

Tenkasi Youth Conference

27 - 30 June, 2024



Vel's Vidhyalaya, Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu

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Our Team



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Introduction:

The journey down south being due to love and perseverance of Pushpa ji and Shankaran ji. The relation beyond Asia Plateau visit started blossoming with a small seed of Rose Apple tree. Pushpa ji request for a seed of the plant, the fruit of the tree was tasted by her during her visit to Asia Plateau and she wanted to plant the seed in her orchid. Every relation starts with a seed and that is how we started.

January 2023 our visit to Amar Seva Sangam and Let's Make A Difference did a conference for the students of Amar Seva School. The success of our message opened the doors of Vel's Vidyalaya. With the objective to organize a four-day regional youth conference for the students from classes 9 through 12, Let's Make A Difference through Amar Seva Sangam partnered with Vel's Vidyalaya in Tenkasi.

There were 455 teenage participants, 12 teachers, and 22 volunteers came from Ahmednagar, Aurangabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Coimbatore, Delhi, Dharashiv, Goa, Jamshedpur, Katni, Kishangarh, Kadayam, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Parli, Solapur to help make this conference an experience for a lifetime for the students at the Tenkasi Youth Conference.

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Day 1 - Inauguration

The conference was inaugurated on 27 June, 2024 in the august presence of Hon. District Collector Thiru A. K. Kamal Kishore IAS (Tenkasi District), Government Medicine Chief Superintendent Dr. Jeslin, Thiru M. V. M Veeravel Murugan, Correspondent, Vel's Vidhyalaya, CA S. Sankara Raman, Promoter & Secretary, Amar Seva Sangam and Mr. Viral Mazumdar, Founder & Program Director, Let's Make A Difference. The District Collector and the Government Medicine Chief Superintendent was presented with the Impact Assessment Report and the Let's Make A Difference diary.



Hon. District Collector Thiru A. K. Kamal Kishore IAS (Tenkasi District), Government Medicine Chief Superintendent Dr. Jeslin, Thiru M. V. M Veeravel Murugan, Correspondent, Vel's Vidhyalaya, CA S. Sankara Raman, Promoter & Secretary, Amar Seva Sangam and Mr. Viral Mazumdar, Founder & Program Director, Let's Make A Difference.

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Then we began with a ceremonial lamp lighting and a multi-faith prayer. The students responded positively to the inclusive nature of the prayer, reflecting their enthusiasm for the event. Following the prayer, a video presentation showcased our legacy of youth work of more than three decades. The inauguration proceeded with the song "It's better to light one candle". Which was followed by experiences of our volunteers. The inauguration concluded with the introduction of all the volunteers by Anurag Maloo

Then an introductory group discussion was held so that the students can understand the purpose of group discussion, which provided an opportunity to interact and participate actively. Returning to the auditorium the exercise "Daylight saving time" was conducted by Sayok Sarkar. Many students took the stage to share their personal experience of their time management. It was such a wholesome and interactive environment. Before ending the day a session on concentration was delivered by Course Convener which was well received by the students.



Participants doing concentration exercise

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Day 2 - Introspection, Values and Vision

The second day of the youth conference started with a prayer, setting a reflective tone for the day.

The morning quiet time was introduced to the participants, where the importance of inner voice and self-introspection was emphasized to the participants, they were attentively listening. He highlighted the importance of quiet time and discussed the four pillars, PHUL: Purity, Honesty, Unselfishness, and Love. This thought-provoking session laid the foundation for the day's activities, encouraging the students to engage in self-introspection.

The students then went for quiet time, during which they were encouraged to write their thoughts in their diaries. This was followed by a powerful sharing session, where the participants openly discussed personal experiences related to honesty, unselfishness, and love. The powerful sharing of experiences created an impactful and meaningful atmosphere.



Quiet Time

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The day also included a thought-provoking discussion on the four values, further enhancing their understanding.

After lunch participants had a group discussion, where they shared their thoughts and what they felt during the day, chits were given for them to express their expectations for the rest of the days, followed by a vision exercise in the auditorium that encouraged the students to reflect on their aspirations and dreams.



Sharing of Quiet Time thoughts from a participant

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Day 3 - Clean your jar, Family and Relations

The day began with the prayer “Where the Mind is Without Fear”. Today, the quiet time was about self, their own inner jar. A demonstration with jar was shown to the room full of participants. One could see the kind of impact the jar exercise did by simply looking at the engaged faces in the auditorium. All were focused and reflecting. The real life examples from Course Convener were an eye-opener to the young minds seated. After an hour long inputs, it was now time for them to look within and clean their jar. The participants were engaged in a lot of writing in their diary. The sharing by the participants were on a different level, very honest and from their heart.



Demonstration of Jar Exercise

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After lunch was the family session, where students were shown videos emphasising the importance of family. Family is an irreplaceable part of one's life. Honest conversation with them is uncompromising. The sharing by Course Convener touched the students. The stage was open for sharing. The participants one by one gathered courage and spoke of their personal experiences of challenges in family relationships with tears in their eyes. The outburst of emotions were a sign that they were ready to reconcile with the past mistakes bringing them closer to their family.

Following this, a short session on My Life, My Happiness was conducted that made them think of the relationships with whom they are close and distant. They reflected on how they can bring those distant relations near in the inner circle. In Let's Make A Difference, writing is emphasized a lot. The participants throughout the day had reflected a lot about themselves and later about the family. It was now time to write a heartfelt postcard to their loved ones.



Family day sharing from a participant

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After a short tea break, the participants went to their respective group discussion spot, where they continued to share regarding family relationships. The group discussions were a bit emotional but we felt a deep connection between us and the students that they were feeling so comfortable sharing their personal thoughts with us.

While going back to their home, they were given a piece of paper on which they wrote the negative qualities to burn them in a fire pit symbolically to destroy those negative qualities in them.



