



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

**Love 5**

**Sevalaya's News Letter - April 2010**

**Serve 1**

**Price-Re.1**

**Dear Friends,**

Last week one old man passed away in our old age home. As we admit only destitute and poor old people, death is a common occurrence and we see at least one death every quarter. Most of these people never had good food in their life and also they have had too much family tensions. So with old age, death advances very fast. This death happened at 11:30 AM. Our staff went through his records and found out the phone numbers and addresses of his relatives. He didn't have his own son or daughter, but had some other relatives living in a village, which is very near. So our staff first informed their relatives over phone and then sent word through a person who went to the village and personally informed them. The relatives said that they will come for the funeral. We were waiting for them and every one hour, we made phone calls to the relatives reminding them that we are still waiting for them. They were living just few minutes away from our campus. But till 4 PM, no one came and as we have many others in the campus, especially children, we didn't want to keep the body overnight and we started the funeral process at 4 PM, without waiting for the relatives. After the van carrying the dead body passed through the village, the relatives landed in our campus and started a fight with our staff. They were expecting us to wait for much longer.

The fact of the matter is that the relatives have seen the van carrying the body moving out of the village and

only after that they started from their house to come to our campus. This is to ensure that the funeral process is over and they need not pay for anything! They also want to ensure that they tried to participate! People don't understand that we call the relatives to attend the funeral only as a mark of respect to the departed soul, not to pass on the expenses to them.

In another case, the old man had his own son. When we called him up and informed him that his father had passed away, he said that he had no time and he 'gave us permission' to cremate the body. But a week later we got a letter from him asking us what we have done with the wrist watch of his father. He wanted us to send it to him! If people don't have time for their own parents, how is a wrist watch is going to help?

Most of the cases, no relatives, sons or daughters come for the funeral. Our staff perform the last rites, taking the position of a son. We have become experts in all types of cremations now Hindu, Muslim or Christian.

All relationships have taken a back seat. We can be related to each other, as long as it does not affect our bank balance. Blood has become thinner than water.

Thanks & Regards

**Murali**

## Donation towards Primary School Building construction by Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India





## Bharathiyar Team

### Events

The construction of new Primary School building has commenced and will be functional from the academic year beginning June 2010. 500 more poor students can have access to quality education free of cost because of this facility.

Four students and two staff members of Sevalaya took part in TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) Nature Camp at Nilgiris from 03/03/2010 to 05/03/2010. 50 students from various schools in South India participated in the project. They visited Shola Forest, Thoda's Village, Kodanadu View Point, John Sullivan (Builder of Modern Nilgiris) Memorial, and the Tribals Museum.

Sevalaya's Environmental Club (ECO Club) was inaugurated on 17/03/2010 by Mr.G.Chittibabu (Headmaster). The club which has 50 members will actively participate in TERI projects for the coming year.

Mr.C.Adhimuthu staff Sevalaya participated in the TERI Nodal Schools coordinators meet held on 18/03/2010 to discuss and plan the TERI projects to be implemented in the next academic year.

Four weeks of "Introspection" course by World Community Service Centre, Ambattur branch started on 20/03/2010 at Sevalaya's campus. This is part of "Simplified Kundalini Yoga" (SKY) program founded by Sri Vedathri Maharishi. Sevalaya staff are participating in this program.

Sri Rama Navami was celebrated at Sevalaya on 20/03/2010. The chief guest, Prof. K. Kothandapani, retired Tamil professor from Tiruthani College, lauded the management for exposing children to the tenets of different faiths which would surely help to develop healthy, balanced individuals, just as Sri Rama.

On 27/03/2010, Mahavir Jayanthi was celebrated at Sevalaya. Mr. Suresh Kankaria (Vice President, Karuna International) was the chief guest. Karuna Club of Sevalaya was inaugurated on the occasion.

Students from Sevalaya were linked with Students from Peace College, USA in an e mail exchange Programme which will pave way for a mutually beneficial interaction between the students of the two countries.

In continuation of the Global school partnership program in association with British council, Sevalaya teachers had

a conference call with the teachers of Cunningham school, London, UK on 04/03/2010.

