

# YUVA BHARATI

## VOICE OF YOUTH

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They alone live who live for others, the rest are more dead than alive.

-- Swami Vivekananda

This Yuva Bharati is being sent to all Patrons of Vivekananda Kendra as *Vivekananda Kendra Samachar* titled as **PRARTHANA**. All Patrons are requested to enroll themselves as Subscribers of Yuva Bharati and other magazines of the Kendra.



## PRARTHANA

(Thoughts on Prayer)



**T**he Kendra Prayer is the soul force behind every Kendra worker. It is chanted every day as a part of Sadhana with total surrender and dedication. The Divine inspiration and the spiritual energy that emanates from the prayer enable and equip the worker to carry on the allotted work all through his life without the least expectation of any reward in any form whatsoever. It is this cumulative strength of collective prayer that sustains the purity, ability and strength of the organisation. Even the drab and mundane daily routine and activities of the Kendra worker are sublimated into a high order of spiritual sadhana by the Kendra Prayer chanted and rendered everyday at the holy feet of the Ishta Devata - Bharat Mata. That is why Mananeeya Eknathji could describe or define Vivekananda Kendra as a spiritually oriented service mission.

Prayer, in fact, is universal. It is so because it is spontaneous to man. It is as spontaneous as the need and desire to satisfy hunger or to quench the thirst. Man, confronted with the immensity of the universe around him, is filled with a sense of awe, wonder, mystery and often fear. Even before language came into being, man must have prayed. Prayer does not necessarily require the medium of a language. It requires a heart moved by intense feelings.

Anthropologists say that prayer was born out of fear and helplessness. The primitive man according to them felt threatened by the mighty forces of Nature against which he had no adequate defense. So, out of his helplessness, he invoked the same forces to help him and provide him a safe passage through life. Earliest prayers were the outcome of this feeling of fear and insecurity.

This may be true in most cases. But it cannot be universalized. At all times there were men whose level of consciousness widely differed, from the lowest to the highest. The awareness and approach to the universe and various forces in nature depended upon the level of consciousness. Prayers also varied accordingly. Even today we find that all human beings do not have the same level of consciousness. While some have reached high

*levels of enlightenment, some are still enmeshed in the darker realms. Their concept of Reality is different. Even when they believe in God, the concepts are poles apart.*

*According to the Hindu tradition, right from the beginning of human history, there were seers and saints, Rishis, who had reached the highest levels of enlightenment. They pierced the secrets and plunged into the depths of the Ultimate Reality. Prayers came to them spontaneously in the form of Mantras. Rishis were Mantra Drishtas. Those Mantras are of such a high order that there is no trace of fear or helplessness in them. One of the most sacred of Vedic Mantras, one that is most widely repeated everyday from time immemorial to even this day, the Gayatri mantra is a sublime expression of the eternal quest of man for the higher intuitive intelligence – dhi – , which will take him through the right path to the highest goal. Similarly, most of the Vedic hymns belong to such a high order reflecting almost a superhuman consciousness. The Rishis had crossed the realms of fear and realized the absolute Brahman. Of course, the entire society might not have reached to that level. Less evolved souls coexisted with them. So, naturally there were hymns addressed to lesser Gods for providing the devotees with the immediate needs of physical sustenance and security.*

*Some of the most popular prayers of the Vedic Rishis are even today considered to be so sublime and so universal that they are willingly accepted and gladly chanted across the world transgressing barriers of religion and culture. They have never been surpassed. “Asatoma Sadgamaya” (lead me from the unreal to the real), “Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya” (lead me from darkness to light) “Mrityorma Amritham gamaya” (lead me from death to eternity) – are mantras revealed to the Vedic Rishis right at the beginning of Time and are as relevant today as ever. So, it is clear that prayers emerging out of various levels of consciousness had always been there and will always be there. No prayer, whatever the level it represents, is unwanted or unhelpful. It has its own utility at that level. What is really important is that one should not carry the baggage when it has become a dead weight. As man ascends by climbing the ladder he should also be able to pray in a manner suitable to that level. So, prayers constitute an ascending ladder, every step of which is useful at one stage and should be discarded when one has climbed to the next*

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one. No one is to be looked down upon. Therefore, the Gita, the Mother, most compassionately accepts that broadly there are four kinds of devotees. The 'Aarta' (the suffering), the 'Jijnasu' (the inquisitive seeker), 'Artharthi' (the seeker of wealth) and 'Jnani' (the enlightened one) – they are all described as virtuous and noble souls while the Jnani, the enlightened one, is considered the very soul of the Lord. Others are not to be despised. On the other hand, they should be evaluated according to their scale of evolution. Even the sinner, according to the Gita, "if he prays to me single mindedly, he must also be treated as holy".

Prayers can be classified according to another criterion as well. Personal and impersonal; individual and collective. When one prays, exclusively for his personal gain, whatever it may be – ranging from the daily bread to heaven or salvation, it is to be considered an individual prayer or aspiration. But the same thing, when done for the wider collective interest, be it the family, the society, the Rashtra, humanity, the entire creation, it stands on progressively higher pedestals. The self is subordinated to the collective. Where self interest is subordinated to the collective interest, there is an evolution of consciousness from the lower to the higher. In our Vedas, which are the most ancient scriptures in the world, we find most of the prayers are collective. Even when individually chanted, they seek the Divine grace for the welfare of the society and the nation. Very often, it embraces the entire humanity and world. The Gayatri mantra of which we spoke earlier, is a soulful prayer for the higher consciousness to descend into the collective mind of the society. The Vedic Rishis were so evolved that their prayers were meant to bring happiness and prosperity to the entire humanity – 'Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu'. (May all the people of the world enjoy happiness.) Their concept of family had extended to the whole world. (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam). In fact, they conceived of a world order where all humanity were so closely nestled together as birds in a nest. They could not pray for anything smaller than the whole world and the entire humanity – nay, even for all creation.

The concepts of prayer in certain cases are so beautiful and have no parallel elsewhere. Kunti in Mahabharata prays to Lord Krishna to send calamities after calamities upon them because the Lord is remembered not when you are happy and prosperous but when you are unhappy and miserable. Happiness or misery does not matter. What really matters is

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*the remembrance of God. Remembering God in distress is infinitely better than, forgetting God in happiness. When Yudhishthira was asked why he was so devoted to God in spite of all the miseries that had engulfed their life, he replied, "My love of God is like my love of the Himalayas". The Himalayas are so beautiful and so enchanting that you cannot but love them, whether they give you anything or not. So is the love of God, whether in happiness or misery. God cannot but be the object of love and adoration, pure and unconditional.*

*There is another dimension to prayer. The relation between the Sadhaka who prays and the deity to whom it is offered, conditions the mode of prayer. According to Hindu tradition, the relationship can be of three types – the Sadhaka and the Deity are totally apart, two different entities. Prayer is the means by which they are united. It is called Dvaita. The second form is that of Vishishtadvaita where the Sadhaka considers himself as a part of the Divinity or the Deity. There is already a relationship to build upon the kind of prayer offered. The third one is that of Advaita. In Advaita, there is a total identification between the Sadhaka and the Deity. There is no real difference or distance. In that situation, there is no prayer as such; there is no seeking. But, even at that level, the prayerful attitude continues. It is difficult to put it in words. It can only be expressed in terms of experience. That is what Acharya Shankara did in his Nirvana Shatakam. "Chidananda Roopah Shivoham Shivoham". – expression of a joy, a unique bliss which can only be experienced where there is no seeker, no seeking and nothing that is sought. Perhaps that is the highest form of prayer. But, Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, the devotee par excellence, who had himself experienced this state of Advaita preferred to remain at the level of the deity and the devotee maintaining a tender distance so that there is the experiencer and the experienced. In his own inimitable style, he has stated, "I am like an ant. I do not want to merge with the heap of sugar. Only by maintaining distance from the Divinity, can the sweetness of the sugar be enjoyed".*

*So far, we have been discussing the various dimensions of prayer – the individual and the collective prayer, the lower and the higher levels of prayer, the personal and the impersonal prayer. There are many more. But, as dedicated workers of Vivekananda Kendra, our approach and attitude towards prayer is what is most relevant to us. We are part and parcel of an organization. We have pledged to merge ourselves in the collective*

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*consciousness of the organisation. So our prayer is of a distinct nature. It is collective and intended to bring the goal of the organisation into actuality, to equip ourselves with all the qualities required to be effective and efficient workers of the organisation.*

**To quote :**

*“When people come together to form organisations for a great purpose, it is found that appropriate forms of prayer are evolved in the natural course. It fulfils a great psychological necessity. It binds the members together by a common aspiration. They become fellow-pilgrims to a common destination. It steels their determination to face hurdles on the way and walk hand in hand until they reach the abode of the Divine – the cherished Goal of the organisation. The subtle sentiments vibrating through the words of the prayer have the effect of a “Mantra”. It works at the subconscious level and gradually moulds the very mental make up, even the physical features, of the persons.*

*The prayer is generally chanted collectively. Because of that it elevates the collective consciousness to higher levels of unity of purpose and common action. A Mantra by its meaning assures protection. Prayer collectively chanted assures protection of not only the individual chanting, but also that of the organization. What is of vital importance is the manner of chanting, the contemplation of the meaning and identification with the ideas contained in the prayer. There must be a complete fusion, a single-minded concentration and an unflinching aspiration. As in the case of Mantras, it is important that the Sadhaka should not allow the prayer to become a life-less routine; it must be a living flame of purity and dedication.*

*The Kendra Prayer is of a very high order of Spiritual aspiration harmoniously blended with a very practical scheme of achieving individual perfection. By its very collective tone, it strengthens the organizational bond without, in any way, dwarfing the individual. The greatness of the organization depends upon the realized divinity of the individual. At the organizational level both are fused together. At the height of one’s perfection, the individual so identifies with the organisation that he becomes a perfected instrument for the fulfillment of its objectives. He becomes less and less of an individual and more an inseparable part of the organisation. Such an organization is no more a mere collection of individuals, but the very embodiment of a Divine Purpose and Power. Vivekananda Kendra is conceived as such an*

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organisation. The Kendra Prarthana, rightly understood and properly followed, will no doubt bring about such a consummation. Let it be remembered that the 'Kendra Prayer' is the Life-breath of a Kendra worker." (The Goal and The Way, A Kendra Publication, pp 2-4)

To conclude, I may quote again from the Introduction of the Kendra publication 'The Goal and the Way'.

"The core ideal of the Kendra being to contribute to the process of restoration of Dharma through "Man Making and Nation Building", the mission of nation building will be based on the eternal or Sanatana values as interpreted for the modern world by Swami Vivekananda. The Kendra Prarthana internalizes and exemplifies the Sanatana or the eternal values and ideals of this ancient nation. "Men! Men! These are wanted. Everything else will take care of itself", said Swamiji. Shri Eknathji realised the full import of this call of Swamiji. He realized that the right type of men and women, men and women with capital "M" in them are the basic resource to undertake nation building activities, thus turning "Man Making and Nation Building" as two sides of the same coin. Eknathji has said in "Sadhana of Service". "If we are merely a service-oriented organisation, we will have to pray to God to create cyclones, floods, famines and accidents to provide us opportunities of serve. Service with a spiritual orientation results in man-making which is invariably and inseparably connected with nation-building. It is the core of all our thoughts behind this organization. The central message of the Kendra Prarthana is to build men and women and turn them into capital assets of India for the great task of nation building." (The Goal and the Way pp 10-11)

The Kendra Prarthana can be defined as the 'Yuga Mantra' that inspires us to perform the 'Yuga Dharma' for the sake of a 'Yuga Nirman'.

