

Echoes of Eco

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Vivekananda Kendra- nardep Newsletter

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The Remarkable Intelligence of Crows

When an Crows may have brains no larger than a walnut, but they possess an extraordinary range of intelligence, reasoning and problem-solving abilities. Their brains are remarkably dense with neurons, giving them a level of cognitive ability that is exceptional among birds. One of the regions in their forebrain, the nidopallium caudolaterale, performs functions comparable in some respects to the prefrontal cortex in humans, supporting abilities such as planning, decision-making and flexible problem-solving.

Their intelligence becomes even more fascinating when we observe their behaviour. Crows can recognise and remember human faces for years. They are capable of distinguishing between people who have treated them well and those who have posed a threat, and can communicate information about potential dangers to other members of their social group.

Crows are also remarkable tool users and tool makers. They have been observed modifying materials to create tools suited to particular tasks—for example, bending a piece of wire into a hook to retrieve food from a narrow container. This ability to manufacture a tool for a specific purpose demonstrates an impressive degree of problem-solving and adaptability.

Perhaps even more intriguing is their behaviour known as "anting." Crows have been observed deliberately disturbing ant colonies and allowing ants to crawl over their feathers. The ants release formic acid and other chemicals, which may help control certain parasites and microorganisms on the birds' feathers. Although the precise biological benefits of anting continue to be studied, the behaviour is a fascinating example of how animals make use of resources in their environment.

The crow, therefore, reminds us that intelligence is not the exclusive domain of humans or large-brained animals. Hidden within its small brain is a remarkable capacity for memory, learning, innovation, adaptation and social intelligence—a striking example of the ingenuity of nature. **Discover the story through this engaging audio-visual — click to watch <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aPnct7OVqpsTEC3vKNVjIAZ95HLwVlfo/view?usp=sharing>**



In this issue:

- The Remarkable Intelligence of Crows
- The Happenings
- Visions of Wisdom:
 - Nature's Checks and Balances
 - The Enduring Legacy of the Saints
 - Intelligence, Education and Love

Monthly Reflections



There are many ways to calm a negative energy without suppressing or fighting it.

You recognize it,
you smile to it,
and you invite
something nicer
to come up and
replace it;
you read some
inspiring words,
you listen to a piece
of beautiful music,
you go somewhere
in nature,
or you do some
walking meditation.

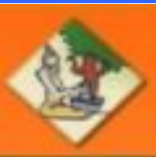
— Thich Nhat Hanh





"A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert"

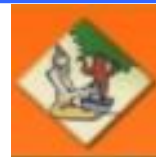
- Andrew Carnegie



Happenings this month:
Holistic Health



Happenings this month:
Holistic Health



Green Health

The Green Health Home was in operation for 19 days, during which 90 patients received treatment. In addition:



- 28 individuals - Varma massage
- 03 persons - Steam bath
- 07 persons - Dhara treatment

Training programme on "Varma Bone Setting"

The 2nd year, 2nd module of the training program on "Traditional Siddha Varma Bone Setting Practices" was conducted at the Technology Resource Center, Anjaneyapuram, on 11th and 12th September. 24 participants attended the program. Dr. Muthushanti and her team served as the resource persons.



*Over view of Six Chakra Varmam and its Simulating techniques
- Dr. Kumaresan*



*Therapeutic view of Spinal Alignment techniques - Introduction
-Vai.Methew Abraham*

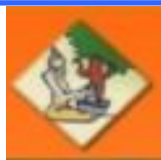
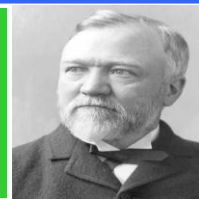


Over view of Nadi Science - Vai.Nagalingaraja

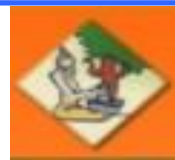


"People who are unable to motivate themselves must be content with mediocrity, no matter how impressive their other talents"

- Andrew Carnegie



Happenings this month:
Holistic Health



Happenings this month:
Holistic Health

Training programme on "Varma Bone Setting"

The 1st year, 4th module of the training program on "Traditional Siddha Varma Bone Setting Practices" was conducted at the Technology Resource Center, Anjaneyapuram, on 25th and 26th September. 25 participants attended the program. Dr. Muthushanti and her team served as the resource persons.



