative Writing Club were selected to participate in a Creative Writing Workshop from January to March 2024 on Climate Change organized by the US Consulate General in Chennai.

Sports Achievements

The participation of women students in sports activities at our institution has been a remarkable journey of empowerment, achievement, and breaking barriers. Over the past year, we have witnessed a surge in the involvement of students in various sports, reflecting a growing trend towards inclusivity and gender equality in athletic endeavors under the active leadership of Dr. V. Sujitha, the Director of Physical Education in our College. We are thrilled to announce a series of outstanding achievements by our students and faculty in various sports events. Our visually challenged students showcased exceptional talent and determination, securing first place, and earning a cash award of Rs. 3,50,000 in the State Level Chief Minister Trophy Tournament. Their victory is a testament to their perseverance and skill. Ms. Selvam of I M.Sc. Chemistry and Ms. Kasthuri of II BA Tamil Literature were selected to represent the University of Madras in the South Zone Inter-University event. In the 20th Tamil Nadu State Silambam Championship, Ms. D. Shivsree of Botany won a gold medal in the stick fight event and a silver medal in the single javelin event. Ms. S. Nishanthini of III BCom CS won second place in IIT Madras Inter-College Volleyball Tournament. She has also represented Tamil Nadu in National Beach Volleyball match held at Daman and Diu, Gujarat from 3rd to 13th January, 2024.

Ms. Rajadharani of I BCom and Ms. Manvitha of I BA Sociology proudly represented the University of Madras in the All India Inter-University Beach Volleyball Tournament, showcasing their sporting excellence on a national platform. Ms. Bharathi II MA Economics clinched a gold medal in the International Yoga Competition held in Sri Lanka is a testament to her dedication and mastery in the field of yoga, bringing honour to our institution. Our college students excelled in Kabaddi, representing Tamil Nadu in the National Beach Games and secured a silver medal, demonstrating their skill and commitment to the sport. Dr. Sadhana, Assistant Professor from the Department of English represented Tamil Nadu in the national-level basketball tournament held at Goa. Her team's second-place finish is a remarkable achievement, showcasing her talent and passion for the sport.

On the whole, the Department of Physical Education has produced an impressive tally of 35 state players, 22 national players, and one international player across various sports. These achievements reflect the dedication, talent, and hard work within this department. Being the Head of this institution, on behalf of everyone I extend heartfelt congratulations to all

participants for their exceptional accomplishments. Your achievements not only bring pride to our institution but also inspire others to strive for excellence in sports.

Club Activities

With the nation's 77th Independence Day celebrations, on the horizon, the Women's Champion Club in collaboration with the NGO in Chennai resonated with the spirit of freedom and expression. On the 14th of August 2023, Inter-Departmental competitions on the topic "Unsung Women Heroines of Freedom Struggle in Tamil Nadu" were organized under the co-ordination of Dr. M. Raziya Parvin, Dr. K. Suja and Dr. G. Suguna. On the whole, around 70 students participated in the competition. Cash prizes were given to the first two places both in English and Tamil by the Principal during the Independence Day celebrations.

I am very happy and proud to inform this august gathering that the Department of English under the headship of Dr. Maria Preethi Srinivasan has several clubs which provide a platform for activity-based learning. The Clubs which are in operation are: Theatre and Public Speaking, Visual Arts, Creative Writing, Film and Visual Media, Readers Planet and Scrabble Club. All club activities are geared towards the English language and honing communication skills.

The Theatre and Public Speaking Club works consistently with the students to help them acquire stage presence and effective articulation of their own ideas or lines from great pieces of drama. *Hayavadana*, the masterpiece of Girish Karnad, the doyen of Indian Theatre was staged by "The Queens Theatre" (the theatre group of QMC) for the Annual Play of the College from 12th to 14th October, 2023. The hall was packed to full capacity on the first day of the show and the venue resounded with the standing ovation accorded by the audience. All three shows were well attended. The play proved to be a landmark event. The central theme of the quest for completeness struck a chord with the audience.

The Scrabble Club of the College is working consistently with the students to help them improve their vocabulary. Scrabble Literacy Programme for the entire under-graduate students of our college was conducted in the month of August 2023. And I am very happy to state here that the Scrabble Club has recorded a great achievement this year with the Alfred Butts Intercollegiate Scrabble Tournament held on 8th September 2023 and was sponsored by the US Consulate General in Chennai. M. K. Subramanian Inter- Departmental Scrabble Tournament was also held on 29th September 2023 and the Department of Mathematics won the overall championship in the Tournament.

