

"SUCCESS ATTENDS WHERE TRUTH REIGNS"
- Gandhiji's Message on the inauguration of Gandhigram in 1947



Gandhigram Salutes the Legends

Celebrations of 142nd Gandhi Jayanthi and 64th Anniversary Day of Gandhigram

A special prayer was organised on 2.10.11 to commemorate 142nd Gandhi Jayanthi celebrations. Selvi P. Sudha and Selvan C. Raja, from Lalshmi College of Education gave an illustrative talk on the theme 'Gandhiji and Education'. Gandhi Jayanthi was also celebrated in a simple way in the nearby villages of Gandhigram-Pillaiar Natham, Agaram and Murugathooran patti on 3rd, 4th and 5th October.

The Extension wing of Gandhigram Trust celebrated SHGs women's meet on 6.10.11 at Dr. T.S. Soundram Manimandapam. Sri.S. Bharathidhasan, Secretary, Arulagam, Nature Conservation Forum, Dindigul spoke about environment with special reference to House Sparrow and the reason for their extinction.

The 64th Anniversary Day of Gandhigram was held on 7.10.11 at Dr. T.S. Soundram Mani Mandapam. Sri M.R.Rajagopalan, Managing Trustee welcomed the participants and narrated the

contributions of Dr. T. S. Soundram and Dr. G. Ramachandran and others, to establish Gandhigram. Smt. M.B. Nirmala, Commissioner, Land Reforms delivered Annual Day address. In her inspiring speech she expressed that economic development at village level is essential to stabilise national economy and make India an economic power at global level. Village level economic activities and growth is necessary for continuous and progressive economic growth. Sri.G.Vasudeoji, Secretary, Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari gave a special address and expressed his astonishment about the prodigious work of the great Founders of Gandhigram.

Keithan Sathya award was given to Sri. A.Vedarathnam, Managing Trustee, Kasturba Kanyagurukulam, Vedaraniyam. Dr. A.K. Tharian Memorial award was given to the Tribal People Welfare Centre, Dharmapri founded by Dr. Lalitha and Dr. Regi.

Retired employees were felicitated. Students of Sowbhagya Illam, Sevikashram Special Hr. Sec. School, Avvai Ashram, Santhi School for Hearing Impaired and Thambithottam Hr. Sec. School were honoured for their profound academic achievements. Dr. R. Kousalya Devi, Life Trustee proposed vote of thanks.



*An error does not become truth by reason of multiplied propagation,
nor does truth become error because nobody sees it. - Mohandas Gandhi*

SOWBHAGYA ILLAM

Sarvodhya Sangams of Madurai, Tirumangalam, Sivakasi, Srivilliputhur, Thirumogoor and Virudhunagar and also Smt. Mirudhula Ramesh, Director Sundaram Textiles, Madurai and Sri. Anandanarayanan donated new dresses to our children for Deepawali celebrations.

Sri Agustin Selvaraj, Superintendent, Children's Home, Pudhuyugam, Dindigul, taught about Goal setting and the ways and means of achieving it.

The Child Welfare Committee, Dindigul, inspected 50 children in the two destitute cottages of our Sowbhgya Illam as per Juvenile Justice Act 2000 (Care and Protection of Children) on 7.12.11 and registered them under this Act.

Arvind Eye Care Hospital organised an eye camp on 11.12.11 and carried out eye checkup and gave medical aids to the children with eye problems.

KASTURBA SEVIKASHRAM

Our students participated in the rally and meeting to celebrate "World Heart Day", organised by Dr. Kalyani, Kasturba Hospital. 40 students participated in the various competitions organised by GRI, on Children's Day celebrations on 18.11.11 and received prizes for dance, kolam, drawing, essay writing and oratorical competitions.

The Director of School Education presented a Shield for securing cent percent result by the XII std. students in the 2011



public examination on 17.11.11. A. Santhiya secured 1st prize in the District Slogan Competition conducted by Dindigul Education Department in the celebration of World AIDS Day on 01-12-2011.

AVVAI ASHRAM

Dental checkup was done to the Ashram inmates by RVS Dental College, Bangalore by organising dental camp on 1.10.11. Eye donation awareness programme was organised by Arvind Eye Hospital – Tirunelveli on 20.11.11 and a free eye camp was conducted at Avvai Ashram on 4.12.11.

