

# REACHING ENCLOSE UT

CSR Newsletter from L&T Construction

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# WHEN THE ONLY HOPE IS

Kannagi Nagar is a land of hope and despair. Although neighbours to the upscale buildings of IT giants just a kilometre away, in contrast, this place houses families resettled from slums across Chennai. Constantly susceptible to the effects of bourgeoning poverty and crime, the streets are lined with its occupants – the old with inherent pessimism, disengaged youth and children with dreams for the future which their parents cannot afford to be part of.

## This is the story of those children and Selvi, Grace Mary & Sashikala.

Many children in Kannagi Nagar are deprived of quality education or even the opportunity to attend school. Some of them drop out of school early. It is against this background that Larsen & Toubro in association with Montfort Community Development Society (MCDS) started three full-fledged evening classes to support the children and provide them a strong foundation for good quality education. These three evening tuition centres are managed by a teacher each – Selvi, Sashikala and Grace Mary and soon their names have become synonymous to the centres run by them.

A view of Kannagi Nagar

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Students of the L&T

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# HEARE, MAKING ADIFERENCE!

Living a life of silence can be extremely traumatic and especially deaf children need all the care and support possible to help them adjust to achieve a semblance of normalcy in their lives. L&T Construction, through its CSR arm, has been actively making a real difference in the lives of deaf children, one significant contribution being extending support for the fifth consecutive year to the Deaf Children's Mela 2017 which was held on 17th February 2017 at Dr. MGR Janaki College, Adyar.

The event was inaugurated by Mr. K. Jagannathan - Vice President & Head, Legal Services, L&T Construction. 650 students from six hearing & speech impaired schools across Chennai participated in the day-long mela. The event provided an opportunity for the children to enjoy themselves through games and funfilled activities. Refreshments and lunch were provided to the children. Complimentary bags and caps were distributed to the students who participated in the mela.



(L-R) Mr. A Feroz Khan (Program Co-ordinator, Deaf Enabled Foundation), Mr. Prasanth V. (Manager – CSR, L&T Construction), Mr. K. Jagannathan (Vice President & Head, Legal Services) and Ms. Ramya Niryala (Director – PR, Deaf Enabled Foundation).



Mr. K. Jagannathan distributes goody bags to the children



# Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.

- George Washington Carver

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The afternoon sun did not deter the children, evident from their happy faces which were painted with fun images as they played fun-oriented games such as Balloon Pyramid, Give it a Whirl, Sack Race, Chandelier and Tug of War.

Later during the event, Ms. Priya Anand, actress, greeted and motivated the children.



Actress Priya Anand interacting with a student



Strike a swag - student pose



Girl Power - powering little girls



Picture Time - students strike a pose with actress Priva Anand



Tug of war - battle of the brawn



Sack race - acing the race



## Selvi.

At 'Selvi', about 25 students of various age groups are huddled around the teacher Selvi; an unassuming woman with a shy smile but a sharp mind. She is quick on her feet but patient with the kids, some as young as four. She nudges their attention through knowledge based storytelling and soon she has a rapt audience.

"I want to be a nurse in a big hospital and help everyone in need. Then my mother who works now as a house maid, wouldn't have to struggle so much and we can all be happy," says Ashwini barely 13. She is one among the more earnest and regular students of the class.

For little Anitha studying in 3rd std., life turned topsy-turvy when her father died suddenly of a heart attack. "My mother handles garbage cleaning but I want to be a doctor when I grow up," she says to the applause of other children.



Ms. Selvi shares a moment with little Anitha



Grace Mary\_

attached to the Police Club has about 30 students. Managed by Grace Mary who one day aspires to be a Lab Technician, the children are earnest and many know that education is the only way to escape the drudgery of the underprivileged. "I want to

The second tuition Centre give children the confidence that they can do anything that they aspire to and that comes only with solid education," says Grace Mary as she starts making the children do their daily homework.