### Staff Book Review

On 06/02/2010, Ms.J.Divya spoke on "Bharathi Humanness". On 13/03/2010, Ms.S.Baabi spoke on Vivekananda Patriotism. Swami Vivekananda's "Your Future in your Hand" was taken up for discussion by Ms.T.Jayabharathi on 20/03/2010. On 27/03/2010, Mr. R. Rajkumar spoke on "Vivekananda's Gnana Deepam, Sudar-VI".

### Bharathi, Gandhi Vivekananda Programme in Prison Puzhal Prison

On 06/03/2010 Mr. P.Narayanamoorthy, spoke to the residents of Puzhal I on Bharathi and Ms. S.Bhavani to the residents of Puzhal III(Women) on "Gandhi -Religious Stories". On 13/03/2010, Mr. R.Rajkumar addressed the residents of Puzhal I (Men's Prison) Ms. Baabi spoke to the residents of Puzhal III(Women's Prison on Vivekananda Patriotism". On 20/03/2010 Mr. C.Aadhimuthu, spoke to the residents of Puzhal I on "Gandhi Prayers".

### Gandhi Team

The Mobile Library visited Ayathur Govt.School on 26/02/2010.

Children's Parliament was inaugurated at Melapedu village near Pakkam on 11/03/2010. The function was held at Govt. Middle school Melapedu. Most of the leaders of this Children's Parliament are students of Sevalaya.

On 26/03/2010, Sevalaya's cultural troupe "Kottu Murasu" presented a programme on Self Confidence through Dramas & Songs at Puliur Kandigai Village.

Mr. V.Muralidharan reviewed the book "A Slum No More" authored by Mr. N.Bhairavan and translated by Charukesi at the Weekly Book Review Meet at Gandhi Study Centre on 10/03/2010.

Mr. V. Muralidharan was one of the Chief Guests at the Annual Day Celebrations of Annanagar A Block Ladies Association on 13/03/2010.

Sevalaya's children's parliament leaders and Melapedu children's parliament leaders participated in a two days seminar on personality development and leadership





training conducted by Neighbourhood Community Network on 26/03/2010 and 27/03/2010 at Aranvoyal.

Thirty residents of old age home with two staff members were invited to a music and dance program, conducted by RASA on 20/03/2010.

Fifteen students from DRBCC Hindu college visit Sevalaya every Saturday and do voluntary service as part of their NSS (National Service scheme) program.

A Bhajan Programme was presented for the residents of the Old Age Home by Srimad Madhva Madhava Theertha Bhajan Mandali on 27/03/2010.

One hundred and fifty students from Presidency college arrived in our campus on 30/03/2010. Inauguration of their NSS program was held on that day. They will spend a full week in our campus.

### Visits to Places of Worship

On 19/03/2010 hostel girls went to Ramanathapuram Vinayagar temple. On 26/03/2010, hostel boys went to Ramanathapuram Vinayagar temple.



### Vivekanandar Team

Children's Parliament was inaugurated at Sevalaya on 11/03/2010 by Dr. Munavar Alam Governance & Institutional Development Division, Commonwealth Secretariat-London.) The other distinguished guests on the occasion were Mr. R. Elango (Ex-President, Kuthampakkam), Mrs.Lokammal (Aranvoyal) and Mr.V.S.Shanmugam (Chairman-Thiruvallur Dt). Later a seminar on the "Duties and Rights of Panchayats" was conducted in which Panchayat leaders, Councilors, Ward members, villagers and students participated.

On 17/03/2010 members of Lions Club of South City Chennai visited the old age home and conducted rangoli competition for elders and prizes were distributed to winners.





## The Gandhian Hartal-A Wonderful Spectacle!

A Bill with draconian provisions, based on the recommendations of a committee called Rowlett committee was introduced in the Imperial Council of India with the reported purpose of curbing political violence. Some of the provisions of the bill were: detention without trial, abridgement of court procedures, restrictions on the right to appeal and retrospective applicability. This Bill provoked a storm of opposition in the council and outside. The Indian political leaders were unanimous in opposing the bill. The provisions of the bill may not be unfamiliar to us in the contemporary situation, as they are more or less akin to recent MISA or POTA. They were then, as now, justified on the grounds of stemming violence and lawlessness. Rt.Hon.Srinivasa Sastry, speaking in the Council observed, "A bad law once passed is not always used against the bad. In times of panic, to which all alien governments are unfortunately far too liable, I have known governments to lose their heads. The possession in the hands of the executive of powers of this drastic nature will not hurt only the wicked; and there will be such lowering of spirit that all talks of responsible Government will be a mockery." Although Sastriji's talk was intently listened to and his oratory appreciated, eventually the Bill was passed.

