

# MITRANIKETTAN NEWS LETTER

APRIL 2016

## The School at Mitraniketan:

The Residential school at Mitraniketan has been closed for Summer Holidays by 31 March. Students left their villages. We dropped about 100 students at Wayanad which is 600 km from Vellanad. This year we have a few numbers of volunteers who trained our students in sports, art, craft and paintings, especially the regular and senior volunteers Benedicte & Niels of Denmark and Penny of UK.

The Friends of Mitraniketan in Germany is supporting the building of Boys Hostel which is under construction. This group who established the Bakery continues to collaborate with Mitraniketan. Similarly another group of Friends in Germany from Heisenberg Gymnasium funded the new Girls Hostel which is inaugurated in February 2016 when 39 teachers & students from Heisenberg visited Mitraniketan for 2 weeks.



The New boys hostel under construction behind the existing hostel.

This Hostel can accommodate 100 boys. All rooms are having attached toilets, bathrooms and other facilities and they need not go out for anything. We are making a strong one for BOYS!



**The New Girls Hostel is inaugurated by Sethu & Ulrich Schmitz of Germany.**



**View of the room inside the Girls Hostel...Sethu, Uli & Reghu.**

## People's College at Mitraniketan (MPC):

MPC too closed for summer vacation after the examination conducted by an External agency for Certification. This year we have around 30 students only for the One year full program. They are trained job skills and leadership training. 4 boys are sponsored by the Odense Rotary club, and rest of the expenditure is supported by Friends of Mitraniketan in Denmark and the minimum fee collected from the students.



Photo: Students and teachers after the External examination

The other courses conducted at MPC this year:

1. **Diploma Program in Geriatric Care** in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. We have 14 students in the course who are charged fully. The course fee is Rs. 7500 for 6 months (one semester). Trainers are paid by the Tata Institute. We linked with other Hospitals and Old age homes for practical training.
2. **Certificate Course in Motor Cycle repair & Service** in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU): We have 18 students completed this 2 months program. Fee Rs.1200 and is certified by the University.
3. **One day Awareness programs** for village women: Every month we organize one such program for women on social issues connected to violence against women, Counseling, savings and credit, livelihood opportunities etc  
MPC is also coordinating 20 Women groups in the villages for their self help activities. This is also called Neighborhood groups. The Secretaries and other office bearers of this Groups will meet at MPC on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month.



Photo: Students at MPC Class room.

The programs ongoing / organized by MPC during Summer holidays:

1. **Vacation classes** for village children (10- 15 years) on English, Malayalam languages, computer, and General awareness like health, nutrition etc.- 20 students of the village participating in this sessions from 1 April to 30<sup>th</sup> April. We charge only Registration fee of Rs.150/-. Time 9.00 to 12.30 from Monday to Friday.
2. **Football coaching:** We have open stadium for the foot ball training and is being used to train local children from 10-15 years of age. 20 boys joined. A local trainer trains them from 6 am to 8.30 am. Registration fee Rs.150/-. This is done in collaboration with a local foot ball club called Mitraniketan Friends Club (MFC).
3. **Volley ball training:** MPC also initiated a one month Volley ball training in collaboration with Vellanad Volleyball Cub (VVC) in our Indoor stadium. 48 youth from the age of 15 to 25 years registered. We placed an external coach and have professional training, but fee remains Rs.150/-. Out of the 48 we have drop outs but regularly 32 youth get participating. Some of the dropped out due to hard work/coaching from 6 to 8.30am.

### **Viswanathan's Second Death Anniversary is on April 28:**

Preparations are on to observe the Founder Director's second death anniversary at Mitraniketan. There will be an All religious Prayer, Floral tributes, and a Memorial meeting. Viswan's senior and well known Social worker, freedom fighter of India Advocate K. Ayyappan Pillai is the main guest in the meeting. He is 102 years old and Viswan respect him as his teacher, guide and elder brother.

**Driver Shiju married:** The local boy who lives at Mitraniketan and working as taxi driver using his own car since last 10 years got married a local women from nearby village.



Photo: Shiju and his wife in the middle.



Asha and her sisters' daughters enjoying summer holidays in a Restaurant



It is temple festival season in Kerala. Each village has more than one temple. Decorated elephant is part of the Festival procession. Here are two elephants passing through as part of the procession in the city road near Reghu's house.

However, there is a sad news...in one of the Temples in Kollam they had fireworks competition between two villages on 10<sup>th</sup> April , firework godown /magazine caught fire at 3.30 am and 111 men died in the explosion. It started at 12.00 midnight and most women and children left by 2 am fortunately, remaining men who were enjoying the fireworks became victims. Now Government introduced restrictions on fireworks and elephant procession as both often create dangerous incidents.

#### **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF MITRAIKETAN- APRIL 16**

We take this opportunity to greet all members of the Friends of Mitraniketan in Denmark on the occasion of its Annual meeting in April. The collaboration for promoting education of youth at MPC and the Eco Campus project are creative and productive. We are able to promote technologies through ECP for mitigating climate change, and it is actually global thinking and local action. Both of us join hands for the common cause.

#### **FORTH COMING EVENT:**

AWE International Council Meeting will be held at Mitraniketan from 24 October to 2 November 2016. Association for World Education (AWE) has its base in Denmark, normally conduct all International Council meetings in Denmark once in three years. This is the first time it is organising outside Denmark. AWE has members in 20 countries. We expect 30 to 40 participants from all over the world including Brazil and Russia.