



ST.MARY'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

(Re-accredited with 'A+' Grade by NAAC – 4th Cycle)

Thoothukudi-628001, Tamil Nadu, India

(Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University)

Installation of Bird Nests in the Marian Campus

06.02.2025

The PG and Research Department of Zoology organized an initiative to promote environmental conservation and biodiversity on the college campus. As part of this effort, 20 bird nests were installed across the campus to provide safe habitats for local bird species. The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of preserving wildlife and fostering a sustainable ecosystem within the college premises. The event was inaugurated by the Secretary Rev.Sr.Dr.C.Shibana and the Principal Rev. Sr. Dr. Jessie Fernando of the College. In their inaugural addresses, they emphasized the significance of such initiatives in promoting ecological balance and encouraged students to actively participate in environmental conservation activities. 126 students from the Zoology department actively participated in the event. They assisted in the installation process and learned about the importance of bird conservation and the role of birds in maintaining ecological harmony. The event also included an educational session conducted by faculty members of the Zoology department. They shared insights on local bird species, their habitats, and the challenges they face due to urbanization and deforestation. The event not only contributed to the conservation of local bird species but also inspired students to take an active role in protecting the environment.



Inauguration of Apiary and Hands on training on Bee Keeping

05.02.2025

The PG and Research Department of Zoology inaugurated the Apiculture Unit on the Marian Campus and organized a Hands-on Training on Beekeeping on 5th February 2025. Dr. J. Nagarajan, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Kamaraj College, Thoothukudi, served as the resource person for the event. Dr. P.J. Joslin, Head and Associate Professor of Zoology,

welcomed the gathering and introduced the resource person. Rev. Sr. Dr. Jessy Fernando, Principal, St. Mary's College (Autonomous), Thoothukudi, honoured the guest. Dr. J. Nagarajan provided detailed insights into different types of honey bees and elaborated on the various chambers of a beehive. He also emphasized the importance of value-added products such as honey amla, honey fig, honey dates, and Gulkand.

The training session was conducted by Mr. M. Mugeshkannan and Mr. T. Venketeshwaran, student startup achievers. They compared different varieties of honey bees and their products, demonstrating essential beekeeping techniques, including handling the comb frame, proper use of smokers, best practices for honey harvesting. Additionally, they enlightened participants on the distinct characteristics of multi-flower honey, moringa flower honey and neem honey.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. S. Selvi, Assistant Professor of Zoology. A total of 126 participants benefited from this training, gaining valuable hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of Apiculture.





ZOOCARNIVAL'24 – 07.12.2024

On December 7, 2024, the Department of Zoology proudly hosted the much-anticipated *Zoo Carnival* as part of the Skill Enhancement Course. This dynamic event provided a platform for students to showcase their practical expertise, culinary creativity, and innovative use of dairy, fishery, and poultry products.

The event was inaugurated by the esteemed Secretary, Rev. Sr. Dr. C. Shibana, and our beloved Principal, Rev. Sr. Dr. Jessie Fernando. They commended the collaborative efforts of the faculty and students in envisioning and bringing to life such a vibrant and educational initiative. In their opening address, they highlighted the vital importance of skill development and hands-on learning as essential complements to academic studies.

The *Zoo Carnival* featured an impressive variety of stalls, each designed and managed by students. These stalls highlighted an array of products and dishes crafted from dairy, fishery, and poultry resources. Visitors marveled at the diversity, from artisanal creations like yogurt, paneer, and flavored milk to delectable fish and poultry-based dishes. The students also showcased ornamental fishes, vermicompost, and a variety of products crafted from sea shells. Each stall reflected the students' creativity, skill, and attention to detail.

Beyond culinary innovation, students demonstrated remarkable abilities in product presentation, marketing, and customer engagement. Faculty members, students from other departments, and external guests enthusiastically participated in the event, praising the dedication and ingenuity of the participants.

The carnival also served as a valuable educational experience. It allowed students to delve into the intricacies of entrepreneurship, product development, and customer satisfaction while exploring the sustainable management of zoological resources.

In conclusion, *Zoo Carnival 2024* was a resounding success. It not only delivered educational and practical benefits to the students but also reaffirmed the department's commitment to fostering skill-based education and cultivating an entrepreneurial spirit among learners.



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON
PERCEPTION OF ZOOLOGICAL RESEARCH THROUGH TAMIL
LITERATURE - 06.09.2024

The International Seminar on "Perception of Zoological Research Through Tamil Literature" was jointly organized by the PG and Research Department of Zoology and the Department of Tamil at St. Mary's College (Autonomous), Thoothukudi, on 6th September 2024. The event was organized under the Star College Scheme, sponsored by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, New Delhi. The seminar aimed to explore the intersections between zoology and Tamil literature, focusing on how scientific understanding of animals is reflected in and influenced by cultural and literary expressions in Tamil literature. The seminar commenced with an inaugural address by Dr. K. Subbulakshmi, Principal of APC Mahalaxmi College for Women, Thoothukudi. Dr. K. Raguvaram, Researcher at the Research Centre for Pharmaceutical Ingredients and Traditional Medicine, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Indonesia, delivered a talk on "Integrated Pest Management". Dr. G. Mariappan, Assistant Professor, Department of Tamil Language and Translation Studies, Dravidian University, Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh, discussed 'Animal Environments in Tamil Literature'. Dr. B. Ravikumar, Associate Professor, Subramania Bharathi School of Tamil Language and Literature, Pondicherry University, presented on the lecture on 'Animals in Tamil Literature'. The seminar explored the intersection of zoology and Tamil literature, revealing the fascinating connections between scientific studies of animals and their cultural and symbolic representations in Tamil literary works. The seminar provided an in-depth analysis of how Tamil literature portrays animals and their environments, and how these literary depictions relate to zoological research. The sessions were rich in cultural and scientific insights, attracting the attention of about 131 students and scholars of Zoology department.



