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VOICE OF SRINIVAS YOUNGMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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From Editor's Desk . . .

Our AGM is slated to be held at **03.00 pm on 10th May 2015 at NKT National Boys High School**, Triplicane, Chennai 5. All members are requested to attend the meeting. The Notice is printed on page 4. The Notice containing Secretaries Report has since been sent to all members by post. In case of non-receipt, members are requested to contact the Secretary / Treasurer / SYMA Office, and we will arrange to hand-deliver a copy of the same. We look forward to your presence.


The tremors have shaken the Himalayan Nation of Nepal and thousands of lives are feared lost. It is very sad to read about the death of so many and thousands have been rendered homeless. In this hour of grief, we pray for mitigation of their sufferings. India took the initiative in relief operations. Our PM Shri Narendra Modi immediately conducted an emergency meeting and ensured assistance. Operation Maitri has perhaps redefined the way India responded to a natural disaster, whether within the country or in its neighbourhood. India and Nepal have always enjoyed friendly relations, and are socially, culturally and historically tied to each other. India responded with alacrity and the scale of the operation to the devastating natural tragedy of our neighbour is commendable. A couple of days after the suffering, Nepal thanked India for extending a "blank cheque" and taking initiative in launching relief operations in the aftermath of Saturday's killer earthquake. Some thoughts on whether something could have been done to reduce the no. Of fatalities is inside !

There have been suicides – but this one of a farmer occurring in a rally in front of a CM and thousands of others is different. It is time, party cadres learn the futility of dying for leaders. After the unfortunate incident, political leaders got busy trading charges as it appears death was indeed preventable !!! the lesson to be learnt is for the 'party cadres' - why should one sacrifice their precious life for the leaders ! Unconnected though is the news of a new book raking up claim that former Samajwadi Party leader may have been behind a generous \$5 million donation to the Clinton Foundation in 2008, around the same time Congress was debating the Indo-US civil nuclear deal.... and Delhi Law Minister reportedly fabricated his law degree !

SYMA Growth was launched in July 2008 and this is going to be our 8th year. We intend starting the tuition classes even before the schools re-open. Application forms for +2 have already been distributed and soon we will be shortlisting the candidates purely on economic criterion. We propose to start classes by mid May 2015. We are in the process of chalking out our strategy and require volunteers for this project. Interested persons are requested to contact the Secretary.

With regards – S. Sampathkumar.

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Pooja for the welfare of SYMA Growth students 2015

SYMA has an unsaturated desire for serving the Society. In our sojourn, we understand the need for shaping the children and inculcating in them the good qualities, making them responsible citizens. In this little World, most students are frightened to face the Public examination for the first time in X std. (SSLC) SYMA's vision was to provide good quality education training for those students who suffer for want of opportunities and dreamt of quality tuition to Students free of cost. On 6th July 2008, Mr R Sekar, IPS, Commissioner of Police launched our Tuition Centre 'Growth' and a right beginning was made. Every year since, we have been tasting grand success with very good results. The Centre is run on all days from 6-8 pm in the evening and on Sundays @ 10-12 am and has +2 Commerce, + Science Group; X standard – Tamil and X Std English medium – each having around 35 students.

The classes for the past academic year started in July 2014 after our initial screening ensuring that the most deserving were selected on economic criteria.

As the time for examinations approached nearer - on 20th Feb 2015, SYMA organised a Pooja at NKT National Boys High School, praying for the success of our students and for the well being of the Organisation in continuing this good cause. All our students were present in time. Special pooja was conducted by Sri Devaraja Swami, Chinnamurai Archagar of Sri Parthasarathi Swami temple who blessed the students. The teachers present spoke and wished the students. Mr S Venkatadri, HM National Boys School elaborated on the present set-up of Answer papers and the approach in strategically preparing and answering. Mr Srinivasan, advised on the need for putting in right efforts punning on the word 'Chemis-try'. Mrs Subashini emphasised on right diet and not eating junk food while preparing for the examinations. Mr MK Sridhar @ Meiyur Kannan encouraged the students to do well.

Yours Truly wished them and spoke on SYMA's expectations of the students doing well in the

examinations, achieving high status, doing back to the Society and getting back to SYMA helping in continuance of the good cause. We had invited a good friend, who grew with us about three decades back, studying in NKT and Hindu High School, Vivekananda College, then pursuing higher studies in Organic Chemistry in IISC; Post doctoral fellowships in – Swiss Federal Instt of Tech, Zurich, National Instt of Health, USA, Johns Hopkins University, USA and now Scientist at National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi. It was an attempt to implant in the minds of students that they too can reach great positions in life when they aspire and put in required efforts. Mr Srinivasa Gopalan Sampathkumar's visit truly inspired them as also the lengthy deliverance in simple eloquence. The Scientist impressed them so much that after the Pooja, he was encircled and subjected to barrage of Qs on multitude issues. TJ Ramani proposed the vote of thanks.