**P. Parameswaran**

**President**

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**प्रार्थना**

जय जय परमात्मन् संस्मरामो वयं त्वां  
निज परमहितार्थं कर्मयोगैकनिष्ठः।  
इह जगति सदा नस्त्यागसेवाऽऽत्मबोधैः  
भवतु विहतविघ्ना ध्येयमार्गानुयात्रा ॥११॥

प्रभो! देहि देहे बलं धैर्यमन्तः  
सदाचारमादर्शभूतं विचारम्।  
यदस्माभिरङ्गीकृतं पुण्यकार्यं  
तवैवाधिषा पूर्णतां तत्प्रयातु ॥१३॥

वयं सुपुत्रा अमृतस्य नूनं  
तवैव कार्यार्थमिहोपजाताः।  
निष्कामबुद्ध्याऽऽर्तविपन्नसेवा  
विभो! तवाराधनमस्मदीयम् ॥२॥

जीवने यावदादानं स्यात् प्रदानं ततोऽधिकम्।  
इत्येषा प्रार्थनाऽस्माकं भगवन् परिपूर्यताम् ॥४॥

ॐ शान्तिः ॐ शान्तिः ॐ शान्तिः ॥



## Do you hear Swami Vivekananda saying:

“Then only will India awake, when hundreds of large-hearted men and women, giving up all desire of enjoying the luxuries of life, will long and exert themselves to their utmost, for the well-being of the millions of their countrymen”.

Are you among those whom Swamiji had in mind? Come, dedicate yourself for the service of the nation as a fulltime worker of Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari - a spiritually oriented service mission. It is not a career - but a mission. Your Yogakshema would be taken care of by the Kendra.

Send e-mail for details at:

ngc\_vkendra@sancharnet.in OR

Contact at the following address with full biodata and a postal order of Rs. 10/-

General Secretary, Vivekananda Kendra, Vivekanandapuram,

Kanyakumari - 629702

For detailed information, visit us at [www.vivekanandakendrakanyakumari.org](http://www.vivekanandakendrakanyakumari.org)

### Calendar for Shibirs at Vivekanandapuram for 2007

Particulars	Period	Eligible Age Group	Donation
Spiritual Retreat (Eng)	6-12 February	40-70 years	Rs.1000/-
Spiritual Retreat (Hindi)	6-12 February	40-70 years	Rs.1000/-
Yoga Shiksha Shibir(Eng)	6-20 May	20-55 years	Rs.1500/-
Yoga Shiksha Shibir(Hindi)	6-20 May	20-55 years	Rs.1500/-
Spiritual Retreat (Eng)	6-12 August	40-70 years	Rs.1000/-
Spiritual Retreat (Hindi)	6-12 August	40-70 years	Rs.1000/-
Yoga Shiksha Shibir(Eng)	1-15 December	20-55 years	Rs.1500/-
Yoga Shiksha Shibir(Hindi)	1-15 December	20-55 years	Rs.1500/-

For further details contact through E-mail : [ngc\\_vkendra@sancharnet.in](mailto:ngc_vkendra@sancharnet.in)

visit us at [www.vivekanandakendrakanyakumari.org](http://www.vivekanandakendrakanyakumari.org)



This year's Kendra Samachar comes with the theme 'Prarthana' as -

'More things are wrought by prayer  
Than this world dreams of'.

Mananeeya Eknathji was particular that all the Karyakartas should daily chant the Kendra Prarthana at the time of starting their work and again conclude the evening devotional session with it. The prayer strengthens one's body, mind and resolve to work, as a chosen instrument to carry out the Divine will.

#### The notable events of the year:

➤ Akhil Bharatiya Adhikari Baithak at 'Eknath' auditorium, Gramodaya Park, Vivekanandapuram, with 200 adhikaris from 17 States.

➤ A massive Samuhik Surya Namaskar by 29,973 students on 19 November 2005 organized at Gwalior.

➤ Successful completion of 10 years of service by Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Guwahati.

➤ Successful completion of 25 years of service by the Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Tafrogam, Arunachal Pradesh and Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Dibrugarh, Asom.

➤ Rashtra Sevika Samiti's **Vandaneeya Saraswatibai Apte Gaurav Puraskar** was awarded on 20 November 2005 at Thane to Kum Nivedita Bhide, Vice President, Vivekananda Kendra, for her services to the society.

➤ Participation of Shri G. Vasudeo, Secretary, Vivekananda Kendra NARDEP, in a Seminar on Biogas technology in China in December 2005.

➤ Vivekananda Kendra NARDEP was awarded the international Ashden Award for sustainable energy, 2006.

➤ Akhil Bhartiya Adhikari Baithak was on 13&14 October 2006 at Lucknow.

Since 7<sup>th</sup> January 1972 the day when Mananeeya Eknathji Ranade established

## YUVA BHARATI

### *Subscription Renewal - An Appeal*

Dear Subscribers/Readers,

Those who are sending their subscription by Money Order are requested to kindly write their names and addresses clearly, preferably in capital letters. If the subscription no. could also be mentioned it will be better. This will help us to update the register properly and ensure regular despatch of the copies.

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We quote below the subscription numbers, renewal of which is due. Readers are requested to take note of it and act at the earliest.

**YB/13760, 762, 763, 768, 790, 793, 868, 878, 914, 917, 17392 to 397, 401 to 405, 410 to 413, 415 to 417, 419, 422 to 425, 427 to 434, 942 (Ends with December'06)**

Vivekananda Kendra, it has marched ahead with its man making and nation building activities, with the same zeal and enthusiasm as at the beginning and has

undertaken many new projects. It is worth recalling the important landmarks from the beginning.

<b>2.9.1970</b>	Consecration of Vivekananda Rock Memorial
<b>1970</b>	Commencement of Arise, Awake Pictorial Exhibition, Vivekanandapuram
<b>7.1.1972</b>	Establishment of Vivekananda Kendra
<b>1972</b>	Starting of Vivekananda Kendra Patrika, English Half yearly
<b>1973</b>	Starting of Yuva Bharati, English monthly
<b>1973</b>	Training of Jeevanvrati karyakartas and commencement of organizational and service activities
<b>1977</b>	Establishment of first chain of schools in North East & elsewhere
<b>1981</b>	Commencement of Rural Development programmes in Tamil Nadu
<b>1986</b>	Commencement of Natural Resources Development Project, Kanyakumari
<b>1991</b>	Commencement of Wandering Monk Exhibition, Kanyakumari
<b>1992</b>	Vivekananda Bharat Parikrama for 347 days
<b>1993</b>	Commencement of Arun Jyoti Project in Arunachal Pradesh
<b>1993</b>	Establishment of Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Guwahati
<b>1994</b>	Establishment of VK NARDEP's Technology Resource Center, Kalluvilai
<b>1997</b>	Establishment of Vivekananda Kendra Vedic Vision Foundation, Kodungallur
<b>1997</b>	Commencement of Vivekananda Kendra Prashikshan va Seva Prakalpa, Pimplad
<b>1998</b>	Revival of Kendra Bharati, Hindi monthly.
<b>2003</b>	Commencement of Gangotri Exhibition at Vivekanandapuram
<b>2003</b>	Establishment of Vivekananda Kendra International, New Delhi
<b>2004</b>	Establishment of Gramodaya Park at Vivekanandapuram
<b>2005</b>	Inauguration of Panchawati, a complex of 5 air-conditioned cottages with an open-air theatre and Sun Rise view tower.

The Special events of the year are -

(1) Dr. A.P. J. Abdul Kalam, President of India, visited Vivekananda Rock Memorial and Vivekananda Kendra on 22 September 2006. Mananeeya Shri A. Balakrishnanji and Mananeeya Shri D. Bhanudasji received him with Poorna Kumbham and Nadaswaram music on arrival at Vivekananda Rock Memorial. Shri Balakrishnanji and Stapati Shri S.K. Achari, architect of the Memorial then honoured the President with shawls.

He first visited Sri Pada Mandapam and offered Pushpanjali to the footprint of Devi Kanyakumari and then went to Sabha Mandapam. There after offering flowers to the portraits of Sri Ramakrishna and Sri Sarada Devi, he moved to Mukha Mandapam and stood for a while before the beautiful statue of Swami Vivekananda and then offered his floral obeisance to Swamiji. After viewing the Sun Rise Calendar, he went to the Dhyana Mandapam and sat there **alone** in meditation for a few minutes and then went around the Memorial. Shri Balakrishnanji and Shri Bhanudasji explained the salient features of the Memorial in detail. He suggested that at least ten quotations of Swamiji should be displayed prominently so that the visitors could imbibe at least one of his inspiring messages. He spoke to many Jeevanvratī Karyakartas very cordially and enquired where they came from and also about their work and finally wished them well in their endeavours. He had himself photographed with them, Stapati and Nadaswaram Vidwans. Before he boarded the boat for the shore, he wrote in the Visitors' Book:

*It is indeed a great spiritual experience to visit Vivekananda Rock Memorial. Swamiji said: "My name is not important; what is important is to spread my ideas".*

After fulfilling his other engagements in Kanyakumari, he came to Gramodaya Park at Vivekanandapuram where Mananeeya Parameswaranji and Susri Aparna Palkar received him. After invocation by the students of Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Kanyakumari, he had a lively interaction with 500 students selected from different schools at Eknath Hall and asked them to vow that they would work for the development of the nation. He wrote in the Visitors' Book at Gramodaya Park: **Delighted visit - Vivekananda Kendra. I am inspired.**

(2) Vivekananda Kendra NARDEP was awarded the international Ashden Award 2006 for its work on sustainable energy.

(3) Decennial celebration of Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture and 25 years of completion of service by VKV Tafrogam and Dibrugarh. A brief report about them is given below:

**Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Tafrogam, Arunachal Pradesh** – First VKV for Girls - completed 25 years of service. Sri Jarbom Gamlin, Home Minister, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, inaugurated the celebration of the happy occasion on 4 December 2005. A grand procession, a combined band display by 115 girls from VKVs of Tafrogam and Sunpura, drill, rope mallakhamb demonstration, cultural programmes and felicitation of staff members who completed 25 years were all part of the celebrations. Shri Balakrishnanji,

Shri Bhanudasji, Susri Rekha Davey and Susri Aparna Palkar and many well-wishers from Asom, Maharashtra and Rajasthan attended the function.

**Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Dibrugarh, Asom** completed twenty-five years of its useful service to the children of the city. A school, which started in a small two-roomed house with only a few students, has now 1200 students and 50 teaching and non-teaching members of staff. A series of programmes like Ganapati Homa, Seminar, arts and science exhibition, debate, Krida Mahotsav etc. were conducted to mark the occasion.

