

August 22, 1997

## Impressive and eloquent

It was a red-letter day in the annals of Stella Maris College. August 20 marked the culmination of a year-long golden jubilee celebrations of the college, a unique coincidence with that of free India.

Kicking off the valedictory to a start was a lively classical dance, which invoked the glory of light. Donning flawless white saris and holding lamps in their hands, the dancers impressively brought out the sheer joy and radiance of light.

A couple of patriotic songs composed by the students were rendered next. In these songs which celebrated national integration, languages mingled and harmonised with ease. They excelled in meaning and rhythm bringing out the prodigious talent of the singers.

The brief cultural fare was followed by a host of felicitations on the occasion of the college's 50th birthday. Rev. Arul Das James, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, Mr. A.C.Muthiah, industrialist, Mr. Mani Jacob, general secretary, All India Association of

Christian Higher Education and Ms. M. Sheela Paul, IAS spoke of Stella Maris' immense contribution towards the cause of women's higher education.

In his presidential address, Mr. S. Muthukumar, Member Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education, commended the college for making rapid strides in the field of women's higher education.

### INSTITUTION

College Principal Sr. Annamma Phillip traced the meteoric rise of Stella Maris from a mere one-storeyed building with 32 students in 1947 to a premier institution housed in an expansive verdant campus with 2,700 students on its rolls.

A landmark in the college's history was the introduction of autonomy in 1987. Autonomy brought with it academic freedom and helped

the college to emerge as a trendsetter in "education for social change," she observed. B.Sc. Computer Science and a host of post graduate courses were on the anvil, she said.

Briefing about the commemorative programmes, she said the year-long jubilee celebrations commenced with a thanksgiving in August 1996. A multi-media presentation called "Ode to Life," an Inter-faith dialogue programme, a two-day national seminar on higher education, a musical extravaganza by K. J. Yesudas and special retreats were the highlights of the celebrations.

A golden jubilee souvenir, a video cassette: "Stella Marian Saga" and a diskette, on the college were released on the occasion.

Sr. Helen Vincent, former Principal of the college welcomed the gathering and Sr. Flavia Maria Pragasam, Vice-principal proposed a vote of thanks.

T. KRITHIKA REDDY



Students of Stella Maris College in an invocatory dance. — Pic. by V. Ganesan