Negative Burning

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Day 4 - Ego, Pyramid of Life and Letter to Self

So we kick started our day with morning prayer and today we felt that the students were actually willing to participate in the sessions. They were listening to the sessions carefully and deeply. This quiet time a demonstration on ego was presented. The ego is like the outer shell of the coconut, hard and difficult to break. But once that ego is defeated the negativity which remains inside that no one except we know also gets out and what remains is the spotless white inner soul. The inputs invited the participants to focus on their ego, anger and jealousy and they wrote about it in their quiet time. After the quiet time, many participants shared their tryst with ego and how it affected their relation with many, how it became a barrier between their friend.

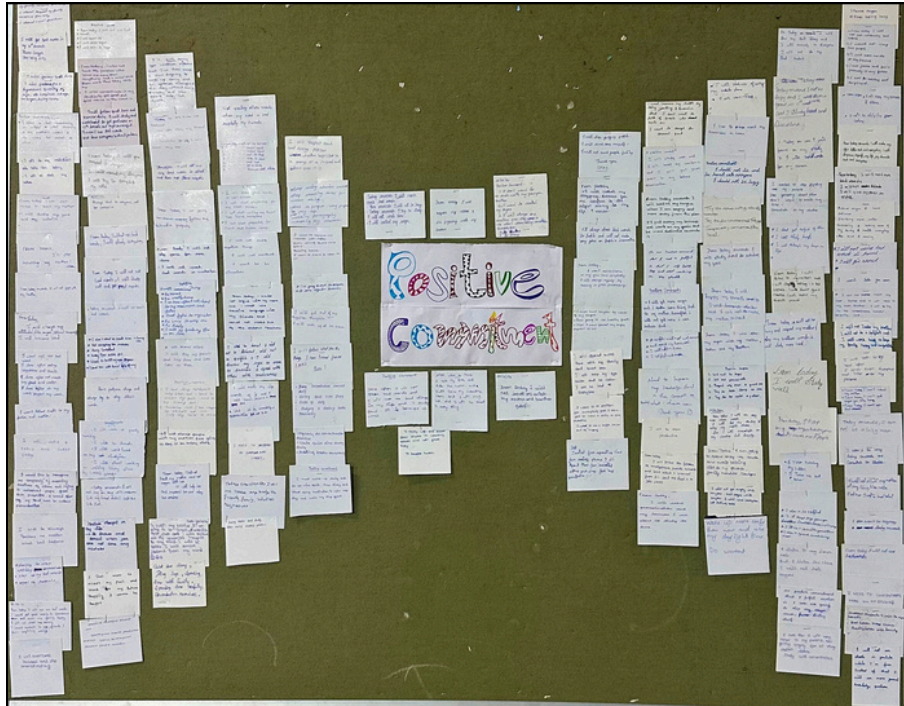
“Pyramid of Life”, indeed a very useful session for the participants as they are young and on their way to build a successful career and future. Using a simple demonstration of Golf balls, marbles, sand and water, the participants were made to understand how habits, hobby, career, health, family, wealth creation and purpose is important aspects of one's life. Volunteers took to stage and shared about their golf balls.

Viral bhai said “Good habits are the reservoir of energy and success”.

As always, bad habits was in plenty, but good habits were scarce in each one sitting in the auditorium. All the participants were given a chit to write one postive commitment they would immediately bring in their daily life and then they went to have their lunch.

After Lunch, it was time for our last group discussion. It was open for sharing, whatever the participants wanted to share, we listened to them. We were able to see a shift in their body language, bright faces and a hope in their eyes while they spoke their heart. A short feedback was taken from each participants at the end of the group discussion. The participants had bonded with their group leaders.

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Positive Commitment

A short session on My Pledge was shared to the participants, which talked about sustainable living and conservation of all the resources. Like all the sessions, Pledge is a serious document and only those who believe that they can commit to each word written in it, will sign it and keep it somewhere in their house where it is a visible reminder every day.

The last session was about writing a letter, not to anyone but to oneself. This is a unique experience where each participant write about their learnings, moments of deep realisations and interactions with the volunteers in the four days.

At the end of the youth conference, there was a special closing ceremony. Our chief guest Mr. Shankraraman, school leaders and parents were there. Students talked about how the conference had helped them grow and change for the better. Parents also shared how they saw positive changes in their kids. Everyone got certificates, and the conference ended with a feeling of growth and hope for the future.

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Addressing the parents of the participants of Tenkasi Youth Conference

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Message from the Convener

Conference at Vel's Vidyalaya, Tenkasi. A smooth experience, able to achieve and focus on all that was discussed and thought before the conference and during the conference.

Everyday reminder to the participating participants to share and let their parents know what all happened during the day as learnings and on the last day invite parents on behalf of Let's Make A Difference so that the larger team could meet, listen, interact, share and be with all. This became a reality by seeing a full-house participation by the parents.

All that was thought and discussed became reality and one of the finest closing day we had during the regional conference of Let's Make A Difference. The wish and desire to see parents was well supported by the parents.

Some of the key takeaways and learnings for us to think over and use it in our future conferences. Introduced writing of chits from the very first GD, let people express on paper whatever they feel. Any question which arises within them can be expressed on the chit, if they are not able to ask the question on an open platform. Chits did bring in wide range of thoughts, inclusive and the faint/shy voice also expressed on the chit.

This was a new learning for the team and at the same time it also created an opportunity to address most of the question/thought from the open forum.

This new learning came to Let's Make A Difference at Vel's Vidyalaya, Tenkasi.

Conclusion; chits did bring in diversity of thoughts and questions.

Over whelming young people of Vel's Vidyalaya wants to be part of the Let's Make A Difference movement and wants to stay in touch with us and also attend the youth conference at Asia Plateau.

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Speaking to the parents in front of all the participated students was well received. We facilitated a bridge to take over the message what young participants felt and how their voice was not heard by the parents. The students expressed themselves and let the gathered parents know about what they felt and learnt during the conference.

