

Echoes of Eco

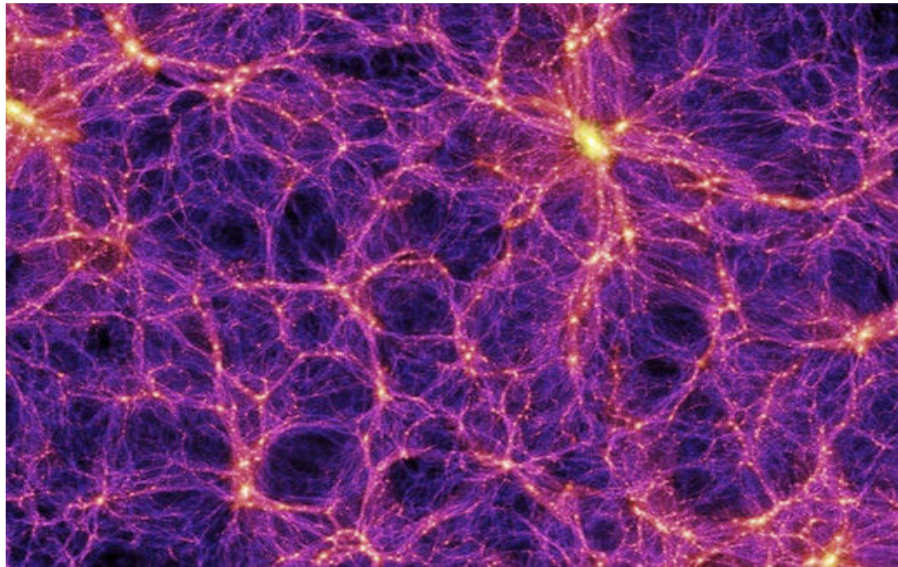


April, 2013

Vivekananda Kendra- **nardep** Newsletter

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Infinite Indivisible Oneness and Love



Just as this body is a portion of the universal body, so this mind is a portion of the universal mind, and the soul of man a portion of the universal Soul.... Now, we know that the universal Soul is infinite. How can infinity have parts? How can it be broken up, divided? It may be very poetic to say that I am a spark of the Infinite, but it is absurd to the thinking mind. What is meant by dividing Infinity? Is it something material that you can part or separate it into pieces?

Infinite can never be divided. If that were possible, it would be no more Infinite. What is the conclusion then? The answer is, that Soul which is the universal is you; you are not a part but the whole of It. You are the whole of God. Then what are all these varieties? We find so many millions of individual souls. What are they? If the sun reflects upon millions of globules of water, in each globule is the form, the perfect image of the sun; but they are only images, and the real sun is only one. So this apparent soul that is in every one of us is only the image of God, nothing beyond that. The real Being who is behind, is that one God. We are all one there.

As Self, there is only one in the universe. It is in me and you, and is only one; and that one Self has been reflected in all these various bodies as various different selves. But we do not know this; we think we are separate from each other and separate from Him. And so long as we think this, misery will be in the world. This is hallucination.... We see that fear comes with the idea that there are two in the universe. We have always heard it preached, "Love one another". What for? That doctrine was preached, but the explanation is here. Why should I love every one? Because they and I are one. Why should I love my brother? Because he and I are one. There is this oneness; this solidarity of the whole universe. From the lowest worm that crawls under our feet to the highest beings that ever lived — all have various bodies, but are the one Soul. ... That universal sympathy, universal love, universal bliss, that never changes, raises man above everything. It has no reactions and no misery can touch it;

[Excerpt from the lecture of Swami Vivekananda]

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Hymn to the Breath of Life



When Breath of Life with its thunder roars over the plants, then, pregnant with pollen, the flowers burst forth in abundance. When Breath of Life in due season roars over the plants, all things on earth rejoice with great rejoicing.

When Breath of Life the broad earth with rain bedews, the cattle exult: We shall have plenty, they say.

The plants converse with this Breath, drenched by its moisture: Our life is prolonged, for you have made us all fragrant.

-Athar Veda XI-4:3-6





The moment you isolate yourself everything hurts you. The moment you expand and feel for others you gain help. The selfish is the most miserable and the happiest is the most selfless.
.-Swami Vivekananda



Rameshwaram: Reviving the Sacred Water Teerthams

Second Teertham : Draupadi Teertham

Swami Vivekananda's 150th birth anniversary celebrations are making ecological footprints in the sands of Rameshwaram. Even as the work on Hanuman Teertham is progressing, the second Teertham to be taken up was Draupadi Teertham. Draupadi is the main character in the epic Mahabharatha. She is the consort of the Pandavas and is the motivating force for the great war.



Draupadi has a special significance for the state of Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu she is worshipped as a Grama-Devata (Village Goddess) in many villages. She is seen as both fertility Goddess and also related to fire rituals. This combination of localised village spiritual tradition with a pan-Indian epic also symbolises the national integration of India as a natural phenomenon reinforced at various levels. Thus this teertham is named after Draupadi – as a confluence of both national as well as local spiritual and cultural traditions. The teertham has lost much of its water retaining area to the roads constructed by its side and today is a much reduced self of its previous grandeur. Even this diminished water body has been neglected by the society so much that the water is stagnant and putrid and is filled with all sorts of filth.