**Decennial Programme of Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture:**

On its completion of ten eventful years, VKIC organized at its premises a Decennial Celebration programme from 29 to 31 January. The occasion was used to ponder over the objectives of this Institute of bringing forth the unique attributes of the Northeast Indian Culture and the journey of ten years.

On the occasion, Shri Narayan Chandra Goswami, Satradhikar of Sri Sri Natun Kamlabari Satra, Majuli, inaugurated a series of panel discussions on - Responses to the challenges faced by the culture of Northeast India, Cultural commonalities amongst the communities of Northeast India and Development through culture. Besides Kendra & VKIC office bearers, the galaxy of participants included Maj. Gen. (Retd) Vinod Saighal, Shri S. Gurusurthy, noted columnist, Prof. B.B. Kumar, Editor, Astha Bharati, New Delhi. Prof. Parag Dasgupta, Guwahati, Shri Shantikam Hazarika, Director, Assam Institute

of Management, Shri B.B. Jamatiya, President N.E. India Janjati Faith & Cultural Protection Forum, Shri Natwarbhai Thakkar, Founder of Nagaland Gandhi Ashram and many others.

On 31 January – the foundation day of VKIC - the eighth **VKIC Samman 2006** for outstanding contribution in socio-cultural was conferred upon Smt. Nirupama Hagjer, the noted Dimasa social worker from North Cachar Hills District, Assam. Shri Rong Bong Terong, reputed litterateur from Karbi Anglong, the chief guest, while presenting the award to Smt Nirupama Hagjer, referred to the recent clashes between the Karbi and the Dimasa, said:

*“Baideo is a Dimasa and I am a Karbi. How can there be quarrel between these two tribal brothers and sisters? Here, today these two tribes have been united. Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, on the occasion of its Decennial Celebrations, has made these two communities to unite. That is why the significance of this day is overwhelming. Let this Institute bring peace to our hills also”.*

Shri Terong presented Smt Hagjer one of his novels “Kranti Kalor Ashru” written about her father. This book had been out of print for over 20 years and now he had brought a fresh copy from the printer just to present it to Smt Hagjer on this memorable occasion.

Shri P. Parameswaranji, President, addressing the gathering, said VKIC must work to study, disseminate and re-establish the unifying threads of Dharma. Shri Balakrishnanji released two books (1) Traditional Systems of Tangsa and

Tutsa, (2) Traditional Systems of the Dimasas and also a souvenir Sanskriti Vikas and spoke about Mananeeya Eknathji's vision.

The other events are:

The acceleration of organizational work in Kanyakumari district through vigorous Sampark, resulted in the following programmes:

- Three Sanskar Vargas with 35 enthusiastic children in Kanyakumari town.
- A Yoga Varga at Vivekananda Library in Kanyakumari Township.
- Introduction of Yoga as part of in-service training programme every month to the staff members of Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank, Nagercoil, members drawn from different branches situated all over India.
- A ten-day Yoga Satra at Nagercoil for 73 participants during August 2006

On the eve of Samarth Bharat Parva, an "Arise! Awake! Camp" was held at Vivekanandapuram on 18<sup>th</sup> December, for a group of students. They were so impressed with the camp that they wished to associate themselves with the Kendra's activities. As an immediate step, they helped in organizing 'Modern India Forges Ahead' exhibitions at three venues - Vivekananda College, Agasteeswaram, Ayyappa College and KNSK Polytechnic, Shenbagaraman-puthoor. There were about 4000 visitors mostly students. There was a good sale of compact discs and Kendra publications. The annual exhibition at Vivekanandapuram in connection with Samartha Bharat Parva – an annual feature - from 25 December 2005 to 12 January 2006 earned the visitors' appreciation for the efforts taken to highlight the country's achievements, both past and present.

**The details of the regular Shibirs and Spiritual Retreats at Vivekanandapuram during the year are:**

S.No	Month	Number	Particular	Number of participants
01	Apr- May 05	1	Acharya Prashikshan Shibir	75
02	Apr 05	1	Samskara Varga Prashikshan Shibir	286
03	May 05	2	Yoga Shiksha Shibir	32
04	Jun. 05	1	Karyakarta Prashikshan Shibir	23
05	Aug. 05	2	Spiritual Retreat	98
06	Oct. 05	1	Spiritual Retreat	61
07	Dec. 06	1	Yoga Shiksha Shibir	30
08	December	1	Vanaprasthi Karyakarta Prashikshan Shibir	21
09	February	2	Spiritual Retreat	44

**Visitors during the year**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Place of visit</b>	<b>No. of visitors/ beneficiaries</b>
1.	Vivekananda Rock Memorial	1196741
2.	Arise, Awake Pictorial Exhibition	22397
3.	Wandering Monk Exhibition	8491
4.	Gramodaya Park	14564
5.	Gangotri Exhibition	5872
6.	Lodge (Accommodation provided to pilgrims)	157960
7.	Dispensary	23194
8.	Health Camps at Vivekanandapuram (12)	2317
9.	Swami Vivekananda Library	10585

The Indian Tourist Development Corporation has taken up the repairing of the break-walls of Vivekananda Rock Memorial on its western side.

The health camps sponsored by -

1. Central Bank of India, Nagercoil
2. Madhavarayar Palli Mantram, Kanyakumari
3. VRM & VK Employees' Union
4. Canara Bank, Kanyakumari
5. State Bank of Travancore, Kanyakumari
6. L.I.C. of India, Nagercoil
7. State Bank of India, Vivekanandapuram
8. Shri P.H. Narayanan & family, Mumbai
9. National Insurance Co., Nagercoil
10. Sudarshan Books, Nagercoil
11. Smt Seethalakshmi & family, Vellore
12. New Surya Electricals, Nagercoil

were conducted with the help of Arvind Eye Hospital, Tirunelveli, on the first Wednesday of each month. Of the 2317 patients in the Health Camps, 393 were operated for cataract and the rest were tested for blood sugar, diabetes etc and medical advice given.

G.B.K. Trust, Mumbai supplied, as in earlier years, considerable quantity of multivitamin tablets to the dispensary.

Many organizations and associations conducted their meetings, conferences, seminars etc. at Vivekanandapuram. A select list of those organizations, which availed of the facilities, is given:

Published and printed by N Viswanath on behalf of Vivekananda Kendra from 5, Singarachari Street, Triplicane, Chennai-5. at M/s. RNR Printers and Publishers, 8, Thandavarayan Street, Triplicane, Chennai-5. **Editor: P Parameswaran.**

<b>Names of the Organizations</b>	<b>No. of occasions</b>	<b>Total participants</b>
Messrs Unichem, Delhi	Once	600
Vazhka Vazhamudan, Nagercoil	Thrice	560
State Bank of India officials, Southern Zone & K'kumari	Each once	450
Canara Bank Association, Kanyakumari	Once	300
VK NARDEP's National Seminar on Varma Therapy	Once	300
Kamaraj Engineering College, Virudhunagar	Four times	240
Art of Living, Nagercoil	Once	200
Chinmaya Yuva Kendra, Thiruvananthapuram	Once	160

The following were some of the VIP visitors to Vivekananda Rock Memorial:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
02.04.2005	Shri Yogesh Sawhney	Minister for Youth & Sports, J & K State
27.05.2005	Shri Ponnambalam Adigalar	Kunrakudi Adheenam, Tamil Nadu
19.06.2005	Swami Mukthananda	Anand Ashram, Kanchangad, Kerala
24.07.2005	Vice Admiral O.P. Bansal	Flag Officer C-in-C, Eastern Naval Command
10.08.2005	Shri Surjit Singh Barnala	Governor of Tamil Nadu, Chennai
30.08.2005	Shri N. Gopalaswami	Chief Election Commissioner of India
07.09.2005	Shri A.K. Suri	Director General, R.P.F., New Delhi
21.09.2005	Lt Gen. M. Bhandari	Director General, N.C.C., New Delhi
19.12.2005	Air Marshal B.N. Gokhale	Training Command, I.A.F., Bangalore
12.02.2006	Shri Kuldeep Kumar	Minister, Himachal Pradesh
14.02.2006	Air Marshal Ajit Bhavnani	Vice Chief, I.A.F., New Delhi

**Libraries**

The library at Vivekanandapuram containing nearly 27,000 books continued to attract students and book lovers.

On 12 October 2005 Vivekananda Kendra took over from the Public Committee, **Swami Vivekananda Library** at Kanyakumari, which has been functioning since 1937. It has a good collection of books on various subjects. A number of national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Shri C. Rajagopalachari, Sri Jayaprakash Narayan, Sri Shyam Prasad Mukerjee and others had visited this library. Many visitors had expressed about the need for a memorial for Swami Vivekananda long before it was thought of during the centenary year of Swamiji's birth.

**The programmes of this unit were -****Vivekananda Kendra Natural Resources Development Project**

Shri G. Vasudeo, Secretary, VK NARDEP, participated at an international seminar on "Biogas Technology for Poverty reduction and sustainable Development" at Beijing from 17 to 20 December 2005 and presented a paper on "Biogas Manure: a valuable input in Sustainable Agriculture – an integrated approach". The seminar was organized by the Centre for Energy and Environmental Protection Technology Development and sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of China, and Economic & Social Commission of Asia and Pacific, U.N. He visited London to receive on 15 June 2006, the Ashden Award for sustainable energy 2006.

S.No.	Programme	Number	Participants
1.	Workshop on cost effective construction technology	9	181
2.	Construction of toilets in Agasteeswaram block	31	
3.	Workshop on water management	3	93
4.	Training in Bio-gas manure & Vermi compost	9	587
5.	Training & workshop on Azolla propagation/technology	12	681
6.	Workshop on Indian medical system for empowering village doctors, farmers and self help group members	6	427
7.	Patients treated at Green Health Home & 8 camp		4507
8.	Construction of biogas plants	8	
9.	Awareness camps on biogas technology	15	1223
10.	Workshops on Sustainable Development for Presidents of Panchayat Unions of Tamil Nadu	23	668
11.	Other camps	33	449
12.	All the five Vivekananda Kendra Utsavs	5	1180
13.	Sale of publications valued at		Rs.1,90,000/-

A demonstration cum work shed was constructed for State Institute of Rural Development, Marimalainagar, Kancheepuram District.