Innocent questions at their age, but relevant at any age and person of any age will ask similar questions. How to overcome jealousy and selfishness, build trust and trust someone who is unknown, I am honest but others are dis-honest, I want to stop overthinking, what others think about me and due to this will I be judged? Innocently they also asked how to handle rejection.

These pertinent questions and if they understand these questions at this age, they will be able to navigate many challenges with ease as they grow.

Let's Make A Difference communicated to the parents the reality, challenges, good parenting tips and specially moving with time. The basic rule of every family in early times was to be a good listener and take interest in what the child is doing. Somewhere this aspect is gradually missing its touch within the family.

Honest conversation is the need of the hour in every family, somewhere this conversation is broken and creating unseen distance within the family. Neither of them, parents and child been able to identify the distance and nip what has been created. More the time lapse, more the complications and distance.

Parents must not compare their child with other, the best way forward is, instead of comparison/competition, rather complement for what they have achieved this will instill confidence and self-motivate the child to do better. Humiliate/insulting/taunting in person or public is pulling down the moral of the child, rather embrace when the child makes a mistake, the tone, language and overall love will turn around the child. Accept the child rather than reject. What the child needs is assurance even in failure that we are with you and we believe in you, that you will do well and better. This has to be complemented back by the child by showing genuineness.

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Mobile is the biggest modern-day disease, doing more bad than good. Every home should have a rule to switch off the mobile once the person arrives in the home, specially students. No studies on mobile or attending classes on mobile. Any form of social media app should not be downloaded on the mobile till the age of 25.[in many states of India drinking of alcohol is after the age of 25]

No mobiles while having food, no mobiles in the bedroom at night. Mobile must not have any kind of screen lock. It has to be open for viewing by all, parents have to be a step ahead then their children's in teck. Regularly check their mobile and all the activity happening online. Before sleeping the mobile must be in the custody of the parents in switch off mode.

This rule has to be followed by each and every person of the home. Parents have to set an example, practice before preach, walk the talk.

Love your child unconditionally in spite of what they are, female/male child, whatever may be their colour of the skin, don't try to make them what you wanted to become, rather explore with them what they want, this will help them to excel in life. Your child future is more valuable than your past ambition to be achieved through your child. Parents are the biggest strength to a child, a hand on the shoulder of your child means a world to the child. No parent should deprive this support to their child, grades are only till school, more important is to make your child a good human. Good grades and bad child, all is lost, but a good human with Ok grades is win-win.

Judging your child is detrimental.

Our message is also absorbed well by the silent listeners in the aisle and lobby of the school. A teacher not directly being part of the conference but presence in and around the auditorium and listening to all that was shared and spoken, one could see visible changes with passing time, outburst on the relationship day sealed the teachings of Let's Make A Difference within the teacher.

Two such teachers participated whole heartedly and we as a team appreciated their proactive stand towards new learnings.

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To sum up the entire experience, I have to start from the beginning. On 16 March we visited Vel's Vidyalaya, our first interaction with correspondence Mr. M.V.M Veeravel Murugan, Director Smt K. Rajarajeswari Veeravel along with Principal Mrs. Shanthi M ma'am. The openness and willing to embrace a new idea inspired us and after a short conversation of expressing what Let's Make A Difference is doing, Veeravel ji agreed to host the conference in their premise and gave us the dates 27 to 30 June. All this happened with lightning speed, thoughtful decision, confidence and believing in Amar Seva and Let's Make A Difference. When one takes such bold decisions and belief, unexpected results emerge out. Rest is history.

At the end of my experience of being at Vel's, I have come back richer with many more seeds planted. My gratitude to the entire team of Vel's in supporting us unconditionally. After coming back and reflecting on the notes, chits and written messages left behind by the participating students and parents, I feel within, sometime later in the year or early next year we must do a follow up, keeping their board exams in mind.

Let's Make A Difference will make a difference in their grades and final outcome.

-Viral Mazumdar

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Annexure 1 - Sharings from the Participants

- "A girl from 9th standard came up on the stage to share her thoughts on honesty and selfishness and how she was being dishonest with her work. She shared that she used to lie about her homeworks that was given to her by her teachers, and she had selfish behaviour towards her sister. Which she promised to change as soon as possible.
- "Girl from 9th standard came to share her thoughts on honesty. She shared how she used to be dishonest with her parents and close once and due to all the lies she lost herself in the chaos."
- "A courageous young student from 12th standard took the stage to share a powerful tale of redemption and the importance of honesty. He bravely shared how his own dishonesty had led his friend down a dangerous path of harmful habits. Recognizing the gravity of his mistake, he took the extraordinary step of confiding in his friend's parents, revealing the truth to ensure his friend's well-being and safety. This remarkable act of integrity and accountability serves as a testament to the transformative power of honesty and the impact one person can have on another's life."
- "Omi, one of our dedicated volunteers, courageously shared her personal story with the audience, highlighting the significance of honesty and family in her life. With vulnerability and sincerity, she recounted how honesty had positively impacted her relationships and personal growth, emphasising the importance of trust. Her heartfelt sharing served as a powerful reminder of the enduring value of honesty and the unconditional support of loved ones."
- "A young boy shared his struggles with being selfish and dishonest. He admitted his mistakes and promised to work on improving himself. His honesty and determination to change were inspiring and showed that people can grow and become better versions of themselves."
- "A girl shared her struggles with treating her brother kindly, admitting to selfish and mean behaviour. She showed courage by sharing her difficulties and willingness to improve their relationship."

