



With Don Bosco Converge coming up in a week, alumni associations of other institutions across town share plans for reunions

Back to school



AST July, Madras Christian College conducted their global reunion where alumni of around six batches came together. This year, institutions in the city like Guindy Engineering College conducted a family reunion last week for the 1974-84 batch, with fun programmes and a gala dinner held at the Radisson Blu Temple Bay, Mamallapuram. Earlier this month, Women's Christian College conducted its centenary celebrations which included a thanksgiving ceremony followed by a midnight mass, choirs singing songs and bikers parading floats, with around 1,500 students, staff and alumni (some from as way back as 1946) taking part. Last week, Queen Mary's College too celebrated 100 years, and had eminent singer Vani Jayaram and violinist Avasarala Kanyakumari singing yesteryear songs, while Good Shepherd school's batch of '94 got together at the Taj Club House. And with one of the country's biggest congregations of Bosconians coming up with Converge by Don Bosco Egmore, we look at other places where reunions are around the corner. Read on.

Don Bosco, Egmore

Celebrations for John Bosco's birth bicentenary on August 16 will start with Converge, a global reunion of Bosconians. To be held on July 26-27 at Don Bosco Egmore, it is targeting a footfall of over 1,000 people, taking part in music events, quizzes, sports activities and more. Convened by Ashwin Rajagopalan, president of the Past Pupils Association of the school, and his team, the event will also host a photo exhibition, a car rally and a game of

crocker (a mix of cricket and baseball) — a signature sport developed by the Egmore Bosconians. "Converge will also host a Conclave at ITC Grand Chola on the first day, from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm, with an expert panel of speakers like Vijay Amritraj, actor Arvind Swami and Formula 2 driver Armaan Ibrahim," Rajagopalan says. To be moderated by Sashi Kumar, founder of Asianet and current chairman of Asian College of Journalism, the Conclave is open to public, who can register for ₹2,500. The alumni can register for ₹2,500 for the main event, ₹1,900 for the Conclave and ₹1,200 for car rally. Details: dbconverge.com; 9840855875

Madras Christian College

Famous for their cultural fests, Madras Christian College conducts two kinds of reunions. "There are annual local reunions conducted by each department, while the other reunions are silver jubilee celebrations held every year," R Sridhar, Dean of Student Affairs, says, adding that this year it's the turn of the 1989 batch. They also honour accom-

plished past pupils annually, like Vijay Kumar (DGP of Police in Chennai) and B Muthuram from TATA Steel, who were felicitated this year. Sridhar, who himself studied here from 1986-'91, points out how social networking has made it easier to get in touch with long lost alumni. "Our alumni association makes sure they are notified, via email, of the upcoming

SRM University

The 28-year-old institution has 35 departments in total, which have individual heads assigned to take over the coordination and planning of their respective reunions. This year, the 1993 batch of the IT department of SRM University will conduct one on July 25. "The alumni will share their experiences with present students in a four-hour meeting and will also take part in musical events, followed by lunch," AN Parameswaran, secretary of the Alumni, says. From 9.30 to 12.30 pm. Details: srmalumni.com

ing events like the reunion of the 1990 batch, to be held next year," he says. Details: mcc.edu.in

IIT Madras

55-year-old IIT Madras in Adyar will be conducting a reunion for four batches — 1964-'65, 1974, 1984 and 1985 — in the last week of December this year, with different names given to the individual reunions, like Golden Reunion for the first one. "Events include games, a campus tour, and a movie screening at the Open Air Theatre," Suresh Mangaladurai, general manager of the alumni association says. "The alumni will then proceed to spend one or two nights at the coastline near Mahabalipuram and Pondicherry," he adds. Details: iitmaa.org

— Karan Pillai

Stella Maris College

The 17 departments of this 67-year-old all-women college on Cathedral Road started conducting mandatory annual reunions only three years ago. Ipsita Sengupta, a History graduate, says that the college conducts Aquilae, their annual fest, which used to be the only gateway for past pupils to meet up. "The Commerce and English departments held the first ever reunions in college," she informs. This year the reunions will be held from September 20 and will continue throughout October, featuring games, cultural and dance shows. Details: stellamariscollege.org