

# Echoes of Eco



May, 2018

Vivekananda Kendra- nardep Newsletter

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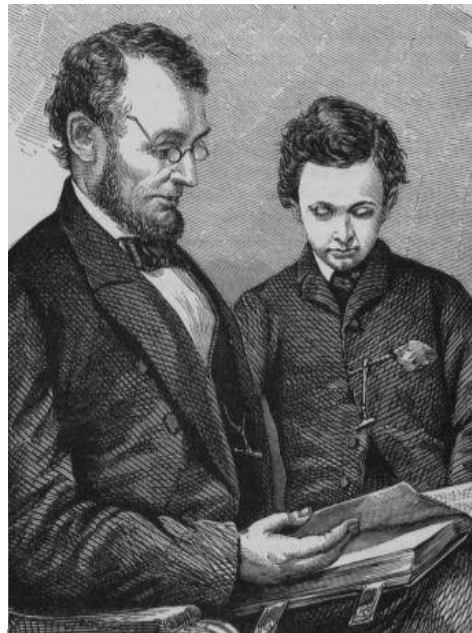
## Extracts from the book "Living in tune with Nature"

### John Stewart's letter to Abraham Lincoln's

*Last month, we carried out a letter of Abraham Lincoln to the head master. This time we are giving the fascinating reply of head master to Mr.Lincoln.*

Dear Mr.Lincoln,  
This is the first letter ever;  
I have received during my  
life as a teacher! I am well  
aware that your son has  
inherited your utmost faith  
in humanity and superlative  
erudition along with  
comparable thinking  
capabilities.

I have already accepted the  
responsibility of moulding  
his sensibilities as my duty,  
not because he is your son;  
but because as he is one of  
the students of this school!



Mr. Lincoln,  
I have introduced him to the magnanimity of the soul. He will  
never be afraid of his enemies and the question of his  
enemies threatening him will also never arise, because all  
enemies shall drop their guns in front of the strong willpower  
he shall achieve, once the soul is enlightened. Scoundrels  
thrive on money and ammunition. It doesn't take long for the  
money to disappear and ammunitions to be disabled.

### In this issue:

- "John Stewart's letter to Abraham Lincoln's"
- The Happenings
- Visions of Wisdom:
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  - Matricides should never seek Mercy
  - Role of Customs and Traditions



*My first salutation is to rising  
Sun, who is glorious bright ball of  
brightness.*

*My second salutation is to the God  
of Fire, the one who is present in  
every living being.*



*"Water and air, the two essential fluids on which all life depends, have become global garbage cans"*

*- Jacques-Yves Cousteau*



Mr. Lincoln,

Please don't drag my student into this world of selfish politicians. You competently faced the crooked politics of the politicians. But he will be unable to learn the lessons of politics in this world of emotions, words and books. You teach him that he should imbibe the lessons of your ethics and morals. He should never be the successor of your chair! He is lucky to be your son but he, himself, should be the sculptor of his fate, his future. He will have to come as any common student, amidst millions of students studying in this school. Please ensure that the ego of he being your son, or the reflections of your capabilities should not even touch him. But at the same time, please also ensure, that his blossoming life should not be nipped in the bud under the burden of your capabilities.

Mr. Lincoln,

Let him have his own thinking process. Please don't burden him with your thoughts, your likes and dislikes! Your greatness soars high in the sky! He may not soar high in the same sky. His wings may be weak to soar that high! In that case, don't write him off to be incompetent or don't regard him as unpromising. He will learn things with experience and efforts.

I and my colleagues teach him the meanings of bookish words, grammatical references, graphs, mathematical formulae but you too will have to be his teacher! Because he is in search of secrets embedded in the mother earth, the secrets about the entire human race and the rules and social laws. You will have to make him understand the incomprehensible instances. But during that you will have to change your role of being his father.



Never pressurize him to study. Let him feel it from within. Let him understand the importance himself! Don't unnecessarily strive hard to make him understand the importance of studies!

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Every question he asks will be new step towards innovation. Get your steps habituated to walk along with his tiny steps! Let him stroll in the world of words! But while he is having his stroll, arm him with your strong hands and wise words!

I am proud to have a student of a parent, who is a role model in himself. You have entrusted me to be the custodian of a human skeleton. I am sure that while he graduates and walks out of this school, he will walk out as "Gentleman with prowess" who will strive hard towards the development of the entire human race!

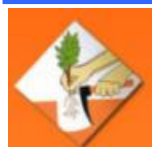






*"About two-thirds of the oxygen in our atmosphere is produced in the surface waters of the sea by phytoplankton, the minute forms of algae that give the sea its slightly green hue, and which initiate the entire food web of the ocean"*

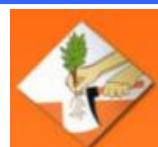
*- Jacques-Yves Cousteau*



Happenings this month:  
Sustainable Agriculture



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Sustainable Agriculture

Training programme on "Azolla cultivation" was held at Technology Resource Center on 5<sup>th</sup> May. 01 farmer attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person.



*Marvelous Azolla plant*

Training programme on "Terrace Garden" was held at Technology Resource Center on 26<sup>th</sup> May. 04 farmers attended the training. Smt.S.Premalatha was the resource person.