SANTHI SCHOOL FOR HEARING IMPAIRED

Selvan Ilavarasan, Selvan Seike Mohamad and Selvi Saraswathi studying IX std. in Santhi School for Hearing Impaired participated in the 19th Science Conference organised by the Nellai Science Centre along with normal children. 13 groups from Tirunelveli District submitted research articles. The research article titled "Soil testing and the study of suitable cultivable plants in and around Sivasilam" was presented by our students. The Young Scientist title and the first prize in the



form of Medals and Certificates were given to our participants. The prize winners participated in the state level Tamil Nadu National Children Science Congress on 24.11.11, at Sathyamanglam School, Erode. In the valedictory function which was held at Bannari

He who would learn to fly one day must first learn to stand and walk and run and climb and dance; one cannot fly into flying. - Friedrich Nietzsche

Amman Institute of Technology, over 1000 students, teachers and scientists stood in surprise and kept clapping for several minutes after the presentation of the article by our hearing impaired students. The management congratulated the young scientists and the guide Ms. Sathya Madhavi for their commendable work.

Dr. T.S. SOUNDGRAM VIDYALAYA MATRIC SCHOOL

Dr. T.S. Soundram Vidyalaya organised the meeting of Parent Teachers Association on 22.10.11. The Educational Advisor Dr. G. Pankjam interacted with the parents and gave assurance to fulfill their expectations.

GANDHIGRAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

The World Hand Washing Day was celebrated on October 14th 2011 in the premises of Primary School. Dr. K. Vasugi presided over the function and delivered a talk about the microbes causing diseases. Smt. R. Ramuthai, Coordinator, Water and Sanitation Project gave a special address. She spoke about the need and the importance of washing the hands and the diseases which affect the health of the children and its consequences in the achievement of the students. Sri.V. Subramanian, Field Assistant, gave demonstration regarding the method of washing the hands.



THAMBITHOTTAM HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

S. Kamalakannan of XII C secured first place in the District Swimming Competition. Girls (super seniors) got selected as winners in the District Ball Badminton. N. Karthiga of XII std. got selected for the Dindigul Ball Badminton team and took part in the state championship tournament on 22.10.11 and 23.10.11 at Excel English College, Erode.



N.S.S special camp was conducted from 10.10.2011 to 16.10.11 at Munnilaikottai. In order to inculcate scientific attitude, creative thinking and innovative approach among students, our school organised a Science Exhibition on 31.10.2011. Higher officials of Electricity Board, Chinnalapatti conducted one day awareness programme on the importance and conservation of electricity on 25.11.11. One day JRC special camp was organised on 29.11.11.

*Education is what remains after one has forgotten
what one has learned in school. - Albert Einstein*

LAKSHMI COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

The NAAC peer team visited the college on 19th and 20th December 2011 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Bhupendra Singh Rathore, Dean, Faculty of Education & Professor of Physical Education, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, Prof. Asha Pandey, Dean,



Faculty of Education, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi and Member Coordinator and Dr. Vivek Kholi, Principal Sohan Lal D.A.V. College of Education, Haryana and member for re accreditation. They also visited the various units of Gandhigram Trust.

DR. SOUNDHAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Examination Committee meeting was held on 12.10.11 to get the approval for the examiners to conduct examinations.

The students of Diploma in Herbal medicine Siddha went for a field trip from 13.10.11 to 15.10.11. They have visited the Department of Anatomy and Physiology at Siddha Medical College, Palayamkottai. They also observed more than 300 herbals in the Karpa Avizhtham at Papanasam.

KASTURBA HOSPITAL

Due to the increasing demand for Geriatric care, the hospital is constructing 15 bedded Geriatric ward with the donation from the family members of Wilson Soda. Sri.R.S.

Deluxe Special Ward construction is nearing its completion. The construction of an additional guest house is going on with the donation from Ms. Charumathi and her relatives. The provision store run by Annal SHG was opened on 3.10.11 and it is useful and beneficial to the hospital staff.

VILLAGE EXTENSION

24 women SHGs and one SHG for differently abled were formed. Awareness programmes with the support of EKTA (a women's organisation in Madurai) was conducted to increase the polling, women's participation in electoral process as well as in PRI. 31 SHG members were elected for the posts of district union councilors, panchayat presidents and ward members.

KHADI & VIPC TRUST

New medicated blue colour shampoo has been introduced in different packing. The net profit of this unit during 2010-2011 was Rs. 28.61 lakhs.

LAKSHMI SEVA SANGHAM

Lakshmi Seva Sangham (LSS) has launched cent percent natural face cream Kunkumathi lepam which contains skin friendly natural ingredients. Alagappa University Vice-Chancellor, Shri S. Sudalaimuthu introduced the new product at the children's home on



Success is a ladder you cannot climb with your hands in your pockets.