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- "A young girl delivered a heart-wrenching sharing on stage, courageously revealing her personal struggles following the tragic loss of her sister two years ago. Despite the additional challenge of her parents' divorce, she has shown remarkable resilience and strength in the face of adversity, inspiring the audience with her bravery and determination to overcome her difficulties."
- "A girl apologised to her mother on stage for yelling at her and blaming her for everything. She took responsibility for her actions and showed a desire to improve their relationship, marking a positive turning point in their lives."
- "A girl shared on stage how she used to shout at and hate her cousin sister due to her own ego, but has since worked to overcome her anger and build a better relationship with her sister."
- "A young girl shared a poignant story highlighting the significance of trust and support in family relationships. She revealed how her aunt's hurtful laughter and criticism of her academic performance had a devastating impact on her self-esteem, and similarly, how her aunt's criticism of her grandmother led to her grandmother's depression. Through her sharing, she emphasised the importance of building trust and fostering a supportive environment within families, rather than tearing each other down with hurtful words and actions."

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Annexure 2 - Positive Commitments

- Being honest. (3)
- Had a better relationship with family members.(3)
- Improved concentration. (9)
- Learned to live a pure life. (2)
- Clear and pure mindset. (2)
- Improved self confidence. (11)
- Quiet time helping in introspection. (3)
- I will be more pure, honest, unselfish, and love each individual. (12)
- I learned about self introspection. (2)
- I have started to build better relationships with parents and friends. (3)
- I have gained more knowledge about life.
- I want to become a better person. (2)
- I want to be more disciplined. (5)
- I want to spend more quality time with my family and friends. (5)
- I have started doing self introspection.
- I have started to see positive changes in me.
- I have stopped procrastination. (3)
- I have stopped being lazy. (3)
- I have stopped overthinking.
- I have stopped being egoistic.(2)
- I have started to take care of my anger issues.
- I learned about daylight saving time. (3)
- I realised that I need a lot of self introspection and I've started working on it.
- I've understood the importance of family.
- I have started working on my dirty mind and I'm trying to be more pure.
- I have destroyed my selfishness.
- I have learned to respect my family.
- I have learned alot about myself.
- I have started showing respect to my brother.
- I want to make new friends.
- I have gained clarity about my future.

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- I want to leave my bad habits. (5)
- I've gained clear career guidance.
- I've started to be open hearted.
- I have started to overcome my distractions.
- I learned how to become a good person.
- I have started being polite.

Annexure 3 - Expectations and Learnings

27-06-2024

- I expect them to teach us how to become a better person (5)
- I expect that we can change ourselves and our lives and enjoy alot (2)
- I expect that youwill teach us how to improve in studies (4)
- I expect you will give us motivational speech.(8)
- I expect that this conference will make my thoughts about my career clear so that I can be on the right path.(3)
- I expect to have fun and have interaction with others and overcome my fear and he confident. (2)
- I expect this program will give me career guidance
- I expect this program will give me idea about how to become a businessman and entrepreneur (3)
- I expect from let's make a difference that they will change our lives and motivate students in a good manner. (3)
- I believe that they will help me to know what I should do in life. (7)
- I hope this program will motivate me
- I expect this conference will bring a very good change in my life. (3)
- I expect them to motivate us and give us career guidance and advices. (13)
- I expect that these volunteers have come to change our life.
- I am very curious about this program and I don't have much expectations. I believe that they will give us clarity on how to become a successful person
- I expect that they will do dance and stuff

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28-06-2024

- I expect the conference to include more career related advice.
- I expect to learn how to save time.
- I want to learn about self improvement.(4)
- I expect the conference to teach me how to love myself.(2)
- I expect them to conduct the program next year too!
- Expectations from this program was that they'll give us career guidance and teach us how to score good marks. (2)
- To teach how to improve communication skills
- How to leave additions.(2)
- I expect this program to conduct more activities and give educational tips. (2)
- I expect this program to be more interactive with volunteers.
- I expect to conduct some extra games and make the sessions more interesting.(3)
- I expect them to teach more self confidence and improve concentration. (9)
- I expect the program to be conducted for a longer period of time.
- I expect them to teach about self confidence.
- I expect them to teach how to leave bad habits and bad addictions.(2)
- I expect lmad to teach how to overcome mobile addiction.
- I expect that this conference will give me a spark of motivation to improve myself in every aspect and become a better version of myself.

29-06-2024

- I expect to learn more about family relationships.(2)
- My expectations from them was to teach more about careers and how to change our life in a positive way. (3)
- I expect some dance and singing during the conference.
- I expected this conference to be more like a competition.
- I expect them to conduct more group activities
- I expect to teach more about purity, honesty, unselfishness and love
- I expect family day to be longer.

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- I had no expectations because today's session was all about the sentiment and emotions of our own life.
- I expect them to teach more about self introspection
- I expect you to have longer conferences for 5-6 days. (3)
- I expect them to teach more about self confidence. (2)
- I expect them to teach us how to overcome anger issues and overthinking.
- I expect to teach how to become a better human being
- I expect them to teach how to be more pure and have better relationships with family.
- My expectations are to teach more about the value of relatives.
- The exercise done today was beyond my expectations and it helped me to understand how to become a better person.
- I expect you to talk more about career development and career guidance. (2)
- After family day I expect that the love towards my family will increase gradually.
- I expect them to teach how to overcome egoistic nature.
- I expect them to teach and guide people how to become an entrepreneur
- I expect them to motivate us to do better in future or after 12th
- I expect to focus more on interaction with other people.
- I expect them to teach me how to improve my communication skills.
- I expect this conference to change myself and give me more ideas on how to improve my future.
- I expect them to interact more and share different things with different people.
- I expect them to give more ideas on how to improve your aim for future.

Annexure 4 - New Learnings

- I feel more confident
- I feel I have improved my communication
- I have improved my concentration
- I have learned how to be more consistent
- I learned more about myself through self introspection
- I have learned more about purity, honesty, unselfishness and love

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- I want to be more disciplined
- I want to be more punctual
- I learned to save time from my day to day activities
- I want to make great changes in society
- I overcame my fear of shyness
- I overcame my fear of speaking on stage
- I learned to be more confident
- I learned how to be myself.
- I learned how to manage time perfectly
- I got clear idea about my future
- I learned how to improve my concentration
- Other than wanting to structuralise and formulate and put my ideas into motion I learnt to build a strong character and understand myself better by doing self introspection.
- I want to learn how to communicate
- I got to know the better version of myself
- I learned some new and good habits
- I learned to be more driven towards my studies
- I became a more confident person after the conference
- I have learned how to be more disciplined
- I learned about being honest with family members even when it's better to lie
- I gained new experience in my life
- I learned how to improve myself

Annexure 5 - Feedback

What did you like at the conference?

