Union min: Women set higher standards for themselves

Chennai: “Some say that studying in an all-women’s college is not as vibrant as at a co-ed college, but I disagree. I say that women set higher standards for themselves,” said Union minister of commerce and industry Nirmala Sitharaman, at a function here at the Women’s Christian College (WCC) on Tuesday. She was the chief guest at the WCC centenary celebrations, marking the 100th year of the institution which was established in 1915.

Unveiling the centenary logo and addressing the gathering, she said, “Tamil Nadu is a benchmark for women empowerment, thanks to institutions like WCC which has spent 100 years in empowering women in education, which is the most powerful tool.” She also said that for an institute to create an impact on individuals it takes immense commitment from faculty members.

Principal Ridling Margaret Waller delivered the welcome address. Special guests included distinguished alumnai like dean of Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota, Srilatha Zaeber; director of National Police Academy, Hyderabad, Aruna Bahuguna; chairman and CEO of TAFE, Chennai, Mallika Srinivasan and under secretary (ITP), ministry of external affairs, Chennai, Angeline Premalatha.
'பஞ்சாட்சி அதிகாரம் அறிவித்த நூற்றாண்டு'
கனின்ச் கேள்விகள் கண்டுரு தாம்பரம் விளை

சுருக்க ஆசிரியர் விளையாட்டு கொள்வை

நான் களிக்கும் விளையாட்டில் வந்தையும் கண்ட கூற்றுகளை மிகவும் பெரிய வைத்தேன். பாசார் பிரிவுப் பிழையில் வந்துள்ள மகள் பிரிவுகள் வேலையை பதிவு செய்யும் போது, விளையாட்டுக்குரிய தலைமை வேறு போக்கு அடைகள் மற்றும் விளையாட்டுக்கு பங்காற்றும் கருவிகளை வைத்தேன்.

களிக்கும் விளையாட்டிற்கான விளையாட்டில் வந்தையும் கண்ட கூற்றுகளை மிகவும் பெரிய வைத்தேன். பாசார் பிரிவுப் பிழையில் வந்துள்ள மகள் பிரிவுகள் வேலையை பதிவு செய்யும் போது, விளையாட்டுக்குரிய தலைமை வேறு போக்கு அடைகள் மற்றும் விளையாட்டுக்கு பங்காற்றும் கருவிகளை வைத்தேன்.
Celebrating 100 years of learning

WCC alumnae, students, and staff come together to mark a milestone

Special Correspondent

CHENNAI: Women from down the generations and across continents came together on the Women's Christian College (WCC) campus at Nungambakkam on Tuesday to be part of the 100th anniversary celebrations of the historic educational institution.

From a humble beginning with seven faculty members and 41 students in 1915, the college has gone to become one of the oldest institutions in the city with over 3,300 students and 180 faculty members.

The year-long festivities had a befitting start in a string of events, including the planting of the centenary sapling and students sharing their cherished memories of the college.

Unveiling the centenary logo, Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, said, “It is not easy to exist for 100 years. Some institutions such as WCC have not just existed but have led the way in empowering women, Tamil Nadu is a hallmark for women’s empowerment.”

Pointing out the college’s impact on people, Ms. Sitharaman said it influenced generations of women who carried the flag of the institution in different fields and diverse circumstances.

A DAY TO REMEMBER: Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman (second from right) unveiling the centenary logo of Women’s Christian College during its centenary celebrations in Chennai on Tuesday. Principal Ridling Margaret Waller, Mallika Srinivasan, Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd. chairperson (left), and Aruna Bahuguna, Director, National Police Academy, Hyderabad, are seen.

PHOTO: M. MOORTHY

Two of the eminent alumnae of the college – Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd. chairperson Mallika Srinivasan and National Police Academy, Hyderabad, Director Aruna Bahuguna – recalled how the college shaped them to be women with independent thoughts and a curiosity to explore. Others like Srihata Zaheer, Dean, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota, and Angeline Premalatha of the External Affairs Ministry, Chennai, spoke of the college and its faculty members. R. Thindavan, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras, was present.

Time capsule

Besides unfurling of streamers signed by alumnae from across the globe, a time capsule comprising names of present students and faculty was dedicated to be placed on a commemorative pillar by WCC Principal Ridling Margaret Waller. This record, printed on archival paper, will be opened in 2040.

The college’s centenary film featuring 103-year-old alumnae Salomi Joseph was screened amid much cheer. A 100-voice choir comprising students and alumnae formed for the centenary celebrations captivated the audience with their songs.
Ready to help TN: Nirmala

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JULY 7

Asserting that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP government is keen on providing the required impetus for industrial development in Tamil Nadu and also revive the sick units, commerce and industry minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, said the Centre is willing to take appropriate steps if the state government submitted a detailed report on the status of closed units. She was in the city to preside over the centenary celebrations of the Women’s Christian College on Tuesday.
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman calls TN a hallmark in women empowerment

P2
College stands as architect for hundreds of women who bring glory to nation every year

WCC CELEBRATES 100TH YEAR WITH FANFARE

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, JULY 8

Hundreds of students, alumni and teachers gathered in the 100th anniversary celebrations of the iconic Women’s Christian College (WCC) at its campus on Tuesday. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, chief guest at the event unveiled the centenary logo of the institute that commenced in 1913.

