

# SKILLS FOR FREEDOM

## Newsletter from India

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This electronic newsletter from **PEACE TRUST, INDIA** is addressed to NGO's, Social Activists, Media, Opinion makers, Leaders and Bureaucrats for improving their understanding on skilling the youth for gainful employment and addressing social issues like modern slavery, child labour, migrant labour, un-employability of youth. We also send this to people who we believe are involved in improving the migrant worker's conditions. You are welcome to unsubscribe yourself, if you so choose.

**-EDITOR**

Peace Trust is a Non Government Organization working on Child Labour and Bonded Labour issues since 1984. It has also focused on Migrant workers rights and Anti Trafficking of Person issue since 1999. Facilitating decent employment of youth is taken up.

- o Peace Trust's Skills for Freedom is the only solution to end Modern Slavery in Tamil Nadu. It is on decent and skill based effort for enhancing the employment opportunities of rural youth in Dindigul, Karur, Tiruppur Districts.
- o Reduce the risk for Young Workers - Peace Trust is actively involved in Initiative to "Support School Education, Health Protection, Livelihood Development and Skill Training for Gainful Employment among Vulnerable Young Population in Dindigul District".
- o SPSC Vocational Education & Employment Facilitation Centre provides access to vocational education and employment facilitation for rural poor youth in Nagapattinam, Thiruvallur District Tamil Nadu and Karaikal District, Puducherry.
- o Peace Trust also provides training for Quality Teacher Education and gainful employment to young women from resource poor families in Dindigul and Karur District.
- o Peace Trust has also been broadcasting Pasumai FM community radio.
- o Peace Trust is actively engaged in building the capacity of youth aspiring for Government, Public Sector, Bank job
- o Peace Trust is providing guidance for higher studies to 17 + youth.

The views expressed are not of the donors but a compilation of field realities for the purpose of sharing and action. The News Letter is for academic purpose to understand Human Resources and Skill Education.

**The Skills for Freedom e-newsletter is published by:**



**PEACE TRUST**  
Lifting up the least, the lost and the last..

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# Migration

## **Donald Trump Talks Chain Migration In Davos. What It Means For Indians**

An analysis by the Center for Immigration Studies on immigration through chain migration - where people granted a green card bring their family members to the US - an average immigrant from India eventually sponsored over five additional immigrants.

Indians make up for 6% of the 43.3 million foreign-born population in the United States

DAVOS:

In his address at the World Economic Forum, US President Donald Trump on Friday pitched the overhaul of the immigration system pushed by his administration "as a matter of both national and economic security" and made a pointed reference to the extended family chain migration. "We must replace the current system of extended family chain migration with a merit-based system of admissions that selects new arrival based on their ability to contribute to the economy to support themselves financially and strengthen our country," the US President told his audience of politicians and leaders of industry, technology and finance.

The elimination of chain migration would adversely affect Indian Americans who are planning to bring their family members to the United States. An analysis by the Center for Immigration Studies on immigration through chain migration - where people granted a green card bring their family members to the US - an average immigrant from India eventually sponsored over five additional immigrants.

Between 1996 and 2000, the study, "Multiplying Diversity" said there were 36,160 new immigrants to the US and 184,830 sponsored family immigrants. In 2016, according to its analysis, Indians made up for 7 per cent of the 4.3 million people on the waiting list for family-based immigrant visas, the third largest group after Mexico and Philippines.

A study by the Washington DC based think-tank Migration Policy Institute, says only half of the Indians granted permanent residence in the United States in 2015 received the green card through employer sponsorship. "The remainder qualified as immediate relatives of US citizens or through other family-sponsored channels," it said.

President Trump's remarks on the immigration system that he insisted was "stuck in the past" comes amid negotiations over some 700,000 immigrants brought into the United States illegally as children who face deportation as early as March. An impasse over the future of these immigrants - called "Dreamers" - had recently shut down the government for three days. Before he left for Davos, President Trump had signalled that a broader deal might be within reach. Before the global business elite in Davos, President Trump underlined that he, like other world leaders, was driven by his country's national interest. "We support free trade but it needs to be fair and reciprocal," he said, a message that America First did not imply America alone.

