

Echoes of Eco



November, 2014

Vivekananda Kendra- nardap Newsletter

Vol:6 No:9

Green Rameshwaram: Bio-Diversity



The coral reef that is present from Rameshwaram to Tuticorin by itself form an important natural resource. Apart from this they also play a very crucial role in the safeguarding of the marine fish populations. It has been documented that in this biodiversity hotspot fishes belonging to 27 families and 50 species live. With the erosion of the coral reefs the fish population as well as species diversity will dwindle and that will have adverse impact on the livelihood of the fishermen communities who form a very important and integral part of the socio-ecological fabric of the eastern coast of India which includes the island of *Rameshwaram* at a point vital to both ecology and geography.



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Homage to Brahman



Like butter hidden in milk, true knowledge dwells in all that lives; ever with mind as the churning rod, everyone should churn it out in himself. Using the whirling rope of knowledge, one should obtain, like fire by friction, that partless, stainless silence; I am Brahman, as it's said.

-Brahmabindu Upanishad





The imagination of nature is far, far greater than the imagination of man ... If you look closely enough at anything, you will see that there is nothing more exciting than the truth ... No matter what you look at, if you look closely enough, you are involved in the entire universe.

- Richard Feynman



Rameshwaram: Reviving the Sacred Water Teerthams

Green Rameshwaram : III Brain Storming Session : 11-Oct-2014



The third brain storming session for Green Rameshwaram has been organized by VK-nardep at Hotel Tamil Nadu, Rameshwaram on 11th October 2014. The last month newsletter carried the major part of the minutes of the third brain storming session. This month we present the rest.

Signages and color scheme

Ms. Deepa Madhavan, architect though could not come, had sent a powerpoint presentation on the signages as well as color scheme for traditional tourist cities around the world. The presentation was appreciated by the district collector who said that before February the color scheme could be applied to Rameshwaram - at least the car street and the only consideration would be aesthetics and economics. Green Rameshwaram project would implement both the scheme of signages and coloring before February end - i.e. before the Kumabhishekam.

Solid Waste Management

Sri. Sriraman of 'Hand in Hand' showed the visuals of machinery which can be used for cleaning the roads. District collector requested them to have a trial before opting for purchasing the machinery. Sri. Sriraman had agreed to find out the possibility of bringing a machine for demonstration at Rameshwaram. Sri. Raghupathy, Hand in Hand, Chennai.

[concluded]

To know more about 'Green Rameshwaram'
Project contact:
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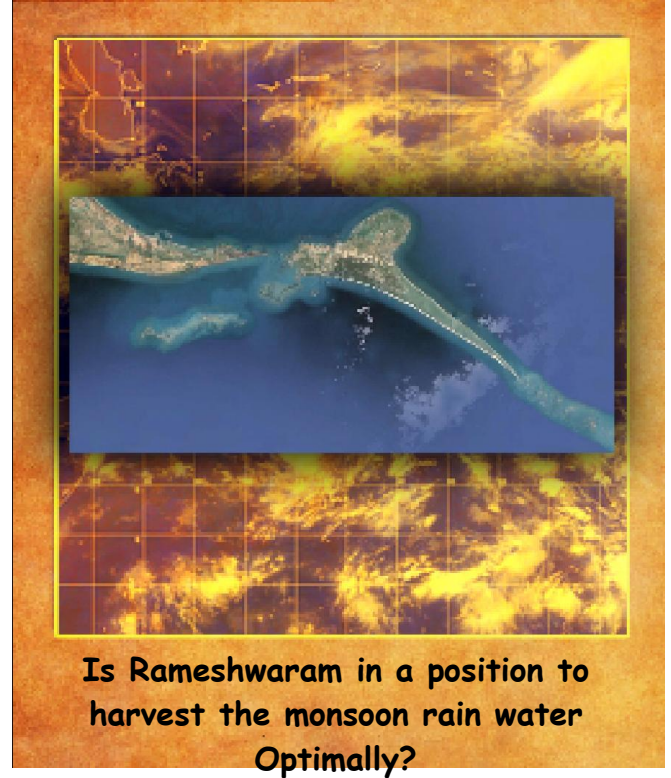
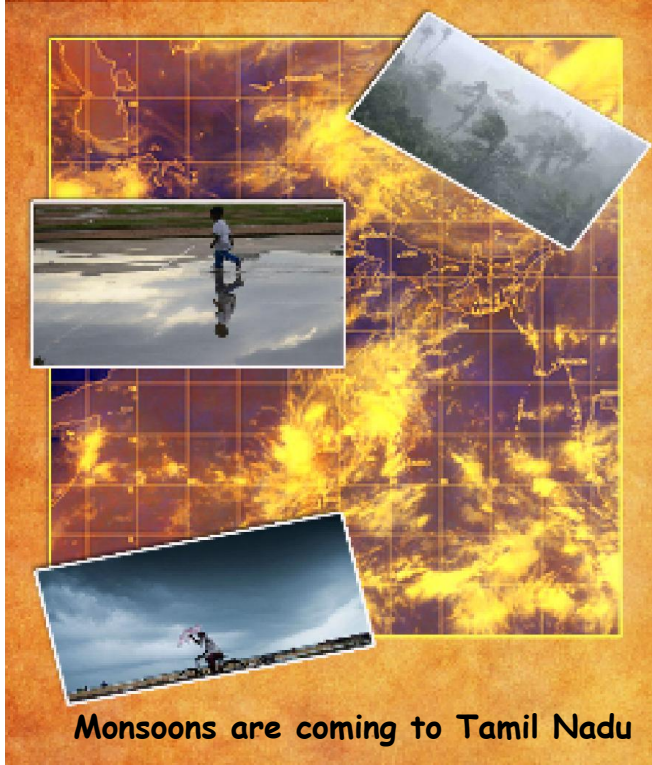




