



# Echoes of Eco

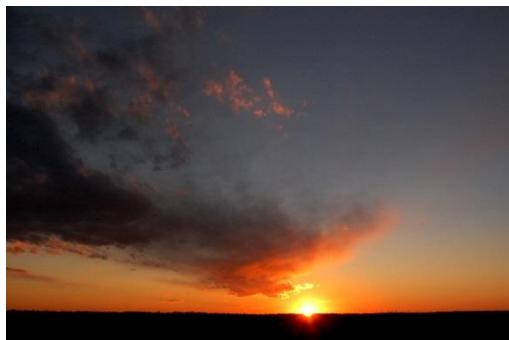
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Vivekananda Kendra- nardep Newsletter

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An Extracts from the gathering addressed by Mr.Felix,  
Vice Minister of Bolivian

## Law of Mother Earth - The Rights of Our Planet A Vision from Bolivia



Who has a right to life? Only one species? Do humans have the right to exterminate any species they want to kill? Today, we are living in the age of the greatest wave of extinctions since the Permian extinction 250 million years ago.

There are those who call this "progress". There are others, however, that have a different vision.

Around the world many people are coming to see the present world system as a form of suicidal madness.

In Bolivia there is a government that has a creative vision of life, a vision that goes back to original views of life from ancient times.

Evo Morales, the President of Bolivia. We need not agree with all he says.

However, we believe that his vision of the value of life, all life, has merit.

We believe that we cannot survive on this planet if we fail to see that human life cannot exist outside of nature.

This Bolivian law is a creative vision to put into law a system that preserves the biological foundations of life.

We do see it as a revolutionary step forward in terms of global thinking.

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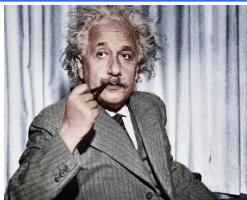
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समानो द्वारा समिति समानी  
समानाम मना सहाय्या समान  
समानाम मन्त्रमाध्यम द्वारा वह  
समाना वो हविर्वाज जुहोमि ॥

May our purpose be the same; may we all be of one mind. In order for such unity to form I offer a common prayer

(Rig Veda)



**"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe"**

- Albert Einstein

The 'Law on the Rights of Mother Earth' was approved by the Bolivian government in October 2010. An interview with the Bolivian Vice-Minister of Decolonisation, Mr. Felix Cardenas.



Mr. Felix addressing the gathering

What are the objectives of the Bolivian government with this law?

An indigenous people, we have suffered from 500 years of colonization. The colonial model of development is harmful to Mother Earth in many ways. This has to change. As indigenous peoples we have to show to the 'over-developed countries' that it is possible to live in harmony with nature. But we should also not romanticize the indigenous movement. It's a question of finding the equilibrium between all dimensions.

The law emerged as a proposal of the indigenous peoples to the international UN climate change conference in Cancun, Mexico in November 2010. We wanted to discuss principles: what risks for Mother Earth does the current production system and neo-liberal economic model pose. We also wanted to discuss the morality of present day politics. With this law, the Bolivian Govt. has put the Rights of Mother Earth into the hands of the people and put it on the global agenda.

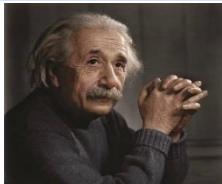
What are the major challenges to implement this law?

We have to start at the local level, because there are many problems, for example with fundamentalist ecological groups. All have rights, so the key question is: how to balance the needs of human beings with the needs of Mother Earth? Mother Earth is not simply natural resources. For us Mother Earth is Pachamama, is spirituality; these elements cannot be separated. Spirituality for us implies respect for Mother Earth, living in harmony with all other living beings. We intent to further elaborate this law in dialogue with the indigenous and social movements.

What image would represent the rights of Mother Earth?

Marriage serves as an example of the equilibrium between human beings and nature. For example, the Aymara marriage has a detailed protocol of ceremonies intimately linked to Mother Earth. The family is "the seed" of the Aymara community, with life rules such as living in "Ayni" - reciprocity, complementarity and consensus. On the wedding day, the deities of community-managed lands at different attitudes in the highlands are visited and asked for protection. In these time - spaces, and with the help of both masculine and feminine energies, the spiritual leaders give their teachings to the teachings to the newlywed couple. In the Andean world, unity means two.





*"If you can't explain it to a six-year-old, you don't understand it yourself"*

- Albert Einstein



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 1<sup>st</sup> September. 03 participants attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person.



Camp participants at Terrace garden

Training programme on "NPK Rich Bio-manure preparation technology" was held at Vivekanandapuram on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. 02 participants attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person.