The following books were brought out -

- |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Gramodaya in Hindi & Tamil - | 1000 copies each |
| 2. Biogas Manure Users' Guide-  | 3000 copies      |
| 3. Ferro-cement Technology -    | 1000 copies      |

### Rural Development Programmes in Tamil Nadu

All the programmes of Rural Development in the districts of Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Virudhunagar and

Ramanathapuram, have been standardized with the experience gained over years and are well received by the public as evidenced by their support and cooperation in conducting them. The highlights are as follows:

S.No	Programmes	Beneficiaries
01	Balwadis at 75 places	1,954 children
02	Sanskar Vargas at 185 places	5,853 children
03	Competitions for students up to X standard	1,793
04	Competitions for Plus II students	5,315
05	Competitions for college students	13,673
06	Competitions for lecturers & teachers	62
07	Yoga Vargas/satras/camps	1,011
08	Swadhyaya Vargas	103
09	Different camps for children	1233
10	Camps for + 2 students (Boys: 139 & 132 girls)	271
11	Camps for college students (100 boys & 198 girls)	298
12	Conference of cultural class students (5)	1,695
13	Medical care at 14 centers	36,682
14	Eye Camps at 54 places screened 11,334 patients	2,320 operated
15	Aid for medicines (482) & spectacles (354)	836
16	Educational, medical & Marriage aids to girls	609
17	Aid under Adopt-a-Granny programme	55
18	Vocational training imparted at 7 units	157
19	Deepa Pujas at 258 places	26,146
20	Cereals received under Amritha Surabhi Scheme	36,271 kgs
21	Sale of books & other items	Rs.4,67,318/-
22	Total Attendance at five Kendra Utsavs	16,709

**Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalayas**

A total of 17,859 students studied during the academic year 2005-06, in 45 Vivekananda

Kendra Vidyalayas located in Andamans, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Nagaland, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. They were as under:

Location	No. of Schools	No. of students	No. of teachers	No. of other staff members
Andamans	9	2,300	103	23
Arunachal Pradesh	22	7451	297	136
Asom & Nagaland	11	6282	263	27
Karnataka	1	243	16	5
Tamil Nadu	2	1583	66	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>17,859</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>209</b>

**Results in public examinations in April 2005**

X Standard/Matriculation			School at	XII Standard		
Number Appeared	Number Passed	First Class		Number Appeared	Number Passed	First Class
88	85	56	Port Blair (Andaman)	76	73	73
15	15	10	Amliang (Arunachal)			
19	19	15	Balijan			
37	37	34	Itanagar	31	31	27
22	22	19	Jairampur	29	28	17
30	30	27	Jirdin			
14	14	13	Kharsang			
13	13	12	Kuparijo			
23	23	21	Nirjuli			
12	12	9	Oyan			
34	34	28	Roing			
24	24	15	Shergaon			
18	18	18	Seijosa			
18	18	16	Sunpura			
21	21	20	Tafrogam	24	24	24
33	33	19	Yazali			
63	63	32	Bargolai (Asom)	44	36	21
88	88	63	Dibrugarh	60	51	41
37	37	34	Golaghat			
74	74	71	Tinsukia	75	70	64
44	44	27	Umrangso	47	39	16
16	16	6	Doyang (Nagaland)			
86	84	76	Kanyakumari (TN)	49	48	40
12	11	11	Valliyoor			

### **Other events at the Vidyalayas Andaman & Nicobar Islands**

Prof. Ram Kapse, Lt Governor, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, was the chief guest on Guru Purnima Day. The students from the islands who scored top marks in X & XII class examinations were felicitated on the occasion. A teachers' orientation camp was held for all the 102 teachers of our Vidyalayas for 3 days. An Arts & Science Exhibition was conducted on Sadhana Divas. A large number of well wishers and students of various schools saw the exhibition.

A hostel has been started for 15 children belonging to Greater Andamanees (a primitive tribe) in Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Port Blair. The children are the first generation students from this tribe to receive formal school education.

### **Arunachal Pradesh**

Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Tafrogam, completed 25 years of service. Sri Jarbom Gamlin, Home Minister, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, inaugurated the celebration of the happy occasion on 4 December 2005. A grand procession, a combined band display by 115 girls from VKVs of Tafrogam and Sunpura, drill, rope mallakhamb demonstration, cultural programmes and felicitation of staff members who completed 25 years were all part of the celebrations. Shri Balakrishnanji, Shri Bhanudasji, Susri Rekha Davey and Susri Aparna Palkar and many well-wishers from Asom, Maharashtra and Rajasthan attended the function.

Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Roing, is upgraded to Higher Secondary School and the

schools at Banderdewa and Nirjuli secured affiliation for secondary schools. The in-service training in English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, and Music at different venues was attended by 146 teachers of Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalayas. The teaching members of University, Central Institute of English & Foreign Languages, Shillong, Acharya Bhishmadev Sangeet Academy, Kolkata, and Ramanuja Foundation, conducted these. Similarly there were different shibirs for a total of 982 students of VIII, IX, X and XII Standards of many of our Vidyalayas were also held.

Students from Vidyalayas of Itanagar, Jairampur, Kuparijo, Nivedita Vihar, Roing and Tafrogam participated in a State level Science Seminar and students from Itanagar, Jairampur and Tafrogam attended a national level Children's Science Congress at Bhubaneswar. Nivedita Vihar won the Mandakini Memorial Kho-kho tournament for girls for the fourth consecutive year. Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Kuparijo, won the Mananeeya Eknathji Memorial Football trophy for boys.

Shri Rohan Borah, a student of Standard X at VKV Golaghat was awarded a Certificate of Excellence for his project OU LOTA - an alternative source of potable water during World Water Week held at Stockholm, Sweden from 20 to 26 August. His sister Kum Antora Borah was a partner in his project. He had earlier represented his State at the National Children Science Congress in 2002 at Mysore, Karnataka, and received a gold medal for the project "Bhimkol - an alternate source of food". He had also attended the Indian Science Congress at Hyderabad where he had

the privilege of meeting Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, President of India.

### **Karnataka**

The students of the Vidyalaya at Kallabalu, near Bangalore City, took part in International Chintana Mathematics, Science and Sirigannada examinations conducted by Chintana Prakashan Trust, Chitradurga and won 9 State level and 8 district level prizes. Participating in 'Pratibha Karanji' cultural competition conducted by the State Government, the students won eleven first and two cluster level prizes, a prize at State level and 2 prizes at taluk level. Ten teachers and seventy-seven students were benefited from a 'Sanskriti Jnana Parichaya' programme.

### **Tamil Nadu**

#### **Kanyakumari**

The Vidyalaya has won many trophies: the junior team in zonal level Kabaddi and super

senior team in volleyball and 40 mtrs relay. In the Matriculation district level the school's senior and super senior level teams were the winners.

### **Valliyoore**

Swami Gautamananda, President, Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai inaugurated on 2 June 2005 a new block of building of 5 rooms in the presence of Shri Balakrishnanji and Susri Aparna Palkar. The students of the Vidyalaya competed in many events organized by other institutions and won several prizes.

### **Vivekananda Kendra Arun Jyoti Project**

This prestigious project started in 1993 is Mananeeya Eknathji's dream come true. It has 5 Vibhags located at Kameng, Lohit, Siang, Subansiri and Tirap, covering 16 districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

The administrative office is located in Tinsukia and the field offices are situated at

01. Along	07. Dumparijo	13. Roing
02. Bordumsa	08. Itanagar	14. Seijosa
03. Changlang	09. Kharsang	15. Seppa
04. Daporijo	10. Khonsa	16. Tezu
05. Deomali	11. Mebo	17. Wakro
06. Doimukh	12. Pasighat	18. Ziro

The activities were carried out under the aegis of **five Manchs - Anaupacharik Shiksha Manch, Svasthya Seva Manch, Mahila Manch, Yuva Manch, Samskritik Manch**, with full support and cooperation of the local people. As a result of the good work of Arun Jyoti Project, **19 youths have joined as Seva Vratīs**. Seventeen Karyakartas went to Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan during Samartha Bharat Parva and presented many programmes to create greater

awareness about the Northeastern States in general and Arunachal Pradesh in particular. Impressed by the work of the Kendra, a good many of the public-spirited persons joined Arunachal Bandhu Parivar. The trained Acharyas of the newly started Anandalayas at Lajo and Ranglamja of Khonsa Nagar spread awareness about public health and hygiene in their respective jurisdictions.

The attendance at different programmes during the year was as under:

Programme	Number	No. of participants
Yoga Satras (15) & Vargas (2)	17	279
Samskara Varga	36	935
Guru Purnima	8	932
Universal Brotherhood Day	12	1881
Sadhana Divas	8	238
Geeta Jayanti	13	987
Samartha Bharat Parva	14	3461

Sales of Kendra publications (including 16 copies of "India's Contribution to the World Thought & Culture), novelties and handicraft products fetched a sum of Rs.7,04,472/- A Vocational on-residential Training Center has been started at Dumparijo.

The visit of the Karyakartas to other States and the seminars and lecture series in the State have created a greater awareness amongst the people about the good work done by the Kendra and the benefit accruing out of them.

### **Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Guwahati**

Apart from the Decennial celebrations, the other programmes carried out here during the year were-

1. A CAPART (North East Zone) financed workshop-cum-exhibition on mask making and Sacipat production from 28 May to 5 June with the guidance of select Satradhikars and government institutions. There were 6 skilled artisans and 16 trainees representing 6 Sattras, Government college of Art & Craft, Assam

and Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya, Dibrugarh. Many leading luminaries on this art participated in the programme.

2. A project “**Investigation and documentation of the Sattras of Greater Guwahati**” was taken up in 4 Sattras. Shri B.K. Bora of VKIC led the team of field investigators.

3. Dr. C.V. Nageswara, a Buddhist scholar from Bangalore, successfully completed the “**Documentation of Buddhist Monasteries**” of the Theravadi order in the eastern regions of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, financed his project. Amongst the many manuscripts documented was a “**Lamamang or Tai Ramayana**” with photographic description, written on hand-made paper, found at Namphale Buddha Vihar of Dibrugarh District.

4. VKIC has made its mark in the commercial capital of India - Mumbai - and in the spiritual town of Srirangam in Tamil Nadu. It coordinated the visit of 4 Satradhikars for the Acharya Hindu Dharma Sabha at Mumbai from 16 to 18 December 2005. Similarly, Shri Dipankar Mahanta, Associate Director, VKIC, took 52 Vaishnavas including 7 Satradhikaris, belonging to 26 Satras of 8 districts of Assam to the 3-day Vaishnava Maha Sammelan from

10 to 13 March 2006 held at Srirangam in mid-March 2006. At both the places, the significant role of Satra institutes in promoting our culture and the disturbing problems of the Northeast region were explained.

Eminent scholars delivered lectures at the Institute’s ‘Sanskriti Anveshak’ before discernible audience, on various aspects of Sattras, preservation of old manuscripts of Assam and traditional dyeing methods in the North East.

The second volume of the book entitled “Traditional Customs and Rituals of North East India” containing papers presented in the seminars at the Institute has been brought out. Eminent scholars delivered lectures at the Institute before discernible audience, on various aspects of Sattras, preservation of old manuscripts of Assam and traditional dyeing methods in the North East.

#### **Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Arunachal Pradesh Chapter**

This chapter of VKIC launched an indigenous study circle on 28 May 2005 to bring together the knowledgeable and the youth to understand one another’s rich traditional systems and identify their underlying unity. Bi-monthly meetings on “Religio-spiritual movements of Arunachal Pradesh to sustain indigenous faith

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
28 May	Nyedar Namlo Movement of the Nyishis	Shri Rekhi Tana Tara, Chairman, Central Nyedar Namlo.
06 Aug	Meder Nello Movement of the Apatanis	Shri Nani Tachang, Secretary, Meder Nello Society
29 Oct	Kargu Gamgi Movement of the Adi-Galos	Shri Tony Koyu, President, Indigenous Faith and Cultural Society of Arunachal Pradesh
7 Nov	The Economics of Conversion	Prof. R. Vaidhyanathan, IIM., Bangalore

Prof Vaidhyathan spoke on the subject of "Economics of Conversion" at three other places also.

