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# CELEBRATING ONAM THE TRADITIONAL WAY

**F**rom pookalam, kasavu sari to ada pradhaman, Onam was celebrated in a grand fashion in several colleges in Chennai. While the students of Stella Maris binged on payasam, girls from Dr MGR-Janaki College of Arts and Science for Women participated in Mohiniyattam dance performance. As for Madras Christian College, there were games organised for the students and they even got to try their hands at tug of war.

Talking about the activities at Stella Maris, Pavithra Malolan says, "It was a super fun day. Almost all the girls turned out in the traditional kasavu sari and half the day was spent taking selfies. What was interesting was that some of the girls turned up in mundu and shirt, and wanted to look like Nivin Pauly from *Premam*. We had a payasam stall put up and students could buy from there. During our break time, some of the students played Malayalam film music and had a good time dancing to them."

It was a jam-packed day for the students of Dr MGR Janaki College of Arts and Science for Women, what with band performances and pookalam competitions. Hiranmayee, a student at the college, says, "We have a college band called Dhvani and they performed two songs — *Kuttanadan Punchayile*, also known as the boat song, and *Mavelli*, a traditional song. We also had two dance performances by the

girls of Natya department. We had a solo Mohiniyattam performance) and a Thiruvadhirakali group performance. Both the performances were really good and the students loved watching them. Besides all this, we also had pookalam performances, in which 12 teams participated and three winners were chosen. The highlight was King Mahabli (one of the students in costume) going on rounds to all the classes. Dr A Janardhanan, the former principal of Kalakshetra Foundation, was the chief guest for all the activities. He spoke about Onam and also had a look at the pookalam and announced the winners."

At MCC, the girls looked pretty in kasavu saris, while the boys took to *mundu*. According to Sherwin Gladson, a student of the college, "Besides making pookalams, the students got to participate in an uriyadi competition, which was a lot of fun. Girls and boys got competitive as there was a tug-of-war competition between them. The day ended with all the friends getting together and taking pictures."

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## CAMPUS CULTURE



When Mahabli came to Stella Maris



Pookalam at Dr MGR Janaki College



Scenes of Onam revelry at Madras Christian Collge

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