

NEWSLETTER



AUM PRANAVASHRAM TRUST, ILANJI - NOVEMBER 2021

Good news first

Thank you all for the appreciative and encouraging reactions to our last newsletter! The wheel of time never stops - here are a few glimpses into what happened during the previous three months.



Children's Home

First school day on 1st of November for all children since nineteen (!) months. Despite the heavy monsoon rains and cold climate, children are cheerful; they enjoyed the Diwali celebrations in a good spirit.

The Elders' Home

The end of a long journey - Rizau Meeral is no more - like for all other elders who passed away in the ashram, we built a small memorial inside the ashram. A new member was admitted into the ashram's Elders' Home.



Aum Pranavashram Trust
C-1-8, Five Falls Bypass Road
ILANJI-627805, Tenkasi Dist.
Tamil Nadu, India.

+91 04633/220865 & 225476
+91 9344628115

aumpranavashram@gmail.com
www.aumpranavashram.org



The Animals

Our four-legged problem children's recovery - Ravi from his bladder stones, Shyam from his big fall, and a cow from paralysis and skin detachment; Foot-and-Mouth Disease vaccination in the cowshed; Sudden death in the animal family - an obituary at the end of the Newsletter.

Files, Folders, Documents!

Laws change over time. It's time for us to renew all our licenses for the Children's and Elders' Home. Photo on the right side: we are cleaning out our offices.





My First School Day! 🥳

For Muthulakshmi, the 1st of November was the first school day in her life. Like all other children, she was excited about going to school and meeting schoolmates and teachers. It was difficult for her to tell us everything in the afternoon. Instead of stories, she was dancing and jumping, putting a big smile on our faces! We do hope that she will keep this joy of learning alive as long as possible!

Children's Home

The photo on the right side shows Dhanshika with her Math-practice note. She is nine years old, goes to the third standard, and

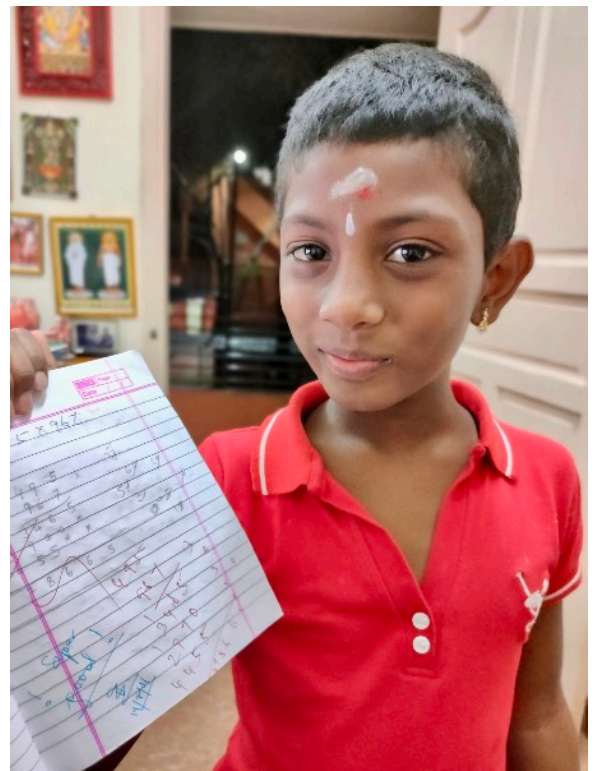
likes Mathematics. She's practicing three-digit multiplication and hasn't made a single mistake! In times of ever-nearby



smartphones with calculators, even grown-ups have problems with mental maths. I promised Dhanshika to include this photo in the following Newsletter, which I am doing herewith.



As already informed in our last Newsletter, schools had re-opened for



the higher classes 9-12. After 19 (!) months of waiting, the doors have also opened up for all the remaining classes from 1 - 8. In big schools with more

than 1000 students attending classes every day, children have been divided into batches and attend school on allotted weekdays. We wish all the



...and cultural activities

children joy and happiness with their studies. We hope that they will appreciate the personal contact with their teachers and friends in an appropriate way.