A Seminar on the "**Wanchoo Traditional Systems - Change and Continuity**" at Longding attended by 150 knowledgeable persons was held on 19 February 2006. Eight papers were presented. Many participants referred to the damage caused to traditional systems and how it should be contained.

Ten members from 2 communities of Arunachal Pradesh - Akas and Tagin - and 5 full-time workers of Vivekananda Kendra attended a conference on "Spirituality Beyond Religions" of the World Council of Elders held at Jaipur from 5 to 10 February 2006. Three papers (1) on "Si-Donyl - the philosophical aspect" (by Dr. Ashan Riddi of Tagin community), (2) on Vivekananda Kendra - Arunachal Pradesh and (3) on Vivekananda Kendra International were presented at the conference.

### **Vivekananda Kendra Rural Welfare Project, Khatkhati**

The residential training cum production center to train Vanvasi girls in general and Karbis in particular, functioned satisfactorily. Besides vocational training, the girls learnt martial arts and got non-formal education and instructions on health and hygiene. Their inborn talents and creativity surfaced when sufficient opportunity was given in suitable environment. Their products find ready market. Medical camps were also held to attend on them and the people living nearby.

### **Vivekananda Kendra Medical Research Foundation, VK NRL Hospital, Numaligarh**

Though originally started for the benefit of the staff of the refinery here, it has extended its excellent facilities for the villagers living even in distant places. The details of service rendered and the number of patients benefited during the April 2005 - March 2006 are as under:

1. Indoor patients	1041
2. Out door patients	32,472
3. Surgery	312
4. Pathology service	50,160
5. Blood transfusion	198
6. X-ray	3,870
7. Radiology/ultra sound	1,451
8. ECG	915

Apart from this, 151 mobile camps were organized in 22 villages, which benefited 7386 patients. A survey in collaboration with a team of doctors and technicians of Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati, for detection of cancer among the people around Numaligarh Refinery and Township was held at the hospital on 18th & 19th March 2006. Five out of 100 people screened were found to have cancer at its initial stage and were given necessary medical guidance. Some doctors underwent short-term courses to improve their expertise and some others attended conferences, seminars, workshop, etc. and presented papers. A magazine has been started to bring out the creativity of the members of staff. The hospital is gearing itself up for obtaining ISO 9001 certificate.

### **Vivekananda Kendra Vedic Vision Foundation, Kodungallur**

Vivekananda Kendra Vedic Vision Foundation, Kodungallur continued to spread the Vedic vision through monthly lecture series, celebration of various festivals and observation of important days like, Ramayana day, Narayaneeyam day, Sri Krishna Jayanti, etc. and through Sandeepani Gurukula and Dharma Sevika Project. The Jnana Ganga flowing from April 2004 has continued to enthrall a group of about 100 people on every second Sunday of the month. It is the only truly spiritually enlightening effort in this ancient cultural citadel. A fresh momentum has been added through highly enlightening discourses on major Upanishads by well-known scholars of Kerala, Swami Tatwamayanandaji (Katha), Acharya **Narendra Bhushan (Swetaswatara) and Swami Swaprabhanandaji (Mundaka)**. The foundation's bi-monthly bulletin "Vishwa Bhanu" is becoming a much-wanted home magazine in Kodungallur.

Four girls sponsored by the Foundation attend Sanskrit studies at the Vishwa Samskrita Pratisthanam enjoying the Gurukula life at Ananda Dham. The uniqueness of Sandeepani Shishuvihar is that the parents can offer whatever they can afford as dakshina.

The Dharma Sevika Project can rightly be called as a "**Woman Making and Home Building**" endeavour as through it succour is given to disturbed women, both young and old. This has recharged them with new self-confidence to face their daily ordeals.

Vishwa Bhanu, the exhibition of mural paintings, has been replicated in many institutions, especially schools.

Yoga satras continue to attract the general public and some of our trained yoga workers have been inducted as yoga teachers in two local schools. A little over 300 persons attended four shibirs including a personality development camp.

Dr. Lakshmikumari, Director, delivered more than 80 lectures at different venues on various spiritual subjects attended by a total of 31,000 people. It is a matter of great satisfaction to record that all our Shishuvihar children and the yoga students happily enrolled themselves as patrons. Publications worth Rs.60,000/- were sold.

### **Vivekananda Kendra Prashikshan va Seva Prakalpa, Pimplad, Nashik**

Besides the Karya Paddhatis and celebration of five Utsavs, a hostel for 36 Vanvasi students, 3 Balwadis for 110 children, a medical center and mobile medical camps to provide elementary health care were the other programmes.

### **Vivekananda Kendra International, New Delhi**

Vivekananda Kendra International envisaged by Mananeeya Eknathji Ranade as the third phase of Vivekananda Kendra was launched on 23 May 2003. Within two years of its commencement, it has organized 16 study meetings to understand the scope and concept of this important project to work towards civilizational harmony through dialogues and interaction. Renowned scholars like



Dr. Lokesh Chandra, Shri Michel Danino, Maj. Gen. Vinod Saighal, Shri B. B. Kumar and Shri S. Gurusurthy participated in these meetings.

The building under construction to house VKI has come up to first floor level. Many individuals, private and public sector undertakings, Kendra patrons and Central Government through the Ministry of Culture as also Ministry of Urban Development have assisted through donations, sponsorship and grant-in-aid. Shri Pravinji, Joint General Secretary, toured important cities of Maharashtra and Gujarat to meet well-meaning people and briefed them about the Vivekananda Kendra International.

#### **Vivekananda Kendra Pratishthan**

Vivekananda Kendra Pratishthan selects prospective Karyakartas willing to dedicate

their whole lives for Vivekananda Kendra movement, their orientation training, and subsequent deployment at suitable places. During the year 16 Shiksharthi (Sevavratris) underwent orientation training for three months and joined their places of posting.

To meet the cost of the Yogakshema of all these whole time Karyakartas (Jeevan Vratris), a patron scheme is in force. Under this scheme, annually donating persons contribute every year a sum of Rs.100/- and above; lumpsum donating patrons make a one-time contribution of Rs.500/- and above, and the perpetual patrons make a one-time contribution of Rs.5000/- and above. There were a total of 113483 patrons on 31.10.2006 as detailed below.

Category	New patrons	Renewal and Enhancement	Total number as on 31.3.2005	Total number as on 31.10.2006
Annually donating patrons	1502	2529	21247	23171
Lump sum donating patrons	3820	1101	81207	86281
Perpetual Patrons	58	35	3930	4031

The patrons also sponsor or contribute to, some projects run by the Kendra. Their association with the Kendra does not end with donations. The Kendra greets them on their birthdays and also mail the annual report through its journals,

Yuva Bharati, Kendra Bharati, Vivek Vichar, Vivek Vani etc., to apprise them of its activities. Many have appreciated this gesture and recently an e-mail was sent a patron thus:

#### **Subscriber Feedback**

*From Kumar Dighe, to Vivekananda Kendra ngc\_vkendra@sancharnet.in on January 10, 2006.*

Thank you for sending Yuva Bharati publication and also sending birthday wishes without fail, for so many years. I am recommending to the people to contribute to the publication (preferably life subscription of Rs.800/- + 30) and I am also recommending to these people to forward this request to their friends. I know you are doing such wonderful work among the youth of India and I enjoy the articles (e.g. SANKALPA) written by Shri Parameswaran, the President of Vivekananda Kendra.

**Vivekananda Kendra Prakashan Trust,  
Chennai**

The Trust publishes the following journals:

**From Chennai-**

- 1) Vivekananda Kendra Patrika, English Half yearly, Subscribers 865 nos.
- 2) Yuva Bharati, English monthly, Subscribers 6424 nos.
- 3) Viveka Vani, Tamil Monthly, Subscribers 2763 nos.

**From Jodhpur-**

- 4) Kendra Bharati, Hindi monthly, Subscribers 3077 nos.

**From Pune-**

- 5) Vivek Vichar, Marathi, Thrice a year Subscribers 4411 nos.

**From Palitana-**

- 6) Vivek Sudha, Guarati monthly, Subscribers 1220 nos.

**From Guwahati-**

- 7) Jagriti, Asomiya & English Quarterly, Subscribers 1225 nos.

**From Kodungallur-**

- 8) Vishva Bhanu, Malayalam, Bi-monthly, Subscribers 300 nos.

There was a good demand for calendars, diaries and greeting cards as seen by bulk orders for them. A list of journals with their subscription rates, other publications and products are printed elsewhere. The following were some of the out-of-print books reprinted:

01. *Bharata Panpadu*
02. *Bharata Nattai Uruvakkum Panbukathai*
03. Biography of Swami Vivekananda
04. *Desiya Kaviyam Ramayanam*
05. Gita Sandesh (Hindi)
06. Golden Words of Swami Vivekananda
07. *Ilainargalin Idhaya Veerar - Vivekanandar*
08. Incidents in the life of Sw. Vivekananda
09. Indian Culture
10. *Kalvithurayil Yoga*

11. Kendra Unfolds
12. *Kumari Munayil Vivekanandar*
13. *Kuzhanthi Deivathai Kondaduvom*
14. *Nalvali Kattum Killai Mozhi*
15. Padavali (Hindi)
16. *Paripoornarukke Bhakti Seithu Vazhvom*
17. Personality Development
18. Rousing Call to Hindu Nation
19. Swami Vivekananda in America
20. *Sri Sarada Theivamum Thozhuta Devi*
21. Surya Chart
22. Surya Namaskar (English & Tamil)
23. Vidya Samskar
24. *Vidyamuyarchi*
25. Vivekananda Kendra Certificates
26. Yoga (in English, Hindi, Tamil & Telugu)
27. Yoga Charts
28. Yoga, the science of holistic living
29. Seva Hi Sadhana
30. Dhyeya Marga (Hindi)
31. Aise Bane Ham Bhi
32. Bachon Ke Swamiji (reprint)(Hindi)
33. Bharat Gauav Swami Vivekananda (reprint) (Hindi)

The books listed in italics are in Tamil.

**Branch Centers**

The branch centers of Vivekananda Kendra are all over the country.

Mananeeya Eknathji Ranade had said: If a whole people in some corner of the globe successfully evolve a satisfactory social order that can provide abundant opportunities to each of the constituents to meet the basic needs of the body-mind complex and allow him to fulfill the inner aspirations, it would be the supreme act of service. For this purpose, he said, there should be (1) Loka Sampark (2) Lok Sangrah (3) Lok Samskar and (4) Lok Vyavastha.

These are followed religiously in all Kendra activities. These are carried out regularly to help the participants to acquire an insight into the national culture and develop mutual love, and understanding. This in turn creates more

Karyakartas and also brings out their latent leadership qualities and organizing skill.

