



**Lok Seva Sangam**

**From the LSS Governing Body (Education) ...**

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Welcome to yet another issue of the LSS EduTimes.

In January, LSS prepared for two big events - Republic Day and Anti Leprosy Day.

Though India became a free nation on August 15, 1947, it enjoyed the true spirit of Independence on January 26, 1950 when the Constitution of India finally came into force. The Constitution gave the citizens of India the power to govern themselves by choosing their own government.

Dr B R Ambedkar, popularly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar, was one of the architects of the Indian Constitution. He was a well-known politician and an eminent jurist. Bhimrao Ambedkar was appointed as the Chairman of the constitution drafting committee. He was also a

noted scholar and eminent jurist. According to him, it would be difficult to maintain the unity of the country if the difference among the classes were not met.

Throughout his life, he fought for the rights of the dalits and other socially backward classes. Ambedkar was appointed as the nation's first Law Minister in the Cabinet of Jawaharlal Nehru.

30<sup>th</sup> January, the Martyrdom Day of Mahatma Gandhi, is celebrated every year as the Anti Leprosy Day all over India, in order to commemorate his selfless efforts and care for the people affected by the infectious disease, leprosy. Parchure, a social worker and Sanskrit Pandit, was somehow afflicted with leprosy. In those days, people used to shun leprosy

patients. Therefore, Parchure was thinking of committing suicide. He came to Gandhiji. Gandhiji himself started nursing and cleaning his wounds.

I end with a quote from Dr. B. R. Ambedkar -

**“ ..... we must not be content with mere political democracy. We must note that our political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy. What does social democracy mean? It means a way of life which recognizes liberty, equality and fraternity as the principles of life.”**

- Ms. Sandra Pinto  
Member of the Governing Body (Education)

**Editorial Board**

- \* Ms. Sandra Pinto  
Member of the Governing Body (Education)
- \* Ms. Etheldreda D'Souza  
Manager
- \* Ms. Seema Patil  
Teacher-Coordinator

**An update from the Balwadis ...**

In January, the Balwadi students were taught -

**English:** Speaking – About myself; days of the week, months of the year, discussion on Makarsankranti and Republic Day; Letters A to Z. Writing - Letters A to P.

**Math.:** Counting: 1 to 10; Writing 1 to 7.

**EVS:** Identifying various aromas; Identifying vegetables, parts of the body;

**Music:** Jack and Jill; National Anthem.

**Art n Craft:** Colouring the National Flag; Stick the crushed paper balls on the flag, make a kite, paper folding (boats).

**Eurythmics & games:**

passing the ball, musical chairs.

**Story:** Thirsty Crow

- Ms. Bhuvaneshwari;  
Ms. Leelavati;  
Ms. Krushnavati.

## An update from the Tutorials ...

As January was the month for unit tests, the syllabus taught in the students' schools was covered in all subjects. All the textual questions were reinforced. Spellings of difficult words and compound words were taken repeatedly reinforced. Revision for all classes was done. Students were a lot more confident than before the unit tests. Students' handwriting has improved. The students are also reading with the correct pronunciations.

- Ms. Kalpana



Students at the Bainganwadi Education Center preparing for their tests.

## Celebrating Makarsankranti ...

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, all LSS Education Centers celebrated 'Bhogi'.

Especially for this occasion, bajra 'rotis' were made and served with seasonal mixed vegetables. Students were educated on the importance of this particular meal. Since it is winter, in India, seasonal foods like bajra, sesame, jaggery, groundnut are eaten to keep one warm and healthy.

The students at the Chunabhatti Education Center also celebrated 'Pongal', which is a harvest festival celebrated in South India. The meal prepared for that day was made of rice and jaggery.

- Ms. Jaya



Students engaged in kite-making.

## Republic Day at the Centers ...

26<sup>th</sup> January is celebrated as Republic Day all over India. We, Indians, are proud of this day. Republic Day celebrations are held in all the three LSS Education Centers. The boards are decorated and we organise some programmes such as 'Fancy dress' for the students. We start the programme by hoisting the national flag and singing the national anthem. After that, we distribute some snacks to the students.

At Chunabhatti, the Municipal Corporator, Ms. Pranita Wagdhare attended the function. The students of the Chunabhatti Education Center performed a dance and participated in some games. At the Bainganwadi and Cheeta Camp Education Centers, students had



a 'Fancy dress' Competition.

The Republic Day programme was attended by the students and their parents. All students participated enthusiastically.

- Ms. Kalpana

## LSS organises Anti Leprosy Rally ...



Lok Seva Sangam began its journey in 1976 with leprosy and till date this disease remains a problem. Of course, the number of cases have reduced but it still continues to affect society.

One of the objectives of the Anti Leprosy Day is to create an awareness among people about the myths of this disease, such as its spread by simply touching another affected person. At Bainganwadi, LSS conducts surveys, creates awareness in schools by organising group talks, sticking posters, writing slogans in public places, etc.