People have been using this water body as something between a gutter and a sewage tank. The place was more like a place breeding all sorts of disease causing organisms. The desilting operation was started by Kendra and continued with a lot of efforts. After weeks of toil and dedicated labor it became possible to remove the pollutants to a considerable extent.



A lot of thorny shrubs have taken root around the structures which have been built later to contain the Teertham after it was reduced for road construction. Totally neglected and also completely polluted, the structure has been slowly and steadily collapsing. Gigantic cracks have started appearing in the basement of the enclosing walls of the Teertham which have been hidden by both polluted water and the thick thorny bushes growing over these cracks further deepening the fissures.



So the renovation work has actually identified a major problem in a timely manner and has rescued the Teertham from a total collapse. The work is of course still going on. There is much work to do. However now the Teertham has been cleared from the pollution and all the impurities have been removed and de-silting has been done. With further progress the work will also make the Teertham an important place of veneration and water conservation.

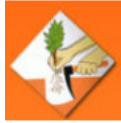
For more information about the project and how you can contribute, contact: Secretary, VK-nardep, Vivekanandapuram, Kanyakumari-629702.



There is no motion in a straight line. Everything moves in a circle. A straight line infinitely produced becomes a circle....Everything must complete the circle and come back to its Source.
Swami Vivekananda



This Month ...



Learning Organic Farming technologies in a hands-on session during an exposure visit.

Workshop on Sustainable Agriculture was organised by Dept. of Forest, Govt. of Tamilnadu Aralvoimozhi, Kanyakumari Dist. at the Forest Dept. Office Aralvoimozhi, Kanyakumari Dist. on 9th of this month. 123 persons attended and the resource person was Shri.S.Rajamony

Workshop on "Azolla Cultivation Technology" as broad spectrum feed was held at Vivekananda Kendra – NARDEP, TRC, Kalluvilai on 20th and Dr.P.Kamalasanan Pillai was the resource person. 4 persons received intensive training.

Training on "Azolla Cultivation Technology" as broad spectrum feed was organized by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ambalawayal, Wayanad, Kerala on 30th and Dr.P.Kamalasanan Pillai was the resource person. 120 persons attended.



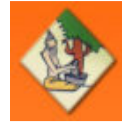
Visiting Gramodaya Park during an exposure visit: Students eagerly looking at the panels and getting the eco-awareness.

This Month ...



Water was tested from 14 wells in Kanyakumari Dist – programme of Central Ground Water Board, Chennai.

Holistic Health



Green Health Home in 7 days treated 134 patients and offered them indigenous health solutions.

VK-nardep organised workshop on "Awareness and Documentation of Ethno-Medical Science" (Nadi Chiksha) on 8th of this month at Technology Resource Centre Kalluvilai. 66 persons attended and Dr.Ganapathy was the resource person.



Documentation of the Nadi medical system – an ancient diagnostic science being presented to the dignitary at the Nadi workshop. This is part of a series of workshop organized by VK-nardep to conserve, revive and popularize the specializations within the ancient Indian medical system.



A section of the students attending the sustainable agriculture workshop : getting exposure to green-agricultural techniques.



Energy :Happenings This Month

Done with DST core support

One day Workshop on "Kitchen Waste based Bio-Methanation Plant (Shakti Surabhi) was conducted at TRC, Kalluvilai on 23rd. The programme was supported by DST Core support. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan was the main resource person.

Following Bio-methanation plants supplied to College of Agricultural Engineering & Post Harvest Technology, Ranipool, Gangtok, Sikkim:

- 1 cum – 4 nos.
- 0.5 cum – 3 nos.
- 0.25 cum – 3 nos.

Media Coverage This month



Pasumai Vikatan' a popular agricultural magazine in Tamil brought out an extensive coverage on Azolla cultivation technology of VK-nardep and the usages of Azolla as a broad-spectrum bio-feed.



Extensive coverage on Azolla by Pasumai Vikatan: Farmers enquiry about Azolla answered.



The One has become the many. When we see the One, any limitations reflected through Maya disappear. But it is quite true that the manifold is not valueless. It is through the many that we reach the One.

Swami Vivekananda



From our Publications

Why do we need Bio-diversity? : Today conserving and promoting bio-diversity is beginning to be recognized as an important and vital element of sustainable development. However reductionist view of development views bio-diversity more as a luxury than a need. Why should we preserve the species bio-diversity even if they do not seem to be of apparent or immediate use to humanity? There is an inherent innate worth in all forms of life. This is an excerpt from our publication: 'Akshaya Vikas –Sustainable Development'



Bio-diversity



Parrot : We do not even know why many of these living things, both flora and fauna were created.

What use could a flea ever have?