NPK Rich Bio-manure trainees enthusiastically learning vermi - technology also

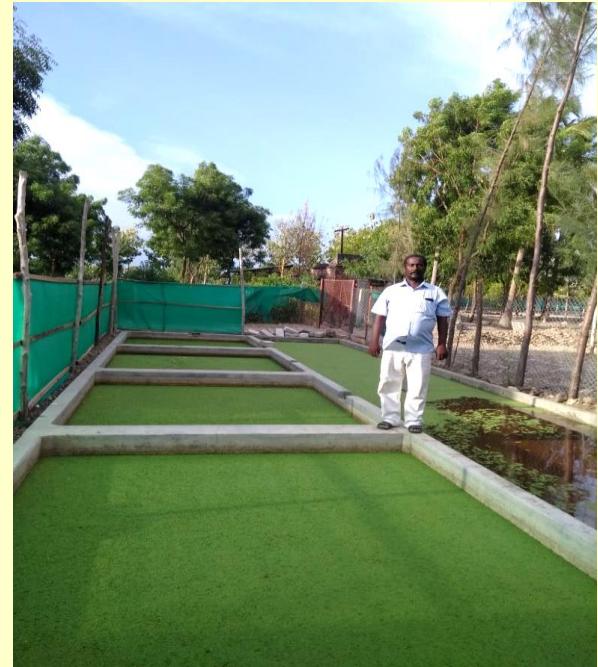


Feedback from the field

Azolla as a Nutrient supplement

Shri.R.Ramkumar Raja

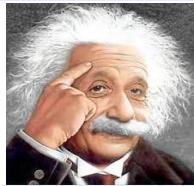
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My name is R Ramkumar Raja. I am basically a Civil Engineer and a building contractor. I have undergone training at Vivekananda Kendra earlier and so got inspiration to grow Azolla.

I have taken loan from the bank for piggery unit. I also constructed permanent concrete tanks for growing Azolla. I am happy with the growth of Azolla and giving it as a nutrient to the pigs.

Recently on 25<sup>th</sup> August, I again went to Vivekananda Kendra to update my knowledge and to get guidance for optimum production of Azolla. My next plan is to develop a unit of Goat rearing and Poultry.



**"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales"**

- Albert Einstein



Happenings this month:  
Shelter



Happenings this month



Happenings this month:  
Holistic Health

Workshop on "Role of Traditional Siddha Varma Bone Setting" was held at Technology Resource Center on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September. 38 Vaidyas attended. Dr.V.Ganapathy and his team acted as resource persons.



Practical demonstration is on ....



Green health home worked for 4 days and treated 203 patients.

"Mass Siddha Varma Green Health Camp" was held at Green Rameswaram building, Mangammal Chatram, Rameswaram on 18<sup>th</sup> September. 490 patients were benefited. Medicines given for 15 days. Dr.V.Ganapathy and his team acted as resource persons.



Inauguration function -Mass Siddha Varma Green Health Camp



Doctors, Vaidyas, and Volunteers posing for photograph after the camp



*"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving"*

- Albert Einstein



Happenings this month:  
Renewable Energy



Happenings this month:



Happenings this month:  
Renewable Energy

Training programme on "Bio-methanation technology" was held at Technology Resource Center on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. 02 participants attended. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person.



Participants during "Bio-methanation - multiple usages" training

Training programme on "Bio-methanation - multiple usages" was held at Technology Resource Center on 28<sup>th</sup> September. 61 participants attended. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person.

Stakeholders Meet was organized by NABARD, Kanyakumari district at Pioneer Grand Palace, Nagercoil on 19<sup>th</sup> September. 40 members attended. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan presented a paper on "Vermi Wash technology".

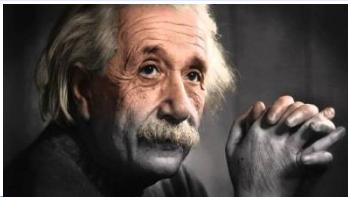
Training programme on "Waste to Energy" was held at National Institute of Technology, Trichy on 27<sup>th</sup> September. 75 students attended. Shri.V.Ramakrishnan was the resource person.



Shri. V. Ramakrishnan explaining the uses of Shakti Surabhi Bio-methanation plant through power point



Construction of Bio-methanation plants -  
IFAD, Ramanathapuram  
Portable type 1cum - 18 nos.



*"A clever person solves a problem. A wise person avoids it"*

- Albert Einstein



Happenings this month:  
Networking



Happenings this month:



Happenings this month:  
Networking



Training programme on "Organic farming" was held at Melpuram on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. 30 farmers attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person. The programme was sponsored by ATMA, Kanyakumari Dist.



