

Echoes of Eco



July, 2014

Vivekananda Kendra- **nardep** Newsletter

Vol:6 No:5

Green Rameshwaram: Takes off - 4



Last month we saw how the 'Green Rameshwaram' project has taken off and the way deliverables had been fixed for the core-groups. Now we shall see the deliverables fixed for remaining core-groups.

Participatory Tourism is the important core-group which has to document and utilize the local traditions for both greening, cleaning Rameshwaram and expand the base of the tourism and pilgrimage activities. The coordinator for this group is Dr.Ganapathi. The following activities were discussed in the session:

- Identification of eco-friendly traditional transport [Green Transport core group will take over this aspect once the documentation is over.]
- Cycle trails/ pedestrian trails for cultural routes, natural routes etc. need to be identified and maps prepared.
- After deliberation it was decided that there is no need for a separate core-group for green health and that it can be part of reviving the local traditions which can include herbal knowledge systems,

- It was decided that the concept of 'Nakshatra Vana' (mini Forest with specific plants associated with zodiac/stars) is a good idea and that it should be created with top priority. This can serve as a major tourist attraction while at the same time increasing the green cover and creating eco-awareness.

- Heritage education needs to be given to guides and special interest groups. This task too has to be taken up seriously and quickly.

The deliverables fixed for this core-group are as follows:

- Creation of a calendar of local folk traditions and festivals which will serve as the basis for the identification of local traditions like festivals for crop germination.
- Creating a folk-cultural map of Rameshwaram which will help the tourist guides and vehicle service providers to expand their work base.
- Work for model 'Nackshatra Vana' in 10 acre land to be started immediately.

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Homage to Time



Time drives like a horse with seven reins, a thousand-eyed unaging Stallion. Him the inspired poets mount. All beings are his chariot wheels. In Time is consciousness and life, In Time is concentrated name By Time, when he draws close at hand, all creatures are with gladness filled. In Time is energy, in Time the highest good. In Time is the Holy Utterance. Time is the Lord of all that is, the Father, he, of the Creator.

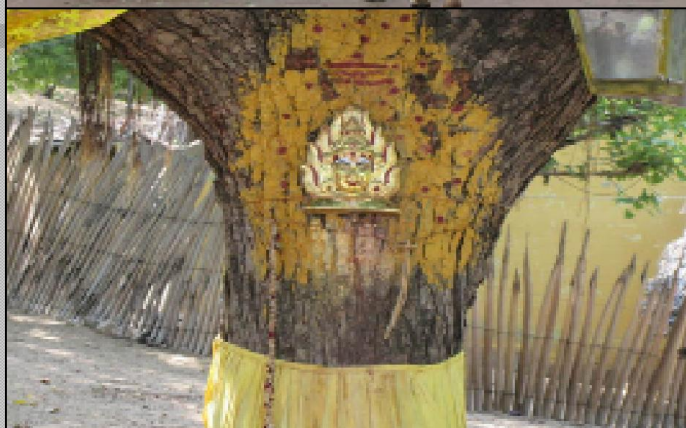
-Atharva Veda





If the nature of work is properly appreciated and applied, it will stand in the same relation to the higher faculties as food is to the human body. It nourishes and enlivens the higher man and urges him to produce the best he is capable of.

-J.C.Kumarappa



[Above: Top two] Glimpses of the local traditions in the island of Rameshwaram: cattle feeding and tree veneration.

[Above: third] Green Medical camps are held to make communities local medical resources.

To know more about 'Green Rameshwaram Pilgrimage' Project contact:
Secretary, Vivekananda Kendra - Nardep,
Vivekanandapuram, Kanyakumari-629702;
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The next core-group was the social engineering group. The advisor for this group is Smt. Santha Sheela Nair and the coordinator is sister Saraswathi (VK-nardep). Sri.Parameswaran participated in the session as member of this group.

- District Collector appreciated the work that has been done in social engineering by sister Saraswathi and her team.
- There is a need to devise suitable award systems to be developed to motivate and increase the student participation.
- It was suggested that there is no need for a separate website for the project but to use social digital networks to reach out at this stage.
- Concept of 'Green Message' to be taken to the school and college students for which district administration is ready to extend all the help.