Enabling the students write the exams well, an attractive pouch containing Trimax pens (2); pencils; scale, eraser, sharpener .. was given to each student. Mr Prashant Singh, India Art Investment Co, New Delhi had sent them by air – the freight itself costed much. Mr Prashant Singh once visited SYMA Growth Pooja and has been doing this for the past 3 years continuing his passion for the welfare of students and we bow to him for this affectionate gesture.

SYMA places on record our profound thanks to the Management of NK Thirumalachariyar National Boys High School, Mr S. Venkatadri, HM, NKT Boys High School, our beloved teachers of SYMA Growth, coordinator Mrs Thara, Mr Raja, and the volunteers. On 13th Mar, the X std students were given farewell. Our member Mr G Sridhar (@ Babu) shared his rich experiences of New Zealand making the students understand the varied systems of educations and the ever increasing opportunities globally. We now look forward to our students coming out with flying colours in the Public Examination

நேபாள நில நடுக்கம் - பேரழிவு- ஆனால் உயிர் சேதங்கள் தடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்க முடியுமா?

Earthquake struck in our neighbour land ~precious human lives have been lost – the count is going up – and a couple of days after the event, the survivors are in dire need of expeditious relief. Some state that disasters are only likely to get worse in the future, owing to a combination of climate change, population growth, urbanization, environmental degradation, and violence. In someways, tremors don't kill people. Buildings do. We get to hear this often from seismologists each and every time a deadly quake strikes ~sadly, it has become horrifically relevant again Saturday, after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit Nepal, leaving at least 4,000 dead (and counting). It is a basic truth that earthquakes are much, much deadlier in places where buildings are poorly constructed, unreinforced, and not designed to withstand shaking. Kathmandu, Nepal, was a gruesome example. It is stated that buildings in developing countries often aren't up to code. As a result, a shallow quake easily turned the city into rubble, trapping people underneath. Often, countries take action only after tragedy strikes. Foreign policy experts often focus on problems like violence, terrorism, and instability, but the reality is that disasters are far more destructive – on another plane, the worst disasters do not always get the most aid !!! - sadly, disaster relief is heavily influenced by politics and media coverage. This sadly is another angle !!!

நன்றி - தலையல்லால் கைமாறு

Among the most humble personalities of Chennai is Mr M Saravanan, popularly AVM Saravanan, who despite his tall stature as a movie moghul ever remains simple. The epitome of virtues, he is always seen in white dress with trademark folded hands.

It was our fortune and pride to have him as our Chief Guest in our Educational Aid programme in July 2010. Ever since SYMA getting introduced to him through another great personality Mr N Murali of Sri Krishna Sweets, we have been receiving grant of Rs. One lakh – this year too, we have received One lakh from AVM Office, this being the 6th instance. We are overwhelmed by the support and thank him heartily for the continued support.

SYMA has been doing social service and has been well represented in media thanks to our friends. On a Sunday, there was a call from Sri S. Gopalaratnam, Advocate, Mylapore who introduced us to **Mrs Maya Natarajan**. We were invited to their home at Indira Nagar and were overwhelmed to receive a **donation of Rs.10 lakhs [the biggest single donation to SYMA thus far] in memory of “Late (Mrs) N. Meenakshi, by her grand daughters”**. We remain eternally thankful to Mrs Maya Natarajan & Mrs Savitha Chandran for this benevolent gesture. We record our **sincere thanks** to Advocate **Sri S. Gopalaratnam** also.

The name(s) of donors of Rs.1 lakh and above are etched in the facade of our premises. Mere words can seldom express our gratitude appropriately. It is bounden duty of us all to ensure that we continue our tireless service to the Society. With the blessings and support of noble people, we should rededicate ourselves to reach greater heights and serve more people. We invite all our members to continue to partake in all our activities – together we can ensure transformation of society for better.

A cleaner Triplicane

We are concerned about our environment. We are keen on keeping it neat, tidy and hygienic. On 7th Dec 2014, we launched our initiative of ‘clean Triplicane’proclaiming to keep the Thiruvallikkeni Divyadesam, a model place. Volunteers of SYMA and supportive residents went around the streets cleaning the streets and creating awareness for making the area ‘litter-free zone’.