- I liked the four values of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. (40)
- The family and relationship session (24)
- All the demonstrations, including the jar exercise, coconut and the golf ball. (19)
- I liked everything about the conference (54)
- Quiet time (22)
- Pledge (2)

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- The way you taught us (16)
- Sharing by the participants and volunteers from the stage (6)
- Kindness shown by the volunteers (14)
- Clarity
- Good real life examples (5)
- Genuine listening to my problems (3)
- Respect shown towards the participants
- I liked the group leaders and our group discussions (16)
- Letter to self (5)
- Daylight Saving Time (5)
- Negative burning
- Vision and career (6)
- Concentration exercise (9)
- My parents too liked this conference
- I got answers to all my questions
- I could realize about myself (15)
- I liked the openness of the Let's Make A Difference team (2)
- I liked the sessions taken by Mr. Viral Mazumdar (21)
- I could gain confidence and the stage fear in me is gone (3)

What you did not like at the conference?

- There were no breaks (12)
- The sessions were too long (18)
- Nothing (112)
- The session was too serious and no fun
- Sitting arrangement was not good as I was short and could not see the screen
- Friends were not sitting together (3)
- It would have been better if the GDs were a little fun.
- There were no fun activities or outdoor activities (2)
- Sitting in one place (8)
- I felt it was too short, should have been for a week with more spaced out sessions (8)
- Could not hear clearly from behind (5)
- Volunteers were strict (4)

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- Screen was not visible on the first day
- One volunteer acted very rudely
- I hoped that you would talk about anger too
- Could not interact with volunteers personally due to less time
- Vision exercise can be improved with more examples (2)
- There should be more sessions
- Circle of Trust was broken by my schoolmates, everyone knew what I talked about in the GD
- The conference could have been from Wednesday to Saturday
- Being quiet made me uncomfortable (2)
- There were too many worksheets to write
- The noise from outside

One change you would like to see in yourself immediately

- No wastage of food and water
- I will not fight with my sister
- I will not gossip about others
- I want to remove the jealousy within me.
- Less screen time
- I want to inculcate all the four values in me
- I want to become honest
- I will stop using bad abusive words towards my friends
- I will become more positive
- I will not have stage fear
- I will get concentrated in my studies
- I want to talk with everyone freely
- I will become more disciplined
- I want to change my bad habits to good habits
- I want to become kind
- I want to show unconditional love to my friends and family
- I will obey my inner conscience
- I will bring a change in myself
- I want to remove all bad thoughts about others
- I will respect elders

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- I want to become a kind and patient daughter to my parents
- I will not be lazy
- I will stop wasting time
- I will wake up early in the morning
- I will become more productive
- I will improve my health
- I will stop postponing my work
- I will be more open to my parents
- I will stop biting my nails
- I will stop simping over a person
- I will not be angry
- I will stop hurting people who love me more than anything
- I will be confident and fearless
- I will stop my over thinking
- I will correct my past mistakes
- I will stop crying on silly mistakes
- I will stop getting distracted from mobile phone while studying

One strong powerful takeaway

- Demonstration about ego
- Quiet time diary
- Family
- I will follow the pledge
- Silence
- Honesty
- Unselfishness
- Four values
- Proactiveness
- Achieve my goal
- Sleep for 6 hours
- Positive thinking in life
- Change
- Accepting the reality
- Relationship

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- Relationship
- Inner voice
- Confidence
- Unconditional love
- Concentration
- Discipline and punctuality
- Jar exercise
- Not afraid of any problem
- Help my parents
- No addiction of mobile phone
- Avoid mistakes
- Circle of Trust
- Letter to self
- Career
- I came out of the conference as a strong girl
- Courage to speak in front of a crowd
- Speaking skill

Describe the youth conference in one line

- Listen to inner voice
- Absolutely marvelous
- Life changing
- Very helpful
- Beautiful
- Wonderful
- Good experience
- Very useful
- Good for youth students
- Motivating student
- Best part of life
- Awesome idea to become a better human
- This conference taught us new things
- Good and worthwhile conference
- Valuable conference that taught about values
- It changes people

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- It made me realize about myself
- Most important for every youth who wants to change their character
- Awesome, never experience something like this
- Once in a lifetime experience
- Most amazing way to change one's life
- Motivated me to be social and calm
- Great platform to share thoughts
- Inspiring
- The youth conference was “like a heaven to feel yourself and change”
- Understanding oneself
- Transformational
- Conference all teenagers should definitely take part
- It made a difference in our life
- Understanding myself
- Preventing to go in a wrong path
- They are the future of India and change
- Special
- Can bring change in every person
- Heavenly
- Beginning of life change
- Outstanding
- Best inspiration for future
- Found myself
- Perfectly prepared for strong mind
- New beginning
- A bandage to all scared young hearts
- Important to this generation
- It is a basic unit by which everyone can change their life
- It is better to light a candle than cursing the darkness
- Turning point of life
- Encourage our minds with lovely words and smile

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Annexure 6 - Volunteer Experience

Shivrai Vijay Pokharkar, Solapur, Maharashtra

Tenkasi Youth Conference at Vels Vidyalaya, Tenkasi, was a profoundly impactful experience that contributed significantly to my personal growth and understanding. The chance to interact with and guide the students, coupled with the collective efforts of my team, made this event a remarkable journey of introspection. The conference not only reinforced the valuable lessons of let's make a difference but also highlighted the importance of community and shared learning. As I carry these memories and lessons forward, I remain thankful for the opportunity to volunteer and look forward to continuing this journey.