> For mothers like Santhoniya, the tuition centre is a boon as she frankly admits that she



Ms. Santhoniya with her daughters Ramya & Kavya

could never have managed to afford fees otherwise. 'I have studied only till 8th standard but I have big dreams for my daughters Ramya & Kavya. One of them will be a doctor and the other a software



Students of the evening tuition centre

engineer in the building close to us," and when we prod her about which one, she says quite simply "the one full of glass."

For Revathi, another mother, the only aim is that her children study well unlike people like her ilk, who didn't have the privilege of going to school. "My daughters Yuvashree in 5th std and Bhagyalakshmi in 3rd std are my hope for the future."



Children listening intently to Ms. Grace Mary

Sashikala

As we moved to the third tuition centre managed by Sashikala, we are greeted by the sounds of 'Tamil Thai Vanakkam.' Sashikala says that the tuition children, apart from studies show a keen interest in art, singing and dancing. We are shown some impromptu dance moves and listen to some very good singing. And just like that, everything is forgotten and the children tug around the Brother Mathew K. Alexander of MCDS who is almost a father figure to them.

"We had this dream of giving a happy childhood to these children built on the strong foundation of education and L&T made this a reality," says Brother Mathew as he gets pulled into the cacophony of happy children.



Playing along: Students outside the evening tuition centre

Making a difference together L&T team and MCDS team



Children break into an impromptu dance



Ms. Sashikala helping the children with the homework

# CSTI, PILKHUWA AWARDED THE GOLDEN PEACOCK

L&T Construction Skills Training Institute (CSTI) - Pilkhuwa (Delhi region), won the prestigious 'Golden Peacock National Training Award' 2017.



CSTI - Pilkhuwa

CSTI, Pilkhuwa was a top contender the among nominations from several top companies, training organizations, Public Sector Undertakings and corporate houses. The award was decided based on a comprehensive selection process involved that parameters like nature of training adopted over the last three years, quality of analysis, impact training, initiatives processes, new taken, feedback from beneficiaries through wellstructured annexures and a Self-Appraisal Report. A detailed presentation was also submitted to showcase achievements of training targets and sourcing activities.

The award, that was decided by the awards jury under the Chairmanship of Justice (Dr.) Arijit Pasayat, former Judge, Supreme Court of India, was received by Mr. P M Saravanan (Head – CSTD B&F IC) and Mr. Kamaljit Singh Mehrok (Principal – CSTI Pilkhuwa) from the Chief Guest Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Hon'ble Cabinet Member and Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development, Govt. of UAE and Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President, Dubai Civil Aviation Authority at a specially organized 'Golden Peacock Awards Ceremony', held at Dubai (UAE), in the presence of a distinguished gathering of global business leaders as part of IOD India's "27th World Congress on BUSINESS EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION" held from 18 -20 April, 2017 in Dubai.

The numbers tell the story of success of the Pilkhuwa CSTI, over the last 3 years:

 3024 workmen trainees trained and over 2700 trainees placed through sub-contractors at L&T project sites

- 381 trainers underwent 'Training of Trainers' programs
- 752 executive trainees (GETs / DETs / PGETs / Managers, etc.) underwent induction - skill training and capacity building programs
- 2002 workmen were trained / screened by the institute trainers at project sites under site based training programs

These numbers are only increasing and a testimony to our commitment to continuously transform and create skilled manpower for the construction industry for nation building.





Mr. P.M. Saravanan (Head – CSTD B&F IC) along with Mr. Kamaljit Singh Mehrok (Principal – CSTI Pilkhuwa) receives the award from Chief Guest, Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Hon'ble Cabinet Member and Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development, Govt. of UAE

### L&T hosts India– UK workshop on construction skills development

L&T's Construction Skill Training wing secured a project under the Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO) Prosperity Fund to carry out a feasibility study on creating skill development models with UK as a knowledge partner for providing an internationally accredited skilled workforce from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana by empowering the rural unemployed youth with a high employability quotient. Subsequent to which an occupational survey and industrial research for identifying the skills gap and requirements from both the industry and the workforce was conducted in the four states. As part of the final phase of the project, a workshop was organized on 16th March 2017 at HQ Chennai, to disseminate the findings of the survey.