The deliverables fixed for the project include:

- Voluntary and social organizations need to be coordinated into protecting and nurturing already planted saplings instead of new planting.
- The social engineering work area should include Thankatchi Madam area and Pamban panchayat union.

[With this we conclude the four part series on the first brain storming session held at Ramnad District Collector's Office on Apr-28 2014.]



On June 7th the second Brain-Storming session of all the core-groups of Green Rameshwaram was held at the State Planning Commission Building. It was chaired by Smt.Santha Sheela Nair- the Vice chairperson of State Planning Commission.



If a man works without any selfish motive in view, does he not gain anything? Yes, he gains the highest. Unselfishness is more paying, only people have not the patience to practise it. It is more paying from the point of view of health also. Love, truth and unselfishness are not merely moral figures of speech, but they form our highest ideal, because in them lies such a manifestation of power. - Swami Vivekananda



- **Rameshwaram: Reviving**
- **the Sacred Water Teerthams**

Renovation work continues at *Dharmar Teertham* as an entire *Teertham* is excavated from under the sand dunes... To know more about 'Renovation of Rameshwaram Teerthams' Project contact: Secretary, Vivekananda Kendra - Nardep, Vivekanandapuram, Kanyakumari-629702; Phone:04652-246296, 9442646296 Email: vknardep@gmail.com

Dharmar Teertham



After excavations the outer walls of the Teertham made of lime mixture centuries ago become visible. The whole structure was covered under sand dunes.

People have been living near the sand dune covered Teertham without realizing that they had a traditional water body by their side.



Standing inside the entrance of the Teertham shows how much sand still the wind gets back inside even as the accumulated sand is removed.

Green  ameshwaram



He who is bent upon accumulating riches is unable, with his ego continually bulging, to pass through the gates of comprehension of the spiritual world, which is the world of perfect harmony; he is shut up within the narrow walls of his limited acquisitions. Hence the spirit of the teachings of Upanishad is: In order to find Him you must embrace all. -Tagore



Happenings this month: **SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**



Happenings this month: **NETWORKING**

VK-nardep activities done with
DST core support



Happenings this month: **Water Management**

Workshop on agriculture with DST core support was held on 28th of this month at Kalluvillai. Smt. Premalatha was the resource person.

Workshop on "Integrated Farming" was held at TRC, Kalluvilai from 21st to 25th of this month for 31 farmers from Sankarankovil, Tirunelveli Dist. through ATMA. Dr.P.Kamalasanan Pillai and his team were the resource persons.

Workshop on "Azolla cultivation was held as part of the Pudhu Vaazhvu" Project, at the Malayadikuruchi village at Thirunelveli district on 17th of this month. 50 farmers attended the programme. The Resource Person was Dr.P.Kamalasanan Pillai.

Dr.Pillai enthusiastically demonstrating the farmers the green-agricultural technologies.



VK-nardep Stall at HSSF exhibition, Chennai

At the 6th annual HSSF fair held at Chennai /K-nardep stall attracted the attention of uminaries, engineering students as well as ouse wives. They learnt about 'Green Rameshwaram' and also the Bio-methanation plant. They also purchased green literature and herbal medicinal products.



Sri.Kathiresan explaining Bio-Methanation plant to the visitors of HSSF

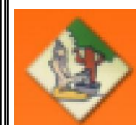


IIT students from Chennai going through the Green Rameshwaram panels

- Tested water from 14 wells in Kanyakumari Dist. as a part of the programme of Central Ground Water Board, Chennai.



Joe D Cruz - Sahitya Academy prize winner and social activist with traditional fishermen community looking at Green Rameshwaram panels.



Happenings this month: **Green Health Camp @ workshop**

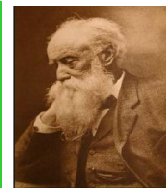
Workshop on "Herbal Plant Cultivation" was held for 59 Govt. Polytechnic College students, Konnam, Nagercoil at Gramodaya Park, Vivekanandapuram on 18th at TRC Kalluvillai. Sri. Ramakrishnan was the resource person.

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Green Health Home of VK-nardep functioned for 8 days and treated 224 patients.



