

## A Parliament without much ado



### CAMPUS JOTTINGS

**I**MAGINE A samosa without 'aloo', Bihar without Laloo, Tirupathi without 'laddu' or — a Parliament without much ado.

No paper-weights thrown around, no mikes hurled, no unparliamentary language used, no shabbily dressed politicians or slogans raised. Exemplary discipline punctuated the proceedings of the Youth Parliament Competition held at Madras University on Wednesday.

A new grading system was proposed for CBSE schools, a bill passed to abolish capitation fees and capital punishment were among the issues brought up, before the 'Third Front' withdrew its issue-based support and called for a motion against the government.

The 'Prime Minister' Ms. K. Chamundeshwari was clearly the most convincing of the lot with typical political leadership traits. It came as no surprise when the Prime Minister walked away with the first prize. After all, it was a Parliament dominated by post-graduate law students.

Needless to say, the motion against the government was defeated. The judges were only more than impressed, for even issues not yet brought up in the Parliament — the Clinton visit and the security scramble was raised in the Youth Parliament.

Introduced in Universities all over India in 1997, after it was first introduced in schools in Delhi in 1966, the Youth Parliament competitions aim to bring awareness among youth on parliamentary procedures. The current reach of the programme is 74 lakh youth in the country, the judges said.

Politically speaking at a micro-level were students of Madras School of Social Work. At Kasi Viswanatha Kuppam, a slum in Thiruvottiyur, the students through a street-play 'Koodi Vazhthal Kodi Nanmai', stressed the advantages of living together.

The play dealt with the issue of joint family versus nuclear family set-ups and the equations between family members in each of these systems and consequences. The audience was then asked to judge the better of the two. The choice was unanimous — joint family set-up.

Earlier, a health camp and a dental



**FAREWELL SONGS:** The Meenakshi College students at their College Day on Wednesday. — Photo: S. R. Raghunathan

camp was organised by HelpAge India. A hundred food packets and toothbrushes for children and the old were distributed.

Most of the residents diagnosed were prone to blood pressure, diabetes, ophthalmic disorders and tooth decay, the doctors said.

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And this is the season of farewell parties, convocations and college annual days. Meenakshi College celebrated its College Day on Wednesday. Earlier, Loyola College celebrated its College Day on Monday. A special one this time, for the college completes 75 years of existence.

Also on Monday was the farewell party for the senior students of Institute of Technology and Management, held at Mowbrays Inn. It was an evening of fun, where the seniors were quizzed on nicknames of juniors, explanations on why things were done the way they were done — Why did one of their mates always sing love songs and other trivia.

A balloon-bursting game was followed by lighting of candles and a sentiment packed address by the Seniors. It was then time to dance the sadness away and finally, the 'last supper'.

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The convocation at Mohamed Sathak College of Arts and Sciences last Thursday, was perked up by the presence of the Minister for Education, Mr. K. Anbazhagan,

who awarded degrees to 150 students, including 12 gold medalists.

The Alliance Francaise Chennai students too received their course completion certificates on Saturday, at the end of the 'Francophonie Day' celebrations featuring an inter-class French skit competition with the theme of Panchatantra, and a song by the French Nightingale award-winning Chinmaya.

Can English be far behind? The Madras English Association and State Institute of English organised a day long seminar on 'Creative Writers in English from Tamil Nadu' on Wednesday at the British Council.

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The Lioness Club of Temple Bay awarded the 'Best Service to Community Award' to the Stella Maris College students, R. Jayanthi, K. Devi and Sister Alice, in recognition of their service towards the slum improvement project at Thiru-Vi-Ka Kudiyiruppu, supported by the club, Exnora International, Madras Cathedral Lions Club and Stella Maris College.

And the ten-day NSS camp organised by volunteers from Sri Kanyaka Parameswari Arts and Science College for Women at Valsaravakkam Panchayat, concludes on Thursday.

(By Sudhish Kamath)