There are two allied powers in man; knowledge and wisdom. Knowledge is so much of the truth seen in a distorted medium as the mind arrives at by groping, wisdom what the eye of divine vision sees in the spirit. What men call knowledge, is the reasoned acceptance of false appearances. Wisdom looks behind the veil and sees. - Sri Aurobindo



The Rain Story: When the Monsoons Arrive

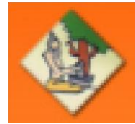




There is in all things an inexhaustible sweetness and purity, a silence that is a fount of action and joy.... This is at once my own being, my own nature, and Gift of my Creator's Thought and Art within me, speaking as Hagia Sophia [Holy Wisdom].
- Thomas Merton



Happenings this month:
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Happenings this month:
Varma National Conference Highlights



Happenings this month:
Water Management

Workshop on Bio-manure and Bio-fertilizer:

The workshop was conducted by Dr.Kamalasannan Pilla on 22nd of November at TRC, Kalluvillai. 6 people attended

Training programme on "Enriched Bio-manure alternative for Chemical fertiliser"

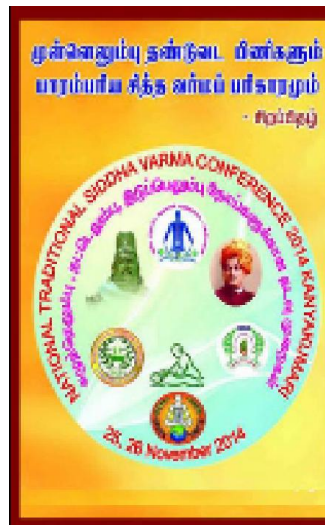
The programme was conducted for 30 farmers from Jharkhand (organized by Govt. of Jharkhand) at TRC, Kalluvilai from 25th to 27th and the resource person was Dr.P.Kamalasanan Pillai and his team.



Dr.Kamalasanan Pillai explaining Azolla technology to Jharkhand farmers.

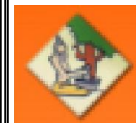


The Invitation/Announcement about the conference



Malaimalar (20th Nov) local evening Tamil daily published information about Varma conference. Dinamalar (26th Nov) gave a detailed report of Dr.Sivathanupillai's talk at the conference.

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



Happenings this month:
South Indian Seminar on Siddha-Varma documentation with special reference to Orthopedic practices

This programme under DST core support was conducted from 25th to 27th and 251 people mainly traditional Vaidhyas and medical professionals and medical students attended the programme. The programme was conducted at Eknath Auditorium, Vivekanandapuram



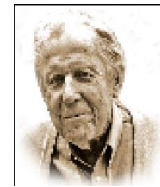
Dr.Sivathanu Pillai inaugurating the conference [Top]
A batch of traditional Varma therapists attending the conference [Below]

To know more about 'Green Rameshwaram Pilgrimage' Project contact:
Secretary, Vivekananda Kendra - Nardep, Vivekanandapuram, Kanyakumari-629702;
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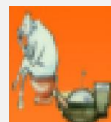
Green Health Home of VK-nardep functioned for 6 days and treated 159 patients.



