

# Echoes of Eco



September, 2021

Vivekananda Kendra- nardep Newsletter

Vol:13 No:07

## God Does Exist - The Tea Shop



A group of fifteen soldiers led by their Major Sahib was on their way to the post in Himalayas where they would be deployed for the next three months. Another batch, which would be relieved, were waiting anxiously for their arrival so that they could fall back to safer confines of their parent unit. Some would proceed on leave and meet their families. They were happy that they were to relieve a set of comrades who had done their job.

It was a treacherous climb and the journey was to last till the next evening. Cold winter with intermittent snowfall added to the torture. "If only someone could offer them a cup of tea", the Major thought, knowing completely well that it was a futile wish.

They continued for another hour before they came across a dilapidated structure, which looked like a small shop. It was locked.

It was 2 o'clock in the night and there was no house close to the shop where the owner could be located. In any case, it was not advisable to knock any doors at night for security reasons.

It was a stalemate. "No tea, boys. Bad luck!" said the Major.

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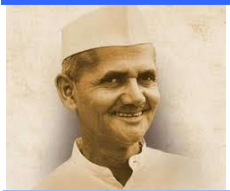
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Durjana sajjana bhuyath,  
Sajjano Santhim aapnuayath  
Saantho mucheytha bandhebhya  
Mukthaschanya vimochayath

May the bad people become good  
May the good people become  
peaceful  
May the peaceful people attain  
freedom,  
And let them help others to get  
free

- Universal Prayer



**"We all have to work in our respective spheres with the same dedication, the same zeal and the same determination which inspired and motivated the warrior on the battle front. And this has to be shown not by mere words, but by actual deeds"**

**- Lal Bahadur Shastri**

The Major told the men to take some rest since they had been walking for more than three hours now.

"Sir, this is a tea shop indeed and we can make tea. We will have to break the lock though".

The officer was in doubt about the proposed action but a steaming cup of tea was not a bad idea. He thought for a while and permitted the lock to be broken. The lock was broken.

They were in luck.

The place was a shop indeed and had everything required to prepare tea, and also a few packets of biscuits.

The tea was prepared and it brought great relief to all in the cold night. They were now ready for the long and treacherous walk ahead of them and started to get ready to move.

The officer was in deep thought. They had broken open the lock, prepared tea, and consumed biscuits without the permission of the owner. The payment was due but there was no one in sight. However, they were not a band of thieves. They were disciplined soldiers.

The Major did not move out without doing what needed to be done. He took out a Rs. 1000/- note from his wallet and kept it on the counter, pressing it under the sugar container, so that the owner would see it first thing when he arrived in the morning.

He was now relieved of the guilt and ordered the move.

Days, weeks and months passed. They continued to do gallantly what they were required to do and were lucky not to lose any one from the group in the intense insurgency situation.

And then one day, it was time to be replaced by another brave lot. Soon they were on their way back and stopped at the same shop, which was today open with the owner in place. He was an old man with very meager resources and was happy to see fifteen of them with the prospect of selling at least fifteen cups of tea that day.

All of them had their tea and spoke to the old man about his life and experiences in general, selling tea at such remote a location. The poor, old man had many stories to tell all of them, replete with his faith in God.

"Nahin Sahib, aise mat kaho, God actually exists. I got proof a few months ago.

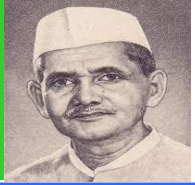
"I was going through very tough times because my only son had been severely beaten by the terrorists who wanted some information from him which he did not have. I had closed the shop early that day and had taken my son to the hospital. There were medicines to be purchased and I had no money. No one would give me a loan for fear of the terrorists. There was no hope, Sahib.

"And that day Sahib, I had prayed to God for help. And Sahib, God walked into my shop that day.



"That loyalty to the country comes ahead of all other loyalties. And this is an absolute loyalty, since one cannot weight it in terms of what one receives"

- Lal Bahadur Shastri



"When I returned to my shop that day and saw the lock broken, I thought someone had broken in and had taken away whatever little I had. But then I saw that 'God' had left Rs. 1000/- under the sugar pot. Sahib, I cannot tell you what that money was worth that day. God exists Sahib, He does".