# Trafficking

## **Anti-human trafficking cell roped in:**

LUCKNOW: A Lucknow court has referred the case of missing IIM-L student Subhadip Das to anti-humantrafficking unit (AHTU) to find him in eight weeks' time. Das went missing from the IIM-L campus on July 18 last year but the Madiaon police lodged a missing case only on July 24. The parents of the missing youth met the Union home minister on September 25, demanding a CBI probe into matter, they filed a petition in the high court of Lucknow.

On Monday, the court had issued an order stating that Lucknow SSP will supervise the investigation carried out by AHTU. Investigation officer of the case Jabrul Hasan has been directed to investigate the case from all the possible angles. Missing youth's counsel Indrani Gupta told TOI that the court has given two months for the search operation. The next hearing is on April 4. Gupta also said that Das had taken exam on the day he went missing. "If Subhadip had to go out in such a way, why would he have taken the exam," she said.

Shubhadip's father Uttam Kumar Das alleged that the Madiaon police has not taken the case seriously. "Only one SI was sent to search for my missing child in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh, with no access to technology. He showed no interest in searching for my son," he said.

## **Raids on houses of accused in human trafficking racket**

NAGPUR: The crime branch squads on Wednesday conducted searches at the houses of the four accused in custody for their involvement in trafficking illegal immigrants to United Kingdom between 2007 and 2015. Advocate Shiv Kumar Rathod, arrested late on Tuesday, too was remanded to police custody for three days by the court on Wednesday. The crime branch has also traced out five illegal immigrants, who have now come back and settled in the city. The cops have collected substantial information from them regarding the racket, which has links in North America and Europe, besides multiple states in India, including Haryana and Punjab. The cops are also trying to unearth the hawala channel which the racketeers used for transactions across states and nations to keep the operations underway.

Sources claimed the arrested persons, Balveer Singh Multani, Ajit Singh Multani, Rulda Singh Gujjar and Manjeet Ghotra, have admitted in the probe about their involvement in the racket. The cops also tried to net two more accused, but their trap failed. The intelligence agencies have also started a parallel inquiry into the racket. Though the angle of terrorism has been ruled out as of now, the human trafficking network will expose loopholes in the passport and visa departments, and their verification processes. Senior cops, however, are tight-lipped about the involvement of other departments, especially immigration. A senior official said their probe would remain restricted to the city as per the intimation report of the British High Commission's Immigration Enforcement International (IEI) in September last year.

Around a dozen Sikh and Sindhi families of North Nagpur have been exposed by the IEI for their roles in trafficking more than 60 persons. Following intimation from IEI in September last year, city police have registered a case against 10 couples after their own probe, which took four months. Senior PI JS Rajput of crime branch said the investigating agency is now keen on recovering documentary evidence and also arrest the rest of those named in the FIR.

## **Skills**

### **74.8 per cent of eligible population still outside colleges, shows government survey**

NEW DELHI: India's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) has registered a growth of less than 1 per cent in 2016-17 as compared to the previous year indicating that too high a percentage of the eligible population is still outside colleges. GER is the ratio of persons enrolled in higher education institutes—including undergraduate, post-graduate and doctoral programmes as against general population in the age bracket 18-13 years and in 2016-17 it stood at 25.2 registering a marginal rise from 2015-16 when it was 24.7 per cent.

The statistics were released by the Union Human Resources development minister Prakash Javadekar on Friday through a detailed report on All India Survey of Higher Education an annual exercise aimed to map college and higher education scenario in India. Although India aims to attain a GER of 30 per cent by 2020 it looks like a distant dream and the country is much behind nations like China, which, currently, boasts an enrolment ratio of 43.39 per cent. In contrast, USA's GER is 85.8 per cent and even Thailand's GER is way higher at 48.86 per cent, the government data suggested.

Javadekar, however, stressed that the country had seen remarkable in enrolment figures since 2014, the year the Narendra Modi government came into power, when the GER stood at 23 per cent. Figures, however, spell out a different picture. The rise in 2015-16, too, from the previous year was just 0.2 per cent while the pre-NDA years had seen rise of over 1 per cent increase in college enrolments with every chapter of the survey since it was introduced in 2011. Educationists said that while the positive change in the figures have been a solace, the low growth rate is a direct result of the fact that the government spend less than 1 per cent of the total GDP on higher education.