Satya Prakash Sharma, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand

Over the course of four days, I had the opportunity to learn new things and experiences. The conference was truly inspiring, and I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of it.

Throughout the event, we encountered various challenges, with language barriers being one of the most significant. Despite this obstacle, we managed to navigate through it effectively. The overall atmosphere was positive, and I found myself learning new things while also helping others in their quest for personal growth. It was fulfilling to be able to contribute to deliver the important message of "Let's Make A Difference."

Participating in this conference has further fueled my passion for volunteer work, and I am eager to engage in similar opportunities in the future. I believe that these experiences are instrumental in creating positive change and fostering a sense of community.

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Pasang Doma Sherpa, Bengaluru (Tibetan Volunteer)

I recently stepped out of my comfort zone for the first time when I volunteered for the first time. It turned out to be an incredibly valuable experience for me. I had the opportunity to meet new people and learned a lot of new things, and for that, I am truly grateful.

Omi Jain, Mumbai, Maharashtra

I am Omi Jain from Mumbai. During my volunteer experience at Vel's Vidyalaya, I had the opportunity to learn and grow significantly. While I made a few mistakes along the way, they provided valuable learning experiences. The highlight was undoubtedly the connections I forged with the students; their enthusiasm and curiosity were inspiring. I am deeply grateful for the chance to contribute and be a part of such an enriching conference. I eagerly anticipate more opportunities to participate in many more conferences and continue my journey.

Ritesh Sakhare, Nagpur, Maharashtra

As a volunteer, I put in my efforts to do the work that I was given. Over these 4 days, during the sessions, I learned about honesty, purity, unselfishness, and unconditional love. I have adopted these values and will continue to embrace them.

As a volunteer, I contributed fully to the tasks assigned to me. Through these sessions, I learned to perform whatever work is required. In the next conference, I will ensure that any mistakes I made will not be repeated. I will work on improving and strive to accomplish the tasks given to us better. Thank you for this opportunity.

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Greeshma Reddy, Pune, Maharashtra

Overall the experience was good. I like the fact that everyone was quite welcoming for a beginner like me. I took a lot of notings from the conference which would help me in future. The repository of experiences shared were helpful too . Glad to have made this decision!

K M Sundaram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

I am Sundar from Chennai and I had the opportunity to experience Let's make a difference with my family and got to know that this is the first time we have been given the opportunity to take part in.

Firstly the environment was such a breathtaking experience. The whole experience of Let's make a difference created "a change" a whole transformation between the parental relationship and myself as an individual. I had my initial fears of just knowing a few words in Hindi and only a South Indian boy taking part in was thinking I might end up getting nothing, but in contrast Let's make a difference proved language is never a barrier and I could confidently say there are many takeaways that this feedback would not be enough to describe.

I would confidently and proudly be a part of Let's make a difference for now and forever, would love to spread the energy to all parts of South India.

Dhruv Bhilare, Pune, Maharashtra

I have volunteered with a few organizations in the past, but this was my first time volunteering with Let's Make A Difference, and it did not disappoint. I got to know a lot more about myself and the world around me. The students I met and spoke to throughout the workshop really broadened my perspective on life. The purity and innocence I saw in the participants really encouraged me to keep working throughout.

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I could see the progress in them through the days of the workshop, and I got to learn a lot from them too. Their stories, experiences, and challenges expanded my thinking and abilities. The team of volunteers really helped make my experience a lot smoother and more balanced. The variety of members and experiences made the whole journey a significant learning opportunity for me.

During the group discussions, I saw the kids trusting me and my team leaders. Them opening up and sharing wasn't something I expected to see so quickly and consistently. Overall, this was a wonderful volunteering experience for me.

Dipti Sinha, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand

I am Dipti Sinha from Jamshedpur. It was my first time in South India and I had a great experience. Amar seva Sangam took good care of our accommodation and meal, and we felt like family.

Volunteering at the Tenkasi Youth Conference was a bit challenging because of language differences and girls and boys are not comfortable sitting together. But, we found ways to connect with the students and parents. Many Participants got connected in family day session, many of them shared about the communication gap they have with their parents and comparison done by the parents, many of them realised about their mistakes and promised to take steps to improve their relationship with their parents.

We encouraged the students to share what they learned with their parents and asked them to call their parents on the last day of the conference and many parents came to the last day. The school also appreciated on seeing these many parents, as parents were not willing to come to school when they were called. They were impressed with what their children learned and asked us to come back and continue this conference every year. It was a successful conference, and I'm glad I was a part of it!

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Tanmay Ghoghare, Dharashiv, Maharashtra

Hello, I am Tanmay Shursen Ghoghare from Dharashiv, Maharashtra. I recently participated as a volunteer at a Let's Make a Difference conference for the first time. The conference was an enriching experience for me. Each day brought new learning experiences, and I was grateful for the guidance from the senior team on organizing various aspects. It was heartening to see the students engage quietly yet interactively in all the sessions, reflecting their eagerness to learn. During the conference, students actively shared their thoughts and concerns during group discussions. As the conference concluded, I noticed a visible change in the students as they confidently shared their experiences with the entire group. I would like to emphasize the invaluable assistance provided by Sundar Bhaiya and Shanmugam sir in bridging the language gap between us and the students, which encouraged some students to express themselves. Overall, it was an incredibly rewarding experience.

T Chinnasamy, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu *

Greetings to the whole Let's Make a Difference team. Attending the 4-day regional conference at Tenkasi was a joyous moment. I am very grateful to Mr. Viral and his family for making this possible, and I express my gratitude to the universe for providing me with the chance to be a part of it. I was genuinely happy with every single day. We have always known the four values, but have we lived by it? (Said with a hint of disappointment) Every value has its own interpretation and meaning. My life would have been quite different and I would have caused a difference if I had learned this earlier.

