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**NEWSLETTER MAY 19.2**

**EDITOR: Peter Gale**

Australind Childrens Fund is a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization that works with organizations and communities in India with a focus on health and education for children with disability and disadvantage. For more information, visit:

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**MITHRA**  
Chennai, India



**PREMA VASAM**  
Chennai, India



**PARIJAT ACADEMY**  
Guwahati, Assam, India



**JOHNSONS SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
Herbertpur, Northern India

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**(above) On site during construction of new hall and treatment facilities at Prem Niketan**

## **NEW HOSPICE BUILDING FOR PREM NIKETAN**

Prem Niketan is a home for cancer patients and senior citizens in Tamil Nadu, India. Prem Niketan currently accommodates 30 patients with increasing demand for more space and facilities. The cancer hospice is located in Arigilpadi Village, Thakkolam town, Arakonam Taluk which is approximately 75km from Chennai, towards the Vellore district.

Prem Niketan has been designed to encapsulate a feeling of homeliness, serenity, and peace to provide support to its patients through its built environment. The hospice grounds boast thriving gardens with organic produce and is also home to cows which produce fresh milk. Prem Niketan hosts volunteers, students from neighbouring colleges, as well as boys from Prem Boys home to provide company, support, and entertainment to patients. Regular check ups and medical support for patients of Prem Niketan is provided by a Government doctor, Dr. Ramya from Kancheepuran cancer hospital who offers professional oncologist medical support.



**Earlier this year, Prem Niketan began construction for a new hall and treatment/future doctors' room to provide further support and accommodation to patients, doctors, and visitors alike. Construction is expected to take 6 months, and we are excited to share progress with you over the coming months!**



**(above) Images of residents and volunteers from the cancer hospice. (right) Beginning construction on-site at the new buildings, to include a treatment room and a new hall.**





(above) Sewing paddy seeds at new land for purpose of organic farming. The land will be leased for three years and will be used for to grow organic produce.



(above) Indra with organic produce from gardens.



**In addition to the exciting development at Prem Niketan, we are very pleased to share news from Prem Illam of their investment in the lease of new land for the purpose of organic farming. Below is a recent letter from Indra sharing details of their new venture!**

*Feeling so grateful and blessed to write you this email with great news that we have leased agricultural land to do farming near Prem Illam. As you are aware, it was a big dream of us all to have land to do organic farming. But at the same time, buying land is very expensive and recently we got a chance to lease a land for three years. Last week on Sunday I visited the land and liked it very much, the place looks so fertile and green.*

*Selvyn, Mumtaj and Mary also visited the land and all of us are very pleased and one of our good friends Subbu, who is a well known organic farmer in Tamilnadu, fortunately he is staying in a village close to Prem Illam, he promised to give his valuable advice and support on organic farming. To begin with we have decided to do paddy in the two acres of land.*

*This agricultural land is of 2 acres of land which has a good source of water (two open wells) and it is very close to the lake in Sirunallur and one and a half kilometres from Prem Illam. The person who owns the land is a physically challenged and hardworking man, he is so kind enough to lend us the land for three years, we have paid him 2 lakh rupees. Thank you so much for your financial support, it is because of your support we were able to pay him and venture in this noble journey of farming.*

*With our mentor's advice we have sowed the paddy seeds today. We consider this as an historical event in the history of Prema Vasam, we are very grateful and thank you so much for making it possible through your financial support and encouragement.*

Love  
Indra

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