Camp participant sharing the feed back

Training programme on "Terrace garden" was held at Vivekanandapuram on 20<sup>th</sup> September. 63 participants attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person. The programme was sponsored by Govt. Polytechnic, Konam, Nagercoil.



Shri.S.Rajamony interacting with the participants

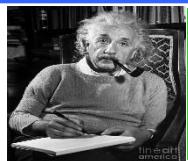
National Traditional Siddha Varma conference was held at Vivekanandapuram on 26<sup>th</sup> September. About 200 Vaidyas attended. Dr.V.Ganapathy and his team acted as resource persons. Shri.Rahul Nadh, IAS, Additional Collector, Kanyakumari attended in the inauguration session. The programme was organized by Traditional Siddha Varma Healers Association.



Shri.Rahul Nadh, IAS addressing the conference

Training programme on "Azolla cultivation" was held at Kurunthancode on 28<sup>th</sup> September. 40 farmers attended the training. Shri.S.Rajamony was the resource person. The programme was sponsored by ATMA, Kanyakumari Dist.

Rohini College of Engineering, Palkulam, Kanyakumari Dist. conducted NSS camp at Agasteeswaram on 28<sup>th</sup> September. During the camp Shri.C.Vijayaraghavan taught Yogasana practices to the students.



*"I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious"*

- Albert Einstein



## Visions of Wisdom



### being vs. having

Lessons on Happiness

### Fight – Being verses Having

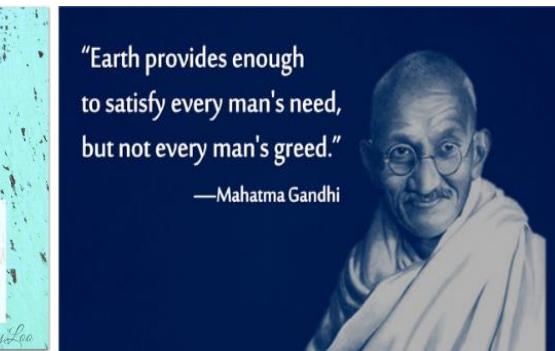
The question "Who am I?" becomes "What do I own?" In the fight "being" versus "having" evolves an altogether different state of self-identity, in which who you are equated with what you own. Having is a state of need, of greed, of wanting, and owning and acquiring more things, protecting them, and planning to add to the pile.

Being in the other hand is a state of presence, and experience that is an active state of engagement with self, with others, and even with the material world.

Therapy is helping clients to focus more on being and less on having. Being leads to greater self-awareness and intimacy. Having is more often associated with a number of psychological difficulties related to greed, narcissism, exploitation, and reckless indulgence.



**Jeffrey A. Kottler**  
Professor, psychologist and Author



"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed."

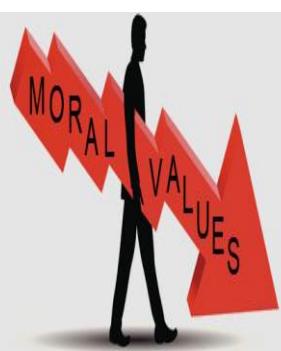
—Mahatma Gandhi

### Need for Civilizational Transition

As recent research has shown, industrialised countries, if they aspire to become good global neighbors, will have to bring down their resource consumption by a factor of 10 within the next 50 years. No doubt, this enormous challenge would amount to a civilizational transition of sorts, bringing both technological talents and new public virtues to bear. However, sufficiency has been the hallmark of justice before the dreams of infinity have taken over; it is bound to become the axis around which any post-development list notion of justice will revolve. Justice in future will be about taking less rather than giving more. The less powerful countries within the present generation need more environmental space to flourish and cheerful restraint on the part of the opulent countries.



**Wolf Gang Sachs**  
Teacher in the field of environment, development, and globalization



### Moral Hygiene

As per Ayurveda Adharma are Asatkarma (immoral or improper behaviour) also leads to epidemics.

Moral hygiene, therefore, as totally distinct from mental hygiene, is an integral part of the Ayurvedic conception of the prevention of human ills. A bad morality, asserts Ayurveda, cannot be conducive to peace and happiness of the community and vitiates even the normalcy of the elements of nature, and qualities of the soil and its produce and even the seasonal phenomena like rainfall, heat and cold, etc. It is not necessary for a materialist to accept this view, but the general ethical approach to world problems, which follows as a necessary corollary to it should be acceptable to everyone.

The System of  
**AYURVEDA**

SHIV SHARMA



**Pandit Shiv Sharma**  
Author of famous book  
"System of Ayurveda"