

# Echoes of Eco



May, 2019

Vivekananda Kendra- nardep Newsletter

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## Green warrior - Saalumarada Thimmakka



In her 40s, Saalumarada Thimmakka had hit a dark phase when she wanted to end her life for not being able to conceive. But, with the support of her husband, she found solace in planting trees.

The couple loved and cared for the trees like their own children, and their family increased from 10 to almost 8,000 trees.

Now popularly known as the Mother of Trees, 107-year-old Thimmakka has emerged to become one of the most prominent environmentalists from Karnataka, and shot to fame for planting and nurturing 365 banyan trees along a four-kilometer highway stretch, between Hulikal and Kudoor village, near her husband's native place in Tumakuru.

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*Everything rests on me as pearls  
are strung on a thread. I am the  
original fragrance of the earth. I  
am the taste in water. I am the  
heat in fire and the sound in space.  
I am the light of the sun and moon  
and the life of all that lives.*

Bhagavad Gita



*"Our thesis is that the idea of a self-adjusting market implied a stark utopia. Such an institution could not exist for any length of time without annihilating the human and natural substance of society; it would have physically destroyed man and transformed his surroundings into a wilderness"*

- Karl Polanyi



For her work, she has won the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award, Hampi University's Nadoja Award and National Citizen Award by Government of India, among many other national and international awards.

This year she received the Padmashri award from Govt. of India. While receiving the award, she blessed the President of India. The President took to Twitter to recall the gesture. "At the Padma awards ceremony, it is the President's privilege to honour India's best and most deserving. But today I was deeply touched when Saalumara Thimmakka, an environmentalist from Karnataka, and at 107 the oldest Padma awardee this year, thought it fit to bless me," he tweeted.

After receiving her award, Saalumara Thimmakka also planted a sapling at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.







*"The congenital weakness of nineteenth century society was not that it was industrial but that it was a market society. Industrial civilization will continue to exist when the Utopian experiment of a self-regulating market will be no more than a memory"*

- Karl Polanyi



**Happenings this month:**  
Cost effective construction technologies



**Happenings this month:**



**Happenings this month:**  
Sustainable Agriculture

Training programme on "Bio pesticides & Growth Hormones" was held at J.C.Bose Nursery on 25<sup>th</sup> May. 06 participants attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person.



*Practical demonstration on Bio-pesticide preparation*

Awareness programme on "Ferro Cement Technology" was held at Gramodaya Park, Vivekanandapuram on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. 39 participants attended the event. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person.



*Shri.Vijayaraghavan interacting with the participants*



**Nature gives calmness!  
planting gives peace!!**

Ms.Karthikadevi  
Mankaadu village  
Rameswaram  
Mob: 9488269719



Ms.Karthikadevi is a resident of Mankaadu village and has attended our training programme in December 2018. She is relatively happy when she explained the transformation in growing plants after the training program. She also thanks the trainer for teaching her the concepts and she said the utility of the book given on Terrace Garden is immense. She says her daughter Ms.Kavya Srimathi also is going through the book and trying different methods enlisted in the book especially pruning, grafting and trying different organic insecticides using ginger, garlic and chilly. It's a good time pass for her and she waters the plants regularly and it really soothes her mind and keeps her afresh towards household responsibilities.





**"To allow the market mechanism to be the sole director of the fate of human beings and their natural environment....would result in the demolition of society"**

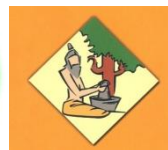
- Karl Polanyi



**Happenings this month:  
Holistic Health**



**Happenings this month**



**Happenings this month:  
Cost effective  
construction  
technologies**

Training programme on "Shakthi Surabhi Bio-methanation technology" was held at Gramodaya Park, Vivekanandapuram on 25<sup>th</sup> May. 03 participants attended the training. Shri.V.Muneeswaran was the resource person.