The Kendra has evolved a unique three-dimensional Karyapaddhati which all branch centers carry out. They are –

**1. Yoga Varga** - to attract all people above 15 years for promoting yoga way of life and to motivate them to spread Vivekananda Kendra thought movement. An easy-to-follow syllabus has been drawn to guide conduct of the programme.

**2. Samskar Varga** - to develop the physical, mental, intellectual, emotional and spiritual faculties of children and to strengthen their love for the country and countrymen. The Vargas are held in a congenial place with the consent and cooperation of the residents nearby so that they are also encouraged to help Kendra in its programmes.

**3. Swadhyaya Vargas** - to bring together all for group-study of scriptures and great national literature to create a national perspective and an awareness of our achievements, past and present, in all fields. A set of books is recommended for study.

The Kendra and all its branch centers celebrated the following **Utsavs**.

**1. Guru Poornima** – To popularize the healthy custom of respecting and honouring our Gurus, a prominent scholar is invited as a chief guest or lecturer to address the audience on the significance of Guru, which is “OM” in the case of Vivekananda Kendra in keeping with the ideals of Swami Vivekananda. The occasion is also used to collect books for book banks, clothes and medicines for supply to the deserving needy.

**2. Universal Brotherhood Day** is celebrated in memory of Swami Vivekananda’s epoch-making address at the Parliament of World Religions at Chicago. Many competitions for children and students are arranged days before the event and the best of them are awarded suitable prizes on the occasion by the chief guest. A prominent citizen addresses the invitees on the importance of the day. This attracts large number of people and many of them even make material or monetary contributions.

**3. Sadhana Divas** is observed on Mananeeya Eknathji’s Jayanti day. It is a solemn and important occasion for all Karyakartas to remember the late leader, reverentially and study excerpts from his works and review the activities undertaken and plan further.

**4. Geeta Jayanti** is celebrated on Marghashirsha Shukla Ekadashi to popularize the study of Bhagwat Geeta. Competitions are held in recitation for students and Karyakartas. A scholar is invited to address a function and prizes are distributed to the winners of competitions.

**5. Samartha Bharat Parva & Swami Vivekananda Jayanti** was observed from 25 December to 12 January. Swami Vivekananda meditated for three days, starting on 25 December 1892 on the famous Rock now known as Vivekananda Rock. Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa blessed his devotees on 1 January to achieve whatever they set to-protect and preserve Sanatana Dharma - and all his devotees consider this day as Kalpataru Day. Vivekananda Jayanti is on 12 January. Thus the period - from 25 December to 12 January - is of great significance. Our Motherland’s great strength and message for

the world are highlighted through exhibitions, lectures, competitions, and distribution of literature. All the programmes culminate on Vivekananda Jayanti Day with public meetings, speeches by eminent guests and award of prizes to winners in the competitions.

Besides these, some branch centers on their own initiative and enthusiasm conduct many events to draw people closer to the organization and thereby promote positive thinking and integrate them for national causes. Samuhik Surya Namaskar, Yoga Shiksha Shibirs, Personality Development camps and coaching camps for students, running of book stalls on local festival days, blood donation camps, mobilization of patrons and subscriptions for Kendra publications and the like are some of these. Another noteworthy event is of the conduct of essay writing and other competitions for students, about our country, its great savants and their teachings and their achievements. It is gratifying that there is a very good response for all these.

The office bearers were on tour to most branch centers to guide and help the Karyakartas. The State-wise list of Branch centers and the highlights of the work there are as under:

### **Andaman Prant (9)**

Basantipur, Chouldari, Diglipur, Hut Bay, Kadamtala, Pahalgaoon, Port Blair, and Rangat. The report is recorded elsewhere.

### **Arunachal Pradesh Prant (43)**

#### **(a) Arun Jyoti Project (18)**

Along, Bomdila, Bordumsa, Changlang, Daporijo, Hayuliang, Itanagar, Kharsang, Khonsa, Mebo, Miao, Pasighat, Roing, Seepa, Seijosa, Sunpura, Tezu and Ziro.

The report regarding Arun Jyoti Project is shown elsewhere.

#### **(b) Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalayas (22)**

Amliang, Baliyan, Banderdewa, Itanagar, Jairampur, Jirdin, Kharsang, Koloriang, Kuparijo, Liromoba, Niauxa, Nirjuli, Nivedita Vihar (Seijosa), Oyan, Roing, Seijosa, Sher, Shergaon, Sunpura, Tafrogam, Yazali & Ziro. The report relating to the Vidyalayas appears under the relevant heading elsewhere.

#### **(c) VK Vocational Training Centers (3) - Dumparijo, Seijosa and Wakro.**

➤ A non-residential Vocational Training Center at **Dumparijo** is training the first batch of girls.

### **Asom & Nagaland Prant**

**Asom (25)** - Bokakhat, VKV Bokuloni, Dhemaji, VKV Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, VKV Dibrugarh, Golaghat, VKV Golaghat, VK Guwahati, VKIC, Guwahati, Jorhat, Majuli, Mangaldoi, Margherita, VK Khatkati, Lakhimpur, Lumding VKV Margherita, Numaligarh, VK NRL Hospital, Numaligarh, Sibsagar, Teok, Tezpur, Tingrai, Tinsukia, VKV Tinsukia & VKV Umrongsu.

**Nagaland (1)** - VKV, Doyang.

#### **Asom**

➤ **At Dibrugarh**, 69 Yoga Satras were held for 1,088 people. Nine hundred children attended 37 Sanskar Vargas. More than 3000 people participated in the Utsavs during the year. Publications and novelties were sold to the tune of about Rs.4,39,000/- Nearly 800 students appeared for cultural competitions.

➤ **At Guwahati** Prof. R. Vaidyanathan, I.I.M. Bangalore, delivered the seventh

Bhubaneswar Barthakur Memorial lecture on 'Declining joint families, looming crisis in social security' on 11 November 2005.

➤ The monthly 'Soorar Deul' completed its 100th presentation in December 2005. A pleasant musical function to mark the event was held in which the veteran artists Smt Lakshahira Das, Sri Apurva Kr. Das, Shri Mihir Bordoloi and Smt Chitrani Goswami participated and Shri Chanchal De, Soorar Deul coordinator gave a scintillating Guitar performance.

➤ There were a wall magazine competition for eleven colleges, an exhibition inaugurated by the well-known litterateur Sri Atulananda Goswami and a youth convention during Samarth Bharat Parva.

## Dakshin Prant

### Andhra Pradesh

➤ **Hyderabad** - A competitive examination based on the book 'Vivekananda the friend of all' was held for 2550 students from 50 Schools in connection with the celebration of Universal Brotherhood Day. Shri R. Murali Krishna, General Manager (Vigilance), State Bank of Hyderabad, distributed the prizes and mementos to 10 first and second rank performers from each school.

### Karnataka (5) -

➤ **Bangalore** - Dr. M. Lakshmikumari, Director, Vivekananda Kendra Vedic Vision Foundation, Kodungallur, released a Souvenir 'Help and not fight' brought out on Guru Purnima Day and spoke on the significance of the day at a well attended meeting. On Universal Brotherhood day, Kum. P. Iswarya from Chennai and Kum. Manjula and Smt Nagajyothi of Bangalore shared their perception of Swamiji's lecture at Chicago with a large

number of people who attended the function to celebrate the day.

### ➤ Skill Training Center, Kallabalu (Bangalore)

The Center imparted skill training in computer and tailoring to numerous unemployed youth of 23 surrounding villages. More than 1000 boys and girls and even housewives have undergone training and are employed gainfully.

➤ **Belgaum** - Shri Satish Chowkulkar conducted 2 meditation programmes for 130 people from 28 January to 3 February 2006.

➤ **Mysore** - A mass Surya Namaskar on 19 February 2006 on the occasion of Ratha Saptami by 400 students, well attended Utsavs and recitation of Gita by students witnessed by 200 persons on Gita Jayanti Day were some of the events here.

### Kerala (2) - VKVVF Kodungallur & Thiruvananthapuram.

➤ **Thiruvananthapuram** - During December 2005, about 120 technocrats attended a 2-day meditation class in Techno Park. Twenty-five youths took the benefit of 5-day Pranayama & Suryanamaskar classes in Veda Pathasala. Forty persons attended Sanjivani Dhyana class in Pattom Thanu Pillai Nagar.

## Gujarat Prant (17)

Ahmedabad, Anjar, Bhavnagar, Junagarh, Morbi, Palitana, VK Gujarati Prakashan Vibhag, Palitana, Porbandar, Rajkot, Savarkundla, Vadodara & Veraval, Surat, Anand, Ankaleshwar, Dhasa, Swmina Grudha

➤ **Ahmedabad** - Two thousand students from 13 schools and 10 colleges appeared for the examination on Indian Culture. Food

material collected under Amritha Surabhi Scheme was handed to a charitable hospital.

➤ **Vadodara** - Three personality camps were conducted for 102 students and Shri Bhanudasji addressed one of them. In the school level Swadhyaya Kasoti examination, 1889 students took part and 260 of them attended two camps. The successful students received certificates at the time of Universal Brotherhood Day celebration. Dr. Arunaben Jadav was the chief speaker. Susri Rekhadidi addressed the students of two colleges during Samartha Bharat Parva. An exhibition was held at Nalanda College on 12 January 2006.

➤ At **Surat**, Vivekananda Jayanti was celebrated with Mr. Kothari, Vice Chancellor, South Gujarat University as the chief guest. Shri Binoy Bhai of RSS and Dr. Kamlesh Upadhyaya, Vibhag Pramukh, were also present. On the occasion, rectors of 18 hostels were honoured.

### **Madhya Pradesh Prant (9)**

Bandra, Bhandar, Bhind, Bhopal, Gwalior, Harda, Indore, Jhansi & Morena.

➤ **Gwalior**- More than 1000 college students participated in competitions during Universal Brotherhood Day celebrations. A Deepa Puja by 180 ladies was performed and Susri Rekhadidi attended the function. On Sadhana Divas, **29,973 students from 337 schools performed a Samuhik Surya Namaskar Maha Yajna** in the presence of the chief guest Hon'ble Shri Babulal Gaur, the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Shri Narayan Singh Kushwah, Hon'ble Ministers, Shri Kaptan Singh Solanki, M.P., Shri Viveknarayan Shejwalkar, Mayor and Susri B. Nivedita and a large gathering.

On 28 February Shri Kishore Tokekar, Joint General Secretary, felicitated 600 teachers who worked hard in organizing the massive Samuhik Surya Namaskar and also released a Souvenir 'Apavrunu'. The students from Arunachal Pradesh who were on a cultural tour presented some cultural programmes at Bhind and Gwalior to the delight of the spectators. During a Trade Fair, a stall was run and books etc worth Rs.32,000/- were sold.

### **Maharashtra Prant**

**Goa (2)** - Panaji & Vasco-da-gama

#### **Maharashtra (40)**

Ahmednagar, Ambernath, Aurangabad, Badalpur, Bandra, Bhandara, Borivali, Chinchwad, Chiplun, Dharashiv, Dombivali, Goregaon, Jalgaon, Jalna, Juhu, Vile Parle, Kalyan, Karmala, Kolhapur, Lonavla, Malegaon, Mumbai (Dadar), Nagpur, Nashik, VKVSP Nashik, Pandharpur, Parbhani, Pune, VK Marathi Prakashan Vibhag, Pune, Ratnagiri, Sangli, Satara, Solapur, Thane, Vashi, Wai, Walchandnagar, Wardha, Washim & Yawatmal.