- American proverb

24.11.11. He stated that Alagappa University will collaborate with LSS to validate scientifically and prove its worth. This offer was not only for this product but also for other products manufactured by LSS, Siddha unit. Gandhigram Trust Secretary Sri. K. Shivakumar pointed out the use of Kunkumathi lepam as a remedy to acne and pimples. Sri. M. R. Rajagopalan, Secretary of the Sangham thanked the Commissioner for Khadi and Village Industries and also the Vice-Chancellor for the new collaboration proposals.

SFURTI Activities

GSR follow up meeting was conducted on 3rd December 2011. Two medical camps were organised at TVS Srichakra Tyres and TVS Rubber Factory at Madurai. GSRs formed under SFURTI participated and exhibited the products of LSS and Khadi Trust. Dr. Revathi from LSS attended the patients. Totally 250 members were benefited out of this camp. With this good response, we have a plan to conduct medical camp every month in the factories.



WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT

The newly elected local body of PRI members and the project team reconstituted the Water and Sanitation Committees in five Gram Panchayats. Training was imparted to the newly elected members and OHT operators at Thoppampatti, Gandhigram, Kamalapuram, Ambathurai and Pachamalaiankottai for



operation and maintenance of water supply systems regarding water management, water supply bye- laws, finance management, subsidy pattern for toilet construction etc.

IMPROVEMENT OF RURAL HEALTH WASTE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

This two-year project was completed and the final evaluation of the project was conducted by officials Mr. Sanjeev, AGM, NABARD, Sri. Venkataraman, Manager, Chennai, on 2nd Nov 2011. They have appreciated our efforts in the project implementation.

INDIA LITERACY PROJECT- KALAKADU

The school students under the ILP – Kalakadu developed the habit of reading newspaper. They were also trained in the use of computer and doing embroidery work.

NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY

All the educational units of Gandhigram Trust celebrated the National Education Day on 11.11.11, the birth day of the first Education Minister of Independent India, Sri. Abul Kalam Azad in a fabulous manner. Smt. C. Janagarani, H.M. of Sevikasram Spl. Hr. Sec. School welcomed the gathering and pointed out the significance of 11.11.11. Dr. R. Kousalya Devi, Life Trustee, presided over the function and

Fear is a disease common with many people amidst us. History is not created by such people and their discourses. - Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam



stated that parents should understand the interest of their children and act accordingly. Sri.M.R. Rajagopalan, Managing Trustee in his thought provoking speech recalled the important concepts he had included in his book called “Danger - School”. Dr. G. Pankajam, Director, Dr. Soundram Community College and the Correspondent of the school stressed the importance of the day and the contributions of Sri. Abul Kalam Azad. Students took a pledge. Smt. Yamuna B.T. Assistant proposed the vote of thanks.

CHILDREN’S DAY

Children’s Day - the birth day of Jawaharlal Nehru was celebrated on 14.11.11. The crèche children of Sowbhagya Illam, Primary School, Dr. T.S. Soundram Vidyalaya and Thambithottam Hr. Sec. School students participated. Selvi K.S.Neela, Deputy Secretary, flagged the procession. Sri. M.R. Rajagopalan, Managing Trustee presided over the function. He released ‘Vadamalar’, a quarterly journal prepared by the children. Sri.M.Veluchamy Advisor, Gandhigram Cultural Committee received the first journal and blessed our children. Dr. L.Raja, Director,



Dept. of Adult Education GRU enlightened the children by his melodious songs and stories which emphasized Love and confidence. Sri. K. Joseph A.O. Dr.Soundram Trust asked questions to the children and gave prizes.

SOCIAL AUDIT

A Social audit team for SST was constituted. The team visited the villages of Padavedu, Hosur, Tirukurungudi, and Navathirupathy from 28th October to 11th of November 2011.The impact of SST’s



intervention in the above mentioned villages was studied regarding the economic conditions, education, health, sanitation, agriculture and infrastructural facilities, by interacting with the beneficiaries and also by verifying the registers maintained by them and prepared a report. The report was presented at SST- Tirukurungudi under the leadership of Sri.K.Shivakumar, Secretary, Gandhigram Trust and Sri V. C. Nadrajan, Management consultant.