The fact that the children in classes 9 through 12 had this opportunity to learn made me happy since I always felt that it would have been better for me to have known it when I was their age. These principles had deep meaning, and Viral Bhai explained it well. It kept giving me deep thoughts. During this conference, I had moments when I realized things and moments when I sobbed, feeling that it would be a turning point in my life and that I would let the past go and become better in the future, creating confidence and happiness.

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Even though those close to me tell me I've done things, I've lost most of them. This opportunity transformed me. The entire school and the secretary of Amar Seva Sangam gave me the impression that not everyone has it easy, and that people can succeed even if they are missing a body part. Amar Seva Sangam is a great example of this. Thank you for that. I am grateful to the Shanmugam Sir team and the food team for teaching me life lessons about leadership and control, and for always setting a wonderful example for me.

The moment every student took the stage to share their emotions and release their fears gave me a positive feeling. I think this was each student's turning point. I think the Let's Make A Difference team is incredibly blessed by God for being able to help them, and I hope to be a part of any program that takes place in Tamil Nadu. I swear that from now on, I will become better, let go of the past, begin living a better life in our community by performing good things, and I ask God to help me do the same.

I want to thank everyone at the same time. If the learnings have been well received, we would succeed in our endeavors and there will be peace in every family. I pray for this and I will also pray for blessings to be bestowed upon each of you for spreading this. I ask for all the blessings to be showered upon Viral Bhai and his family in achieving this.

The story Mr. Anurag Maloo told me made me feel wonderful and gave me chills. God has given him a second chance in life, and I pray that he will be blessed with more opportunities to lead.

Thanking my son Cibi for introducing us, and blessing the entire Let's Make A Difference family on behalf of my wife and me.

**The above is a summary in English of the original Tamil handwritten volunteer experience from Mr. T Chinnasamy. The scanned copy of the handwritten text is in the next two pages.*

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Anurag Maloo, Kishangarh, Rajasthan

My journey with Let's Make A Difference started in 2010 in Panchgani, as a young college student in Delhi.

As a volunteer and facilitator at national and regional youth conferences in the past, my experience at the regional Tenkasi Youth conference in Tamil Nadu was incredibly rewarding. I was deeply inspired by the enthusiasm and passion of the students and equally inspired from the team at Amar Seva Sangam. Their eagerness to learn, collaborate, and drive positive change was truly remarkable. The vibrant energy of the local youth, their commitment to positive change, and the transformative discussions left a lasting impression on me. I saw students opening up every day little more than ever, though I noticed girls were more receptive than boys. I couldn't be there on the last day of the conference, but I received messages on Instagram from them. It's heartwarming to witness young minds coming together to create a better world.

This youth conference at Vel's Vidhyala school in Tenkasi was an enriching experience for everyone involved, as it was nurtured with the love and hospitality from the Amar Seva Sangam team.

And how nostalgic was that to think of the time when I attended my first Let's Make A Difference youth conference in 2010 in Panchgani during my college days! Those early experiences often shape our perspectives and ignite our commitment to making a difference.

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Anexxure 7 : Press Report

தினமணி

Dhina Mani
Tamil daily
Tenkasi distribution
27.06.2024

தென்காசி வேல்ஸ் பள்ளியில் புத்தாக்க பயிற்சி முகாம் தொடக்கம்



புத்தாக்கப் பயிற்சி முகாமை குத்துவிளக்கேற்றித் தொடக்கிவைத்த ஆட்சியர் ஏ.கே. கமல்கிஷோர்.

தென்காசி, ஜூன் 27: தென்காசி வேல்ஸ் வித்யாலயா பள்ளியில் மாணவர்களுக்கான 4 நாள் புத்தாக்கப் பயிற்சி முகாம் வியாழக்கிழமை தொடங்கியது.

ஆய்க்குடி அமர்சேவா சங்கம், மகாராஷ்டிர மாநிலத்தின் எல்.எம்.இ.டி. பயிற்சி நிறுவனம் ஆகியவை சார்பில் இப்பயிற்சி வழங்கப்படவுள்ளது. ஆட்சியர் ஏ.கே. கமல்கிஷோர் சிறப்பு அழைப்பாளராகப் பங்கேற்று குத்துவிளக்கேற்றி, முகாமைத் தொடக்கி வைத்துப் பேசினார்.

போட்டித் தேர்வு அணுகு முறை, தேர்வுகால பயிற்சி அனுபவம், மாவட்ட வளர்ச்சிக்கான திட்டங்கள் குறித்த மாணவர்களின் பல்வேறு கேள்விகளுக்கு ஆட்சியர் பதிலளித்தார். தாளா

ளர் வீரவேல் முருகன், இயக்குநர் ராஜராஜேஸ்வரி ஆகியோர் முன்னிலை வகித்தனர். மாவட்ட அரசு தலைமை மருத்துவமனை முதன்மைக் கண்காணிப்பாளர் ஜெஸ்லின், அமர்சேவா சங்கத் தலைவர் ராமகிருஷ்ணன், செயலர் சங்கரராமன், எல்.எம்.இ.டி. பயிற்சி நிறுவன நிறுவனர் விரால் மஜூம் தார் ஆகியோர் பங்கேற்றனர்.

நிகழ்ச்சியில், இப்பள்ளி சார்பில் அமர்சேவா சங்கத்துக்கு ரூ. 1 லட்சம் நன்கொடைக்கான காசோலை வழங்கப்பட்டது.

இம்முகாமில் இந்திய அளவில் பல்வேறு துறைகளில் சாதனை புரிந்தவர்களும், அனுபவம் பெற்றவர்களும் பங்கேற்று பயிற்சியளிக்கவுள்ளனர். பள்ளி முதல்வர் சாந்தி நன்றி கூறினார்.

Daily state newspaper Dhina Mani 27th July

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தென்காசி வேல்ஸ் வித்யாலயா பள்ளியில் நடந்த மாணவர்களுக்கான புத்தாக்க பயிற்சி முகாம் மாவட்ட கலெக்டர் கமல் கிஷோர் குத்து விளக்கேற்றி துவக்கி வைத்தார்.