Dasha vayukkal - Dr. Muthushanthi



Foot massage techniques - Dr. Ashok Kumar



Yogasana Session is on ...

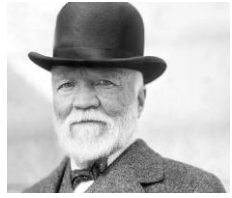


Happy assembly is on ...



*"If you want to be happy, set a goal that commands your thoughts,
liberates your energy, and inspires your hopes"*

- Andrew Carnegie



Happenings this month:
Water Management



Happenings this month:
Water Management

Revival and Renovation of Surya Teertham

The revival and renovation of Surya Teertham, Thirupunavasal, Pudukottai District is going on with usual speed.



Excavation is going on by using a JCB



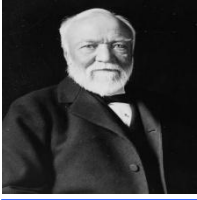
Levelling the area around the Teertham and creating an entrance pathway using a JCB



Taking the extra soil from the side bunding for shaping the Teertham



Foundation work is on ...



"A man who acquires the ability to take full possession of his own mind may take possession of anything else to which he is justly entitled"

- Andrew Carnegie



Happenings this month:
Water Management



Happenings this month:
Water Management



Revival and Renovation of Oorani

Renovation work at the Selvanayagapuram water body is progressing steadily. The key focus is the construction of protective retaining walls to strengthen the water body and ensure its long-term stability.



Retaining Wall Completed - Entrance step work underway



A Finishing Touch - Step Plastering Underway

Revival and Renovation of Teppakulam

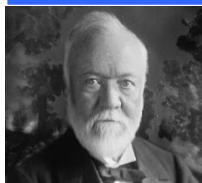
Renovation of Azhiya Koothar Temple Teertham at Sepparai, Rajavallipuram, Tirunelveli district was completed. Punar Nirmana pooja and Kumbhabhishekam was held on 17th September.



Final plastering work is on



Community participation in cleaning and rejuvenating the Teertham



"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results"

- Andrew Carnegie



Happenings this month:
Water Management



Happenings this month:
New and Renewable
Energy



Commissioning of Bio-methanation Plants

In the month of September, 5 nos. of 1 cum Bio-methanation plants were commissioned at Selvanayagapuram, Ramanathapuram Dist.



From Waste to Energy - Smt. Shanti's Green Initiative



Smt. Karthigai Selvi showcasing her Biogas Plant

Field visit - Harit Urja Project

On 21st and 22nd September, our field staff visited the farmers covered under last year's project as part of an evaluation visit. The overall findings were satisfactory. All the stakeholders are actively using the biogas plants, vermi compost, fish amino acid, and Panchagavya.



Smt. Pathikrakali with a thriving Azolla Bed at Sivasubramaiyapuram, Radhapuram Block, Tirunelveli district



Biogas and Azolla: Harit Urja project component for Sustainable Farming - Shri. S. Mani, Radhapuram



"He that cannot reason is a fool. He that will not is a bigot. He that dare not is a slave"

- Andrew Carnegie



Happenings this month:
Networking



Happenings this month:
Sustainable Agriculture

VASUDHA - Discovering Green Warriors

VASUDHA - Vivekananda Academy
for Sustainable Development and Holistic Advancement

VASUDHA - Discovering Green Warriors by distributing the Scared Earth book in the colleges followed by exam on the same book. On 23rd September 199 students from E.M.G.Yadava Women's College, Madurai wrote this exam.