Trade experts from the UK and Scotland, Training Providers, Government officials from the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, participants from Assessment bodies and educational institutions attended the workshop and arrived at possible bilateral agreements and collaborations in the areas of skills development training, technical consultancy and future joint infrastructure projects.



From your left to right):Mr. Rajeev B. Bhatnagar, Advisor-CST & CSR, Mr. S. Natarajan, NOS Chairman-CSDCI, Ms. Tammy Sandhu, Deputy High Commissioner, British High Commission, Chennai and Mr. Alastair McGhee, Director of Business Development, Glasgow Kelvin College on the dais



Lamp Lighting ceremony at the workshop

### L&T wins Best Practices Award for Sustainable Development Goals

L&T has been conferred the Practices prestigious Best Sustainable Award for Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC). The award was presented at the 12th National Convention on 'Making Global Goals Local Business', organised by the UNGC Network India, on April 28, 2017, at New Delhi.

The award was presented by Ms. Lise Kingo, CEO and Executive Director - UNGC, New York, and was received by our Corporate CSR team.

The award was based on a case study presented by the Corporate Sustainability Department on the skilling initiative undertaken through L&Ts flagship Construction Skills Training Institutes (CSTIs), which provide residential training to school dropouts and migrant labour.

The case study presented a link between the efforts of L&T at the community level with its commitment towards the UN's SDGs which contain 17 developmental goals with 169 targets, ratified by 193 member countries of the UN.

Forty-seven entries were received from leading

corporates and L&T's case study was selected after multiple rounds of review by a distinguished jury.

This award, once again, is recognition and reinforcement of L&T's commitment towards 'Building India's Social Infrastructure' and reaching out to the most underserved segments through its innovative community development initiatives



## **CSTI Kanchipuram bags 'CIDC** Vishwakarma Award' for Skills Training

CSTI Kanchipuram bagged the first prize in the skills training category at the 9th Vishwakarma awards organized by the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC). The award was finalized after a stringent evaluation process involving CSTIs from across the country including a review of a cross-section of training providers.

CSTI Kanchipuram edged out other competitors on account of its various innovative and creative methods implemented such as best trainee of the month, establishment of a simulator lab, a mathematic lab, a safety induction lab, etc.



Mr. P.M. Saravanan – Head CSTD (B&F IC) and Dr. M.V. Venkatesan Principal, received the award at the formal ceremony organized on 7th March in New Delhi

### Interview

# HELPING THE ELDERLY an ongoing crusade!

Since 2011, L&T Construction has been working in association with HelpAge India to help alleviate the suffering of the underprivileged elderly. A dedicated Helpline – 24 x7, toll-free number 1253 - has been functioning out of the police control room at the Office of the Commissioner of Police at Egmore in Chennai. We had the opportunity to speak to the articulate and dynamic Additional Commissioner of Police (Head Quarters), Mr. S.N. Seshasai I.P.S., who has keenly followed and supported this project.



Mr. S.N. Sehashai along with the L&T CSR and HelpAge India Team

#### What according to you are the key issues facing senior citizens today?

In Tamil Nadu, the number of the elderly living alone is increasing day-by-day and their needs are also increasing manifold. As they age, they develop various ailments and hence require regular medical assistance. Unfortunately, many of them are abandoned by their own children and family members as they are unwilling to meet the cost of their health care. This leads to further deterioration of health and other complications. We also have scenarios where children are settled abroad and hence the needs of the elderly are neglected. Basically, we find loneliness, poverty and failing health plaguing the elderly. To cope with these situations, they require psychological support counselling which and unfortunately many of them do not receive.

