

# Echoes of Eco



July, 2019

Vivekananda Kendra- nardep Newsletter

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## Green warrior – Chandi Prasad Bhatt



Chandi Prasad Bhatt (born 1934) is an Indian Gandhian environmentalist and social activist, who founded Dasholi Gram Swarajya Sangh (DGSS) in Gopeshwar in 1964, which later became a mother-organization to the Chipko Movement, in which he was one of the pioneers, and for which he was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership in 1982, followed by the Padma Bhushan in 2005. Today he is known for his work on subaltern social ecology, and considered one of the India's first modern environmentalist. In 2013, he was the recipient of the Gandhi Peace Prize.

Chandi Prasad Bhatt was born on 23 June 1934, as the second child of Ganga Ram Bhatt and Maheshi Devi Thapliyal, in a family of priests to the Rudranath Temple in Gopeshwar, one of the Panch Kedar, the five Himalayan temples dedicated to Shiva, the most venerated amongst them being the Kedarnath Temple. His father, who was a farmer as well as a priest at the famous Shiva temple at Gopeshwar and the Rudranath

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*All glories to you, O Lord of the universe, who took the form of a fish. When the sacred hymns of the Vedas were lost in the waters of universal devastation, you swam like a boat in that vast ocean to rescue them.*

Gita Govinda



*"In the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter, and sharing of pleasures. For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed"*

- khalil-gibran



temple, died when Chandi Prasad was still an infant and he was raised thereafter by his mother, in Gopeshwar, Chamoli District of Uttarakhand, which was then still a very small village. He did his schooling in Rudraprayag and Pauri, but stopped before he could receive a degree.

Farmland was scarce in the overpopulated mountains, and so were jobs. Like most men of the mountain villages, Chandi Prasad taught art to children for a year to support his mother, before eventually forced to work in the plains. He joined the Garhwal Motor Owners Union (GMOU) as a booking clerk, posted at various places including, Rishikesh, Pipalkoti and Karnaprayag.



In 1956, Bhatt found hope when he heard a speech by the Gandhian leader Jayaprakash Narayan, who was on a tour of the area. Bhatt and other young people launched themselves into the Sarvodaya movement and Gandhian campaigns, of Bhoodan and Gramdan and organising villages for economic development and fighting liquor abuse throughout the Uttarakhand.

In 1960, he left his job at GMOU, to commit full-time to his Sarvodaya activities, and by 1964, Bhatt had instituted the *Dasholi Gram Swarajya Mandal* (Society for Village Self-Rule) to organise fellow villagers in Gopeshwar for employment near their homes in forest-based industries, making wooden implements from ash trees and gathering and marketing herbs for Ayurvedic medicine-and to combat vice and exploitation.

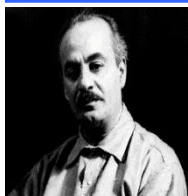
Curtailement of the villagers' legitimate rights to trees and forest products in favour of outside commercial interests enabled Bhatt, in 1973, to mobilise the forest-wise society members and villagers into the collective Chipko Andolan (Hug the Trees Movement) to force revision of forest policies dating from 1917. Women, who regularly walk three to five miles to the forest to gather and carry home fuel and fodder on their backs, took the lead. True to the movement's non-violent philosophy, these women embraced the trees to restrict their felling. Establishment of "eco-development camps" brought villagers together to discuss their needs within the context of the ecological balance of the forest. Stabilizing slopes by building rock retaining walls, the campers planted trees started in their own village nurseries.

In 2003, he was appointed a member of the '**National Forest Commission**', which reviewed all existing policies and legal frameworks relating to forest management, and submitted its report to the Government in 2005.

He is also an author of a few books in Hindi.







*"The teacher who is indeed wise does not bid you to enter the house of his wisdom but rather leads you to the threshold of your mind"*

- khalil-gibran



Happenings this month:  
Sustainable Agriculture



Happenings this month:



Happenings this month:  
Sustainable Agriculture

Training programme on "Terrace garden" was held at Technology Resource Center on 27<sup>th</sup> July. 04 participants attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person.



Camp participants at Terrace garden

Training programme on "Vermi technology" was held at St.Mary College, Thoothukudi on 29<sup>th</sup> July. 50 students attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person.



Practical demonstration on Vermi technology



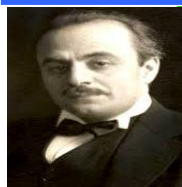
Clearing Doubts into reality

Ms.Poomayil  
Ramakrishnapuram  
Rameswaram  
Mob: 8220492807



I am Mrs.Poomayil (41 yrs) from Ramakrishnapuram attended Kitchen Garden training programme on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 organised by Vivekananda Kendra - Nardep. My husband is a fisherman and two children are pursuing their graduation at Coimbatore. My household hobby is to grow plants. However, I could not succeed in my venture of growing vegetables except Coconut and papaya trees. But after attending the training and getting combo of Grow Bags, Vermi compost, Panchagavya, Seed Tray, Seeds, Couple of tools and Kitchen garden book in Tamil, I got confidence and started growing vegables. Now, whenever I face a problem, I refer to the book as a guide which is very useful. Now I am growing 7 plants in my backyard. My brinjals and other vegetables are not only big in size but also very tasty. Now I am planning to grow more vegetables in the soil and will use Panchagavya as a booster as I am happy with its results.