We are one species among others, and as self-reflective beings we need to understand our particular responsibility for the continuation of the evolutionary process. ... We have become co-creators as we have become conscious of our role in this extraordinary, irreversible developmental sequence of the emergence of life forms. - Thomas Berry



Networking Activities this month:



Renewable Energy this month:



Happenings this month: Networking

On 12th November 3 Students from Holy Cross College visited Vivekanandapuram learned vermi compost and Azolla technology.

On 17th November 150 farmers visited Gramodaya Park and learnt different cost effective construction technologies including live model Rain water harvesting structure. The exposure visit was organized by Dist., Watershed Development Agency, Trichy,

Training Programme on Bio-methanation plant was held at TRC Kallivillai on 17th and 45 persons attended the programme. Er. Ramakrishnan was the resource person.

Training Programme on Bio-methanation plant was held at TRC Kallivillai on 22nd and 2 persons attended the programme. Er. Ramakrishnan was the resource person.

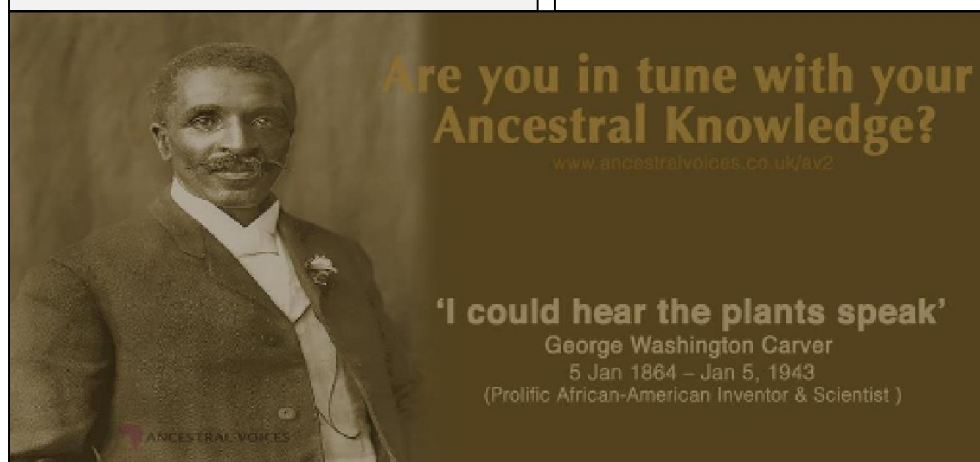
Both the programmes were conducted with DST core support.

125 students from Mar Ephraem College of Engineering and Technology, Elavuvilai, Marthandam attended a workshop on 'Effective Waste Management' conducted at the college on 19th November.

Er.Ramakrishnan and Sri.Rajamony were the resource persons.



Rural women learning Bio-methanation plant technology [above]
Workshop on 'Effective Waste Management' at Mar Ephraem College of Engineering and Technology [Below]



ECO-Awareness Programme:

Under the auspices of UNICEF
Eco-aware programmes were conducted this month in the following places:



No	Venue	Date	Number of people attended
1.	Vivekananda Kendra, Rameshwaram	16-Nov	21
2.	Sowrastra Middle School, Ramanathapuram	23-Nov	132
3.	Thayumanavar Tapovanam, Ramanathapuram	24-Nov	62
4.	Vivekananda Kendra, Rameshwaram	27-Nov	31
5.	Satsang Bhavan, Rameshwaram	28-Nov	400
6.	S.P.G Higher Sec.School,	3-Nov	1500 students
7.	Vivekananda Vidyalaya Rameshwaram	25-Nov	200
8.	Saraswathy Primary School & Mandapam P.K.Primary Schgool,	26-Nov	125



Nature has no "pollution." This is a word coined in human ignorance regarding the presence of the right chemicals being released in the wrong places by those who profit only through selfish preoccupation and nonconsideration of others.