➤ **Mumbai** - 580 persons attended Yoga Vargas and Satras during the year. Over 3000 people were present at the Utsavs. Students numbering 560 took part in the competitions on Indian culture. There were camps and shibirs for 340 of them.

➤ **Nagpur** - Different camps and shibirs were attended by 213 persons and Yoga Satras and Vargas by 180 persons. One hundred and seventy families participated in Gayatri Yagna on Swamiji's Maha Samadhi Day. Two thousand students took part in cultural examinations and Quiz on Swamiji. Utsavs attracted nearly 900 people.

➤ **Pune-** Five hundred and ten people attended Yoga Satras and Vargas. A little more than 1500 students sat for cultural examinations and 450 attended personality development and other camps. Sale of books and novelties fetched over Rs.2,15,000/-

### **Orissa Prant (6)**

Balasore, Baripada, Betnoti, Brahmapur, Bhubaneswar & Keonjhar

➤ At **Baripada**, a Prerana Shibir was held for 103 students. There was a good sale of Kendra publications and a total number of 3,500 persons attended the Utsavs organized by the branch center.

➤ At **Bhubaneswar**, 300 students from 40 schools and 220 students of 15 colleges took part in the competitions held for them. Thirty families participated in Amritha Surabhi scheme. Mananeeya B. Nivedita inaugurated an exhibition during Samarth Bharat Parva. More than 500 persons visited the exhibition.

### **Purva Prant**

**Bihar (3)** - Bhagalpur, Gaya & Mongher

**Jharkhand (3)** - Chandil, Jamshedpur & Ranchi.

**West Bengal (2)** - Kolkata & Suri

**Kolkata** - Universal Brotherhood Day was celebrated at 4 places. About 200 students participated in different competitions and 155 students received prizes. A total of 750 people attended the programmes. On Sadhana Diwas, 130 people offered Pushpanjali to a picture of Mananeeya Eknathji and some Karyakartas read selections from his 'Sadhana of Service'. Geeta Jayanti was celebrated at 3 places with modest attendance. Samartha Bharat Parva

was observed at different places in Kolkata Mahanagar. A colourful procession by 3000 students, Yoga Pradarshan and demonstration, a drama based on Swamiji's boyhood days by the participants of Bala Samskara Varga, distribution of books to students, lectures, presentation of VIVEKVANI, a "Geeti Alekhya" (songs interspersed with narration) on the life of Swami Vivekananda were some of the events during this period. A 3-day residential Shibir in the premises of Bharat Sevashram Sangh at Ganga Sagar for 20 participants and 4 non-residential Vyaktitva Vikas Shibir for 160 students in different age groups were also conducted.

### **Rajasthan Prant**

The Kendra work in Rajasthan is carried out in 4 Vibhags comprising 7 Nagars, 32 Vistars and 13 Samparka sthans. The programmes and the number of participants were as under:

Guru Purnima was celebrated at five places. Seventeen persons from Arunachal Pradesh visited Ajmer, Beavar, Bhilwara, Gulabpura, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Rajsamand and Udaipur, on a goodwill tour. (Please see also under Vivekananda Kendra Arun Jyoti Project). A bookstall was run during an International Seminar at Kishangarh. Two thousand copies of Geeta Sandesh were sold.

**Uttar Prant** consists of three Vibhags viz., Delhi Mahanagar, Uttar Pradesh & Himachal. **Delhi Mahanagar Vibhag** has seven centers in Dakshin Delhi, Uttar Delhi, Paschim Delhi, Poorva Delhi, Madhya Delhi, Dwaraka and Ghaziabad. A personality development camp for over 100 students, purposeful Samparka with 250 students in 4 colleges, a youth meet

S.No.	Programme	Participants
1	Sanskara Vargas	376 at 22 places
2	Yoga Vargas (8) & Satras ( 4)	320
3	Universal Brotherhood Day	900 at 6 places
4	Sadhana Diwas	120 at 5 five places
5	Geeta Jayanti	180 at 6 places
6	Samartha Bharat Parva	3,770 at 19 places
7	Cultural competitions in Ajmer, Bhilwara & Jodhpur	5,500 students from 93 schools & 278 colleges
8	Vyaktitva Vikas Shibirs (9)	781
9	Other Shibirs (2)	115

of 24 students of IIT Delhi, regular periodical Yoga Satras for students, faculties and their family members of IIT & Indraprastha University, sale of 250 copies of India's Contribution to the World Thought & Culture to various institutions were the highlights of the Kendra activities in Delhi.

**Himachal Vibhag** has centers at Nagdandi and at Jammu in J & K, Kangra, Palampur and Shimla in Himachal Pradesh and Dehra Dun in Uttaranchal.

The Kendra workers and patrons from **Nagdandi** arranged a Bhandara during the observance and celebration of Kshir Bhavani Yatra near Srinagar (J&K) to provide food to all the pilgrims. This and the relief to the families affected by terrorism and vocational training of girls and women were the major work in Jammu & Kashmir.

In Himachal Pradesh, a well-designed building has been constructed at **Shimla**. A Chatravas (students hostel) is run to benefit ten colleges and University students from different parts of Himachal Pradesh studying at Shimla.. During the celebration of Vivekananda Jayanti, Hon'ble Shri V.S. Kokje, Governor of Himachal

Pradesh, Maj. Gen. R.S. Maheta, Commander of 9 Corp and Swami Shivasevananda of Ramakrishna Tapovan Ashram in Solan District, addressed the gathering. Two very senior soldiers of Indian National Army who had fought British Forces were honoured on the occasion and everybody present was moved with patriotic feelings and emotion. A well run library at **Kangra** was found to be useful to the public in general and youth and children in particular.

**UP Vibhag** has centers at Lucknow, Prayag, Bareilly, Varanasi, Etah. All the Vargas, Utsavs and Shibirs were organized. At Lucknow on the occasion of Gita Jayanti a Samuhik Surya Namaskar Programme was organized. 875 students (boys & girls) from 16 colleges participated enthusiastically. Shri Venkateshwarlu, Secretary, Dept of Revenue, Govt of UP, graced the occasion and encouraged all participants with his brief address. A team of 18 students applied themselves diligently to train and prepare the students and brought them closer to Swamiji's thoughts.



### Shraddhanjali

Vivekananda Kendra regrets the demise of the following personalities who were a source of great strength to the organization and to our society and offers its respectful homage to their memory.

1. Shri M.M. Lal, I.A.S, a close associate of Mananeeya Eknathji Ranade
2. Shri Vishnukant Shastri, Ex-Governor of U.P.
3. Swami Ranganathanandaji, President, Sri Ramakrishna Math, Belur
4. Shri H. V. Seshadri, Joint General Secretary, R.S.S.
5. Shri Satish Deshpande, Kendra Karyakarta, Bangalore.
6. Shri Om Prakash Longoni, Shillong, a close associate of Mananeeya Eknathji.
7. Dr. Sridhar Pai, Kendra well-wisher, who had donated a building site for Vivekananda Kendra Vedic Foundation, Kodungallur.
8. Shri K. Mahadevan, General Body Member & Vanaprasthi Karyakarta
9. Shri RMKV Viswanathan, Industrialist and Kendra well-wisher

#### Exercpts from the letter written by Swami Vivekananda to Alasinga Perumal

*....It is not the work of a day, and the path is full of the most deadly thorns. But Parthasarathi is ready to be our Sârathi – we know that. And in His name and with eternal faith in Him, set fire to the mountain of misery that has been heaped upon India for ages – and it shall be burned down. Come then, look it in the face, brethren, it is a grand task, and we are so low. But we are the sons of Light and children of God. Glory unto the Lord, we will succeed. Hundreds will fall in the struggle, hundreds will be ready to take it up. I may die here unsuccessful, another will take up the task. You know the disease, you know the remedy, only have faith. Do not look up to the so-called rich and great; do not care for the heartless intellectual writers, and their cold-blooded newspaper articles. Faith, sympathy – fiery faith and fiery sympathy! Life is nothing, death is nothing, hunger nothing, cold nothing. Glory unto the Lord – march on, the Lord is our General. Do not look back to see who falls – forward – onward! Thus and thus we shall go on, brethren. One falls, and another takes up the work.....*

## An Appeal

From the report it could be seen that all activities and programmes of Vivekananda Kendra are done with the help of its well-wishers. Vivekananda Kendra continues to need their unlimited support and help. One can associate with its sublime nation building programmes in any one of the following ways:

### 1) *An opportunity to serve the needy*

*a) If you are a young man or woman with an urge to serve the needy, are unencumbered, at least a graduate, in good health, willing to respond to challenges in the interest of the nation anywhere, you are welcome to join Vivekananda Kendra. It offers you a life-long security to meet our basic needs so that you can devote yourself to the work assigned without any anxiety.*

*b) If you are a retired person, in good health, wanting to place your professional experience and volunteer to serve in any branch of Vivekananda Kendra either full time or part time for a reasonable period of time, you may please contact the General Secretary for further details.*

*c) If you are a professionally qualified person interested in teaching, a rewarding career awaits you in the educational institutions of Vivekananda Kendra. Write to the General Secretary with particulars of your credentials.*

*d) You may also help by motivating the youth to join Vivekananda Kendra or recommend to your acquaintances to attend the camps Kendra conducts or to subscribe for its journals and publications or buy diaries, calendars and Greeting Cards. The details of the various publications brought out by Vivekananda Kendra Prakashan Trust appear elsewhere in this issue.*

### 2. Be a philanthropist by sponsoring

Programme	Contribution
A Seminar	Rs.2 lakhs
Arun Jyoti activities for a month	Rs.2 lakhs
Higher education of an Arunachalee student	Rs.50,000/-
Medical Camp	Rs.50,000/-
Anandalaya for children's nonformal education	Rs.50,000/-
A Symposium	Rs.50,000/-
National Integration Camp	Rs.25,000/-
Maintenance of a Social Worker for a year	Rs.20,000/-
General donation	Your choice

The contributions are eligible for exemption under Section 80GA of the Income Tax Act. All remittances may kindly be made in favour of Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari 629 702, by bank drafts/cheques payable at State Bank of India, **Vivekanandapuram** (Kanyakumari) or through ICICI Bank Account No.

**Vivekanandapuram**

This is situated at the entrance to Kanyakumari, about 2 kms from the railway station. It has all facilities for a comfortable stay, i.e. good accommodation, clean canteen, a branch of State Bank of India, Post Office, Telephone booth facility, a library cum reading room, a dispensary, a Green Health Home offering Siddha Medicines twice a week. A free bus service to Kanyakumari and back at frequent intervals is available. Here are the inspiring

Gangotri exhibition on the life and attainments of late Shri Eknathji Ranade, the thought provoking Vivekananda Pictorial Exhibition, Gramodaya Park with demonstration models of rural technology and a herbal nursery. Vivekananda Mandap with an imposing statue of Swamiji, Eknathji's Samadhi and a well laid garden are on the way to the beach wherefrom one can watch the early morning sunrise and its rays on Vivekananda Rock Memorial.