"Given that we started with a low base, any positive change is welcome and should be hailed but we have miles to go before we can claim to catch up with even many of our neighbours," said Rajeev Ray, President

of the Federation of Central University Teachers' Association. The newly released survey also highlighted that as has been the case in the past, states in south India have higher college density, which is defined as the number of colleges per lakh eligible population. Puducherry has, on average, 549 students enrolled in each college. This is followed by Telangana with 483 students in each college and Karnataka with 381. The college density in the top three states is 49 in Puducherry, 59 in Telangana and 53 in Karnataka. Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, on the other hand, are at the bottom of the pile with seven, eight and 11 colleges, respectively for every one lakh students in the state.

Bangalore district tops in terms of number of colleges with 1025 colleges followed by Jaipur with 635 colleges. The survey also says that about 79.4 per cent of the students are enrolled in Bachelor of Arts (B.A) programmes followed by Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Commerce programmes while just 0.4 per cent of the total enrolments are for Ph.D. programmes. Uttar Pradesh comes at number one with the highest student enrolment followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Also, there are more than 77.8 per cent colleges running in private sector, aided and unaided taken together but it caters to only 67.3 per cent of the total enrolment.

### **International Labour Organisation forecasts 3.5 per cent unemployment in India in 2018 and 2019**

NEW DELHI: With about 130 million Indians set to vote for the first time, the biggest challenge for the incumbent government will be to tackle rising unemployment, which will stand at 3.5 per cent in 2018 and 2019, according to the latest report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

"The unemployment rate in the country will stand at 3.5 per cent in 2018 and 2019 the same level seen in 2017 and 2016," the ILO's 'World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2018' report said. The report comes just a few days after the Prime Minister in a television interview said "lies" were being spread about employment generation. In last year's report, the ILO forecast that the number of unemployed was expected to be 18 million in 2018 and had estimated the figure for 2017 at 17.8 million.

This is in contrary to the global trend where the ILO has projected a dip in unemployment rate from 5.6 per cent in 2017 to 5.5 per cent in 2018 and 2019. This means globally, 192.3 million people will remain unemployed in 2018 from 192.7 million in 2017. Meanwhile, a report by Deloitte Global said India, South Africa and China may face "social upheavals and increased income inequality" in the future due to increasing adoption of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence.

While executives conceptually understand the changes the fourth industrial revolution (Industry 4.0) will bring, they are less certain how they should act to benefit from those changes, the report said. The findings were released at the World Economic Forum's annual summit. Industry 4.0 is marked by digital technologies like analytics, artificial intelligence, cognitive computing and the internet of things (IoT). "Three countries in particular India (32%), South Africa (28%) and China (23%) envision social upheavals and increased income inequality as a result of Industry 4.0," the report noted.

### **Rural BPO scheme: women form 40% of added headcount:**

Calling beyond metros: Firms such as AGS Health will be providing services in about 16 languages.

10,968 hired under Centre's BPO promotion scheme; 1.45 lakh jobs envisaged.

The government's India BPO promotion scheme, which aims to popularise the industry beyond metros, has so far provided employment to almost 11,000 people across the country, of which 40% are women. The scheme, under the Digital India Programme, was introduced in April 2016 to incentivise BPO firms to extend operations to tier-2 and tier-3 cities in the country. With an outlay of about 500 crore, it aims to incentivize establishment of 48,300 seats, providing about 1.45 lakh jobs, under a three-shift strategy.

"Under the scheme, there are special incentives for employing women and differently-abled persons, and generating employment beyond target," an official from Ministry of Electronics and IT said. "Till now, out of the reported employment of 10,968 persons under the scheme, approximately 40% are women," the official added. A Nasscom report had said that more than 34% employees working in the \$155-billion IT industry are

women. Under the scheme, about 18,160 seats were allocated by the Centre after four rounds of bidding, while close to 14,000 seats have been shortlisted after the fifth round and are likely to be allotted soon.

“This will take the total number of seats allocated under the scheme to nearly 32,000, or 66% of the targeted number,” the official said. The seat allocation has been led by states such as Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir. The uptake has been on the slower side in Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal and almost Union Territories expect for Chandigarh and Puducherry, the official said.

Under the scheme, 109 units have been approved, through which about 40 firms such as Amazon Development Centre India and AGS Health, will be providing voice and non-voice services in about 16 languages. These will include English, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, Oriya, Marathi, Arabic, Urdu and Spanish. A total of 61 cities in 21 states and Union Territories have been already covered by the scheme.