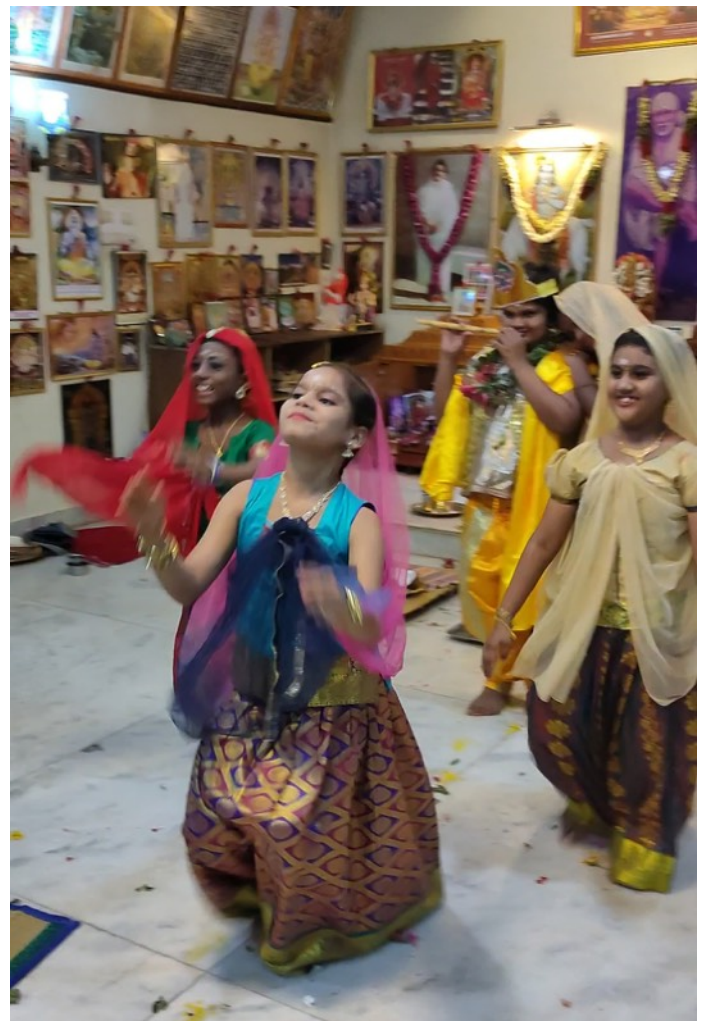
Muthulakshmi and Ihasri give us their most charming smiles on the photo to the left while impersonating Radha and Krishna

during *Krishna Janmashtami*. The children love costumes and like to perform various dances and dramas every year. *Krishna Janmashtami* is a culturally significant festival celebrated with traditional chants, songs, and dances. The picture below depicts Yashoda (first line), Dhanshika (left), and

...for more awareness and happiness in life

Nageshwari (right) as dancing *Gopis* (Krishna's most beloved devotees). Activities like dancing, singing, playing, drawing, and acting in little dramas relieve the children from mental and emotional tensions and improve their social behavior and the children-community in general. These activities give them the chance to learn to respect the characteristics of other

children and harmonize with them. Cultural identity begins with the family environment, but the social settings at schools also have a massive bearing on children's development. We support extracurricular activities and try to emulate the values of unity in diversity.





From left: Janakavalli, Thangaselvi, Karpagavalli and Krishnaveni.

A Navaratri Family Meeting

The photo above depicts four young women who have grown up in the ashram. They finished college, worked in their profession for some time, got married, have children, and now take care of their families.

Krishnaveni (on the right side of the picture) suffered two severe Dengue-fever attacks during her college years, which robbed her of all her physical stamina. It took a few years to come back from those fever attacks. We haven't seen her often in the past years. She used rehabilitation time to work in less demanding jobs, which

allowed her to support her sick and fragile mother. Krishnaveni informed us happily about her forthcoming marriage in December 2021.

Ramalakshmi (right side) also visited us and gladly told us that she had finished her five-year-long training as a clinical ophthalmology assistant! 🥳 We congratulate her on this extraordinary success! Perseverance, courage, and gratitude are like jewels in a person's character, capable of carrying us through challenging phases in life! 👍💪🙏



Another good news...

Another Diwali visitor was Saroja, who is in the second year of training as a Medical Lab Assistant. She finished the first year as 1st rank holder, and we are truly happy for Saroja for this outstanding result! 🥳

Initially, she wanted to study medicine but could not pass the entry exam. Her mother is illiterate, her father was a violent alcohol addict (which eventually caused his untimely death), and her younger brother committed suicide.

