

Parivaar

Year-end Newsletter (Oct to Dec 2018)

Dear Friends,

We are happy to present our Newsletter for Oct to Dec '18.

Parivaar has progressed leaps and bounds in this period, expanding both in West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of our supporters, well-wishers, volunteers, and mentors. Without your support this would not have been possible.

94 Community supported Day-Boarding Centres in MP (Parivaar Ramakrishna Vivekananda Seva Kutirs) - 8500 children being served





In 2017, we started work in a new geography of Madhya Pradesh. We had set a plan for ourselves for the Financial Year 2018-19 is to start at least 100 Community supported Day Boarding centres, each helping around 80 to 120 children in selected pockets of deprivation and malnourishment in various districts of Madhya Pradesh for children of the age-group 4 to 14 will be provided in these centres. They are called Sri Ramakrishna Vivekananda Seva Kutirs. 94 such centres are already in operation as on 15th December 2018. In all probability we will be exceeding the target.

Know More

<http://parivaar.org/second-front-after-14-years/>

250 more resident children admitted into Parivaar (Bengal)



In last 6 months we have admitted more than 250 children into Parivaar's Residential Institutions in Bengal. long-term education. They are from districts of Birbhum, Jhargram in West Bengal, and East Singhbhum in Jharkhand. The future of a transformed life through long-term education and other Life-Skills, along with an enriched childhood and safe and confident teenage awaits them. There are more than 2000 resident children at Parivaar Bengal in its institutions (Parivaar Vivekananda Sevashram for Boys and Parivaar Sarada Teertha for Girls).

New Residential Campus at Sandalpur (District Dewas)





We are building our second residential campus (after our Bengal institutions) in MP. The 17 acre campus - Parivaar Vivekananda Sevashrama - is located at Sandalpur in District Dewas and will be developed into separate Girls' and Boys' residential facilities, having a capacity of 2000 resident children. Right now the construction of 5 buildings (together around 75 thousand square feet) is in full swing for the first phase at a cost of Rs 9 Cr. This will be in operational by April 2019.

Pratham Books Mini-Libraries in each Seva Kutir



We now have mini-libraries of Pratham Books in each of our 87 Seva Kutirs in tribal villages in MP. These are portable, foldable, wall-mounted collections (120 books in each) carefully curated by us with Pratham Books. These are all story books of different kinds. Pratham Books is an initiative started by Mrs Rohini Nilekani.

Stupendous achievement of Surajmani Tudu



In December an unprecedented mixed gender football tournament was organised in Kolkata in which 48 teams from North-eastern states and Bengal (comprising of 5 each comprising 3 girls and 2 boys) contested. We hosted all teams from outside Kolkata (some 175 players and coaches stayed at Parivaar). Our team came as runner-up out of these 48 teams, but the extraordinary achievement was that the highest goal-scorer and 'Player of the Tournament' was Parivaar girl Surajmani Tudu who scored 14 goals - more than what any boy could . When the tournament began it was widely believed that it would be very difficult for the girls to score. Surajmani's achievement was so unprecedented that the leading Bengali daily Anandabazar Patrika brought out an article on her. That it is not at all easy to be written in Ananda Bazar Patrika is evident from the fact that in last 16 years of working in Bengal and running Bengal's largest free residential institution for destitute children very near to Kolkata, not for once has Parivaar featured in ABP. It is only glorious that one of our kids brings that about.

Sweaters distribution in all MP seva kutirs



8700 new sweaters distributed across 94 Seva Kutirs in MP

In the month of December we have distributed 8700 new sweaters to our children across 94 Seva Kutirs in 3 districts (Dewas, Sehore, Mandla) in MP. The sweater suppliers with their stock were ferried to each of the Kutirs and on the spot trial and delivery was done with the kids.

Parivaar's new Logo: Founder's Note



Parivaar has had a logo all these years since 2003 but in my heart of hearts I knew that it was not something I was fully satisfied with. Thus, I always considered it as a 'working logo'. I did not try to 'manufacture' a new logo and waited for right inspiration to come. My search ended during my fairly extensive study of Sister Nivedita last year when I spent significant amount of time over a few months studying and writing on Nivedita. Yes, the basic idea that I got hooked to was that of the 'Vajra'. To give a little background, one of the very first attempts to conceive and design a 'National Emblem (and flag)' were by Sister Nivedita in 1905-06. And for that she chose the 'Vajra' (The Thunderbolt). The Vajra had a long

history in Indian tradition symbolizing the 'power of selflessness'. The idea first occurred to Nivedita during a trip to Bodh-Gaya when she found that the 'Vajra' was a common Buddhist symbol – used in worship and other rituals. Indeed one of the earliest Bodhisattvas was referred to as Vajrapani (one with the 'Vajra' in the hand) considered as his protector and guide and signifying Buddha's power. In Tibet and Myanmar the Vajra stands for Buddha himself. The Lamas do their Puja holding a miniature 'Vajra' in their hand.

But how did the Vajra come to identified with 'power of selflessness'?



Writes Nivedita, “The gods, it is said, were looking for the divine weapon par excellence – and they were told that only if they could find a man willing to give his own bones for the substance of it, could the Invisible Sword be forged. Whereupon they trooped up to the rishi Dadhichi and asked for his bones for the purpose. The request sounded like a mockery. A man would give all but his own life-breath, assuredly, for a great end, but who, even to furnish forth a weapon for Indra, would hand over his body itself? To the rishi Dadhichi, however, this was no insuperable height of sacrifice. Smilingly he listened, smilingly he answered, and in that very moment laid himself down to die – yielding at a word the very utmost demanded of humanity.

Here then, we have the significance of the Vajra. The Selfless Man is the Thunderbolt. Let us strive only for selflessness, and we become weapon in the hands of God. Not for us to ask how. Not for us to plan methods. For us, it is only to lay ourselves down at the altar-foot. God does the rest. The divine carries us. It is not the thunderbolt that is invincible but the hand that hurls it. Mother! Mother! take away from us this self! Let not fame or gain or pleasure have dominion over us! Be Thou the sunlight, we the dew dissolving in its heat.”

Sister Nivedita in 'Modern Review, March 1908

In Nivedita's design there are two Vajras are crossed in order to signify coordinated and selfless actions of multiple individuals (of the nation) acting in effect as one national organism. Nivedita got some designs embroidered by the girls in her Calcutta school and had it displayed in the Exhibition organized by the Congress in 1906 in Calcutta. Quite a few eminent persons of the time like JC Bose, started using this as an emblem (it is still the logo of the Bose Institute Calcutta). It is also known to have inspired the design of the Paramvira Chakra.

In our newly designed logo, the double-crossed Vajra of Nivedita is circumscribed by a triangular bounds with its arms signifying the three-in-one ideals of sacrifice, selflessness, and service.

Finally, The logo is also a tribute to that extraordinary woman, who gave her all to india.it is only befitting that we have adopted this during 151st birth anniversary year.

Donate

<http://parivaar.org/get-involved/donate/>

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YOU