On January 30, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., the Health workers of the

Bainganwadi Health Post organised an Anti Leprosy Rally at Bainganwadi. The rally started from Bainganwadi Health Post No. II at Kamlaraman Nagar and moved towards the Bainganwadi new bus depot. Two local Municipal Corporators flagged off the rally and walked with the group for a while.

About 35 students and Teachers of the LSS Education Center along with other

LSS staff were also present. Capoeira students participated in this rally too. Also present were about 150 students of Infant India High School and Health workers of the Mumbai Municipal AMO.

- Ms. Seema Patil

## Special thanks to our annual/quarterly sponsors ...

- **Aleimar Gruppo Onlus** for sponsoring the Adult Life Skills Programme and the education of 18 children.
- **School for Children** for sponsoring the education of 52 children.
- **SlumAid** for donations towards teachers' salaries.
- **Pontificio Istituto di Missioni Estere (PIME)** for sponsoring the education of 70 children.
- **SlumAid** for sending volunteers to teach at our Education Centers.
- **Veryindia**  
- Ms. Etheldreda D'Souza

## Special thanks to our donors ...

- A social worker Hitesh Mehta (Vile Parle, Mumbai), for donating two wall watch, 36 tea spoons, one chalk box, one cloth flag and small paper flags, sweets and 34 slates for the students of the Bainganwadi Education Center.
- Ms. Seema Patil



Mr. Hitesh Mehta donating slates to the Balwadi students.

## We appreciate our volunteers ...

Thank you Ben Ridge for volunteering to update our Website .

## Schedule of Events

\* 19/01/16 - Shivaji Jayanti

# February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Shivaji Jayanti	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

## Thank you, Sister Luigina

The Assistant Director, Health Services, Mumbai, India, has chosen to give Sister Luigina an award for her outstanding work in leprosy.

Sr Luigina Marchesi was born at Costa Mezzate (Bergamo) in Italy on the 5th February 1929.

Her baptismal name was Orsola. She took the name Luigina when she entered the religious congregation of Vimala Sisters in remembrance of her expired father Luigi. In preparation for her mission she became a professional nurse.

She came to Vijayawada (India) in 1960 and was posted in the hospital at Gudivada (Andhra Pradesh) where she learned the Telugu language. Then she was requested to start the Damian Leprosy Centre at Vegavaram, a 100 beds facility in charge of leprosy control in West Godavari District.

In 1972 she was sent to Bombay (Mumbai) to start the Vimala Dermatological Centre at Versova. But after realizing that, in Mumbai, treatment for leprosy was already available free in any municipal hospital she understood that the real problem was to discover the early signs of leprosy in the people living in slums and convince them to go to take treatment.

So in 1976, along with Fr Carlo Torriani, she started Lok Seva Sangam for leprosy control in the big slums of Kurla and Deonar (L and M Wards with population of ten lakhs).

She took particularly care of the children of leprosy patients opening four Balwadis to train them to go school.



Sister Luigina with the medal and tulsi plant awarded by The Assistant Director, Health Services, Mumbai, India for her dedicated and selfless work towards Leprosy control.

When Lok Seva Sangam was well established and functioning, in 1983, she started a rehabilitation centre, Swarga Dwar, at Rohinjan (Taloja) where she lived till 2010 cultivating rice and building a primary and high school for the children of leprosy patients.

In 1983 she obtained Indian Citizenship and continued her work with leprosy patients in Swarga Dwar, the leprosy rehabilitation centre which still exists.

Due her failing health she is now in Italy taking treatment.

- Ms. Etheldreda D'Souza

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Donations made to Lok Seva Sangam  
are exempt from Income Tax under  
Sec 80G.

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## Photo Gallery



## What we do ...

**Lok Seva Sangam (LSS)** is a voluntary organisation, founded by Father Carlo Torriani and Sister Luigina Marchesi, both missionaries from Italy. LSS was registered in February 1976 under the Societies Registration Act and works for the control of **leprosy**, **tuberculosis**, elimination of malnutrition and enhancement of **education**. It covers a population of approximately 2.7 million in the E, L, M (East) and M (West) wards of Mumbai, India.

Cure without segregation has been the motto of LSS since inception and 300 odd deformed leprosy patients under its care are provided with physiotherapy, varied aids and appliances and dressing materials. The main aim is to detect cases in the early stages through its 15

dermatological mobile clinics and prevent impairment and disability.

Tuberculosis is a life-threatening ailment and is highly contagious. LSS aims to prevent the onset of MDR and XDR by detecting patients early and

convincing them to complete treatment without interruption.

To improve the outreach and efficiency of the Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) programme, LSS also works with 17 Anganwadis. It plays a major role in motivating the community to take an active part in the monitoring and evaluation of the programme while working towards decreasing child mortality and improving maternal health by Community-based management (CBM) of severely malnourished children.

LSS runs 3 Education Centers for children of 2 1/2 - 13 years of age in Chunabhatti, Bainganwadi and Cheeta Camp and provides them with free meals, clothes and stationery. Besides this, the children are trained in Capoeira, fine arts, English, etc ....