தென்காசி வேல்ஸ் வித்யாலயா பள்ளியில் நடந்த மாணவர்களுக்கான புத்தாக்க பயிற்சி முகாம் மாவட்ட கலெக்டர் கமல் கிஷோர் குத்து விளக்கேற்றி துவக்கி வைத்தார்.

கலெக்டர் கமல் கிஷோர் துவக்கி வைத்தார்

தென்காசி, ஜூன் 28: தென்காசி வேல்ஸ் வித்யாலயா பள்ளியில் ஆய்வுக்குடி அமர் சேவா சங்கம், மாகாராஷ்டிரா மாநிலத்தின் பயிற்சி நிறுவனம் எல் எம் இடி நிறுவனத்துடன் இணைந்து வேல்ஸ் வித்யாலயா பள்ளி மாணவர்களுக்கு 4 நாட்களுக்கு ஏற்பாடு செய்து குந்த புத்தாக்க பயிற்சி தொடக்க முகாமிற்கு மாவட்ட கலெக்டர் கமல் கிஷோர் தலைமைவகித்து துவக்கி வைத்தார். விழாவில் மாணவர்கள் கேட்ட போட்டி தேர்வு அனுகுமுறை, ஆட்சிய

ரின் தேர்வுகால பயிற்சி அனுபவம், தென்காசி மாவட்ட வளர்ச்சிக்கான ஆட்சியரின் திட்டம் குறித்த மாணவர்களின் பல்வேறு கேள்விகளுக்கு பதிலளித்து உரையாற்றினார். நான்கு நாட்கள் நடைபெறும் இந்த பயிற்சியில் இந்திய அளவில் பல்வேறு துறையில் சாதனை புரிந்த மற்றும் அனுபவம் உள்ள வர்கள் வேல்ஸ் பள்ளி மாணவர்களுக்கு பயிற்சி அளிக்க உள்ளனர். விழாவில் சிறப்பு அழைப்பாளர்களாக தென்காசி அரசு

தலைமை மருத்துவமனையின் கண்காணிப்பாளர் மருத்துவர் ஜெஸ்லின், அமர்சேவா சங்கத்தின் நிறுவனர் ராமகிருஷ்ணன், செயலாளர் சங்கரராமன், எல் ம் இடி பயிற்சி நிறுவனத்தின் நிறுவனர் விரால் மஜீம்தார், பள்ளி தாளாளர் வீரவேல் முருகன், இயக்குநர் ராஜராஜேஸ்வரி, முதல்வர் சாந்தி உள்ளிட்டோர் கலந்து கொண்டனர். விழாவில் வேல்ஸ் வித்யாலயா பள்ளியின் சார்பில் அமர்சேவா சங்கத்திற்கு ஒரு லட்சத்திற்கான நன்கொடை காசோலையை மாவட்ட கலெக்டர் முன்னிலையில் வழங்கப்பட்டது.

தென்காசி வேல்ஸ் பள்ளியில் மாணவர்களுக்கான பயிற்சி முகாம்: கலெக்டர் ஏ.கே.கமல்கிஷோர் தொடங்கி வைத்தார்



தென்காசி ஜூன் 28: தென்காசி வேல்ஸ் வித்யாலயா பள்ளியில் மாணவர்களுக்கான 4 நாள் புத்தாக்க பயிற்சி முகாம் தொடக்க நிகழ்வு நடைபெற்றது. ஆய்வுக்குடி அமர்சேவா சங்கம், மாகாராஷ்டிரா மாநிலத்தின் பயிற்சி நிறுவனம் எல் ம் இடி நிறுவனத்துடன் இணைந்து வேல்ஸ் வித்யாலயா பள்ளி தங்கள் மாணவர்களுக்காக ஏற்பாடு செய்த 4 நாள் புத்தாக்க பயிற்சியில் மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் கமல் கிஷோர் சிறப்பு அழைப்பாளராக கலந்து கொண்டு குத்து விளக்கேற்றி நிகழ்ச்சியை தொடங்கி வைத்தார். விழா

வில் மாணவர்கள் கேட்ட போட்டி தேர்வு அனுகுமுறை, ஆட்சியரின் தேர்வுகால பயிற்சி அனுபவம், தென்காசி மாவட்ட வளர்ச்சிக்கான ஆட்சியரின் திட்டம் குறித்த மாணவர்களின் பல்வேறு கேள்விகளுக்கு பதிலளித்து உரையாற்றினார். நான்கு நாட்கள் நடைபெறும் இந்த பயிற்சியில் இந்திய அளவில் பல்வேறு துறையில் சாதனை புரிந்த மற்றும் அனுபவம் உள்ளவர்கள் வேல்ஸ் பள்ளி மாணவர்களுக்கு பயிற்சி அளிக்க உள்ளனர். விழாவில் இதர சிறப்பு அழைப்பாளர்களாக தென்காசி அரசு தலைமை

மருத்துவமனையின் முன்னமை கண்காணிப்பாளர் மருத்துவர் ஜெஸ்லின், அமர்சேவா சங்கத்தின் நிறுவனர் ராமகிருஷ்ணன், செயலாளர் சங்கரராமன், எல் ம் இடி பயிற்சி நிறுவனத்தின் நிறுவனர் விரால் மஜீம்தார் பள்ளி தாளாளர் வீரவேல் முருகன் இயக்குநர் ராஜராஜேஸ்வரி மற்றும் முதல்வர் சாந்தி உள்ளிட்டோர் கலந்து கொண்டனர். விழாவில் வேல்ஸ் வித்யாலயா பள்ளியின் சார்பாக அமர்சேவா சங்கத்திற்கு ஒரு லட்சத்திற்கான காசோலையை நன்கொடையாக மாவட்ட ஆட்சியர் முன்னிலையில் வழங்கப்பட்டது.

Daily state newspaper Dhinakaran 28th July

Daily state newspaper Dhina Bhoomi 28th July

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