CORE COMMITTEE

A special training programme was organised on 18.10.11 on developing positive mental attitude among the staff members of Gandhigram Trust. Smt. M. Uma Rani, freelance H.R. consultant spoke about the

God gives every bird its food, but He does not throw into its nest. - J.C. Holland



passion for positive thinking. The strategic planning team prepared the strategic planning of Gandhigram Trust for five years from 2011 to 2015 with reference to Health, Education, Income Generation, Social welfare and Extension.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT CENTRE

Sri. Jatindranath Swain, Chief Executive Officer, Khadi and Village Industries Board, inaugurated the Knowledge Management Centre at Lakshmi Seva Sangham at Gandhigram on 1.12.11. He stated that manufacturing of Khadi products should be simplified, by application of latest but cost effective technologies. Sri K. Shivakumar, Secretary, explained that the main objective of the centre was to promote research and development in science and technology suitable



for villages and disseminating it to rural population. The centre will create a knowledge crew to impart training to others. It will also constitute a knowledge network in association with other organisations like Vivekananda Kendra to play a larger role on dissemination.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF R. VENKATRAMAN (Former President of India)

The centenary celebration function of Shri.R.V. was held on the 3rd December 2011 at Gandhigram. Sri. M. R. Rajagopalan, Managing Trustee, Gandhigram Trust presided over the function. Shri K. Shivakumar, Secretary, Gandhigram Trust welcomed the gathering. Smt. V. Padma Venkatraman daughter of Shri. R.V. released the Centenary Souvenir and it was received by Dr. R. Kousalya Devi, Life Trustee,



Gandhigram Trust. Smt. Padma explained how her father appreciated the activities of Gandhigram Trust and how Mahatma Gandhi could live forever through the programmes being taken up in Gandhigram. Managing Trustee M. R. Rajagopalan recalled how Sri.R. Venkatraman was of great help in shaping Gandhigram along with the Founders of Gandhigram – Dr. T. S. Soundram and G. Ramachandran. The Convenor of the Souvenir Committee as also the Associate Secretary of the Trust Dr. G.Pankajam proposed vote of thanks.

DR. SOUNDRA TRUST

During October 2011 the Publication Division of Dr. Soundram Trust (Gandhigram Press) installed an advanced photocopying machine with high speed capacity.

The Natural Dyeing Research & Training Center is getting upgraded with the guidance of

Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm. - Abraham Lincoln

Ms Jagada Rajappa. M/s Sundaram Finance of TVS has funded the centre through Gandhigram Trust to strengthen its research works.

Upto November 2011 the Sanitary Napkin Reseach & Trainig Centre has produced Rs. 1.47 lakhs worth of sanitary napkins and sold napkins worth Rs. 0.98 lakhs. This centre has also received a special order from M/s Renga Health Care Project, Chatrapatti for Rs. 50,000/-.

GANDHI LIVES:

A documentary on Gandhigram

Smt.Aruna Har Parasad- Director, Documentary film maker visited Gandhigram on 4th & 5th Nov. 2011 to shoot a documentary film with a theme "Gandhi Lives". This film will discuss about the relevance of Gandhism in today's world. The question they are trying to raise is what if Gandhi was alive today? In this context they are meeting eminent personalities from different walks of life to get their perception of Gandhian thoughts in today's times. They interviewed Sri. M.R. Rajagopalan, Managing Trustee, Gandhigram. They took the video of different units of Gandhigram Trust, such as soap making, Lijjat pappad, Siddha and Ayurvedic medicine preparation and also idly dough making and selling in the villages by SHGs. Gandhigram Trust feels honoured that its activities will be highlighted in a documentary on the theme Gandhi Lives.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

- A 4-day skill training on curry powder and malt preparation was given to 30 participants from NLC, Neyveli.
- 28 SHG women from MahalirThittam and one male member from Kerala were trained in making of sanitary napkin for 7 days.

- 25 animators, 50 representatives and 335 members of 25 new SHG were trained in SHG management.
- 11 PMEGP beneficiaries were trained in entrepreneurship development for 3 months and 12 days.
- Internship training was given to MSW students from American College, Madurai and Mahendra Arts and Science College, Namakkal for one month.

VISITORS

- ◆ 40 MSW students from Mar Gregorious College, Chennai visited Gandhigram units and shared their experiences with us about rural development especially in women empowerment on 19.10.11.
- ◆ Sri.P. V. Rajagopalanji leader of Jansatya graha and his team came to Gandhigram and organised a meeting on Land Rights on 23.10.11.
- ◆ Dr. Ramesh Variar from AVN Pharmaceutical visited LSS on 31.10.11.
- ◆ Sri. Manohar, Project Manager and Ms. Surashree from Arghyam observed the project activities and interacted with the beneficiaries on 3rd & 4th November 2011.
- ◆ Ms. Hema, a student of PRIYA Institute in Bangalore studied the level of community participation in water and sanitation project on 14th Nov. 2011 and 15th Nov. 2011.
- ◆ Dr. G. Sundaram IAS, Former Secretary, Govt. of India visited LSS on 18.11.11.
- ◆ 21 members of Orissa, Sarvodaya Samiti, Koraput district visited Gandhigram and observe Khadi activities and basic education under NCRI Project – NaiTalim from 24-12-2011 to 27-12-2011.

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