



## Edhiroli Echo of Voluntariat



### News Bulletin of Voluntariat for the Months November, December'18 & January ~ 2019

54, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Nethaji Nagar-1, Oupalam, Pondicherry- 605 001, India.

Web site: [www.volontariat-inde.org](http://www.volontariat-inde.org) e-mail: [volont@volontariat.in](mailto:volont@volontariat.in)

Dear Friends, Partners & Beloved sponsors,

November & December was the period of both joy and depressing moments in Tamil Nadu. It started off with the Diwali - the festival of lights on November 6<sup>th</sup>, it is all about worshipping the deities, burning crackers, having sweets and making merry with the loved ones. A week ahead, on November 16<sup>th</sup> Tamil Nadu & Puducherry (karaikal Region) was wrecked havoc by the cyclone GAJA. This cyclonic storm crossed Tamil Nadu & Puducherry coast between Nagapattinam & Vedaranniyam in the early hours between 00.30 to 2.30 am with a wind speed of 110 – 120 kmph and also brought heavy rain in the coastal districts. The strong wind damaged several thatched houses, electric poles and uprooted many trees. Holidays was announced for schools and colleges. Early steps were taken by the State governments and about 80,000 people were evacuated to 470 relief camps in Tamil Nadu. Gaja has entirely devastated the livelihoods of farmers in the four coastal districts. About 30000 hectares of Coconut trees and cash crops were damaged, mostly uprooted. Totally 56,000 hectares of crops and trees were destroyed due to the cyclone.

On humanitarian basis many organizations and individuals have taken initiative in supporting the cyclone victims by providing them Relief and Rehabilitation services in turn of securing the life of the people. However the relief announced by the State for loss of livestock and crops is grossly insufficient.

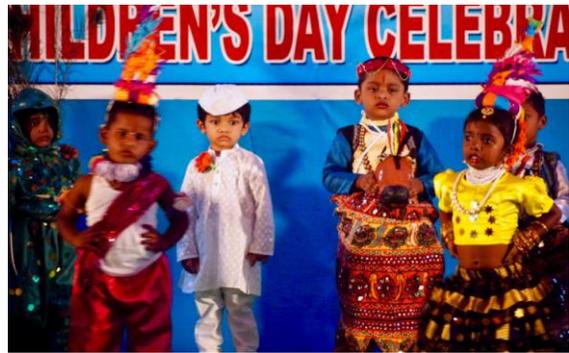
Then the schools were resumed after holidays and the syllabus for the half – yearly exams were screwed up as the exams dates were nearing. The exams were scheduled from 10<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> December and now the children are on festive break to celebrate Christmas and New Year 2019. Pondicherry encounters a pleasant sunshine in the daylight hours and a relatively low temperature around 20°C in the latter part of the day.

Here's to a bright **New Year** and a fond farewell to the old; here's to the things that are yet to come, and to the memories that we hold.” “May everyone have a prosperous **New Year**.” “Wishing each and everyone a happy, healthy **New Year**.” “May the **new year** bless you with health, wealth and happiness.”

## Broadcast from Sakthi Vihar

### Children's Day Celebration:

Children's Day is celebrated in India every year with great enthusiasm on 14<sup>th</sup> of November which is the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the First Prime Minister of Independent India, because he loved children so much. At Sakthi Vihar, the programs were scheduled on the same evening with Crèche & KG children, Evening class students, Nila Illam girls & boys, Souriya home boys, Sandesh Illam children and along with a new inclusion of Kilijikuppam children. Children portrayed



Chacha (Uncle) Nehru with a rose which symbolized love and affection. They also entertained us in remembering Chacha Nehru's great works for the country. M & Mme. de Blic, our guests, EC members, staff, teachers and children enjoyed the show.

### Christmas Celebration:

Christmas is one of the major festivals celebrated by the people across the globe. People celebrate this festival with great enthusiasm and with lots of preparations and decorations. It is celebrated every year on 25<sup>th</sup> of December. It is also known as the Feast day of Christ and celebrated in the honour of the birth of Jesus Christ. So along with our tiny tots of Crèche & KG section, the Suppose Christmas was celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> December at Sakthi Vihar. The kids had put up a wonderful show exhibiting the birth of Jesus Christ along with prayers, carols and dances with cute movements. The EC members, Director & Asst. Directors, Staffs, Teachers and children enjoyed the show. At noon, all were served with lunch which was fun & entertainment.