"I know people are dying every day here but all of you will soon meet your near and dear ones, your children, and you must thank your God, Sahib, he is watching all of us. He does exist. He walked in to my shop that day and broke open the lock to give me the money I desperately needed. I know 'He' did it."



The faith in his eyes was unflinching. It was unnerving. Fifteen sets of eyes looked at their officer and read the order in his eyes clear and unambiguous, 'Keep quiet.'

The officer got up and paid the bill and hugged the old man.

"Yes Baba, I know, God does exist - and yes the tea was wonderful."

Fifteen pairs of eyes did not miss the moisture building in the eyes of the Major, a rare sight.

And the real truth is that any one of us can be a God to somebody.

(This is a true story shared by a soldier in Kupwara Sector of Jammu & Kashmir)

The truth is that we all can be 'God' to someone sometime.

We often pray to God with requests to meet our needs.

Have we ever thought of how God meets our needs and have we ever tried to understand how He showers His blessings upon us?

As a famous scientist once said:

"If we believe, then everything is a miracle - if we don't, then we can disregard everything as a co-incidence."

The difference is in the perspective; in the attitude.

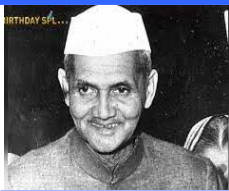
Believing everything as miracle fills our heart with gratitude and humility.

When we see everything in the world - every incidence in life with a sense of wonder and awe, life becomes full of joy - otherwise the world is nothing more than a few fixed laws of physics and chemical reactions.

Note: the story of soldiers and teashop of Kupwara is based upon an episode of 'Radio Ruhaniyat' by Preet Sahiji.

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"The rule of law should be respected so that the basic structure of our democracy is maintained and further strengthened"

- Lal Bahadur Shastri



Happenings this month:  
Sustainable Agriculture



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### ATMA Training programmes

Two programmes on "Organic farming" conducted for ATMA, Kurunthancode Block, Dept. of Agriculture, Kanyakumari Dist. on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person. 40 persons attended each programmes.



*Shri.S.Rajamony interacting with the participants - Kurunthancode*

60 persons from AWED NGO, Karinchancode, Kanyakumari Dist visited our J.C.Bose Nursery on 4<sup>th</sup> September as a part of exposure visit. They learned farming technologies and home herbal medicines.



*Participants eagerly purchasing seeds, grow bags etc. at our Harit Surabhi organic shop*

50 ATMA farmers from Munchirai block of Kanyakumari district visited our J.C.Bose Nursery on 17<sup>th</sup> September as a part of exposure visit. The programme was sponsored by Dept. of Agriculture, Kanyakumari Dist.



*Participants at our J.C.Bose Nursery*



*Shri.S.Rajamony explaining Vermi technology*





**"Those who govern must see how the people react to administration.  
Ultimately, the people are the final arbiters"**

- Lal Bahadur Shastri



**Happenings this month:  
Holistic Health**



**Happenings this month:  
Renewable Energy  
Sources**

### **Green Health**

Green health home worked for 4 days. 107 patients treated. In addition, 59 people underwent Varma massage.

Workshop on "Traditional Siddha Varma Bone setting Practices" was held from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September at Technology Resource Center, Anjaneyapuram. 58 Doctors, Vaidyas and students attended. Dr.V.Ganapathy and his team acted as resource persons.



*Dr.V.Ganapathy interacting with the camp participants*



*Practical session at natural atmosphere*

### **Bio-methanation Technology**

Training on "Bio-methanation technology" was held on 18<sup>th</sup> September. 04 participants attended the training. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person.

IFAD Project Performance Evaluation was held on 9<sup>th</sup> September through virtual meeting. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan interacted with the higher authorities.

As a follow up our Shri.Raghupathi and Shri.Periyaswami visited 52 houses in Kanyakumari district from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September to check up the working of the Biogas plant. They carried out minor repairs of 26 Bio-methanation plants.