During the pendency of the Bill Gandhiji and a few other compatriots were concerned and were exercised as to how to combat it. They conferred at Bombay and formed a Satyagraha Sabha with Headquarters at Bombay, and with Gandhiji as President. Still Gandhiji could not clearly conceive as to how to meet this threat. He left for the South where he felt he was at home. He stayed at the house of Kasthuri Ranga Iyengar and was discussing with people like Rajaji, Vijayaragavachari and Kasthuri Ranga Iyengar though nothing concrete could emerge.

Here is what Gandhiji says about the birth of the concept of hartal.


"While these cogitations were still going on, news was received that the Rowlett Bill has been published as an Act. That night I fell asleep while thinking over the question. Towards the small hours of the morning I woke up somewhat earlier than usual. I was still in that twilight condition between sleep and consciousness when suddenly the idea broke upon me—it was as if in a dream. Early in the morning I related the whole story to Rajagopalachari."

"The idea came to me last night in a dream that we should call upon the country to observe a general hartal. Satyagraha is a process of self purification, and ours is a sacred fight and it seems to me to be in the fitness of things that it should be commenced with an act of self purification. Let all the people of India, therefore suspend their business on that day and observe the day as one of fasting and prayer."Rajagopalachari was at once taken up with my suggestion. The date of the hartal was first fixed as 30<sup>th</sup> March 1919, but was subsequently changed to 6th April. The people thus had only a short notice of the hartal.As the work had to be started at once it was hardly possible to give longer notice. But who knows how it all came about? The whole of India, from one end to the other, towns as well as villages, observed a complete hartal on that day.

Thus Gandhiji's fast on April 6, 1919 was part of a hartal, along with the entire nation as a matter of self purification preparatory to a Satyagraha struggle.

Gandhiji speaks about the observance of this hartal as a most wonderful spectacle. To us also it seems most wonderful, a hartal with no stout men with tucked up dhotis brandishing wooden logs, and the public closeted in their drawing rooms watching a special TV show!

### SPONSORSHIP DETAILS

SPONSORSHIP	CHILDREN HOME		OLD AGE HOME		Other Sponsorship	Contribution(Rs)	Endowments(Rs)
	Contribution(Rs)	Endowments(Rs)	Contribution(Rs)	Endowments(Rs)			
FOOD							
Milk(One Time)	500	7000	200	3200	Residential Expenses for one Child/one child/one Grandpa/year	6000	80000
Breakfast(one day)	1000	14000	500	7000	Maintenance of One Cow/year	6000	80000
Lunch/Dinner	2000	28000	1000	14000	Education Expenses for one Child/year	6000	80000
Lunch/Dinner with sweet or fruit	2500	35000	1250	20000	Salary for one staff per month	5000	850000
Fullday food Expenses	3500	50000	2000	28000	Funeral Expenses for one Grandpa/one Grandma	5000	70000
Fullday food Expenses with sweet or fruit	5000	70000	3000	42000	Cultural Expenses for one child/one Grandpa/one Grandma	1000	14000
					Medical Expenses for one child/one Grandpa/one Grandma	500	7000
					Camps and Tours, Temple Visit for one child/one Grandpa/one Grandma	500	7000
					Sports Expenses for one child per year	500	7000
					Educational Aids	1000	14000
					Educational Kits	1000	14000
					Higher Education	20000	300000
					Professional Higher Education	50000	700000
					Workshop/training for one Staff	2000	28000

Published by : Bhuvanewari Muralidharan and owned by / on behalf of Sevalaya and published from F2, Jains Eden Park, 4 - Judge Jambulingam Road, Mylapore, Chennai - 600 004.

And printed by: S.Kannappan @ Gem Offsets, No. - 24(Old no.-20), Swami Achari St., Royapettah, Chennai -600 014.  
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