



Echoes of Eco

March, 2018

Vivekananda Kendra- nardep Newsletter

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Extracts from the book "Whispers of Nature"

The End of Living - The beginning of Survival

In 1854 the Govt. of United States made an offer for a large area of Indian Land and promised a 'reservation' for the Indian People. Chief Settle's reply is a most beautiful and profound statement on environment

How can you buy or sell the sky, the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us.

If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them?

Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of my people. The sap which courses through the trees carries the memories of the man ...



We are part of the earth and it is part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the deer, the horse, the great eagle, these are our brothers. The rocky crests, the juices in the meadows, the body heat of the pony, and man - all belong to the same family ...

The rivers are our brothers, they quench our thirst. The rivers carry our canoes, and feed our children. If we sell you our land, you must remember and teach your children, that the rivers are our brothers, and

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May you move in harmony,
speak in one voice;
let your minds be in agreement;
just as the ancient gods shared
their portion of sacrifice.

- Rig Veda



"We are reducing the number of relationships. We are slowly but surely consuming the massive reserves of energy that have been accumulating and are stored in the ecosystems"

- Gunter Pauli



yours; and you must henceforth give the rivers the kindness you would give any brother...

There is no quiet place in the white man's cities. No place to hear the unfurling of leaves in spring, or the rustle of an insect's wings. But perhaps it is because I am a savage and do not understand. The clatter only seems to insult the ears. And what is there to life if a man cannot hear the lonely cry of the whippoorwill or the arguments of the frogs around a pond at night? I am a red man and do not understand. The Indian prefers the soft sound of the wind darting over the face of a pond, and the smell of the wind itself, cleansed by a mid-day rain, or scented with the pinon pine.



The air is precious to the red man, for all things share the same breath - the beast, the tree, the man, they all share the same breath. The white man does not seem to notice the air he breathes. Like a man dying for many days, he is numb to the stench. But if we sell you our land, you must remember that the air is precious to us, that the air shares its spirit with all the life it supports. The wind that gave our grandfather his first breath also receives his last sigh. And if we sell you our land, you must keep it apart and sacred, as a place where even the white man can go to taste the wind that is sweetened by the meadow's flowers.

So we will consider your offer to buy our land. If we decide to accept, I will make one condition: The white man must treat the beasts of this land as his brothers..

What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, man would die from a great loneliness of

spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man. All things are connected.

You may teach to your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of our grandfather's. So that they will respect the land, tell your children that the earth is rich with the lives of our kin. Teach your children what we have taught our children, that the earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. If men spit upon the ground, they spit upon themselves.

This we know: the earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. This we know. All things are connected like blood which unites one family. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life: he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself...

We may be brothers after all. We shall see. One thing we know, which the white man may one day discover - our God is the same God. You may think now that you own Him as you wish to own our land; but you cannot. He is the God of man, and His compassion is equal for the red man and the white. This earth is precious to Him, and to harm the earth is to heap contempt on its Creator. The white too shall pass

But in your perishing you will shine brightly, fired by the strength of the God who brought you to this land and for some special purpose gave you dominion over this land and over the red man. That destiny is a mystery to us, for we do not understand when the buffalo are all slaughtered, the wild horses are tamed, the secret corners of the forest heavy with scent of many men and the view of the ripe hills blotted by talking wires. Where is the thicket? Gone. Where is the eagle? Gone. The end of living and the beginning of survival.

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"We are selling ourselves very short by funneling our energies into what the traditional perception is of academic and monetary success"

- Gunter Pauli



Happenings this month:
Sustainable Agriculture



Happenings this month:
Renewable Energy



Happenings this
month:
Holistic Health

Training programme on "Organic farming" was held at J.C.Bose Nursery on 3rd March. 05 farmers attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person.



Camp participants at J.C.Bose nursery

Training programme on "Azolla Bio-feed cultivation" was held at Technology Resource Center on 24th March. 59 farmers attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony and Smt.S.Premalatha were the resource persons.



Practical demonstration on Azolla cultivation



Practical demonstration - Mud block making

Training programme on "Vernacular Architecture" was held at Technology Resource Center on 5th March. 17 members attended. Sri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person. The programme was sponsored by PARK Institute of Architecture, Coimbatore.