## Child rights

### **Bihar: Crores of people form massive human chain against dowry, child marriages:**

PATNA: Millions of people in Bihar stepped out of their homes and stood in lines holding each other's hands across the state on Sunday in an attempt to form the world's longest human chain to showcase their resolve to fight against the evils of dowry and child marriage. Responding to a call by the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government, people from all walks of life joined the gigantic human chain that stretched for an estimated 13,660 km and crisscrossed all the 38 districts. They stood holding hands from 12 noon till 12:30 PM. More than 4 crore people participated in the event, said senior officials, even as figures of attendance were being collected from the districts.

Kumar inaugurated the event at Patna's historic Gandhi Maidan by letting a bunch of balloons go up in the air and then standing in line with a large number of people gathered there. He was accompanied by deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi, several ministers and senior police and administration officials.

#### **Bihar forms massive human chain in support of total prohibition; Nitish Kumar leads**

A sunny noon after weeks of biting cold and foggy mornings came as a shot in the arms for the event. Forty drones fitted with cameras were engaged in taking aerial photos and videos of the event across the state. A team from Limca Book of Records that arrived in Patna a day before also kept recording the event.

“I thank the people of Bihar for wholeheartedly taking part in the human chain and resolving to end the social ills of dowry and child marriages in the state forever,” said Nitish Kumar after the event concluded. In a sly criticism aimed at the opposition RJD and Congress that stayed off the event, he said: “Those opposing it are hitting their own feet with an axe”. The previous human chain organised across Bihar on January 21, 2017 aimed at spreading awareness about prohibition, which Nitish Kumar's then grand alliance government had imposed on the state in April 2016. Leaders and workers of RJD and Congress, then part of the government, had enthusiastically taken part in that event. The human chain in 2017 had stretched for 11,477 km with about 3.11 crore people participating.

“We cannot change society merely by enacting laws. This kind of campaigns and mass-based efforts to spread awareness go a long way in achieving the desired goals,” said deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi of BJP.

## Senior Citizens

### **Focus on senior citizens, too**

In the din surrounding India's demographic dividend, the elderly are forgotten

The trouble with writing a piece which appears at the end of the year is that one is expected to write about the year that has just gone by or the one that is coming up. But I really don't have anything to say about 2017 that you don't already know. Instead, as the sun sets on 2017, it is as good a time as any to turn our attention to those who are also in their sunset years: senior citizens.

#### **Low pensions**

Aruna Roy, a former member of the United Progressive Alliance government's National Advisory Council, once again petitioned the government specifically, Prime Minister Narendra Modi to do something about the scandalously low pension for which our senior citizens are eligible.

Writing on behalf of the Pension Parishad, a network of over 100 civil society organisations that deal with pensioners, Roy pointed out that the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme has been paying 200 a month as old-age pension, a sum which has remained unchanged since 2006, when it was introduced. Thanks to inflation, the value of this has depreciated to under 100 over the past 11 years, less than a day's notified minimum wage.

Now this is neither the first time that Roy has raised the issue, nor is Mr. Modi the first Prime Minister she has petitioned in this regard. A few years ago, she even led a demonstration of pensioners outside then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's house and got detained by the police. But the response from the government's or the Prime Minister's Office now, as then, has been the same silence. This is a pity because unnoticed amidst the din surrounding India's 'demographic dividend' the giant bulge of young people joining the workforce the fact that we have a serious 'greying' problem has gone unnoticed. According to the 2011 Census, there are 104 million elderly persons (aged 60 years or above) in India. The proportion of elderly was 8.6% in 2011 and is rising. Also, the average Indian can expect to live at least 18 years beyond the age of 60, which means the dependency ratio is also rising.

Social structures are also changing. The joint family system, which sustained the elderly, is virtually a thing of the past. This leaves a rising number of the elderly even those who were at least middle class in their working years in dire straits. There is no institutional support to speak of, the cost of both living and medicare is rising, eroding their savings, and the old-age pension, as Roy keeps pointing out, is a joke. With interest on bank deposits steadily falling most middle class elderly actually depend on this to sustain themselves, as nobody in India other than government employees actually gets a pension after retirement the problem has become quite dire even among those considered 'affluent' in our ocean of inequality.