As a pilot project, we adopted , South Mada Street, Thulasinga Perumal Kovil Street [TP Kovil St] and Peyalwar Kovil Street for creating necessary infrastructure, spreading the awareness making the residents getting involved in keeping our place clean. We coordinated with Corporation authorities, with the 116 Ward councillor Mr B Srinivasan, employed 3 persons for cleaning the streets and collecting the garbage.

Changes do not happen overnight and at a time when we were making slow progress, and started feeling the marginal improvement, the streets of Triplicane are being relaid. The tar roads are broken and are being made cement roads. As this concretisation work is going on around the mada veethis of Triplicane, we are taking a break in our project. We have some learnings arising out of the experience in this period. The ‘Keep Triplicane clean’ project will be relaunched later. Your suggestions in this regard are welcome !

நன்றி நவிலல்

The need for conserving energy, saving electricity and trying alternative sources have always been much discussed. Solar energy is important source of renewal energy and SYMA has made a small step towards this. We have installed solar panel at our SYMA office. The solar kit was donated by our member KV Srikanth of Chakra Technologies and SYMA thanks him.

In tune with the modernisation of our Office premises, we have replaced our existing Computer with a new one courtesy Mr Devarajan (@ Alex) our member residing in USA; the new Printer/ Scanner was donated by Mr TSP Lakshman [Mukund] – SYMA thanks them.

We thankfully acknowledge the donation of US \$ 500 [Rs.30452] from Balayanamandra of USA obtained through our member Ms Saranya.

வாழ்த்துக்கள்

நமது சங்க துணைத்தலைவர் திரு. எஸ்.ஆர்.பார்த்தசாரதி அவர்களின் புதல்வர் ஸ்ரீ கேசவனுக்கு உபநயன பிரம்மோபதேசம் 9.3.2015 அன்று இனிது நடந்தது. வடுவை Bliss வாழ்த்துகிறது.

Question : 85 years ago, the journey from Trichinopoly (Trichy)ending in Vedaranyam played a great part in our freedom struggle... do you know Sardar Vedaratnam Pillai ? **Ans in Pg 4**



SRINIVAS YOUNGMEN'S ASSOCIATION

29, T.P. Koil Street, Triplicane, Chennai - 600 005.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Body Meeting of the Association will be held at **03.00 P.M. on Sunday, the 10th May 2015 at N.K.T. National Boys High School, T.P. Koil Street, Triplicane, Chennai - 600 005** to transact the following business.

- 1) Presidential Address.
- 2) Presentation of Annual Report for the year 2014-2015 by Secretary.
- 3) Adoption of Audited Statement of Accounts for the year 2014-2015.
- 4) Appointment of Auditors for the year 2015-2016.
- 5) Election of Office Bearers for the year 2015-2016. (Election Schedule enclosed)
- 6) Any other matter.

S.Sampathkumar Sanjeevi Raghunathan
Secretaries

Place : Chennai - 600 005

Date : 17-4-2015

(Please join us for a sumptuous high - tea after the meeting).

- * From the humble beginning in 1977 to what we are today, we owe it all to you - the members. Your participation and work has ensured that we are now in a position to make meaningful contribution to the society. We request all our Members to attend the AGM without fail.
- * For continuing the good work, improved cooperation of members is solicited. It is requested that all members participate in the working of SYMA medical centre, propagate the theme of 'one day sponsor @ Rs.1000/ - on your special days like Birthday, Marriage day etc., and bring in one sponsor at least to ensure that we have sponsors throughout the year, on all 365 days.

Answer : It was the salt satyagraha or taking out salt directly from the sea- the marchers broke the salt law. Dandi March of Gandhi is famous and down South the campaign occurred at Vedaranyam led by Rajaji. It ended on 28 April 1930 when the participants were arrested, following which Rajaji was imprisoned for six months. Sardar is a title of Persian origin – Sar would mean head while dar means holder. Sardar is a title in use for Indian Princes, noblemen and aristocrats. Sardar Vedaratnam Pillai, famous philanthropist was also imprisoned alongside Rajaji. In the year 1931 Vedaratnam was conferred with the title of 'Sardar' at the meeting of the Tamil Nadu Agriculturists and labourers at Tirunelveli, for his exploits in the Vedaranyam Salt March. He later served as MLA for three terms over a period of 14 years.



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To _____