Swan : Variety is nature's way. Variety is nature's safety net for survival. Fewer the varieties of animals and grain species, greater the risk of pests, diseases, death, the whole species being wiped out. Variety, biodiversity is nature's store room, resource pool, from which civilisation has drawn its resources of disease resistant seeds, high yield seeds, high milk yield cows etc. And forests and natural habitats of these resources are their natural living grounds along with their relatives and friends as it were. Preserving biodiversity in natural habitats is man's greatest hope of being comfortably fed, clothed and sheltered in the future too.

There will be no sustainability without biodiversity conservation and preservation; and protection of biodiversity sanctuaries, habitats.

Ostrich : We can artificially create all these objects and forms. After all man has synthesised life.

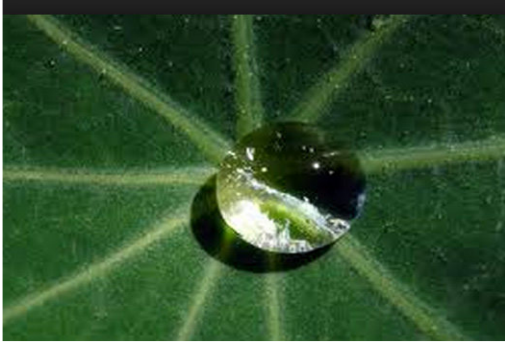
Parrot : Not everything can be made by man. We should leave something to Nature.

Swan : The Mother Nature has some unique features. Man with his small fund of knowledge has not gauged the depth and variety of life forms. What man has surveyed and named is only a small percentage of the existing living forms.





The whole Universe is One Existence. There cannot be anything else. Out of diversities we are all going towards this universal existence. Families into tribes, tribes into races, races into nations, nations into humanity- how many wills going to the One! It is all knowledge, all science – the realization of this Unity!
-Swami Vivekananda



Discovering the Unity

You are aware that, in the West, the prevailing tendency at the moment is, after a period of synthesis, to return upon the excessive sub-division of learning ... Such a caste-system in scholarship, undoubtedly helps at first, in the gathering and classification of new material. But if followed too exclusively, it ends by limiting the comprehensiveness of truth. The search is endless. Realization evades us. The Eastern aim has been rather the opposite, namely that, in the multiplicity of phenomena, we should never miss their underlying unity. After generations of this quest, the idea of unity comes to us almost spontaneously, and we apprehend no insuperable obstacle in grasping it...

It was following this quest that I succeeded in making the dumb plant the most eloquent chronicler of its inner life and experiences by making its own history ... There is a great gap between the living and the non-living, and I was experimenting on the responses on plants to make a connection between the two. Just now I got the amazing results; Same, Same, all are the Same! The barriers which seemed to separate kindred phenomena was found to have vanished, the plant and the animal appearing as a multiform unity in a single ocean of being ...



*-Jagadish
Chandra Bose*
Scientist

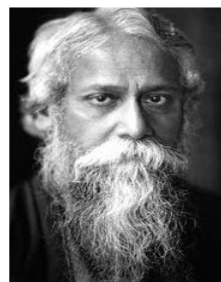


Experiencing the Unity

Even today the world is a pure divine thing. When it passes through our mind by "My terms and my experiences", we poison it with our own false thinking, false ideas and false values. Think, all living organisms are responding and reacting to the world around us. This is called Life. There is not a single moment when you are not responding and reacting to the world. These responses and reactions at the body level in the world are called "work" or "action".

We are all active, dynamic people because we are alive. But your actions are totally different from another individual even when the conditions are the same. Under the same circumstances, threats or joys, the environment remains the same and each individual responds differently. Why?

Responses to the world are ordered by, determined by, guided by my thoughts. It is subjective. All actions are expressions of our minds. If we smile, that is your thought. If you growl, it is your thought. If you punch his nose flat, that is a thought. Good, bad or indifferent, all actions are expressions of our minds, our thoughts. We have to move into a process of reaching out to that greater state of consciousness. Or call it God-state consciousness.....



*-Rabindranath
Tagore*
Mystic Poet



Living the Unity

My ethics not only permit me to claim but require me to own kinship with not merely the ape but the horse and the sheep, the lion and the leopard, the snake and the scorpion. (Not so need these kinsfolk regard themselves.) ... I do not want to live at the cost of the life even of a snake. I should let him bite me to death rather than kill him. But it is likely that if God puts me to that cruel test and permits a snake to assault me, I may not have the courage to die, but that the beast in me may assert itself and I may seek to kill the snake in defending this perish-able body. I admit that my belief has not become so incarnate in me as to warrant my stating emphatically that I have shed all fear of snakes so as to befriend them as I would like to be able to.... I believe that all life is one. Thoughts take definite forms. Tigers and snakes have kin-ship with us. ... If I want to rid the earth of venomous beasts and reptiles, I must rid myself of all venomous thoughts. I shall not do so if in my impatient ignorance and in my desire to prolong the existence of the body I seek to kill the so-called venomous beasts and reptiles. If in not seeking to defend myself against such noxious animals, I die, I should rise again a better and fuller man.



*-Mahatma
Gandhi*