International Day of Yoga, or commonly and unofficially referred to as Yoga Day, is celebrated annually on 21 June since its inception in 2015. In Rameswaram, Green Rameswaram Team conducted several events on this occasion with the help and cooperation of Shri.K.Hegde of Vivekananda Kendra.

Yoga Day celebrations at Indian Coastal Guards, Mandapam:

Shri.Hegdeji conducted a mass training programme at Indian Coastal Guards ground at Mandapam. Around 200 guards participated in the programme. Programme started around 6.00 AM and concluded by 8.00 AM. Shri.Hegde was honoured with a memento by ICG officials.
Shri. Hegde of Vivekananda Kendra receiving the Memento

Yoga Day at Indian Navy office, Rameswaram

Shri. Hegdeji visited Indian Navy office at Rameswaram around 9.00 AM and conducted yoga session. 25 staff members participated. Shri. Dassan, Chief commander thanked Green Rameswaram team for their continued support in organizing this event every year.

International Yoga Day at Indian Navy camp at Rameswaram
Panchayat Union middle school at Rameswaram organized the yoga day celebrations at 11 AM on 21 June 2019. Shri.Hegde and Green Rameswaram team guided the entire yoga day celebrations. The programme was also attended by Smt.Chitra, Block Education Officer from Mandapam and the Rotary Club members, Rameswaram. Around 60 students participated in the celebrations.
Vivekananda Vidyalaya at Pamban organized the International yoga day celebrations around 11 am which was attended by Sister Saraswathy. She guided the celebrations. Around 40 students took part in the celebrations.
Goswami Mutt has organized the International Yoga Day celebrations along with the Grama Poojarigal Sangam’s Vedanta training. On June 21, 2019 Shri. Hegdeji and his students guided the participants of the training programme in yoga. Around 190 Participants attended. All the participants actively took part in the training. It’s a grand function happened from 3 PM to 4.30 PM.

In Green Rameswaram Building, Yoga Day celebrations were organized at 6PM. It was attended by 100 Participants. Shri. Madasamy, proprietor, Ananda Metal house welcomed the gathering. Sister Saraswathy sang a song. Several participants shared their experience in yoga classes of Green Rameswaram. Shri. Thillai Backiam delivered a special lecture on “Yoga in day to day life”.
Prayer at Green Rameswaram Building

Shri. Thillai Backiam, Social Worker talking on “Yoga in day to day life”
Rameswaram Island is a part of Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu. The district is one of the most backward regions of the country and has been included in the “Transformation of Aspirational Districts” programme of NITI Ayog. Mission Green Rameswaram is one of the flagship initiatives of Vivekananda Kendra - Nardep. The Mission aims at making the Rameswaram Island green and resilient. Green Rameswaram Trust has been promoted to steer and catalyse the development processes. Green Rameswaram Trust believes in collective effort to address the multiple issues prevailing in Rameswaram, over standalone interventions. Hence, the Trust has opted for a consortium strategy for the present Mission.

**Partnership with NSE Foundation: Project ASPIRATION**

NSE Foundation is a CSR body of National Stock Exchange, Mumbai. It has identified three major focus areas namely: Primary Education, Elder Care and WASH as these are issues of concern for India. NSE Foundation has recently commenced interventions in Ramanathapuram by sanctioning eight projects on the aforesaid three focus areas. These projects are implemented by eight different partner organisations. While four among these projects cover the geographical area of Rameswaram Island, the remaining four projects are implemented in other parts of the district. The Foundation has appointed Green Rameswaram Trust as the Technical and Knowledge Partner for the project. The project partners have formed a consortium to coordinate the interventions and collectively, the projects have been named - ASPIRATION.

**Partners of the Project ASPIRATION**

The consortium is a collective of four independent at the same time inter-dependent developmental projects. Green Rameswaram Trust will play the role of consortium coordinator. A short description of the consortium partner organisations and their project implemented in Rameswaram Island is as follows:

**Hand in Hand India, Chennai:** The project of Hand in Hand India aims to facilitate safe drinking water owned, operated and maintained by the
community through interventions such as RO plant, rain water harvesting, wise water management, waste management and it also envisages promoting behavioural changes on water security.

**Gandhigram Trust, Dindigul:** The project implemented by Gandhigram Trust envisages promoting clean and disease free environment in all 37 government schools in the Rameswaram Island through augmentation and retrofitting of WASH facilities and bringing in desired behavioural changes among the students.

**Karuna Trust, Bangalore:** The project implemented by Karuna Trust intends to promote livelihoods and health wellbeing of the elder people in Rameswaram Island through building social capital of elders.

**Vidyarambam Trust, Chennai:** Vidyarambam Trust’s project aims to ensure supplementary education to under-achieving children studying in primary schools through participatory teaching and learning methods.