NATIONAL SEMINAR ON 'INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH'

18.09.24

PG and Research Department of Zoology organized a National seminar on 'Interdisciplinary Research' on 18.09.24 under the Star college Scheme. Prof. Dr. K. Muruga Poopathi Raja, Professor, Department of Chemistry, Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod, Kerala, Dr. K. Veluraja Senior Professor, School of Science and Humanities, PSN College of Engineering and Technology, Tirunelveli and Dr. G. Kumaresan, Head and Chairperson, Department of Genetics School of Biological Sciences, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai were the resource persons. The focus of the seminar was to make a perfect blend of research experiences of the experts from the fraternity of Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Prof. Veluraja gave a lecture on the basics of biophysics and the interlink between the fields of biology and physics. He explained to the participants about the involvement of physical parameters that were the key features for the elucidation of structure of DNA. He explained the origin and application of Ramachandran plot. Dr. G. Kumaresan, gave an insight of the holistic approach for gene expression studies and their implication in prognosis of cancer. The participants were given an idea about genome wide expression patterns of genes involved in oncogenesis. Dr. Muruga Poopathi Raja's lecture was focused on small peptide structures and their application in fabrication of nanobiomaterials for biomedical applications. The seminar opened up new avenue of interdisciplinary approach for research problems, for research scholars and students of the various disciplines. 114 participants from the Departments of Zoology, Physics, Microbiology and Chemistry enthusiastically participated in the seminar.



PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST - 'ADORE ADMIRE AND CLICK - CELEBRATING OUR CAMPUS FAUNA' - 19.08.2024

In commemoration of the World Photography Day, The Department of Zoology conducted a photography contest on the theme 'Adore Admire and Click - Celebrating our Campus Fauna' for the students of St. Mary's College. The aim of the competition was to create an awareness about the biodiversity of the college campus among the students. This competition instilled the students to appreciate and capture the faunal diversity of the campus. The photographs of the student competitors were judged by the photographers Mr. Rubert and Mr.Sathar Hussain. Ms. George Sweetly of III B.Sc, Physics and S. Shimona of III B.Sc. Zoology won the first prize. Ms. M Balasowmya and Ms. Jeffina Gomez of II M.Sc. Zoology bagged the second prize, G. Amala Harini of II B.Sc. Psychology, Ms. G. Prithiyanka Devi of I B.Sc, Botany and K. Kala Archana of I B.Sc Zoology bagged the third prize.



AN INTERCOLLEGIATE COMPETITION “ZOOTPIA’ 24”

10.09.2024

PG and Research Department of Zoology organized an intercollegiate competition ZOOTPIA’ 24 on 10.9.24 under the STAR College Scheme, New Delhi. Competitions that invokes the scientific interest in students like Quiz, Spell Bee, Power point presentation, Scientific Sketching, Poster making, Memory tests, Specimen identification, Mobile Photography and Just a minute were conducted. The topics of the competitions were relevant to themes in zoology. Competitions for UG and PG were conducted separately. More than 50 students from eight colleges enthusiastically participated in the competitions and bagged the prizes. The winners of the first three places for each competition were awarded with prizes and certificates. Dr. Banumathi, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Zoology, Kamaraj College, Thoothukudi was the Chief guest for the valedictory session of ZOOTOPIA’24 and she delivered the valedictory address. Rev. Sr. Dr. Jessi Fernando, Principal and Rev. Sr. Dr. C. Shibana, Secretary of St. Mary’s College (Autonomous) gave away the prizes to the winners of the various competition. The overall winners of the competition were the students of Sri Parasakthi College for Women (Autonomous), Coutralam, Tamil Nadu.



WORKSHOP ON 'TAXIDERMY' – 13.09.2024

PG and Research Department of Zoology organized a workshop on 'Taxidermy' under the Star College Scheme on 13.09.2024. Thiru Ayyasamy, Taxidermist, Government Museum, Trichy was the resource person. The workshop was conducted in the aim of training the students and research scholars for preservation of museum specimens. The resource person explained the principle and methodology for preservation of specimens. 20 students got benefitted from the training.



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SEA SHELL CRAFT - HANDS-ON TRAINING

UNVEILING THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF MOLLUSCS: FROM TIDE TO TRADE - 27.08.2024

The P.G. & Research Department of Zoology, St. Mary's College (Autonomous), Thoothukudi and the Marian Star Centre organized a hands-on training session titled "Unveiling the Economic Potential of Molluscs: From Tide to Trade" on August 27, 2024. The hands on training program aims at imparting entrepreneurial skills in shell craft for college students. Dr.M.Paripooranaselvi, Assistant Professor of Zoology, St. Mary's College was the resource person. The students were trained to transform waste molluscan shells into marketable crafts. 32 students accompanied by 2 staff members from A.P.C. Mahalaxmi College for Women, Thoothukudi, Popes College (Autonomous), Sawyerpuram and Sadakathullah Appa College (Autonomous), Tirunelveli enthusiastically participated in this hands-on training programme and got benefited.