### **GOBARDHAN Programme**

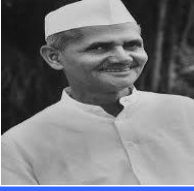
Team of DRDA officials - BDO and Engineers along with Panchayat President of Senbagaramanputhur Panchayat of Kanyakumari district visited our office on 13<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the detailed project report (DPR) for implementing GOBARDHAN Scheme in the panchayat.

As a follow up Shri.V.Ramakrishnan and Shri.Muneeswaran visited the Samathuvapuram which is a part of the Panchayat on 15<sup>th</sup> September.



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"Stamping out corruption is a very tough job, but I say so in all seriousness that we would be failing in our duty if we do not tackle this problem seriously and with determination"

- Lal Bahadur Shastri



Happenings this month:  
Networking



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## Paper Presentation

Refresher course for IFS officers was held by Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul.

Shri. G. Vasudev gave a power point

presentation on "Environmental Ethics - Reverence towards Nature" on 17<sup>th</sup> September. About 30 IFS officers from all over India attended the online programme.



## Surabhi Research and Resource Center Activities



Shri.V.Ramakrishnan gave an interview to All India Radio, Tirunelveli on 27<sup>th</sup> September on Bio-methanation technology. The programme was broad-

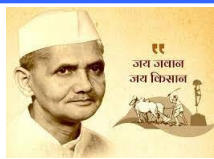
casted from 9.30 to 10 p.m. Biogas user Smt.Krishnaveni of Mahadanapuram was also interviewed as a part of the programme.

The Hindu - Tamil gave a good coverage about our work at Rameswaram in the field of "Revival and Renovation of Traditional water bodies" on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

Surabhi Research and Resource Center was inaugurated on 30<sup>th</sup> September. Shri.Radhakrishnan, Secretary, Administration, Vivekananda Kendra was the chief guest. As a part of this programme a Panchagavya Chikitsa camp was organised. Dr.Amit of Maa Gou Products Pvt. Ltd., Ramachandrapura Matt, Bengaluru examined 40 patients and gave medicines for one month.



Shri.Radhakrishnan and Dr.Amit lighting the lamp



**"The preservation of freedom, is not the task of soldiers alone. The whole nation has to be strong"**

**- Lal Bahadur Shastri**



## Visions of Wisdom



### How to Save Earth

The earth will not be saved by powerful savants issuing edicts from afar. The environment will not be saved by corporations whose mandate is to maximize profit, nor by bureaucracies whose mandate is to manage people. The new enlightenment requires that people be empowered to change the way institutions act. Only popular mobilization can create the political force necessary for the transformation - of the laws that determine how corporations produce, the priorities that governments will pursue, and the practices that people adopt.



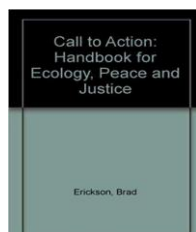
**Rev. Jesse L. Jackson**  
An American political activist



### Turn Spark into Fire

Some of us had the fire of activism lit under us by directly experiencing destruction and oppression. Some of us are motivated by our compassion for others. Some of us react intellectually to the senseless and needless waste of life and human potential. Many are motivated by witnessing the positive and creative actions of others who are fighting for their beliefs. And some are just scared to death of what will happen if they don't do something. Whatever that spark is for you, I hope that you will build it into a fire. So that we may spare the planet for future generations.

**Brad Erickson**  
Editor of the famous book "Call to Action"



### Ignoring the Crisis of Mother Earth

"We are not frightened by the spectre of imprisonment in Siberia. We are frightened by the vision of a sterile ocean and a barren land, an Earth devoid of non-human life, an Earth without the songs of the whale and the birds, the trumpet of the elephant, the howl of the wolf and the sigh of the redwood in the wind".

"We are not scared of the Japanese exploding harpoons or the potshots of ignorant whalers armed with rifles. We are scared of doing nothing, of being apathetic, complacent and being guilty of ignoring the cries of mother Earth as she is raped, tortured, mutilated and wasted".



**Paul Watson**  
A Canadian-American conservation and environmental activist