



SATSANG PROJECT UPDATES

The Satsang Vidyalaya, Madanapalle

- ❖ It has been an invigorating term at The Satsang Vidyalaya, Madanapalle. Students returned to school after the summer break to an action-packed term. New initiatives this year include Organic Farming, a Science Activity Program, and Pottery. The Tinkering and Library program have been further bolstered.
- ❖ This year, there has been a renewed focus on making the school greener by planting trees and starting a small vegetable garden. Students and teachers planted flowering plants like hibiscus and champa, and several trees including papaya, pomegranate, and mango. As part of landscaping efforts, work tables have been installed under trees for students to enjoy the outdoors while learning. We were fortunate to draw upon the expertise of Mr S. K. Dhawan, a senior agricultural scientist from Jammu, who provided inputs on organic farming and also demonstrated composting techniques. The harvest has yielded tomatoes, brinjals, and green chillies for the school kitchen.
- ❖ A Fine-arts Sculpture Workshop was conducted by Mr Srikant Deodhar of Pen, Maharashtra in July. Mr Deodhar, a fourth-generation sculptor, spent a few days with us, and the children had a free run making statues and reliefs, and learning the art and science of sculpting with clay. The students are also enjoying pottery sessions with a local professional potter, Mr S. Vemanarayana. Students first visited his village, Vempalle, to see his workshop and the sites from where fine clay is obtained. Senior school students are learning to use a potter's wheel along with free-hand pottery techniques.
- ❖ The Sciences and Tinkering program received a boost with a separate hall demarcated for activities this year. Dr Soumini Vijay from The University of Queensland, Australia, conducted a week-long workshop. We learnt about emerging environmental health risks, including the perils of plastic and chemicals like DDT, and research with sea turtles and dugongs.
- ❖ A Science Activity program was initiated this year, wherein students engage in hands-on experimentation on topics beyond the curriculum. The program is designed to foster curiosity and a deeper understanding of the world. Activities included extracting natural pigments from plants; appreciating the interconnectedness of plants and human beings for survival; examining cloud formation in Madanapalle and linking it to weather prediction; and uncovering the natural history of the region by identifying rocks and geological features. In this program, art, music, dance, and drama go hand-in-hand with scientific enquiry and experimentation to engender rich learning.
- ❖ As part of the Tinkering Program, a fully functional tool shed with soldering station has been added. Students are extending their capabilities to building drones, and dismantling and assembling an internal combustion engine. Senior school students apprenticed with a bicycle repair shop over the Dussehra holidays and set up a bicycle clinic in the school. Break-time sees queues of children eager to repair their bicycles.
- ❖ Ganesh Chaturthi and Independence Day were celebrated with customary zeal and fanfare. We look forward to another term of joyous learning.





The Satsang Foundation

with our minds put together, may we understand

Satsang Swasthya Kendra

- ❖ **Well Womens' Camp 2019:** Sustaining the pledge towards preventive health care, after the first successful Well Womens' Camp in Nov 2017, Satsang Swasthya Kendra organised a cervical cancer screening camp on 14 and 15 July 2019 at Satsang Swasthya Kendra, Madanapalle and The Peepal Grove School, Sadum. Volunteers facilitated execution of the camp.
- ❖ Considering the increasing number of patients with hypothyroidism, Dr Minnal Arun, an endocrinologist from Chennai joined the camp on request. Dr. Smita Vats and Dr Ashok Vats, along with Dr Rajani Padmaraj, were invited to the camp. Pap Smear screening was sponsored by Dr Suresh Mitta, a pathologist from Pavithra Laboratory, Chittoor. Pathology reports were prepared by Apollo Hospital, Chittoor. A total of 145 women participated in the camp while Pap smears were done for 91 women. Two participants required further follow-up and were connected to MLL Hospital, Madanapalle and with a surgical team from CMC, Vellore. Both patients are recuperating post-surgery, with periodic guidance and counseling from The Satsang Swasthya. The camp was well-received and we expect to facilitate awareness, early diagnosis, and appropriate treatment in the future.
- ❖ **Health Monitoring at TSV Madanapalle:** Regular health monitoring through the Satsang Swasthya Kendra is essential to our students' well-being. This year, we were glad to have Dr. Naresh back with us for paediatric consultations, along with Dr. Madhuri (Dentist) and Dr. Sudheera (Child psychologist). Health screening and dental check-ups have also taken place at The Satsang Rural Vidyalaya, Siriguntalavaripalle.