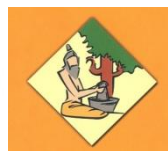
*"But let there be spaces in your togetherness and let the winds of the heavens dance between you. Love one another but make not a bond of love: let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls"*  
- khalil-gibran



**Happenings this month:  
Renewable Energy  
Sources**



**Happenings this month**



**Happenings this month:  
Holistic Health**

Awareness programme on "Cowdung and Biomass based portable Bio-methanation technology" were conducted at the following places. The programme was sponsored by NABARD, Chennai. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person.

S. No.	Place	Date	No. of participants
1.	Sambai Village, Rameshwaram	10 <sup>th</sup>	32
2.	Sundanparappu, Kanyakumari	16 <sup>th</sup>	36
3.	Sasthankovilvilai, Swamithoppu	17 <sup>th</sup>	23
4.	Vadiveeswaram, Nagercoil	20 <sup>th</sup>	35
5.	Thalakudi, Kanyakumari	21 <sup>st</sup>	40
6.	Gramodaya park, Vivekanandapuram	23 <sup>rd</sup>	77
7.	Pethaperumal Kudiyruppu	25 <sup>th</sup>	27

Green health home worked for 6 days and treated 237 patients.

Workshop on "Traditional Siddha Varma Bone Setting Practices" was held at Technology Resource Center on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> July. 25 Vaidyas, Students attended the training. Dr.V.Ganapathy and his team acted as resource persons.



Dr.Ganapathy interacting with the participants



Shri.V.Ramakrishnan clearing doubts in Biogas technology



Shri.V.Ramakrishnan interacting with the participants





*"Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars"*

- khalil-gibran



**Happenings this month:  
Renewable Energy  
Sources**



**Happenings this month:**



**Happenings this  
month:  
Networking**

Training programme on "Cowdung and Biomass based portable Bio-methanation technology" was held at Technology Resource Center on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July. Total 34 participants attended the training. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person. The programme was sponsored by NABARD, Chennai.



*Practical demonstration on "Biomass based Bio-methanation technology"*

**Construction of plants:  
Portable type 1cum - 1 no.**



District Level Implementation Advisory Meeting, Dept. of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Kanyakumari was held at Collectorate, Nagercoil on 17<sup>th</sup> July. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan attended the meeting.

Training programme on "Kitchen garden" was held at Green Rameswaram Building on 12<sup>th</sup> July. 30 participants attended the training. Shri. S.Rajamony was the resource person. The programme was sponsored by Hand in Hand India, Chennai.



*Sis.V.Saraswathi explaining the benefits of 'Kitchen garden'*

District Mission Committee Meeting, Dept. of Horticulture, Kanyakumari was held at Collectorate, Nagercoil on 18<sup>th</sup> July. Shri.S.Rajamony attended the meeting.





*"Your daily life is your temple and your religion. When you enter into it take with you your all"*

- khalil-gibran



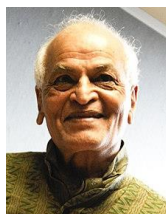
## Visions of Wisdom



### Development as a Homage to Gaia

When we speak of development the first thought evoked by the word is the development of the people. It is an anthropocentric concept. But, James Lovelock, a scientist, pays homage to Gaia and speaks for the rights of micro and macro organisms. He stands up for the bacteria and the butterflies. In his view, rivers have the right to flow and remain unpolluted, rocks have the right to stand where they are, forests have the right to be free of the chainsaw and human intervention. For Lovelock, the Earth acts as if it were a living organism, maintaining its life forms, its climate, its seasons and weather patterns as a self-sustaining, self-organizing and self-correcting system.

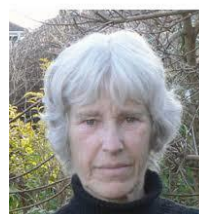
**Satish Kumar**  
An Indian British activist  
and editor of  
Resurgence & Ecologist  
magazine



### Contentment

When we talk about contentment, we are not talking about spirituality as just another tranquilizing product in the market place, whilst the dependence on the acquisition of consumer goods continues. We are talking about giving up false hopes and illusions and about finding the way to create a new kind of society based on proven values such as sharing instead of acquisitiveness and honesty instead of theft, a sense of service instead of power. Such a society would provide the deep sense of security, which is the basis of contentment.

**Wendy Tyndale**  
Researcher for the  
World Faiths  
Development  
Dialogue (WFDD)



### Inner Change

The "eradication of hunger and poverty is not merely an intellectual exercise of science, technology or economics, but also involves an inner change. To alter the system, it is necessary to alter the paradigm of development, and to take cognizance of the spiritual, of the inner voice, of the ethics and values that promote sustainable development". If growth and progress are about "improvement" and thus about moral choices, which cannot be left to science to resolve.

It is at the spiritual level that motivation and purpose are to be found, as well as hope and confidence which leads to perseverance. It is only when people are engaged at this level that real social change will take place.

**Kamla Chowdhry**  
An Eminent  
Environmentalist, and  
Consultant on issues  
related with Sustainable  
Development