The Women's Champion Club operating under the aegis of Department of History celebrated this year's Women's Day on 8th March 2024 by having discussions with the members of the club and students were given the opportunity to speak on what factors lead to the real empowerment of women in the society.

The Visual Arts Club has an active WhatsApp group where students share photos of their artwork. The mentors of the club also share pictures of great works of art and about art events in the city. The Club organized the annual Art Exhibition during the first week of March 2024 entitled ArtEx24 which has witnessed a remarkable turnout with approximately 205 students registering and contributing around 400 diverse artworks. Notably, the inclusion of "Little Queen Marians Corner" catered to the creative expressions of primary school students on campus. The Film and Visual Media Club organized a visit of the students for a movie show on 7th March 2024 at PVR Sathyam Cinemas, Chennai. This has also scheduled a photography contest called Shutterbug 2K24 scheduled for 18th March 2024.

The Entrepreneurship Development Cell of Queen Mary's College, organized the annual ED Bazaar – Wednesday Treat" on 28th February 2024 in the Golden Jubilee Hall. SHGs from Chennai, Thiruvallur, Kanchipuram participated and benefited from the same. Some of our students who are budding entrepreneurs also displayed their own homemade and handmade products for sales. The ED cell also organized a 10-day workshop on Painting and Handworks with an MOU between the department and the Pedilite (Fevicryl) company. 35 students are undergoing the training programme.

The Training and Placement Committee

The Training and Placement Committee of our college is working diligently to keep in mind the employment needs of the students as they complete their graduation and post-graduation. For the year 2023-24 Dr. E Anuradha from the Department of Tamil, Dr. Bhavani Govindarajulu of Zoology, Dr. Sri Urmila from the Department of English, and Dr. Bhuvaneshwari of Computer Applications. A workshop was conducted for the final year undergraduate and postgraduate students in the last week of January 2024, through which the students get acquainted with how to pass the job interview. Placement assistance was held throughout the year and on 6th February 2024 an employment camp was conducted in our college campus along with about 25 companies. Approximately 639 female students participated and were selected for the final interview.

Career Guidance Cell

The Career Guidance Cell jointly with IQAC and Department of English organized a Certificate course in Basic Japanese where 60 students took part in the training. 20 students passed meritoriously and 6 students passed JLPT N5 Level Examination. The Career Guidance cell also organized an Orientation programme on the awareness of TNPSC Group IV Examination 2024 and around 310 students have applied for the forthcoming Examinations.

College General Library

The Digital Library of our College has been enriched with 480 books during this academic year. The Chennai Students Reading Forum inauguration was held on 17th July 2023 wherein 423 students act as members. This event was graced by the Chief Guest Manushayaputhiran, President and Mr.Oli Vannan, Secretary of Chennai Corporation Library Authority Committee. Weekly book review programs, workshops and awareness programs for visually challenged students are being organized by the General Library Reading Club under the guidance of our College Librarian, Dr. S. Jeyashree.

College Dispensary

The need of the hour is women's health for a better society. Having this objective in mind, our college dispensary provides primary medical care for the students and staff. Regular health checkups are conducted for the students. Under the *“Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam”* scheme faculty members are regularly screened for hypertension and diabetes for its early detection. National Deworming Day was conducted during the months of August 2023 and February 2024 benefitting around 3500 and 4544 students respectively.

I am very happy to mention here that we have proposed to name our Assembly Hall after the first woman freedom fighter of India Rani Velu Nachiyar of Sivagangai for which the renovation process is ongoing. The hall will be inaugurated on 27th March 2024 by the descendant of Velu Nachiyar along with the unveiling of this Queen's portrait.

As the curtains draw to a close on the academic year 2023-24, I have reflected on the countless memories, achievements, and milestones that have defined our journey together. From the exhilarating victories on the sports field to the moments of profound learning in classrooms, each experience has contributed to the rich tapestry of our great institution. Let us embark on the next phase of our lives with confidence, resilience, and a commitment to

excellence. As we look ahead to the promise of tomorrow, let us carry the spirit with us, striving for greatness, embracing diversity, and making a positive impact.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every member of our college community for their unwavering dedication, passion, and support throughout the year. May the memories we have created and the lessons we have learned serve as guiding beacons on our journey towards a brighter future. Here is to the cherished moments of the past and the boundless possibilities of the future.

I take this great opportunity to wish you all a great success, happiness, and fulfillment in all your endeavours!!!