#### How effective is our helpline?

Since the helpline has been set up in association with the police, we are able to deal directly with crimes against the elderly reported through the helpline. We are now able to rescue innumerable destitute senior citizens from the streets and get them admitted into old age homes. Apart from this, we have resolved many cases of senior citizen abuse and ensured that they receive adequate support. The Helpline also facilitates in tracing missing elderly and reuniting them with their families. Senior Citizens with critical illnesses and abandoned by their families are admitted to the nearest Government Hospital for necessary treatment and care. In many cases, we have facilitated them to receive maintenance and welfare support from their families.

With the support of the Helpline, we are sensitizing senior citizens living alone (or only with their spouse) to enrol their details with the nearest police station to enable the police to visit them periodically. Those who cannot visit the police station can also enrol their details with the Helpline directly which is passed on to their nearest police station.

HelpAge India had organized a 'Training on Senior Citizen Issues – Problems and Challenges' and a workshop on 'Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007' and have sensitized over 400 police personnel covering all zones in Chennai City.

#### What are the new initiatives that are being introduced to help the senior citizens?

I had the privilege of launching the "HelpAge SOS" App for Mr. S.N. Seshasai, I.P.S., Additional Commissioner of Police during the launch of the HelpAge SOS App for Senior Citizens

senior citizens in June 2016. This App is a good tool for the elderly to reach out to HelpAge India's Helpline services at one touch. We are motivating the younger generation to install this App and use this service as and when they come across any senior citizen in distress.

But I can also say that this is just the tip of the iceberg. There are many senior citizens out there who are suffering, some even having to endure physical abuse from their loved ones. Hence there should be constant campaigning to reach out to all of them. Apart from all this, the police have also been checking on senior citizens who are living alone through regular police beats and night patrolling during odd hours.

The senior citizens are vulnerable as they are gullible due to failing health, loneliness, etc. and easily fall victims to the frauds of charlatans. We have seen many such cases and it is imperative that the senior citizens are sensitised and empowered to seek help. This is an ongoing crusade.



Amidst Action: the Helpline attached to the Police Control Room

# RESCUE & REUNION A Happy Reunion

Suffering from dementia, 65 year old Ms. Saroja, was found walking aimlessly on the Pullianthope Main Road. Noticing her condition, local residents alerted the police station and the Sub Inspector in turn contacted the Helpline services. Our team immediately rushed to the spot and located Saroja who was found extremely weak and fragile and unable to utter a word. After filing the mandatory First Information Report at the police station, she was admitted to the Anbagam old age home at Red Hills.

The very next day, the Helpline team received a call from the Sub Inspector of G5 Secretariat police station informing about a compliant of a missing woman. The Helpline team visited the police station and identified Saroja with the help of her photograph and other details. Her family was immediately informed. The Helpline team along with some of her family members then visited Anbagam Home the following day and Saroja was reunited with her lost family. Saroja's family members could not contain their joy at seeing her and along with the Sub-Inspector of Police of G5 Secretariat Police Station wholeheartedly thanked L & T Construction & HelpAge India for their wonderful service to the elderly in distress.



Ms. Saroja getting a helping hand from Mr. Murali of HelpAge India



A happy ending: Ms. Saroja reunited with her family







All geared up for the Heritage Tour - senior citizens along with L&T and HelpAge India officials.

L&T Construction facilitated a one day 'Heritage Tour' for occupants of free old age homes in Chennai on 16th February. The objective of this tour was to provide an opportunity for senior citizens to visit places steeped in history and culture as part of recreation. About 63 senior citizens along with their respective care givers from 7 old age homes participated in this tour. Mr. S Ramkishore, Head HR - WET IC, L&T Construction flagged off the tour.

The first stop was Dakshinachitra, an open living-history museum aır dedicated to South Indian heritage and culture which gave a glimpse of the art and craft, lifestyle, music and dance of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The senior citizens enjoyed the unique heritage experience involving ancient traditions of architecture, craftsmanship, performing arts and cuisines of South India, as they interacted with each other. They also took pictures smiling, laughing and looking more like happy children. A sumptuous lunch was arranged for them at the venue.

Soon after, the group reached the Palavakkam Church where a church volunteer explained the history of the church. Since the church was tucked away from the busy din of the main road, the solitude and peace integral to the place gave the senior citizens a much needed breather from the excitement of the morning.