*Shri.Muneeswaran interacting with the participants*

200 member of Dist. Watershed Development Agency, Virudhunagar visited Gramodaya Park and J.C.Bose Nursery on 10<sup>th</sup> May as a part of Field visit. Participants learned Water management technologies.



*Participants at J.C.Bose Nursery*

Green health home worked for 3 days and treated 182 patients.

Dr.V.Ganapathy gave a guest lecture on "Clinical Application of Siddha Varma therapy for Pain Management" at Trans Disciplinary University, Bangalore. on 17<sup>th</sup> May. 65 participants attended. The programme was sponsored by FRLHT, Bangalore.



*Dr.V.Ganapathy lighting the lap during the workshop*



*Dr.Ganapathy giving lecture to the participants*





**"Robert Owen's was a true insight: market economy if left to evolve according to its own laws would create great and permanent evils"**  
- Karl Polanyi



**Happenings this month:  
Networking**



**Happenings this month:**



**Happenings this month:  
Renewable Energy**

Refresher camp for "Family Members" was held at Technology Resource Center, Kalluvilai on 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May. 70 participants attended the training. Shri.N.Krishnamurthi, Dr.Umaiyr Bhagan, Sis.Saraswathi and Shri.V.Ramakrishnan acted as a resource persons.



*Dr.Umaiyrbhagan interacting with the participants*

Awareness programme on "Cow dung and Biomass based portable Bio-methanation technology" was held at Gramodaya Park, Vivekanandapuram on 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May. 44 and 16 participants attended the training respectively. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person. The programme was sponsored by NABARD, Chennai.



*Session is on ...*



*Group discussion is on ... during family camp*



*Shri.V.Ramakrishnan interacting with the participants*

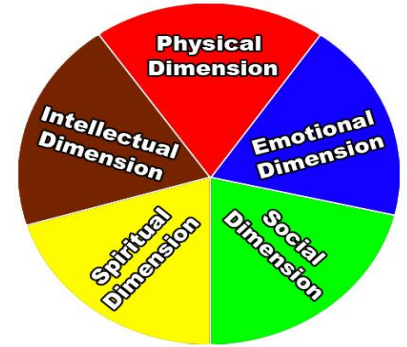


*"Growth may lead to an increase in poverty"*

- Karl Polanyi



## Visions of Wisdom



### Indigenous, Traditional Cultures

We from the North should be coming to you for help, for advice and aid and not the other way round, because in many ways you are the repositories of a modest use of resources, of treading lightly on the earth, of discipline, and of taking no more than needed for necessity. This is a much needed lesson which has been smothered by the North's avidity for more and it seems that what we are living through now is the next great wave of a huge kind of colonial domination whereby indigenous, traditional cultures are surrendering those antique wisdoms in favour of this illusion emanating from the west.

### Alternative Development Model

So when you allow the market to decide our fate, you are actually saying that economic considerations must decide our fate. Then there is nothing to stop us from destroying our planet. It is happening very, very quickly indeed.

In my opinion, the only hope we have if we were going to keep this planet more or less habitable is to do precisely the opposite - to make sure our economic activities are ruthlessly and systematically subordinated to social, ecological and climatic considerations. I do not think we have any alternative to doing this.

### Shift from Reductionist to Holistic Paradigm

The shift from reductionist to holistic paradigms means transformation of awareness .... This seemingly simple transformation has fundamental impacts when applied to self-awareness and belief systems. It can cause considerable mental problems in orientation. The transition of oneself from an observer of a reality which is considered to be outside oneself, to a participant of a same reality and then towards being a co-creator of that reality, requires fundamental cognitive and emotional reorientation.

**Jeremy Seabrook**  
Works for the New Statesman in London and edits a journal – Greening the Planet



**Edward Goldsmith**  
Renowned Ecologist and Editor of the most respected publication - Ecologist



**Quote by Buddrus**  
From the book Sustainability Indicators