Together with her younger sister Sathya, she was brought to us by her mother in May 2008. Both girls were suffering from depression and anxiety for a long time. They both have more balanced and happy personalities now, which is a reassuring sign that their future lives will be better hereafter.

We wish Saroja a lot of success and joy with her further studies!

The picture to the right side shows some of our

girls studying in higher classes (except Dhanshika, Sudali Kumari, Yashoda, and Ihasri, who stand/sit in the first row).

Little Ihasri is sitting on the steps because she started getting tired of waiting for all the other children for the group photo :)

We wish all the children good health and a lot of interest, joy, and perseverance for their school time and studies!



Elders' Home: One comes -

Saraswathi was living for some time on the side of the road. She doesn't have a family and was working for someone in Courtallam. Due to an accident, she became almost immobile and lost her job. An officer who passed by her every day called us and requested to admit her into the elders' home, which we did immediately.

Meanwhile, she has recovered from the

physical and psychological hardship that she had to undergo.

Initially, she needed a walker, but because of her steady effort, she can now walk without even a stick. She keeps herself active by volunteering here and there in the ashram. She is genuinely grateful to be here in the Aum Pranavashram.



- another goes

Rizau Meeral died on the 6th of September early morning due to a cardiac arrest. Her official age was 98, but her family insisted that she was 108 years old.

In her youth, she did not only learn the Quran, but she felt attracted towards the songs of the *Siddhars*, which belong to the non-dualistic tradition of Tamil Nadu. That was quite an extraordinary personality trait in her.

As a Muslim woman, during the last few years of her life, she lived in an ashram and chanted songs of the *Siddhars*. In times of increasing social polarisation, the picture on the left side is significant in terms of tolerance and unity: a Hindu monk honors a Muslim woman by singing stances from the Quran. At the Aum Pranavashram, we try to protect the values of Unity in Diversity, one of the many characteristics of *Sanathana Dharma*.



May all the animals in this world enjoy more Protection, Love and Respect!

The biggest health problem is still with the smallest member, Ravi, whose tendency to make bladder stones is still prominent. As a last resort, our Veterinary Doctor advised us to give tiny quantities of herbal juices, freshly pressed from certain plants (luckily) found around the ashram. We syringe these juices straight into his mouth, and these herbs have saved his life!

The cow with the paralysis and the vast blisters of loose skin on her back is fine. She has found a friend in her neighbour in her new place. They would constantly lick

each other affectionately and put their heads together. Meanwhile, the two are inseparable. When I took a close-up photo of the new skin and hair, I could feel her examining me, ensuring that everything's fine with her friend (see the image on the right side).

Poorna (photo on the right side on top of the page) didn't have any seizures; I guess her relaxed happiness shows on the picture :)

Our soft, black dog, Shyam, is well, even though one can feel the crack in his iliac bone.



The entire Goshala cow family was vaccinated against Foot-and-Mouth disease just a few days ago.



Office Time

Our office work is running at full speed. For the reader's information, I have listed the three primary registrations of our institution below, which we have to renew and update continually. That includes awareness of the current legislative situation, keeping ourselves in regular contact with the ever-growing public affairs network for the Children's and Elders' Homes, and close cooperation with all the departments that we must inform continuously about events or changes in the ashram. Renewals of building approvals, building stability, certification of sanitary conditions, and certificates from the fire department and Superintendent of Police are necessary. All the renewal processes should be completed by March 2022.

01

JJ Act, DCPU, CWC, SW

Behind these abbreviations stand laws and departments. JJ Act (Juvenile Justice) and DCPU (District Child Protection Unit) operate more on the legal side of social work. At the same time, CWC (Child Welfare Committee) and SW (Social Welfare) relate more to the social aspects of the NGO's work. The term Social Audit (Human Rights) also belongs here.

02

IT-80G

IT is for Income Tax or Revenue Office. 80G is the name of the law under which an NGO has to register to enable donors to receive tax benefits in India. An auditor must verify our entire accounting procedure and forward it to the IT office for annual statements and approval.

03

FCRA

FCRA (Foreign Contribution Registration Act) means registering an NGO under the laws of FCRA and getting approval for receiving contributions from foreign countries. The Home Ministry of India, which needs to regulate the influx of money and curb extremist influences, can thus monitor these donations directly.



We bow with gratitude.

All the Aum Pranavashram Family members wish to express their gratitude for all the love and support we receive!