The policy response to this has been less than adequate. Given the rising incidence of old people being abandoned by their families, the government passed a law in 2007 (the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act) to make maintenance of parents/senior citizens by children/relatives obligatory and justiciable through tribunals. The Act also provides for revocation of transfer of property by senior citizens in case of negligence by relatives, penal provision for abandonment, the establishment of old-age homes for the poor, adequate medical facilities for seniors, and many such grandiose goals. Like every attempt to legislate a solution to a social problem, this Act has miserably failed to serve its purpose.

What can be done to change this? For starters, Roy's demand for a minimum universal monthly pension of 2,000 for the elderly is quite doable for a \$2 trillion economy. Second, housing for the aged, particularly the aged poor, must be a priority and be made a subset of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Assisted living facilities for indigent elderly, particularly those with age-related issues like dementia, needs policy focus. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley can do his bit by giving more tax breaks, or at least removing tax on deposit interest for seniors.

And finally, both the government and India Inc. can actually look at tapping into the experience and skills of this segment to ensure that older persons can continue to be productive and contributory members of society. The retirement age of 58 or 60, given the rising life expectancy, is simply a burn of talent which can be put to better use.

## **Nominated to NITI Aayog panel:**

NITI Aayog, the think tank advising the Central government, has nominated **Dr.J. Paul Baskar, Chairman, Peace Trust**, as a member of its working committee in the 'Standing forum for the sustainable engagement with civil society organisations involving in service delivery.'

NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Dr.Rajiv Kumar is the Chairperson of standing committee. The working committee comprised 23 prominent civil society organisations. It would function for two years and meet once in three months to discuss various issues.

It would identify areas for better service delivery and efficient implementation of several schemes. It would also make recommendations to address specific issues as and when referred to it by the government and suggest improvements in existing laws and policies. It would focus on health, nutrition and sanitation, child rights, juvenile justice, child labour, bonded labour, trafficking of women and children, women empowerment, disability, disaster relief and environment, a release said.

## PEACE ITI SKILLS FOR FREEDOM

### **Pongal Celebrations:**

To impart the cultural values which are more essential for ethical development of the student our farmer festival Thai Pongal was celebrated in a grand manner. Sweet pongal was cooked with the cooperation of all the students and was distributed to all. Lots of competitions like Rangoli, kabadi, lucky corner etc., were conducted to make the students enthusiastic and to fulfil the celebration also the winners of the event were given prizes. The end of the day gave many memorable moments to every student and these cultural values are safely shifted to this generation also.



## YOUNG WORKERS PROJECT

### **Awareness programme for people organized on issues of young workers:**

Field staff members have participated in the Gram Sabha meeting held on 26.01.2018 in all the 10 Panchayats. Adolescent groups and community support group members from 40 target villages were also participated and submitted petitions to the local body leaders to pass resolution to end modern slavery in the villages. Members of the groups have also insisted the Gram Sabha to support the education for the children who are exploited by spinning mills. Staff members have spoken on the project intervention among the Gram Sabha participants. Participants were enlightened about the risk faced by the young workers in the spinning mills and insisted the people to focus on educating the children and youth for bright future.



### **National Girl Child Day;**

The National Girl Child day was observed in six villages, Many adolescents and school girls attended this Nation Girl child day awareness programme. Development of girl child against social and cultural practices that discriminate them and make them secondary and dependant were mentioned by the speakers. They appealed to the girls to continue their education till higher secondary level and take care their health, Education and employment only lead them to decent life on par with the males.

Hence the girls need to be aware of these facts and grow with goals for higher levels in their fields.

Stories of eminent women personalities were told to inspire the girls.



### **Training Programme on workers' Support group members:**

The Members of these groups were given training on labour laws, minimum wages Act, Bonded labour Act, employment security to widen their knowledge of these acts and involve in actions. They were also trained on management of risks in cotton mills and safety measures to be followed.

### **Training Programme on workers' rights, industrial labour laws:**

The Young workers attended the training and aware of their rights such as maximum eight hours of work, and fair wages, better working conditions, occupational safety measures, registration as labours, child Labour abolition act, medical and maternity leaves, bonus, provident fund etc. The trainings for the young workers imparted them knowledge on labour Laws, rights of young workers and the means to have dialogues with their management.