As the sun started to set, all of them headed to the Palavakkam Beach and relaxed for some time. Some of them ventured into the water and started playing in the water as if reclaiming their long lost childhood After sipping hot beverages and lots of conversation later, the team left for their respective old age homes. On reaching Chennai, utmost care was taken to ensure that they were picked up by their respective staff. All the senior citizens returned to their respective destinations with

memories of a fascinating day that would linger in their hearts for a very long time. Hence it was no surprise that they wholeheartedly thanked L&T for their generous support and to HelpAge India for giving them a memorable day.



Mr. S. Ramkishore, Head HR - WET IC presents a bouquet to a senior citizen



Flagging off the Heritage Tour



Senior citizens all grouped together for the tour



When emotional smiles say it all

# TOILING FOR A TOILING FOR A

Until recently, open defecation was an uncomfortable topic; something to be hastily brushed aside and not actively addressed. This has changed dramatically with the advent of the Swachh Bharat Mission, which has prioritised the issues of open defecation, sanitation and construction of toilets. Through this initiative, the government aims to provide toilets for every household in rural India and thereby effectively remove open defection by 2019.

With is pedigree, it was only natural for L&T to extend its reach to build social infrastructure for economic and social development. One area of focus is Water & Sanitation: the availability of safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities, like toilets. Water & Effluent Treatment IC has contributed significantly to this cause through its 20 project sites, with the construction of toilet blocks for 26 schools totalling 100 IWC spread across 9 states at an optimal cost of Rs. 56 lakhs covering 5000 beneficiaries.

This will help provide viable and safe sanitation solutions, eliminate open defecation to an extent and safely contain, treat and dispose human waste so that health, hygiene and dignity of children in these schools are not compromised.

This sanitation project involved the identification of beneficiary schools across various project locations and this was done with the objective of narrowing the gap in sanitation facilities by building adequate number of toilets and in turn create better sanitation facilities that automatically facilitates a safer and secure atmosphere for the school children who are from underprivileged families.

We would like to illustrate three cases of improvement in sanitation that highlight our commitment and effort towards creating better sanitation and social infrastructure.







#### **Project Name New Infrastructure** Modern sanitation facilities built: 6 separate toilet blocks UFW project Bengaluru having adequate facilities for 350 female students Institute Name Total number of facilities available stands at 16 washrooms for male and female students. Govt. Kannada and English Model Primary School **Project Name New Infrastructure** Modern sanitation facilities built by L&T: 2 toilet blocks Moradabad Sewerage (Type B & D) having adequate 6 squat type, 1 western type Scheme WC and 2 urinals. **Institute Name** Total number of facilities available stands at 8 squat type, 1 western, 2 and 6 urinals for men and women respectively Ram Chandra Sharma and 7 wash basins. Kanya Inter College Model

#### New Infrastructure

elopement of IT city Mohali	Modern sanitation facilities built: 1 toilet block having adequate sanitation facilities plus two urinals for
titute Name	girls and 1 for boys Total No. of facilities available stands at 4
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Govt. Primary School,New InfrastructureManauli VillageModern sanitation fa

**Primary School** 

**Project Name** 

Manauli Village

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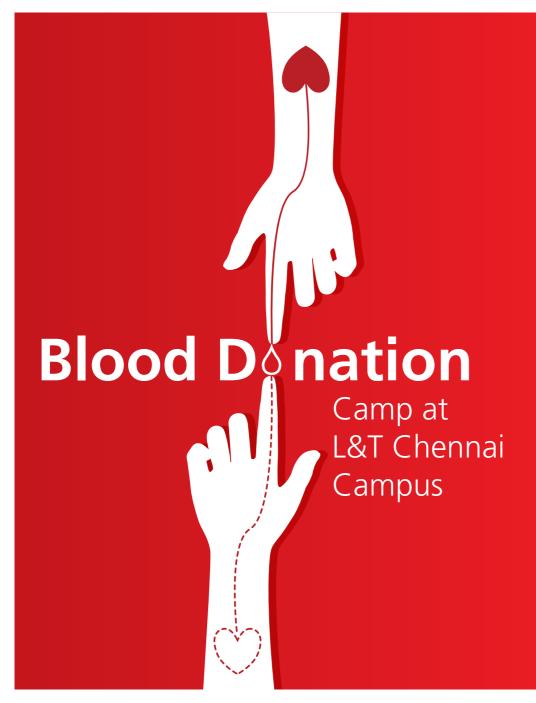
Modern sanitation facilities built: 1 toilet block having adequate sanitation facilities - 2 urinals for girls and 1 for boys Total No. of facilities available stands at 5