The tariff for the different types of accommodation is as under-

S.No	Cottages & rooms with attached bath	
1.	AC cottage with two double-bedded rooms	Rs.2000/- per day + 12% tax
2.	AC double-bedded room	500/- per day + 10% tax
	<b>Additional person</b>	<b>100/- per day</b>
3.	Deluxe 4-bedded room	350/- per day + 5% tax
4.	Deluxe 3-bedded room	300/- per day + 5% tax
5.	Four bedded room	250/- per day + 5% tax
6.	Double bedded room	150/- per day
	<b>Additional person</b>	<b>15/- per day</b>
7.	Four bedded in Annex	180/- per day
	<b>Additional person</b>	<b>10/- per day</b>
	<b>Rooms with common bath</b>	
1.	Three bedded room	45/- per day
2.	Big hall (without beds)	250/- per day + 5% tax
3.	New hall (with carpet & pillows)	300/- per day + 5% tax
4.	Small hall (without beds)	120/-
5.	Hall with 6 beds	100/- per day
	<b>Additional person</b>	<b>5/- per day</b>
6.	Dormitory - Single bed with locker	15/- per day

Air conditioned cottage with double bedded room – Rs.2000/- + 12.5% tax

**Dormitory accommodation with locker facilities - Rs.15/- per bed.**

**For further details: Email: [campus@vivekanandakendra.org](mailto:campus@vivekanandakendra.org)**

**Regular Activities of Kendra-**

The regular work at all the branch centers spread across the country comprises of the following activities :

**1.Karyapaddhati – Yoga Varga, Swadhyaya Varga & Sanskar Varga. -**

These are the regular activities by which man making (karyakarta nirman) and nation building (creating the ideal social order) is taking place.

**2.Utsavas – Guru Purnima, Universal Brotherhood Day, Sadhana Diwas, Gita Jayanti and Samartha Bharat Parva with Vivekananda Jayanti -** all the Utsavs are for the - Shaktisamvardhan, Shaktiparikshan and Shaktipradarshan.

**3.Shibirs – Vyaktitwa Vikas Shibir, Yuva Prerana Shibir and Other Shibirs -** are organised for selecting the right material through 4 Ps - pick up, pin up, pull up and pin up and

engage them through the process - Lok Sampark, Lok Sangrah, Lok Sanskar and Lok Vyavastha

**4.Karyakarta Prashikshan Shibirs-** at three levels, are organised to train the Dayitvavan Karyakartas so that the Kendra work will go on with one mind and in the proper direction.

**5.Sales of cultural literature and enrolling subscribers and donors -** is to reach the educated class and orient their thinking process in the direction of man making and nation building.

**6.Enrolment of patrons -** this is the monetary help for the full-time workers who are working day and night selflessly and our society is committed to look after their YOGAKSHEM by enrolling themselves as patrons and also inspiring others to do so.

Details are as follows -

**Karyapaddhati**

Names	Sanskarvarga		Swadhyayavarga		Yogavarga	
	No	Attended	No	Attended	No	Attended
Arunachal	34	1346	26	374	16	979
Assam	65	1675	23	246	27	453
Purva	9	230	7	115	12	217
Andaman	4	82	2	48	—	—
Orissa	8	110	7	88	10	100
Uttar	16	280	7	56	3	180
Rajasthan	31	689	8	115	3	33
MP	66	1370	14	132	4	30
Gujarat	25	640	9	98	1	4
MahaRashtra	49	1057	24	274	16	208
Dakshin	219	7835	18	557	23	653
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>15314</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>2103</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>2857</b>

**Sampark Tantra**

Names	Yoga Satra		Cultural Competn...		Mahavidyalaeen Sampark
	Prant	No	Attended	Registered	Attended
Arunachal	6	100	Nil	Nil	7
Assam	65	1099	1866	1449	103
Purva	10	191	2652	2192	6
Andaman	-	-	675	-	-
Orissa	4	86	81	46	21
Uttar	33	662	7638	6743	34
Rajasthan	8	142	7848	6642	27
MP	21	683	20034	17832	75
Gujarat	22	433	6391	5223	82
MahaRashtra	151	2043	6927	3510	172
Dakshin	96	2453	29655	29603	472
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>7892</b>	<b>83767</b>	<b>73240</b>	<b>999</b>

**Utsav A**

Names	Guru Purnima		Universal Brotherhood Day		Sadhana Divas	
	Prant	No	Attended	No	Attended	No
Arunachal	41	11271	46	14264	32	9142
Assam	33	3724	30	8492	28	5230
Purva	6	456	7	2605	8	212
Andaman	9	1200	9	4200	-	-
Orissa	11	935	13	2500	9	802
Uttar	16	727	7	875	6	192
Rajasthan	7	646	5	852	5	122
MP	8	1467	5	425	3	220
Gujarat	10	375	7	802	7	182
Maharashtra	35	1795	33	4286	19	575
Dakshin	15	3106	71	10052	65	3229
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>25702</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>49353</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>19906</b>

**Utsav B**

Names	Gita Jayanti		Samarth Bharat Parv	
	Prant	No	Attended	No
Arunachal	47	6029	64	23984
Assam	31	5442	33	9960
Purva	11	472	11	3550
Andaman	-	-	-	-
Orissa	11	825	11	1467
Uttar	8	1488	5	1350
Rajasthan	7	453	20	3803
MP	4	310	28	6225
Gujarat	9	1847	34	12340
Maharashtra	24	1095	74	18020
Dakshin	21	3184	149	22636
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>21145</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>103335</b>

**Karyakarta Prashikshan Shibir (KPS), Dayitvavan Karyakartas & Joined as Poornakaleen  
Samskar Varg Karyakarta Shibir(SVKS)**

Names	KPS Sthaniya	KPS Prantiya	KPS Rashtriya	Dayitavan Karyakarta	Joined as Purnakaleen	SVKS
Prant	Attended	Attended	Attended	No	No	Attended
Arunachal	108	45	6	737	16	17
Assam	196	26	3	624	6	7
Purva	—	—	—	74	—	1
Andaman	—	—	—	180	—	—
Orissa	49	—	1	70	—	4
Uttar	26	30	1	124	—	21
Rajasthan	62	27	2	119	2	67
MP	77	35	3	529	1	68
Gujarat	44	16	2	161	—	31
Maharashtra	213	30	15	315	3	87
Dakshin	119	—	3	224	7	39
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>3177</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>342</b>

**Different Shibirs**

Names	Students		Youths		Others	
Prant	No	Attended	No	Attended	No	Attended
Arunachal	85	3119	12	658	8	603
Assam	32	1376	19	646	178	10817
Purva	13	975	3	69	1	20
Andaman	2	150	—	—	—	—
Orissa	3	140	4	259	—	—
Uttar	2	678	2	227	1	30
Rajasthan	8	618	5	279	7	633
MP	16	2828	1	172	9	1546
Gujarat	10	421	5	90	4	213
Maharashtra	25	1505	24	1092	14	463
Dakshin	21	1111	9	694	36	2098
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>12921</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>4186</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>16423</b>

**Enrolment of Pariposhak, Subscribers and Arunachal Bandhu Parivar (ABP)**

Names	Patron Enroled	Subscribers Enroled	ABP Enroled
Prant	No	No	No
Arunachal	1041	561	855
Assam	5397	1512	75
Purva	78	50	13
Andaman	145	1000	—
Orissa	14	40	—
Uttar	95	82	2
Rajasthan	55	107	29
MP	63	52	22
Gujarat	152	245	44
Maharashtra	464	212	152
Dakshin	3276	1858	3430
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10780</b>	<b>5719</b>	<b>4622</b>

**Sales of book 'India's Contribution to the World Thought and Culture (ICWTC)' and distribution of  
Gita Sandesh and Sales of Publications**

Names	ICWTC	Gita Sandesh	Kendra Publication	Novelties	Other Publication
Prant	Sold	No	Rs	Rs	Rs
Arunachal	—	7200	276960	916298	158120
Assam	7	4043	236149	429058	69743
Purva	1	1863	72346	—	8000
Andaman	—	—	64000	16000	15000
Orrisa	4	1180	45031	780	11624
Uttar	31	827	226800	120284	104232
Rajasthan	11	2972	64631	49005	53015
MP	3	5305	—	128803	—
Gujarat	4	4442	180568	30258	24195
Maharashtra	27	3091	472180	201833	98055
Dakshin	34	5756	1307074	203602	611933
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>36679</b>	<b>2945739</b>	<b>2095921</b>	<b>1153917</b>

**Branch Centers**

There are more than 208 branch centers including projects and schools as indicated below:

S.No	State	Number
01.	Andamans	9
02.	Andhra Pradesh	1
03.	Arunachal Pradesh	43
04.	Assam	28
05.	Bihar	2
06.	Chandigarh	1
07.	Delhi	7
08.	Goa	2
09.	Gujarat	17
10.	Haryana	1
11.	Himachal Pradesh	2
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	2
13.	Jharkand	3
14.	Karnataka	5
15.	Kerala	3
16.	Madhya Pradesh	9
17.	Maharashtra	40
18.	Nagaland	1
19.	Orissa	6
20.	Rajasthan	9
21.	Tamil Nadu	13
22.	Uttar Pradesh	5
23.	West Bengal	2
<b>Total number of branches</b>		<b>208</b>

**THE BRIDGE IS STILL STRONG**

*The Swami was by no means unknown in the Western world. During his first visit there, which had extended from the middle of 1893 to the close of 1896, his name had become familiar to almost every newspaper-reading American. By some he had been loved and revered, by others, feared and reviled; but few, if any, had looked upon him with indifference. His talks at the august and celebrated Parliament of Religions, held in Chicago in September of 1893, had revealed to an astounded American public the moral and spiritual grandeur of India's religious culture. He himself...his majestic presence, his keen wit and powerful intellect, his unmistakable and towering spirituality—had been no less an eye-opener. After the Parliament, the fame of the young Hindu monk (he was then thirty years old) had steadily increased, as had his influence. During the last months of 1893 and throughout most of 1894 he had traveled, lecturing, from place to place in the mid-western, southern, and eastern States of America. In 1895 and 1896 he had worked primarily in New York and London, teaching in both cities the basic ideals and practices of the Vedanta philosophy and religion and spreading the message of his great Master, Sri Ramakrishna, of whom he was the chief disciple and apostle... Over and over, in a cascade of words, he had exhorted the Hindu people to live by and for the great ideals that had sprung from the very soul of the country itself, and to make them real. "By stimulating (the Hindu people) I want to bring life into them", he had said; "to this I have dedicated my life. I will rouse them through the infallible power of Vedic Mantras. I am born to proclaim to them that fearless message—'Arise! Awake!'"*

*Source: Swami Vivekananda—His Second Visit to the West—New Discoveries. By Marie Louise Burke, an American author.*