Every walk to the woods is a religious rite, every bath in the stream is a saving ordinance. Communion service is at all hours, and the bread and wine are from the heart and marrow of Mother Earth. There are no heretics in Nature's Spirituality; all are believers, all are communicants. The beauty of natural religion is that you have it all the time; ... It is of today; it is now and here; it is everywhere. – John Burroughs



Renewable Energy this month:



Green Rameshwaram: District Collector visits Teerthams



Happenings this month: Networking

Awareness Programme on Bio-methanation plant was held at TRC Kallivillai on 26th of this month. Er.Ramakrishnan was the resource person.:



Young engineer from Mathura, UP learning Bio-methanation technology at TRC Kanyakumari.



Farmers of ATMA learning bio-methanation plant technology



Solar Light brings smiles at Danushkodi hamlet.



District collector visiting the renovated Draupadi Teertham



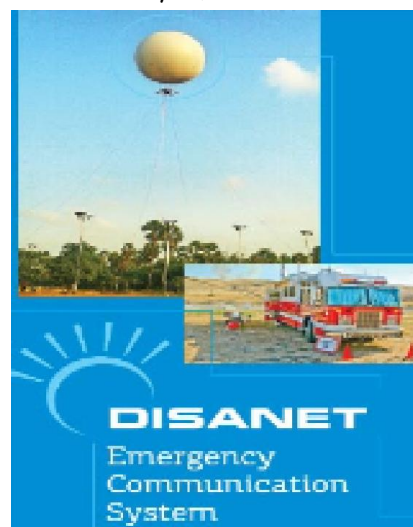
District collector visiting the excavated Dharmar Teertham



A renovated Teertham with message to preserve the water body like one's own child.

DISANET Demo at IIT Madras

VK-nardep was invited to and attended a public demonstration of the disaster communication system at IIT Madras campus. It was a special demo session held for NGOs on July 11, 2014.

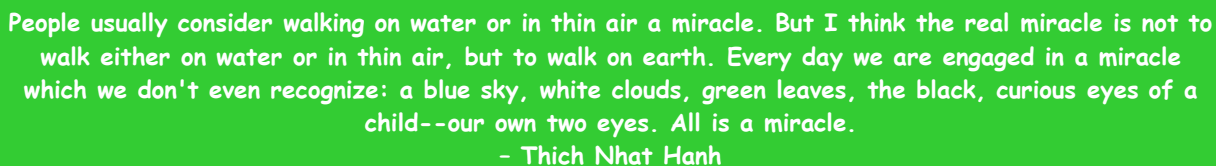


Agri Intex 2014

Dr.P.Kamalasanan Pillai visited the Mela organized by Agri Intex 2014 from 18th to 21st 2014. 2000 people attended the conference at Coimbatore.



Solar PV modules installation for electrification of hamlet at the Panchayat school Danushkodi by VK-nardep as part of 'Green Rameshwaram' sponsored by BrahMos Aerospace, New Delhi.



Green Rameshwaram came out with a mass outreach programme this month. As July and August overlap over the Tamil holy month of 'Aadi' the number of pilgrims coming to Rameshwaram has increased drastically.



- The Tamil newspaper 'The Hindu' came up with a write-up on our Green construction Technology.
- Economic Times came up with a news story on Green Rameshwaram project.

Eco Awareness Programmes organized by VK-nardep and sponsored by UNICEF, Chennai were conducted at the following places:

Allagappa University	4 th July	113
Sambai Village Rameshwaram	29 th July	94
Mariamman Koil Ground, Rameshwaram	30 th July	65

Extension activities conducted by VK-nardep through the sponsorship of UNICEF at the following places:

Mandapam Panchayat School Rameshwaram	3 rd July	Activity done: Exhibition on
SPVA School Rameshwaram	9 th July	Sanitation, Waste
Vivekananda Kendra, Sanathi Street Rameshwaram	30 th July	management, Hygiene etc



On 28th July Green Health Camp was conducted at Rameshwaram and 112 persons attended and benefitted.



Aadi Amavasya: People visiting the exhibition (above) and distribution of green Rameshwaram literature to pilgrims.(below)



School students eagerly going through the panels about conserving water and clean environment.



The Economic Limits

Rameshwaram cleanup drive makes quiet and steady progress

[illegible]

"I still started with a name. The sales ladies [for *Greenleaf*] in my small shop in my summer home in Kansas had many pumpkins. They were so beautiful and warm, like I was at Thanksgiving, with lots of turkeys and red and blue. So I picked *Greenleaf* and *Red*."

