

Echoes of Eco




April, 2015

Vivekananda Kendra- **nardep** Newsletter


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Bio-Diversity of Rameshwaram


Flora of Rameshwaram




Peltophorum pterocarpum Tamil (iyalvagi, iya vakai) English (rain tree)
Shade or shelter: potential use for reforestation Fixes nitroge; improves soil.



Rhizophora mucronata Tamil (Kandal)
Mangrove plant protects the sea shore from sea swells, high velocity gales and cyclones



Salvadora persica Tamil:(Kalawa, kakkol) commonly known as miswak (tooth brush) It has medicinal value (contains substances with plaque and antibacterial properties against several types of cariogenic bacteria)



Ficus bengalensis Tamil : (Aala maram) The tree provides shade; Increases avian biodiversity; Has religious and cultural value as well as Medicinal use.

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Hymn for the Plough



Harness the plough, then, yoke the stout oxen; here in the furrow prepared sow the seed. O Gods, may our ears of corn be abundant! May the grain in due season fall before our sickles!

May the blade of the plough, the smooth-handled plough, cleaving well the furrow, produce for our joy much cattle and sheep.

-Atharva Veda III, 17, 2-3



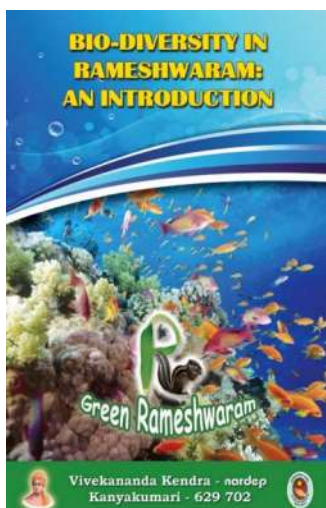


Service which is rendered without joy helps neither the servant nor the served. But all other pleasures and possessions pale into nothingness before service which is rendered in a spirit of joy.... The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems. -Mahatma Gandhi



48 sp of Protista	65 sp of Phytoplankton	181 sp of Seaweeds	15 sp of Sea grasses
11 sp of Mangroves	201 sp of Flowering Plants	66 sp of Zooplankton	77 sp of Porifera
262 sp of Coelentrata (Jelly fishes, Coral Sea anemones, Sea pens)	3 sp of Nematoda	151 sp of Annelida - Polychaeta	37 sp of Bryozoa
18 sp of Chaetognatha	158 sp Arthropoda	153 sp of Echinodermata	856 sp Mollusca
451 sp of Tunicata	4 sp of Hemichordata	2 sp Cephalochordata	1147 Pisces
5 sp of Turtles	13 sp of snakes	290 sp of Aves	7 sp of Marine Mammals

Species Bio-diversity of the region at a glance



The above are excerpts from the book on Biodiversity published by VK-nardep with support from the WaSH programme of UNICEF. It provides an overall insight into the concept of bio-diversity and how it is very important to the Gulf of Mannar region. The fact that the real wellbeing and development of the society in a region is organically related to the healthy bio-diversity of the region cannot be overemphasized. Rameshwaram island being situated in the Gulf of Mannar bio-diversity hot-spot can exert human-activity based influence on the Gulf of Mannar bio-diversity. The extent of awareness about the region's bio-diversity and its relation to the livelihood and safety of this ancient town will make the influence that much positive for the posterity of human beings as well as other inhabitants of the planet. For more information on Green Rameshwaram please contact: Secretary, Vivekananda Kendra-nardep, Vivekanandapuram, Kanyakumari -629702
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The natural world is the larger sacred community to which we belong. To be alienated from this community is to become destitute in all that makes us human. To damage this community is to diminish our own existence.

-Thomas Berry



Happenings this month:
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Happenings this month:
Renewable Energy



Happenings this month:
Water Management

- **Workshop on "Vermi Compost Technology"** was conducted for the students from the Dept. of Zoology, Vivekananda College, Agasteeswaram at the Jagadish Chandra Bose Nursery, of Vivekanandapuram on 9th of this month, 32 students attended.