### Broadcast from Parrainage:

A special word of THANKS by the children to all the sponsors of all the committees of Volontariat for their hearty wishes of Christmas & New Year 2019. All the children were overloaded with a big smile for the gifts and wishes that they had received from their God Parents. They were found to be very cheerful in showing their festive gifts to their parents and friends. Meanwhile the children are in progress writing thanks letter to their own God Parents.



### **Broadcast from Dispensary:**



On behalf of Health Ministry, Government of Pondicherry, an appreciation certificate and a memento was presented to our organisation Volontariat for conducting regular blood donation camps. On organizing such camps we are able to cater the demand of the blood banks of the public hospitals, so as to serve the needy.

### **Broadcast from Kilinjikuppam:**

#### **Eye Camp :**

On behalf of Volontariat, an Eye camp was arranged for the Kilijikuppam students by Aravind Eye Hospital on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018. All 85 children were given a complete screening test and the ophthalmologists gave advices to the children on protection of eye and aliments that are to be consumed for better vision. After the examination, 3 students were opted for spectacles and 4 students were referred for further investigation.



### **Christmas Market:**

On 15<sup>th</sup> December, an exhibition sale was organized at Lycée Français with the advent of the events like Christmas and New Year. The hand woven fabrics and made-ups from Atelier Shanthi were exhibited. The products such as soaps, spirulina and cleansing agents (phenol, soap oil, washing powder), bracelets, chains, paintings were also available for sale. This event gave a platform to exhibit our products and get the attraction of the local population.

### **Clown Show:**

By Clowns Sans Frontières, a clown show was put for Sponsor children at Shakthi Vihar, Nila Illam and Kilijikuppam on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> respectively. The show was exhibited on awareness of mosquitoes and their diseases. Children enjoyed very much.



## Broadcast from Nila Illam :



On behalf of Auroville Earth Institute, an architect Mrs. Meenakashi Gokhale presented simple, fun and spectacular scientific experiments to our Nila Illam children in 2 batches comprising 20 in a group for an hour. The demonstration helped the children to know about the behaviour of earth as a granular matter, the fundamental role of water, properties of clay and a detail explanation on the transformation of natural raw material into a building material. The children were found to be very interested and initiative in learning about the behavior of earth and the children commented that these concepts are helpful in their day today lessons of Geography.

## Pongal Celebration:



Pongal or Thai Pongal was celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> January, the first day of Thai (tamil month) according to the Tamil calendar and this day is dedicated to the Sun God. This month signals the end of winter and the onset of spring, for the next six months, the days are longer and warmer. As you all know very well, Pongal is celebrated for 4 days. Volontariat always enjoys celebrating Pongal at TTK farm by saying thanks to the Sun God for a good harvest and also for the cattles that helps in farming. All the children & staff of Volontariat were present at TTK and there were many foreign guests who were interested in this event had booked their presence beforehand. The guests were given a warm welcome in a traditional way by enjoying the dance & music of Parai, (the oldest drums) which is the symbol of Tamil culture. Our guests also danced and enjoyed the rythms.

The farm was decorated vibrantly with colour papers, banana trees, sugarcanes etc. The cows were also decorated with their horns painted and balloons tied up around the neck. A large pot made out of clay was placed to cook Pongal in the traditional manner with fire wood. With lots of prayers to Sun God, the preparation of cooking Pongal was done, meanwhile the guests enjoyed the cultural dances & events put up by the children of Volontariat. It was a colourful feast to eyes and for all the people present there. We exchanged our greetings by shouting *Pongalo Pongal* and then we had a great lunch with children, colleagues and guests. It was a most memorable Pongal celebration and everyone enjoyed the complete package.



**Cultural Programme at Singapore & Malaysia:**

On behalf of Volontariat, our treasurer Mr. V. Narayanasamy had organized a cultural event at Arunagirinadhar Mandram at Iphoh as a part of the Annual Day celebration. He had invited 5 students of Sandesh Illam and 2 accompanying teachers to participate in this cultural event held at Singapore & Malaysia from December 26<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Our students exhibited a



wonderful classical dance program at the Annual Day celebration and also at Malaysia & Joghur temples. The students received certificates and awards which was a proud moment for Volontariat and the parents of these children. After the event, the children went for a round trip in Malaysia & Singapore and they found to be were excited in this trip. They visited many places which was so interesting like Twin Towers, Batu Caves (Lord Murugan Temple) and enjoyed doing shopping.



The students of Sandesh Illam, the management of Volontariat and Sandesh Illam specially thank our treasurer for giving us this wonderful opportunity to expose the talents of the most privileged children. The parents also felt so happy and proud in sending their child to South East Asian countries for this cultural event. The children were so happy in narrating their stories and souvenir to their friends and parents.

#####