We do our best to inspire each child to develop into a good human being with responsibility, good education, and training for an adequate start into their personal lives; to provide a safe and humane place for elders, and to enable the animals to have a caring and safe environment :)

THANK YOU.

In closing, ...

In my experience, the pandemic has affected e-mailing in various ways. Often, the mail bounces back or is lost in the internet spaces without a trace, despite verified e-mail addresses. Video calling and social media are generally preferred as a means of communication because they are more flexible. That is why I propose that interested readers send a message to my number +91 9488722865 on one of the social media platforms mentioned on the right side. Sending photos, short notes, letters, or the Newsletter is faster and easier this way. The number is private, so I am not uploading this Newsletter onto Facebook since I want this number to be known only by people connected to the ashram in good ways. Children's photos are highly

01

WhatsApp

Probably the most commonly used platform

02

Signal

Is described as a safe means of communication

03

Telegram

Has the best emoticons though :)

Aum Pranavashram Trust
C-1-8, Five Falls Bypass Road
ILANJ1-627805, Tenkasi Dist.
Tamil Nadu, India.

+91 04633/220865 & 225476
+91 9344628115

aumpranavashram@gmail.com
www.aumpranavashram.org

confidential and demand utmost privacy. Only regular donors or sponsors would be eligible for being members of a social media group.

Thank you so much for being so understanding!

By the way: All newsletters can be downloaded or read from our blog page on our website. Please, click the following link:

[https://
www.aumpranavashram.org/
blog/english-newsletters/](https://www.aumpranavashram.org/blog/english-newsletters/)

Finally, a few pictures from the last three months.

Children took most of those pictures since they wanted to try out black-and-white photography. I guess they have done quite well.



THE FIRST SCHOOL DAY ON 1ST OF NOVEMBER 2021 FOR ALL CHILDREN. EVERYONE IS HAPPY TO GO TO SCHOOL!

DIWALI and NAVARATRI are important festivals in India, which symbolise the following values:

Diwali is the festival of Light and one of the most important holidays in India. It celebrates the victory of Light over Darkness, of Wisdom over Ignorance. The youth likes Diwali, particularly because of the morning crackers and evening fireworks. Traditionally, people gift each other new clothes and share excellent food with Diwali sweets.

Navaratri (Nava=Nine; Ratri=Night) is a festival, which worships the creation's female aspects in the Divine forms of the Goddesses Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswathy in various ways. The celebrations and Poojas last for nine nights and ten days.



SOMEBODY PLAYED WITH FLOWERS IN THE PRAYER HALL :)



DIWALI PICTURES



Diwali 'home-comers': from left

Kausalya, 2nd year, B.Com CA

Sornalakshmi, 3rd year, B.Com

Saroja, 2nd year, Medical Lab
Technology

Rathi, 1st year, training as
Ophtalmology Lab Asst.

NAVARATRI



NAVARATRI



The End



An Obituary

Poorna came on Christmas Day 2012 to us. We picked her up from the street in Tirunelveli and brought her home. I could see the gratitude in her eyes until the very last day of her life.

She was sickly, but resistant. She survived quite a few diseases, but this time it took an unexpected turn. She died today, and we did not know how serious she was.

She will always be an unforgettable family member ❤️

A very abrupt end - Poorna

I am writing these lines on the day of her death, the 8th of November, 2021.

A few days ago, while completing the Newsletter, I wrote about the dogs' recoveries, and I inserted a funny photo of 'relaxed Poorna.'

She started showing heat symptoms, and there was bleeding, which is not an uncommon sign for female dogs in heat. That's why I did not suspect anything wrong. But then she started vomiting and could not keep anything down. Yesterday she went with me to the garden, and

even though I felt she was not well, I thought it'd be alright. We called the Vet, who gave her injections and told us that a viral disease was prevalent in our area.

The pain in her body became evident. A few hours later, she breathed her last.

The entire dog family (8 members who are usually loud) kept absolute silence from morning until the burial in the afternoon. Then suddenly, they all started howling together, like giving her a ceremonial farewell. Even the heavy rain clouds waited until the end of the

burial to unburden themselves. As I was coming back from the ceremony, I sat down in front of the computer, a little lost in thoughts. When I looked at the monitor (which shows random words in quick sequence from the dictionary when in sleep mode), I read the phrase *transmigration - pass into another body after death!*

These are touching moments, which reveal the Divine Agent and the underlying stream of the Eternal Life in all beings.