- **Workshop on "Azolla - enriched Cattle feed"** was conducted for 30 officials. It was organized by the Veterinary department of Cheranmahadevi on 20th of this month,

- **Workshop on "Azolla - enriched Cattle feed"** was conducted for ATMA Farmers, from Agasteeswaram Taluk at Agasteeswaram on 27th of this month,

Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person for all the three events.

Training programme on "Organic waste based Bio-methanation plant" was conducted at TRC, Kalluvilai on 25th of this month for 8 persons. Er.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person.

A Follow up training on Bio-methanation plant was conducted at Manakkudi on 30th and 25 beneficiaries attended the programme. The resource person was Er.V.Ramakrishnan.



Construction of Bio-Methanation plants:

A Bio-methanation plant is being constructed at Amma Unavagam Chennai having 25 cum capacity. In addition 1 cum fixed plants numbering 18 were constructed at Kanyakumari through IFAD.



Bio-mass produced by Azolla as a sub-system in a farmer's homestead accelerates the nutrient cycles in connecting the farm and homestead.



Happenings this month: on
Siddha-Ethnic Medicine

Workshop on "Traditional Siddha Varma Bone Setting Practices" Was conducted on 21st and 22nd of this month at TRC, Kalluvilai for 58 traditional physicians. Dr.Ganapathi and his team were the resource persons.

Demonstration at the Varma Bone setting workshop:



To know more about 'Green Rameshwaram Pilgrimage' Project contact:
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Green Health Home of VK-nardep functioned for 9 days and treated 213 patients.



By pravritti (प्रवृत्ति), you achieve social welfare ...but too much of it is called consumerism today. For being peaceful, harmonious, fulfilled, and for the development of capacity to love people and to live in peace with them, we need the blessing of nivritti (निवृत्ति), which helps to manifest the spiritual energy that is within all in the form of the inherent divine spark. -Swami Ranganathananda



'Let us take a selfie cleaning Rameshwaram': it is green work and clean fun!



ECO-Awareness Programme:

No	Name of the programme	Venue	Date	Number of people attended
1	Eco-Awareness Programme	Vivekananda Kendra, Rameshwaram	24 th	80

Here we give an instance of how a cleaning campaign is conducted with the students at Rameshwaram. Essentially this will be a precursor to a 'Green Brigade' which may involve youths and students of local communities and institutions.



The programme is conducted with support from BrahMos aerospace.

A multi-media orientation session is given which provides them the needed mindset.

Boys at work: fun filled cleaning activity and also a green-learning



It is not all work and no play for the students. Actually they enjoyed the work so much that it was more joyful than a workless entertainment. They enjoyed themselves so much that the team engaged in taking selfies amidst their work.



New Video Uploaded:

In our youtube channel a new 4 minutes video has been uploaded. You can watch it at:

<https://youtu.be/GqYN8nR-KF4>

It details what Green Rameshwaram project is doing at the around level.





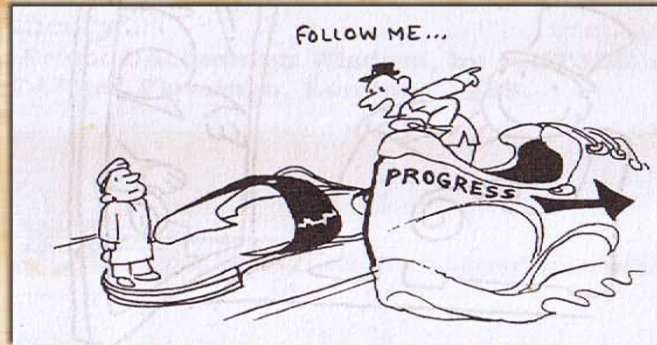
We are committed with our lives to building a different model and a different future for humanity, the Earth, and other species. We have envisaged a moral alternative to economic globalization and we will not rest until we see it realized. ... No piecemeal solution is going to prevent the collapse of whole societies and ecosystems ... a radical re-thinking of our values, priorities and political systems is urgent. - Maude Barlow