### **Meeting for ICC group members:**

ICC group member Meeting was conducted for the ways to protect and promote their health conditions. Participants were also given training on protecting methods, and where to approach for reconciling their problems facing at mills. They are also given direction to get ITI courses for their career growth. Mill workers Internal Complaints Committee Meeting on ICC & health and safety was organized in spinning mills such as DPN and Sinthuja.

**Action research Meeting and Visit:**

Action research group meetings were conducted at project Villages Kurumbapatty & Karupputhevanur. The group member participated village level developments plan preparation visit in Gram Saba meeting at Nathapatty village. The members of the action research participated were Mr Stanley Praxis, Mr. Shiva Nepal and Peace Trust young workers action research team Mr. Srinivasan, Mrs. Pavithra, Mrs Kohila and Ms.Nathiya.



**ALC and IED team visit- 3 days:**

The Team Visited 9 villages and met adolescent girl mill workers, school going adolescent girls, and Parents of adolescent girls. The Focus Group met Beneficiary in 3 villages.



**Pongal festival and Games activities:**

The CSG member organized the Pongal festival in 6 villages. The adolescent and school children enthusiastically celebrated with beautiful dress and game activities were also conducted in that celebration and prizes were given to winners to motivate.



# PEACE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

## PONGAL CELEBRATION

Thai Pongal is mainly celebrated to convey appreciation to the Sun God for a successful harvest. Part of the celebration is the boiling of the first rice of the season consecrated to the Mother Nature and to impart these ethical values to the training teachers the Chairman and Secretary of the institutions Dr. J.Paul Baskar and Vice Principal Mrs.M.Prema inaugurated the celebrations. The students assembled at the ground and prepared pongal in a new earthen pot., all students and staff joined the festivities prepared the sweet pongal. Traditional games such as Uri Adi, Kabadi, and folk dances were conducted. Student and staff went dressed in dhoti and saree that completed the festive mood by creating the traditional atmosphere.



## Dr. APJ ABDULKALAM COMBINED ASSOCIATION FUNCTION ON (HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, ECONOMICS, COMMERCE, COMPUTER SCIENCE)

Mr.C.Natrayakannan Assistant Professor in History and S.P.Sahila Asst.Prof .in Computer Science Mrs.J.Baby Asst.Prof. in Geography Mrs.A.Valli Asst.Prof. in Education organized the Programme of Dr.APJ Abdulkalam Association Function. **Dr.P.Balagurusamy M.A., M.Ed., M.Phill., Ph.D.**, Associate Professor and HOD, Department of History., GTN Arts and Science College was the chief guest of this programmer has notified the importance of Mekale Prabu Education Policy and Tagore, Vivekananda, Kothari Education Policy. This **APJ ABDULKALAM ASSOCIATION** conducted various competitions like Debate, Thirukural, Memory Skill, Quiz, Rangolli etc.,Finally, prizes and Certificates were distributed to all the winners



## PASUMAI 90.4 FM

On the occasion of Pongal Festival school children participated in an awareness song programme called “Pattu Pongal” was broadcasted. Also the students of Meenakshi College presented stories, songs and poems related to the fest.



The central library of Dindigul and Pasumai FM jointly organized a fest where literary speeches, songs and poetries were presented by many people. Nearly 150 people participated in this programme. This programme was organized for the occasion of Pongal festival.



A debate was organized on behalf of Pasumai FM to throw awareness about our wonderful tamil poetries by giving the topic of “whether Arathupaal or Porutpall of thirukural enlightens the life of the children”. The children were eagerly debated on the special topic. Nearly 300 students participated the programme

Another programme called “Vaazhkai Valikaatal” was organized in the SSM College of Engineering & Technology. Nearly 5000 higher secondary children attended the programme and an interview was done with the participants. The programme focused on the moral supportive system in the adolescent age and how to decide about their future in this age.



On the occasion 69<sup>th</sup> Republic day the school children singing beautiful songs on patriotism was recorded and the programme was broadcasted.

The famous Marambadi church festival near Vedasandoor was broadcasted by visiting the place for 4 days and interview was taken with the people about this famous festival was broadcasted as a special programme and this gave lot of information to the people who are away from the surrounding and unable to visit the festival at that time.



An interview with Mr. Shanmugam Senior Regional Director, IGNOU, Madurai was broadcasted on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and he gave benefits of the courses in IGNOU and also about the distance education programme. This programme gave a big awareness to the working people who seek to study distance education courses to improve their capacity.