*Camp participants visited our terrace garden during training*



Feedback from the field

Mrs.V.Rajalekshmi,  
Nadankulam,  
Kottaram Post,  
Kanyakumari District



Thanks to Vivekananda Kendra for teaching me Fish Amino Technology during training at my village dated 22.09.2017. I have a kitchen Garden at my back yard and had a problem of Mealy bug to the tomato plant. Surprisingly after the application of fish amino, not only the bugs vanished but also there is an improvement in quality and quantity of my tomatoes.



Smt.Mariya Selvam  
Vellapatti  
Melasarakal Post  
Tuticorin District.

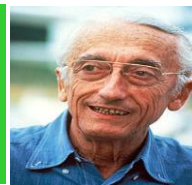
Gardening is my hobby and so I planted Rose. However, the flowers were of very small size. Vivekananda Kendra - NARDEP taught me the preparation of Panchagavya during training at my village on 14.12.2017. After my training I started preparing spraying to my garden. To my surprise the plants started looking hardly the size of my roses also increased.





*"For most of history, man has had to fight nature to survive; in this century he is beginning to realize that, in order to survive, he must protect it"*

*- Jacques-Yves Cousteau*



Happenings this month:  
Networking



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Networking



Happenings this month:  
Holistic Health



*Power point presentation by Shri.V.Ramakrishnan*

Workshop on "Sustainability Development Goals" was held at Animation Center, Bishop's House, Nagercoil on 17<sup>th</sup> May. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan gave a power point presentation on "Water and Sanitation". 30 farmers attended the training. The programme was sponsored by HEAL Movement, Nagercoil.

25 farmers from ATMA, Vamanapuram Block, Thiruvananthapuram Dist., Kerala visited J.C.Bose Nursery on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. They learned different methods of farming technologies.



*Farmers learned Azolla cultivation during their visit*

Green health home worked for 3 days and treated 90 patients.

National seminar on "Role of Traditional Siddha Varma Therapy for Anorectal Diseases" was held at Gramodaya Park, Vivekanandapuram on 7<sup>th</sup> May. 103 Vaidyas attended. Dr.V.Ganapathy and his team acted as resource persons.



*Dr.V.Ganapathy gave power point presentation on Varma points during the workshop*

District Mission Committee Meeting, Dept. of Horticulture was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May at Collectorate, Nagercoil Shri.S.Rajamony Participated.





*"The sea, the great unifier, is man's only hope. Now, as never before, the old phrase has a literal meaning: we are all in the same boat"*

*- Jacques-Yves Cousteau*



Happenings this month:  
Networking



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Networking

As usual 'Refresher course for family members' was arranged from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May at Technology Resource Center. 45 members participated.



*Group wise round table discussion during camp*

3 days Personality Development Camp was organized from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> May for the students of Avai Ashram, Shivasailam and Sowbhagya Illam, Gandhigram Trust, Dindigul. 52 participants enjoyed the new atmosphere and got empowered with the 3 days input.



*Lighting the lamp by the students*

One-day Personality Development Camp for Balsanskar Varga children was organized at Technology Resource Center on 5<sup>th</sup> May. 45 children enjoyed the programme.



*Children showing their talent by way of cultural programme*



*Games conducted by Shri.V.Ramakrishnan during the camp*





*" We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one"*

- Jacques-Yves Cousteau



## Visions of Wisdom



### **Reverence towards Nature**

Our relationship with Nature should not begin and end up with just curiosity and enquiry, or astonishment and amazement at its intricacies or beauties. Unless we are deeply moved by awe and remain in a continuous state of reverence, unless we remain passively alert to the summons of this awe-inspiring phenomena, we are not going to catch sight of its entire truth, and bound to explore, dominate, get hold of or possess what we are astonished at. The moment this happens - and it has happened - it is the beginning or the end of mankind and its high-consuming or low-consuming, technological or non-technological, urban or rural civilization.



**Ashvin Metha**  
Philosopher more than Nature  
Photographer



### **Matricides should never seek Mercy**

We are orphans today because we have killed the Great Mother. Matricides should never seek mercy. If we are dematured, alienated, the reason is not far to seek.

A huge death-wish hangs over the world. The uncontrolled passion for development, the frantic search for power without wisdom has dragged the Atlantic to our doorsteps. Star Wars is threatening to become a shocking reality. Must we go down without fighting?

Are we doomed to live in a planet in peril? Has Western humanism lit its own funeral pyre? Are we to live as exiles, away from reality? Ecological insight, an old ethics, has suddenly become an urgent, new affirmation. The timeless truth is timely.



**Sisirkumar Ghosh**  
Rtd. Professor of English at Shanti-Niketan



### **Role of Customs and Traditions**

'Ecology' has become a matter of great concern to the environmentalists of 'today when much of the damage has already been done. But way back in the days of yore, Indian sages and scientists wrote treatises on water management and its importance in the overall socio-economic and ecological perspective. They not only wrote treatises, but also evolved social customs and traditions that ensured a balanced growth of the civilization. Till the time we respected those customs and traditions, things went off smoothly. But now, modern man, looks down upon them without even understanding their true import and goes on discarding them.



**Vijay Paranjpye**  
Active Environmental  
Activist