From our Publications

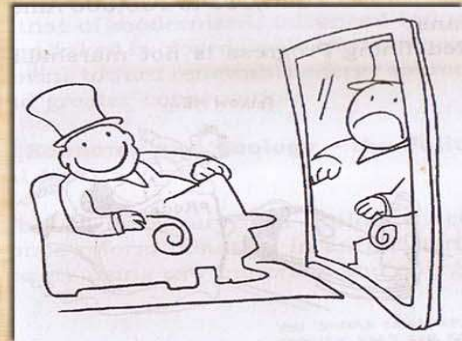


Redefine Growth and Development



I want growth, I do want freedom and self-determination, but I want all these for the good of whole mankind, I want them for the well being of the soul of man, I doubt if the steel age and now the atomic age is an advance over the flint age. I am indifferent to it. It is the evolution of non-violence and non-exploitation to which the intellect and all faculties of science have to be devoted.

- Mahatma Gandhi





Let us be good stewards of the Earth we inherited. All of us have to share the Earth's fragile ecosystems and precious resources, and each of us has a role to play in preserving them. If we are to go on living together on this earth, we must all be responsible for it.

-Kofi Annan



Eco-Magic

The shamans and sorcerers ... always said that their ability to heal people was a by-product of a different kind of healing. Their primary work is to heal the relation the village and the land, to balance the equilibrium between the humans and the more-than-human field of forces. If the magician was not simultaneously doing this work of offering prayers and praises and ritual gestures to the other animals and to the powers of the earth and the sky, then he might heal someone in the community and someone else would fall sick. The source of the illness is often perceived as an imbalance within the person, but it is actually in the relation between the human village and the land that supports it, the land that yields up its food, its animals for skins for clothing, and its plants for food and medicine. Humans take so much from the land, and the magician's task is to make sure that we humans always return something to the land so that there is a two-way flow, that the boundary between us — the human culture and the rest of nature — stays a porous boundary. The magician ensures that that boundary is a membrane through which there is this two-way flow, and that the boundary never becomes a barrier shutting out the other-than-human powers from our awareness.

- *David Abram*
Ecologist & Magician



Eco-Values

So long as our values are so low, we are disturbing the nature. Nature has infinite patience. She lets you make mistakes after mistakes like a loving mother allowing the child to do mischief. But nature when once decides to punish, you cannot stop her. She comes out like Bhadrakali - pure anger-and the destruction she can bring about is too much. Nature doesn't care whether beings are here or not - she wipes everything clean and rebuilds an entire generation. How many plants and animals have become extinct? ... Science tells me that the water that I drink must be boiled, filtered etc., But I say "In my grandfather's time they drank the same water." The water in the world is poisoned now, by various ways. When you put it like this we understand. But when it is said that subjectively unless we change, the outer world cannot change, we don't understand. The outer pollution in air, water etc. is only reflection of our inner pollution. ... You are destroying nature's harmony and saying that nature is misbehaving. All the time we are talking of how to adjust the outer world. We never turn our attention to the source of the problem - YOU. You have to change. You change and the world will change. If microcosm changes, macrocosm will also change.

-*Swami Chinmayananda*
Vedantic Monk



Eco-Globalisation

These are the needed fundamentals shifts in global awareness some of which are already arising :

- Appreciation of the interdependence of all realms of human life and the surrounding cosmos
- Growing ecological awareness, with recognition of the interdependence of humankind and the biosphere, including the rights of all biological species
- Dedication to nonviolence, with a commitment to transcend militancy and violence tied to national or religious identities
- Embracing of the shared wisdom in all the world's religious and spiritual traditions, past and present
- Growing friendship and actual community among the individual followers of the world's religious and spiritual paths
- Commitment to the depths of the contemplative pursuit and the mutual sharing of the fruits of this ongoing journey
- Creative cultivation of trans-national, trans-cultural, trans-traditional, and world-centric understanding
- Receptivity to a cosmic vision, realizing humanity is only one life form and part of a larger community, the universe.

Kurt Johnson
Evolutionary Ecologist

