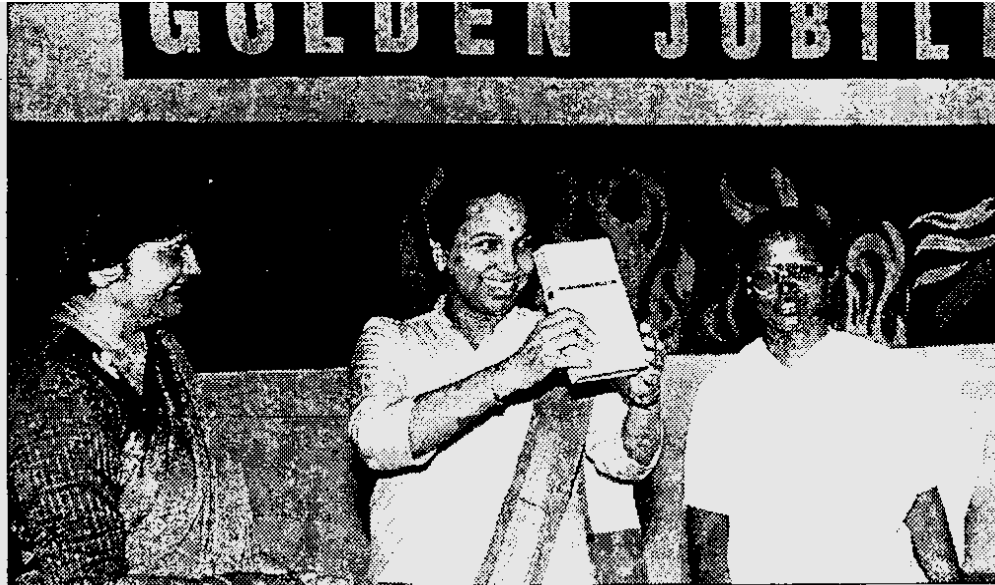


August 16, 1996



Ms. Jayanthi S. Ravi, IAS, Director (IREP), Deputy Secretary (Energy and Petrochemicals), releasing the cassette "Sampreshan" in connection with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Stella Maris College.— Pic by N. Balaji

An occasion to cherish

When Principal Dr. Annamma Philip cut the giant cake in a symbolic gesture, it was time for jubilation. For several present and former faculty members, principals, office bearers of the alumni association and students, it was an occasion to cherish: the commencement of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of their beloved institution, Stella Maris College.

An institution which started with just 32 students in a single storey building 50 years ago has now grown into a huge campus accommodating more than 2,300 students in a wide variety of disciplines.

For many, the day was even more memorable as it coincided with the 50th Independence Day celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Jayanti S. Ravi, Director, IREP, chief guest and a former student of the college said in her brief career she had met several "Stella Marians." They were all sensitive to issues and dedicated to their work. She recalled the contribution of the college in building up her personality.

Ms. Jayanti released a video cassette titled "Sampreshan." The first copy of the cassette, designed to teach conversational Hindi for everyday use, was accepted by Sister Irene Mathias, former Principal of the college.

Leading the Eucharistic celebration, Rt. Rev. Dr. Arul Das James, Archbishop, Madras-Mylapore, said everything good came from God. He was the author of everything that was good and the golden jubilee celebration was a thanksgiving.

A four storey building would be constructed during the golden jubilee year, Dr. Annamma Philip, Principal of the college said. This would house administrative offices, a computer centre and a conference hall among others. National workshops and career guidance programmes had been planned during the year, she said.

The programmes undertaken by the college also included literacy campaigns, programmes against drug abuse and scholarships for deserving students.

Earlier, Sister Mary Rose, Provincial Superior, Madras Province, hoisted the tricolour. Dr. Helen Vincent, former Principal of the college said she was inspired by every element of the college, may it be the grass blades or the Ashoka trees in the campus.

The students presented various cultural programmes the highlight of which was a powerful choreography, depicting the strength of women, called "Shakthi."

The programmes were introduced by Dr. Meera Samy. Dr. Flavia, Vice Principal, proposed a vote of thanks.

Former faculty members including Ms. Mangaladurai, Ms. Arumugalakshmi Shantha, Ms. Chandra Parthasarathy, Ms. Rajalakshmi, Ms. Thangamani and alumni association office bearers Ms. Thara, Ms. Seethalakshmi and Ms. Sivagambika were present on the occasion.

G.P.K.