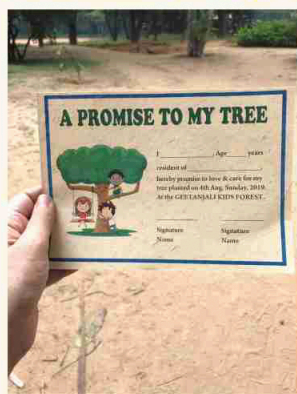


MyTree Delhi-NCR

- ❖ MyTree volunteers initiated a tree plantation activity with children in Geetanjali Enclave, a residential colony in south Delhi.
- ❖ The project began with an hour-long sensitisation workshop on the need for trees, with children from the neighbourhood. The workshop included a short animated film, a discussion on trees, and a pot-preparation and seed-planting exercise. Individual pots were taken home by the children to care for and observe over the following days. In the first week of August, children and their parents gathered in a neighbourhood park that had land available for planting tree saplings. Children picked their spots around the planting site and their saplings, and signed a “contract” to care for the plant through its growth. In all, 30 saplings were planted, including reetha, jaal, peeloo, khejdi, bael, lasoda, kaitha, harra and baheda. The children were given certificates acknowledging their involvement with MyTree at the Independence Day celebratory event in the colony. The project has been planned and executed as a pilot project serving as a model to engage residents in other localities of Delhi-NCR to increase the green cover of the city.
- ❖ The MyTree NCR team has also been monitoring the progress of 2,000 saplings planted in Noida (Sector 137), and are happy to report an excellent survival rate. The area promises to become a dense patch of trees providing relief to not only the growing human population in the area, but also – most importantly – to the birds, insects, and other animals that are threatened by the fast-growing concrete jungle around them. The monitoring of the Aravalli Biodiversity Park project also continues. The area planted by MyTree volunteers has now been fenced to keep out nilgai and a drip-irrigation system has been installed to ensure that the trees receive adequate water in Delhi-NCR's dry climate.

MyTree Mumbai

- ❖ Tree plantation activities were arranged near the Bombay Scottish School Powai on 4 July. The monitors of each class participated in the event with the Principal expressing appreciation for the overall initiative. The Mumbai Kendra has taken over activities of the study centre at Aarey in July this year. The project was initiated with the handing over of a MyTree kit to each student. 40 students have enrolled from Grade 1 to IX. The volunteers from Mumbai Kendra visit the Centre every week. An awareness program was organised in Pancholia School, Kandivali on 20 September. Sixty MyTree kits were distributed. On 21 September, volunteer conducted an awareness program in SVP School, Kandivali where 100 MyTree kits were distributed. The President of Malad Rotary Club participated in the program.



Kerala Kendra

- ❖ Satsang Kerala Medicare is working among small tribal settlements near Trivandrum. The Medical team visited Kuzhiyum, near Nedumkandam, in the last weeks of July and September. Eye-tests were done and spectacles provided. In September, a survey was done by the team in Ponmudi to check the availability of medical facilities to conduct a medical camp in the coming months.

Mumbai Kendra

- ❖ Walk of Hope Awareness programs are being conducted periodically to spread the message of peace and harmony. The Kendra organised a screening of the Walk of Hope film at the Matunga Pioneer Education Trust's Lions Pioneer English School and Junior College. Over 500 students participated in 3 screenings. On 6 and 7 September, the Kendra organised screenings of the film in Andhra Education Society High School, Wadala for ~1300 students from 5th to 9th standard. The Walk of Hope film was screened for children at Girgaum on the occasion of the Ganesh Chaturthi festivities on 8 September. On 14 September, the Kendra organised the screening of the film at APJ Abdul Kalam SIES School at Ghatkopar. The response was overwhelming, with over 1200 students participating.

Delhi Kendra

- ❖ The Delhi Kendra continues to engage in the MyTree projects reported above. The Chanda Satsang Vidyalaya, Lathira, also an initiative of the Delhi Kendra has had an active term with visitors like Capt. Nivedita Bhasin. A summer camp was also held in the school as was the annual health camp.

Education Initiatives

- ❖ **The Satsang Rural Vidyalaya, Siriguntalavaripalle:** Hands-on learning through field visits remains a focus. This term, students learnt about topics as varied as the silk industry and silk worm farming, plastics-from manufacturing to disposal, and farming-from fields to mills. Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated with making clay idols. Independence day celebrations included flag hoisting, songs and skits.
- ❖ **The Chanda Satsang Vidyalaya, Lathira:** Capt. Nivedita Bhasin visited the school and spent the day giving flight to the dreams of the children. Capt. Nivedita Bhasin was the youngest woman pilot in world civil aviation history to command a commercial jet aircraft. During her visit to CSVL, she took the children on a journey exploring types of aircraft, flight and life as a pilot, through an exciting mix of conversation, demonstration, and activities. The school also organised a summer camp, wherein children made mats from factory cloth waste. Being from nomadic tribes who are traditionally very good with their hands, their skills came to the fore.
- ❖ **The Peepal Grove School, Sadum:** A number of programs to facilitate hand-on learning have taken place this term. Students visited Anandwan, the township created by Baba Amte for leprosy patients and observed how a self sustaining world had come up with the efforts of committed workers. Students also visited a natural farm at Pulicherla. Class 9 students spent a week in Wardha carrying out a village survey. A new tennis court was inaugurated this term. Students have planted over 1000 saplings using the Miyawaki method in seven days culminating on Gandhi Jayanti. The dense mini forests are to come up in two separate plots on campus. The school also participated in the ISC Athletics Meet held in Hyderabad recently. The school table tennis team placed third, and a student of Class 12 won silver in the shot put event.



If you would like to participate as a volunteer, contribute financially or require more details about any of the projects, please contact: connect@satsang-foundation.org