"There also are two cases, as detailed in our report, of sharing of information from a group to a group and back, through intermediate members. The group I will report on did not. Still, our findings about exactly how it works, the steps in the process of information transfer and the specific details, for the second time, the group will attempt to use such an approach, if they want to do so. We will also make management recommendations and have them implemented."

for Australia and the United Kingdom, respectively. Moreover, the paper highlights the role of the Internet in the development of the e-commerce sector in the United Kingdom. The Internet, along with e-mail, is a leading means of communication for business and government organizations.

“We have used this sample of 100 responses with the Green and Co. website as a starting point to see how we can better respond to customers and use of energy and energy services in a better way.”¹⁰

"The design of a survey in the workplace is critical to ensure that the survey captures the health issues that employees care about and that are made more salient to them by means of the 'human factor' and the ability of the researcher to make the survey more relevant to them. There are many ways to do this, including using a focus group to explore the issues that are most important to employees. The survey design is critical to ensure that the survey is relevant to the employees and that the results are meaningful to them."



Children, the tears of those suffering from extreme poverty and other misfortunes, as well as of those who have more than enough materially but are still crying out deep within, can only be dried by pure love and compassion. May that compassion awaken in everyone, everywhere.

-Mata Amritanandamayi



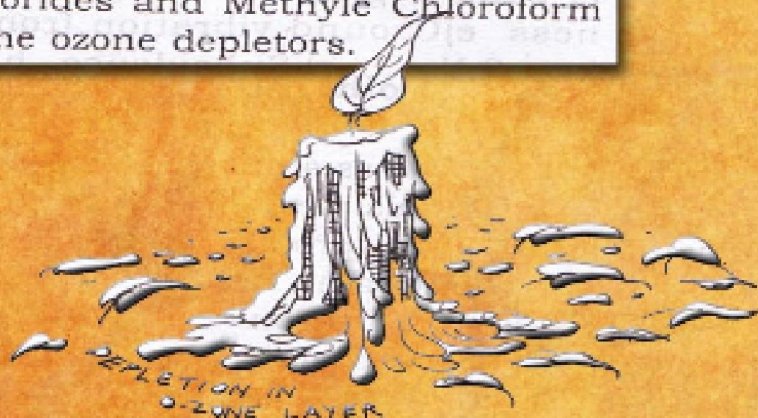
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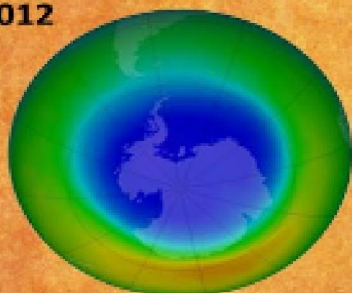
Ozone depletion has been a major problem that has been eclipsed by the more popular Green House Effect and Global Warming. Here is an interesting fact about the 'Ozone Hole': There is a common misconception that the "ozone hole" is really a hole in the ozone layer. When the "ozone hole" occurs, the ozone in the lower stratosphere is destroyed. The upper stratosphere is less affected, so that the amount of ozone over the continent decreases by 50 percent or even more. The ozone does not disappear through the layer, nor is there a uniform 'thinning' of the ozone layer. The "hole" is a depression, not in the sense of "a hole in the windshield". Here with eco-toons the Ozone depletion is explained. Read on...

What is ozone depletion ?

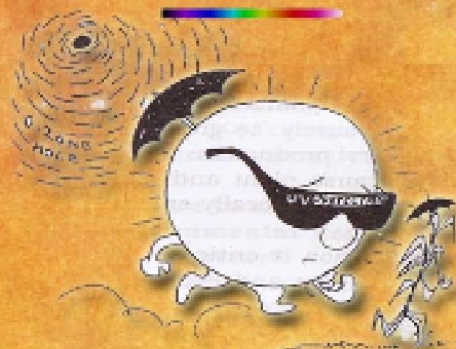
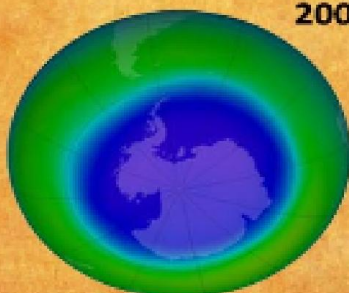
There is a noticeable net ozone loss in the atmosphere. Ozone which is formed and destroyed naturally, strikes its own balance. Due to human activity, ozone-destroying chemicals are now upsetting this natural balance. CFCs, HCFCs, Carbon tetrachlorides and Methylene Chloroform are the ozone depletors.