“Women Empowerment has always been a hallmark of Tamil Nadu,” she said and added that WCC has been empowering women for a hundred years with an important tool called education.

“People say women’s colleges lack enthusiasm; I don’t think so because I too studied in an all women’s college and women set higher standards for themselves,” she told the gathering.

The celebrations started at midnight with a thanksgiving service where students, alumni and staff lit candles to signify “chart a course, Lighted to Lighten.” There were calls that said WCC tashirs and other commodities.

The grounds and the entrance were decorated with flowers and huge banners were hung in the college to create a festive mood.

A 150-voice choir and the student choir sang songs during the event.

R. Thantharavm, Vip Chaukhal, University of Madras and a host of alumni facilitated the centenary celebrations. Madhulika Mishra, who is the chairman of Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE), Sri Latha Zacharia, Dean of a B-school in United States, Aruna Bhaskar, IPS, who heads the National Police Academy in Hyderabad, and Prasanna Pandey, Institute of Management, ministry of external affairs, shared their experiences as past WCC students during the event.

“What I learned at WCC travels with me always and has laid the base for my position today,” said Sri Latha Zacharia.

The college started with seven teachers and 43 students 100 years ago and now it has over 3,000 students and 130 teachers,” said R. Thantharavm who mentioned that WCC has made three significant achievements—service to women, creation of communal harmony and empowering the nation.

“Last year we had a bio-rally but this year we are going to do rewarding cycles,” said S. Niveda, student coordinator of the event. She feels proud to be a part of the batch that completes the course during the 100th year of WCC.
Ridding Margaret’s phone hasn’t stopped ringing and it is for good reason. At the helm of Women’s Christian College (WCC), Chennai which celebrates its centenary year on July 5, Margaret is in a happy space. This was an institution that was started in the early 19th century (1843) to be exact. Higher secondary education for women was unheard of during those times. To think that we have carried forward the legacy of our founders and decided to empower women to both challenge and achieve significant milestones. She says.

Courses
Having had humble beginnings with just four students and seven teachers, the college today serves about 3,000 students and has faculty strength of close to 600. Recognised by National Assessment and Accreditation Council with an ‘A’ grade in 2012, the college offers BA degrees in History, English Literature and Mathematics, BSc degrees in Physics, Chemistry, Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology, Advanced Zoology and Biotechnology, Psychology, Computer Science and Home Science – Nutrition, Food Service Management and Dietetics. In the self-financed afternoon BCA, BCom (Finance), BBA (Accounting and Finance), BCom (Hons), BBA, BA Corporate Economics, BCA and BSc Visual Communication are offered. On the postgraduate front, MSc Computer Science and Technology, MSc Home Science – Food Service Management and Dietetics, MSc Home Science – Foods and Nutrition, MSc Applied Psychology (with specialisations in Counselling and Psychotherapy or Organisational Behaviour), MSc Physics, MSc Chemistry, MSc Mathematics, MSc Biotechnology, MBA Information Technology, MA Human Resource Management, MA English and MA Communication are offered. BPharm and MPharm are offered in Biotechnology.

Facilities
The infrastructure on the 20-acre campus in the heart of the city in College Road, Nungambakkam includes, a library with 33,000 books, and magazines, a hotel on campus, a student counselling centre (Vikas), a career guidance cell, canteens and a chapel (WCC is a protestant minority institution). It costs about Rs 75,000 and Rs 39,000, respectively to study a self-financed UG and PG course at WCC. Margaret, who is in her 20th year as principal, says the college outsides 15 parks every year to help financially weak students with fees. Admissions are based on community and merit. WCC scores on sports and drama, theatre and music clubs among others, says a housing Margaret, setting aside a special mention to the WCC, their loaded by Trinity with Convincia facilities. WCC students spend four semesters here and then to Convincia. As far as the partnership with Middlessex is concerned, BCom (hons) and BA students can spend a year at WCC and two at Middlessex where students will be awarded a BA (hons) in International Business Administration or Trade. Students of Vis-Com can spend a year at WCC and the rest in Middlessex to earn a BA Animation/BA 3D Animation and Games (Degree).

Empowering women
Steering away from the talk all things academic, Margaret says, the college is not just about theory and learning. "We hope that with our strong academic programmes, we can create intellect and socially upright women of our girls. Various initiatives of the college like Rotary, MCC, NSS, Young Indian and Tempted (an initiative to donate hair for wigs for cancer patients) builds a strong message in them that they also have a duty towards the nation and their companions.”

Centenary celebrations
Centenary celebrations began earlier this month with a host of events including cycling and music. And more is to come, says Margaret. Both the faculty and the students are excited about being a part of the milestone that the college has achieved. “To be a part of a 100-year-old tradition is emotional. And a spate of activities has been keeping us busy. We are putting together a theatrical play (inspired by our alumnae, Jennifer Fidelick, which will talk about the achievements of the college. We are also hosting two international conferences in 2016, says Manmohan Prasad, a final-year Psychology student who happens to be the student president of the college as well. Bringing some lightness to the celebration, cultural coordina-utor Vishal Bajaj, classmate of Manmohan, says there is no dearth of entertainment for WCC students. "We never get bored here or run the absence of plays. The canteen, the clock tower and the student activity centre always have groups of people engaged in some activity or the other. If nothing else, a walk around the campus (which is fenced for students) is all one needs for a timeout.”

Shilpa Kappar Vasudevan | Chennai