#### Govt. Senior Secondary School, New Infrastructure

Modern sanitation facilities built: 1 toilet block having adequate sanitation facilities plus two urinals for girls and 1 for boys Total No. of facilities available stands at 5



Committed to create better sanitation and social infrastructure



The CSR arm of L&T Construction in association with Indian Red Cross Society, Tamil Nadu Chapter organized a twoday blood donation drive at HQ Campus on 21st and 22nd February 2017. The camp was formally inaugurated by Mr. K. Nagarajan, Vice President & Head - Finance & Accounts in the presence of the Red Cross Society team and L&T officials. He presented an appreciation certificate and kit to the first donor Mr. V. S. Parthasarathy who has been donating blood for the past 38 years.

Every donor was screened for haemoglobin count before donating blood by Red Cross team. For safe donation, it was advised to have haemoglobin count above the minimum value, which is 12.5 g/dL for females and 13.0 g/dL for males.

About 401 L&T-ites donated blood and volunteered their time in supporting this good cause. As a token of appreciation to all the donors, a certificate and a bio-degradable eco-friendly bag was presented to them. Three doctors and 25 para medical teams from Red Cross Society supported the initiative and were also presented with appreciation mementos.

The L&T team has collaborated with Red Cross Society to avail the benefits of this Red Cross blood bank. Any L&T-ite who is in need of blood during emergencies for family members or relatives can approach Red Cross blood banks and get one unit of any blood group of blood free of cost. To avail this benefit, the employee is required to carry an L&T certified donor certificate.

**Contact Details of Indian Red Cross society :** 

Mr. Kalaiselvan 98418 80778 Mr. Namashivayam 99406 64477

Snapshots from the blood donation camp



*Mr. K Nagarajan , Vice President & Head - Finance & Accounts in the presence of L&T officials and the Red Cross Society officials inaugurates the Blood Donation Drive* 

*Typical Employee Volunteering Initiative of L&T-ites. A Proof that We Care for the Community.* 





"My father met with an accident and needed blood urgently. I was a child then and not in a position to donate blood. It was his colleagues who donated blood and brought him back to life. So I know the value of blood donation and once I grew up, I have been consistently donating blood over the years. It's a small gesture from my end, but I know too well how it saves many lives. I urge everyone to do the same."

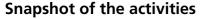
## PROMOTING AN ECO- FRIENDLY LIFESTYLE!

**GREENING** 

As part of World Environment Day celebrations, the CSR arm of L&T Construction organized a one day exhibition and sale of environmentally friendly products in HQ campus on 5th June 2017 which was inaugurated by Mr. T. Madhava Das, EVP & Head, PT&D IC in the presence of NGOs and employees.

14 organizations participated in this event and displayed their products which included organic honey, jute bags, millet based eatables, solid waste management, organic vegetables, etc. for sale. This was seen as an excellent platform for employees to share and interact with eco-friendly entrepreneurs.

Apart from this, there were a slew of events promoting an eco-friendly culture and mind-set in the HQ and sites organised by WET IC for over a week. It culminated in a 5 km Nature Run which was flagged off by Mr. S.N. Subrahmanyan, CEO & MD, L&T in which more than 300 employees participated. All activities were conducted taking maximum digital support, thereby making it truly sustainable.





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