Exam coordinator Shri.Thangaraj supervising at the examination hall



Students are writing the examination sincerely by sitting on the floor



L&T Technology Services

"Pasumai" Project (Documentation of Green Technologies)

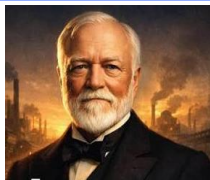
Under the "Pasumai" project, 12 Bio-methanation technology videos were filmed in September. The programme was sponsored by L&T Technology Services, Bangalore.



Bio-Methanation Plant with Ferrocement Digester and Fibreglass Gas Holder



Innovative Portable Fibreglass Bio-Methanation Plant



"All human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes"

- Andrew Carnegie



Happenings this month:
Networking



Happenings this month:
Networking

Study Tour

72 students from Noorul Islam College of Arts and Science, Kumarankoil, Kanyakumari district, visited VK-Nardep on 3rd September as a part of the study tour. They learned Sustainable agricultural technologies.



After the training the students taken a group photograph

Field Visit

A team of 50 farmers from Kurunthancode Block, Kanyakumari district visited J.C.Bose Nursery on 8th September. The programme was sponsored by ATMA, Dept. of Agriculture, Kanyakumari Dist.

During their visit, they learnt Azolla, Vermi Wash, Bio liquid formulations, terrace garden etc.



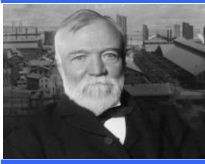
Farmers at J.C.Bose Nursery

Study Tour

42 students from Dept. of Bio-technology, S.T.Hindu College, Kanyakumari district, visited VK-Nardep on 28th September as a part of the study tour. They learned Bio-methanation technology.



Students learning Azolla technology



"No man becomes rich unless he enriches others"

- Andrew Carnegie



Visions of Wisdom



Nature's Checks and Balances

Nature maintains harmony by preventing any species from growing beyond its natural limits. For example, why have fast-breeding insects not dominated the Earth? Unlike humans and other animals, insects do not have lungs; they breathe through a network of tiny tubes called tracheae.

As insects grow larger, these tubes cannot increase in size in proportion to their bodies, placing a natural limit on their growth. This is why there have never been insects of enormous size. Nature has built such limitations into life forms to maintain ecological balance and ensure the coexistence of different species.



A. Cressy Morrison
Writer of the famous book – 7 reasons why a scientist believes in God

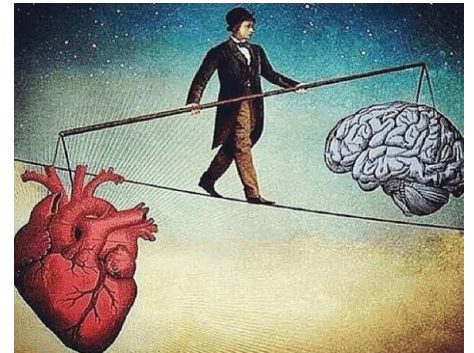


The Enduring Legacy of the Saints

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, reflecting on history and its heroes, observed, "the greatest fact in the story of man on earth is not his material achievements, the empires built or broken, but the growth of the soul from age to age in search of truth and goodness." Those who participate in this inner adventure of the soul secure an enduring place in the history of human culture. Time may discredit heroes and cause great achievements to be forgotten, but the lives and teachings of saints continue to inspire generations. Their spiritual legacy remains a lasting light for humanity.



Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan,
Indian Academic and Philosopher



Intelligence, Education and Love

The more intelligent and sophisticated a person becomes, the more likely he may be to analyse, question and judge relationships. As society becomes more educated and sophisticated, love can sometimes become a short-lived phenomenon, with people finding it harder to adjust, forgive and compromise. Education sharpens the intellect, but it does not necessarily develop patience, understanding and compassion. This is why, in modern society, greater education and sophistication are accompanied by increasing marital conflicts and divorce. True education should develop not only the mind but also the heart.

Max Ehrmann
American writer - famous for prose poem Desiderata

