

# GOVARDHAN ECO VILLAGE

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This is what the kids have to say at the Govardhan Eco Village Gurukul! With the newly introduced Home

Schooling, learning is now an all new fun experience. Home schooling, a concept new to most Indians, is a popular practice adopted by parents all over the world. Statistics have revealed that 2 hours of home schooling is equivalent to 1 week of normal schooling. So with all the time saved, kids get an opportunity to learn varieties of activities and broaden their understanding.

The system of education followed at GEV Gurukul focuses on overall development of the kids and not just on cramming information. Kids are taught not just for acquiring marks but also to discover the latent skills within, by exposure to diverse fields of activity. And all this training is given on the strong foundation of culture and values, thereby giving a holistic approach to the process of education. Blending the knowledge of the modern science and the wisdom of the ancient scriptures, the schedule of the Gurukul has been carefully crafted to nourish not only the body, mind and intellect, but also to imbibe values and principles by harnessing the power of divinity within. A typical day in the Gurukul begins with the kids attending the morning prayers. Divine chants have a profound impact on our psyche. Following this principle, we have introduced Meditation and

Recitation sessions during the dawn. Assembling in the spacious open corridor of the Gurukul, facing the gorgeous Mt.Kohoj, the kids absorb their consciousness in divine sound vibrations. Expanding the spiritual experience from within to without, the kids then workout in a rejuvenating yoga session. The morning spiritual sojourn ends by offering prayers to the Spiritual preceptors, an important Vedic practice that imbibes the culture of respect.

After a nourishing breakfast, the kids engage in personal study, before the schooling sessions begin. The GEV Gurukul has six qualified



and experienced teachers capable of teaching multiple subjects, making it an excellent teaching facility. Using interactive teaching techniques and personalized counselling sessions, great care has been taken to make the process of learning a pleasurable experience for the kids. The kids are also trained in special skills like notes making,



spoken English, rapid reading and efficient studying. Extending to six sessions, the daily academic training of the kids concludes by noon, followed by Lunch – a nutritious meal, hygienically prepared from organic vegetables home grown at GEV farm.

The Vocational training program is specially designed to imbibe the principles of self-sustenance and eco living. The students are trained in cooking, carpentry, tailoring, handicrafts, painting and music – skills that remain a lifelong asset. Training is also imparted in Organic farming, Floriculture, Cow protection & care etc., thereby nurturing the spirit for environmental protection and eco-friendliness from the nascent stage of their lives. In the evening, traditional games like Kho-Kho and Kabaddi are

played that not only improve the stamina and agility, but also teaches the importance of team spirit and cooperation. A clean body is home to a clean mind, so special emphasis is given on cleanliness, with an hour every evening dedicated for personal hygiene. In order to develop a family spirit in the Gurukul, all the kids come together during dinner and enjoy the meal in each other's company. Following which, they get together for an enlivening session of storytelling, from various books of wisdom like Srimad Bhagavatam. The storytelling ends with enchanting group music and the kids retire to bed after an eventful day with a glass of hot milk, fresh from the GEV Goshala.

Want to join school again?



India, the land where earth & fire are worshiped and cow is deemed holy is making rapid strides into the age of consumerism. The vox-populi today is, "If you are not a good consumer then something is wrong with you!" A country is considered developed if it has a large number of consumers. Fifty years ago the people of this land were satisfied with little; today this very land has become a gold mine for the ruthless promoters of global consumerism. One may wonder what repercussions all this could bring.

If we analyze carefully we would see a common principle among all species of life. Whether its man or animal, everyone indulges in fulfilling one's carnal cravings. In the lower stages of existence one's thinking, feeling and willing are motivated

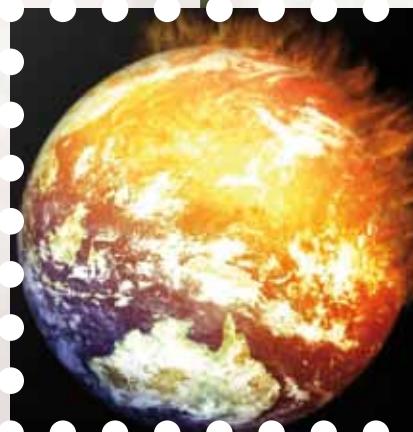
by these cravings. The Vedic culture offered a lifestyle based on higher cosmic principles, by which one can satisfy one's desires in a regulated manner without encroaching upon others' territory. But when one can satisfy those desires by alternate means then these higher principles are abandoned. This is because

of ignorance of the sublime and profound philosophy of scriptures, the proof: vacant temples, churches and other places of spiritual practice. Huge shopping malls and software parks have become the temples of the modern world. These luxuries, comforts, advances in field of communication, entertainment etc. come at a cost which may turn out to be so exorbitant that we may not be able to payback unless we rectify our course now.

Looking back in history, Nature was held sacred and was given the respect due for a



## HEAD-ON COLLISION



Mother. Gradually the value system declined and in the absence of proper education and training of the spiritual principles, some philosophers concluded that since Nature inflicts so much pain and misery, she cannot be called Mother but at best a step mother. The situation has degraded so much that people now consider her as something meant for their exclusive enjoyment and science as the reins to tame her. Nevertheless, although men have made advances in field of science, nature has not ceased in exhibiting her fury. In fact she is ramping up as if preparing for a major assault. Srimad Bhagavatam, the timeless Vedic classic, explains that as long as men defy the laws of nature, she will boomerang in the form of various upheavals & scarcity of natural resources. The Vedic

system educated & trained men to see nature as the energy of the Supreme Lord and offer her due respect. Thus living in the mood of 'servitorship', men respected Mother Nature and every living being that she sheltered, and in return she reciprocated by providing all the necessities of life.

Srila Prabhupada mentions the cure for all material encumbrances, "As long as the living entity is trying to master material nature, there is no possibility of his becoming servant of the Supreme. Service to the Lord is rendered in pure consciousness of one's spiritual identity; by service one is immediately freed from material encumbrances." If leaders on national, social and communal levels imbibe this mood of 'servant leadership' there is hope for humankind. Otherwise we may be the last chapters of human history; if someone survives to record it!

# Seaport...er Airport!!!

Mumbai is finally going to have its new airport! But just one catch, the officials are yet to clear pools of water at the proposed site. Reason: the proposed site is close to a creek and falls under the *costal regulation zone*, an area that is affected by tidal water. Such low lying areas are meant to hold water and act like a temporary storage areas

during the monsoons. And that's not all! The City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) of Maharashtra, the project proponent, has decided to divert the Ulwe River and channelize the Ghadi River, just for the construction of the new airport. And in the process over 160 hectares of mangroves, which act as natural flood-barriers, would be chopped off. Having to displace over 18 villages, this brewing ecological disaster has ironically drawn kudos from the media and official agencies. In fact this Rs 9,625 crore project is being lauded by many as the right path for progress. And this is not the first time. The existing Mumbai airport has also been constructed by diverting the Mithi river, which flooded the entire runway after the 2005 deluge. Looks like we haven't learnt our lessons yet.



## ACTION-n-CAPTION



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+91 9167204666

# GEV SNAPSHOTS



**ADDRESS**  
**Govardhan Eco Village**  
**Galtare, Hamrapur (P.O.)**  
**Wada (Taluka)**  
**Thane(District) - 421303**  
**Maharashtra, India.**

**Website:** [www.ecovillage.org.in](http://www.ecovillage.org.in)  
**Email:** [contactus@ecovillage.org.in](mailto:contactus@ecovillage.org.in)  
**Telephone:** +91 02526 686064,  
+91 92711 12605