2012



2006



NATURE



An important principle of ecology is the cyclical nature of most ecological processes. ... Communities of organisms have evolved over billions of years continually using and recycling the same molecules of minerals, water and air.

Fritjof Capra

Nature is cyclical whereas the industrial systems are linear...



SAMAGRA VIKAS

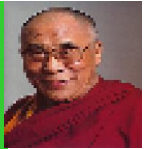
DEVELOPMENT WITH A HUMAN FACE



Vivekananda Kendra Prakashan



The key thing is the sense of universal responsibility; that is the real source of strength, the real source of happiness....When we talk about preservation of the environment, it is related to many other things. The key point is to have genuine sense of universal responsibility, based on love and compassion, and clear awareness. – H.H. Dalai Lama



The Hidden Costs

When we use paper, we're blind to the damage wrought on forests, the logging roads built, the wood wasted, and the energy and resources used to build, operate, and maintain chainsaws, feller-bunchers, grapple-yarders, logging trucks, and pulp and paper mills. When we eat a meal, we rarely consider soil erosion, the oil used to make pesticides and fertilizers, or the energy and resources used to manufacture, operate, and maintain tractors, trucks, and refrigeration units, distribution centers, and grocery stores. When we turn on the TV, we seldom think of mountains being razed to mine coal, streams and valleys destroyed by overburden removed to get at the coal, the energy and resources needed to build, operate, and maintain coal-fired power plants, or the mercury, sulfur dioxide, and carbon dioxide that power plants spew into the atmosphere. Our consumption is completely disconnected from its environmental origins and consequences. Understanding the connections between our individual actions and the broader environmental consequences generated by the economy gives us a compelling incentive to reduce our consumption.



– David Suzuki
Environmentalist



The Hidden Spirit

The world is a great game of hide and seek in which the real hides behind the apparent, spirit behind matter. The apparent masquerades as real. The real is seen dimly as if it were an unsubstantial shadow. The grandeur of the visible universe and its laws enslaves men's imaginations. "This is a mighty machine," we cry, "but it moves of its own force and needs neither guide nor maker; for its motion is eternal." Blinded by a half-truth we fail to see that, instead of a machine without a maker, there is really only an existence and no machine. Ancient Indian seers have many images by which they seek to convey their knowledge of the relation between God and the world, but the idea of the machine does not figure largely among them. It is a spider and his web, a fire with many sparks, a pool of salt water in which every particle is penetrated by the salt. The world is a waking dream, an embodied vision, a mass of knowledge arranged in corporeal appearances expressing so many ideas which are each only a part of one unchanging truth. Everything becomes, nothing is made. Everything is put out from latency, nothing is brought into existence. Only that which was, can be, not that which was not. And that which is, cannot perish; it can only lose itself. All is eternal in the eternal spirit. ... The Spirit manifest as Intelligence is the basis of the world. Spirit as existence, Sat, is one; as Intelligence it multiplies itself without ceasing to be one.



– Sri Aurobindo



The Hidden Connections

During the 1970s and 1980s, the interest in nonlinear phenomena generated a whole series of powerful theories that have dramatically increased our understanding of many key characteristics of life. ... The new scientific understanding of life, based on the concepts of nonlinear dynamics, represents a conceptual watershed. ... Traditionally social scientists have not been very interested in the world of matter. Our academic disciplines have been organized in such a way that the natural sciences deal with material structures while the social sciences deal with social structures, which are understood to be, essentially, rules of behavior. In the future, this strict division will no longer be possible, because the key challenge of this new century—for social scientists, natural scientists and everyone else—will be to build ecologically sustainable communities, designed in such a way that their technologies and social institutions—their material and social structures—do not interfere with nature's inherent ability to sustain life. The design principles of our future social institutions must be consistent with the principles of organization that nature has evolved to sustain the web of life.



– Fritjof Capra
Physicist