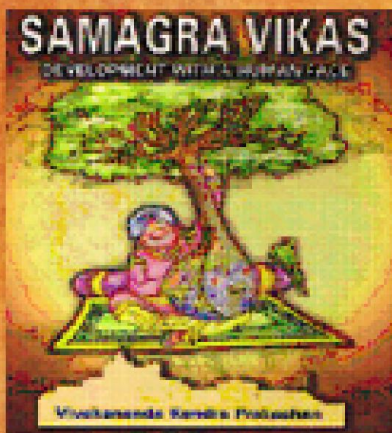
-Buckminster Fuller



From our Publications



Adding ethical and ecological values to the market economics, the products get transformed from being quantitatively more to qualitatively better in a holistic sense. Our eco-toons this month bring this out.





We have seen something of the structure of the body and have learnt that it requires three kinds of nourishment: air, water and food. Of these, air is the most essential. Consequently, Nature has provided it to such extent that we can have it at no cost. But modern civilization has put a price even on air. – Gandhiji



Beyond Appearances

A rose even seems separate from water, from the earth, from the clouds and from the sun, and yet it is literally made of the nourishment absorbed from the earth, the water sprinkled from the clouds and the light of the sun, which warms it. 'Rose', 'branch', 'garbage', 'water', 'earth', 'cloud', 'sun' are only different names assigned time and again to one, indivisible process that we call 'universe', where no particular form can be isolated from the Whole just as in a river no single eddy can be separated from the current's overall motion. Even our own bodies are nothing more than a continuous flow of water, food, air and solar heat, which passing through us becomes 'us', so that it is impossible to strictly separate the 'interior' from the 'exterior'. Therefore through language our thought assigns specific names to various aspects of this huge, indivisible process called 'universe', giving rise to the perception of many different forms. What is the relationship between ... being and becoming, between unity and multiplicity? We could equally ask: what is the relationship between the dancer and the dance? On the one hand, they are just one and the same being, an indivisible whole. On the other hand, there are some differences: The dancer exists without the dance, while the dance cannot occur without the dancer.

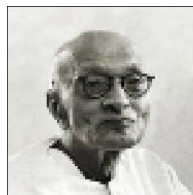


– Mauro Bergonzi
Philosopher



Fish in the Ocean

Science, from the time of Darwin down to the present day, has taught us that the life and environment are closely knit together as evolutionary cause and effect. We cannot interfere with the basic elements of our environment without causing chaos and permanent damage to life. It has taken millions of years to be what we are, all the defects and maladjustments being slowly and ruthlessly weeded out by the laws of evolution. Our great environment the *maataariswan*, the space around the planet with all its known and unknown contents and forces, keeps life going as it has evolved. Interference with the environment is rash and fatal to the evolutionary product of millions of years. To take an analogical instance from a more easily understood plane of life, if the salt-water fish by a freak of intelligence become scientific and change the nature of the water in which they live they will certainly meet with disaster. The water and the lives evolved therein are intimately associated with each other; any interference with the environment is fatal to the lives. Our atmosphere and the whole of space around us are the ocean in which we are living as the fish live in the sea.

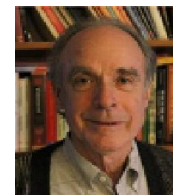


– C. Rajagopalachari
Statesman



Temple Geometry

It is so interesting to study Japanese Temple Geometry (JTG). JTG was a sophisticated mathematics whose development, from the 17th to the 19th century, was centered in Zen and Shinto temples. ... Temple Geometry met Western mathematics the latter won, because math-based technology gave the West bigger guns and faster ships. Math continues to be a vital weapon for our military, and also contributes to many aspects of the unsustainable destruction of our living environment. In stark contrast, Temple Geometry, which was cultivated for peaceful purposes, for personal development and pleasure of the Temple Geometers, was part of a more stable and harmonious culture. From the viewpoint of the Temple Geometers, it is our relationship with mathematics they appears badly out of balance. Perhaps we could learn from the example of Temple Geometry how to reclaim our mathematics for peaceful purposes, to see in it the potential for pleasure and growth rather than domination, to experience it as "our most fascinating and imaginative art form", rather than as a foundation for commerce and war.



Newcomb Greenleaf
Ethno-mathematician