Shri. V. Ramakrishnan showing Deenabandhu Biogas model to the participants

Training programme on "Bio-methanation plant" was held at Technology Resource Center on 24th March. 05 members attended. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person.

Green health home worked for 4 days and treated 154 patients.

District Mission Committee Meeting, Dept. of Horticulture was held on 22nd March at Collectorate, Nagercoil Shri.S.Rajamony was attended.

Shri.A.Sivarajan from Anna University, Tirunelveli Regional Center is doing his project work on 'Bio-energy' at our Technology Resource Center.

Construction of Biogas Plant

Portable type
6 cum - 1 no.
0.5 cum - 24 nos.



6 cum portable type Bio-methanation plant



**"Key in life is to be able to answer the question "How much is enough?"
Modern society has a desire to accumulate stuff & do nothing with it"**

- Gunter Pauli



Happenings this month:
Renewable Energy



Happenings this month:
Renewable Energy



Happenings this month:
Networking

Evaluation of our work under DST, Core Support was carried out by the Scientists deputed by the Department of Science and Technology on 29th and 30th March.

Highlights:

- Team members: Dr.Sunil Agarwal, DST - New Delhi, Dr.Padaria, Scientist, IARI - New Delhi, Dr.Gulyani, Former Principal Scientist, CSWRI, Avikanagar, Dr.B.K.Bhatt, Scientist, MNRE, Delhi Dr.Mohanan, SCT Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram and Dr.Kishore Kumar, Chief Scientist, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Members visited our Gramodaya Park, J.C.Bose Nursery and Green Health Home at Vivekanandapuram Campus and Technology Resource Center at Anjaneyapuram, Kalluvilai.
- Project members explained their work by way of Power point presentation.
- Evaluation team interacted with the end users of each technology including Varma Vaidyas who performed Kalari Pattu.
- All our publications, herbal cosmetics, working models, tools etc. were exhibited during their visit.



Expert team at Gramodaya park
Herbs for Healing



Kalari performance is on at TRC



Team at J.C.Bose Nursery



Biogas user sharing his experience



Dr. V.Ganapathy's presentation is on ...



Exhibition of books, publications, herbal cosmetics, tools etc.



"There is no unemployment in eco-systems"

- Gunter Pauli



Visions of Wisdom



Religion and Nature

In the past, when religion taught men to look upon Nature as God's handiwork, the idea of conservation was too self-evident to require special emphasis. But now that the religion of economics lends respectability to man's inborn envy and greed and Nature is looked upon as man's quarry to be used and abused without let or hindrance, what could be more important than an explicit theory of conservation? We teach our children that science and technology are the instruments for man's battle with Nature, but forget to warn them that, being himself a part of Nature, man could easily be on the losing side.



The key to the development

The key to the development is change of consciousness. We must expand our and physical exercises the latent powers of expansion in the physical body must be activated. By Pranayama and allied practices, the individual life force must be opened to the free inflow of the cosmic Prana. Similarly, the windows of the mind must be kept open so that fresh currents of knowledge always blow in. And above all, the limiting ego must be displaced by the inner soul which is eternal, infinite and joyous.

The individual has to become universal. Then alone is he able to live in tune with the Tao, the Mother Nature.



Ecology Yoga

Sir Jagadish Chandra Base noted the ability of plants to react to its environs. That was in the 1920's. After his demise, the research was given up. It was left to the modern-day scientists to produce irrefutable proof that plants can not only establish Yoga with living things around them, including man, but also can read our minds and intentions. The doyen of these living researchers, Cleve Backster, says "There is no doubt in my mind that we are all one". Most of the top scientists of the world echo these sentiments, or rather, this conviction. All say, "We are unity". And in the spectrum of 'we', every living thing on this earth is included. The language of the hoary Yogis may be unintelligible; the ground they trod may be terra incognita to us. Now, however, scientists are speaking in a scientific parlance, which we can comprehend. But shall we heed even them?



E.F. Schumacher
German statistician
and famous
economist for his
book – 'Small is
Beautiful'



M.P. Pandit
Personal Secretary to
the Mother of Sri
Aurobindo Ashram



Dr. M.M. Bhagwara
Renowned Naturopath
and actively associated
with Vegetarian
Congress