



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 7 Sevalaya's News Letter - February 2013 Serve 11 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

What a great life! We are celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda - of a man who died at the age of 39, whose influence on the world and youth has not died down even after more than 100 years of his death! If you read his writings, you can feel his presence in every word he has written. It gives us a feeling as if Swamiji comes out of the book, stands in front of us pointing his fingers towards us and speaking in a loud and bold voice. People who say that books are inanimate objects have not touched Swamiji's books yet! His books, pictures and statues are all proof that he is still living.

Hundreds of thousands of people all over the world have been inspired by Swamiji and are carrying on a lot of good work. Like an expert sculptor turning stone into a beautiful statue, many ordinary people have been transformed by Swamiji's writings and have performed great acts. But did Swamiji have a smooth ride when he was alive and carrying out his activities?

Pratap Chandra Majumdhara was a resident of Kolkata and had met Sri Rama Krishna Paramahansa many times. He used to give religious lectures and Swamiji as young Naren had attended his lectures. Once, Naren took part in a play, and his role was that of a monk and the play was performed in front of Majumdhara. After the historic address of Swamiji in the Parliament of Religions at Chicago, Swamiji became famous all over USA, and the news slowly reached Kolkata. Many felt happy that a young lad from their town had gone and stormed USA with the spiritual ideas of India. But Majumdhara was not happy.

He was jealous that a very junior boy, who used to sit in a corner and listen to his lectures, is a celebrity now in USA. He started talking ill of Swamiji - some of his comments were - Vivekananda only acted as a monk in a street play and he is actually not a monk! If he is a real Hindu monk how did he cross the seas? A traditional monk should not cross the waters and travel abroad.

Some vested interests in America didn't like Swamiji's success in the west as he broke the negative image of India which these vested interests had so carefully created after years of hard work. A very clear positive image of India was emerging in the west, after Swamiji's visit. The land of snakes and elephants and coolies and superstitions was emerging as a land of glowing spirituality, thanks to the work of Swamiji. Majumdhara got in touch with those vested interests and started spreading false allegations against Swamiji. As the allegations were "juicy news", the American press didn't bother to check if they were true, but simply published them and tried to tarnish the image of Swamiji. In fact some people believed this news and kept away from Swamiji!

Where is Majumdhara today? Did anyone celebrate his 150th birth anniversary? Did he succeed in preventing the great work of Swamiji?

"Even if thousand hands join together, they will not be able to hide the shining sun" - so goes one of the Tamil movie songs.

Thanks & Regards

Murali



V. Muralidharan receiving "Outstanding Environmentalist" Award at the hands of Mr. V.P. Kalairajan, Hon'ble MLA, T. Nagar and Justice S. Jagadeesan, Former Judge of High Court of Madras



Mr. Sathiyar, Inspector of Police, Thiruninravur distributing the Prizes sponsored by MTS Telecom for academic toppers

Administration

Mr. N.Jagannathan & Ms. A.Kalaiyarasi attended the 3 day Finance workshop for partner NGOs conducted by VIBHA- US based funding Agency, at Bangalore from 17/01/2013 to 19/01/2013.

Public Relations

Sevalaya organized a programme to celebrate Sevalaya's Silver Jubilee year and Swami Vivekananda's 150th Birth Anniversary at Kumararani Meena Muthiah College of Arts and Science on 11/01/2013. 75 students participated in the program. Mrs.Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan, Hony. Correspondent spoke on the journey of Sevalaya. Mr. T. S. Venkataramani, Hony. Co-ordinator spoke to the students about the essence of Swami Vivekananda's Karma Yoga. Mr. Pavendan and Ms. Duhara, students of the college spoke on Swami Vivekananda.

Mr. V.Muralidharan participated in the Bhogi Awareness Programme on 12/01/2013- Bhogi Varumaiyai Pokki- (Bhogi Remover of Poverty) organized by Exnora International, urging people to donate the usable things which they do not want to their less fortunate brethren. Worshipful Mayor of Chennai Mr. Saidai. S.Duraiswami was the chief guest.

Mr. V.Muralidharan participated in the meeting of the National Alliance of Senior Citizen's Association of India as its South Zone Secretary on 12/01/2013.

"Outstanding environmentalist award" was presented to Mr. V. Muralidharan by Mr. V. P. Kalai Rajan MLA of T. Nagar and Justice S. Jagadeesan, Former Judge of the High Court of Madras on 20/01/2013 at a function organized by Exnora International.

Mr. V.Muralidharan participated at the preparatory meeting Hindu Spiritual and Service Fair on 20/01/2013 at Sri Ramakrishna Mutt, Mylapore. The Fair will be held from 19/02/2013 to 24/02/2013 at A.M. Jain College, Meenambakkam.

Mr. V.Muralidharan participated in the meeting of Gandhians demanding Total Prohibition, organized by Gandhi Study Centre at Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya on 29/01/2013.

Mr. V. Muralidharan participated in the meeting organized by National Alliance of Senior Citizen's Association of India on 31/01/2013 to honor the contributors to the book "Elders well being". Dr. T. S. Sridhar, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tamil Nadu was the Chief Guest.

Bharathi Team

Functions

100 students of Chennai & Thiruvallur District participated in the Maths Talent Test conducted by Sevalaya to commemorate the birth Anniversary of Mathematics genius Srinivasa Ramanujan. The function was celebrated



on 09/01/2013. Professor P. R. Vittal, Former principal, RKM Vivekananda College was the Chief Guest and he distributed prizes to the toppers in the Maths Talent Test.

Swami Vivekananda 150th Jayanthi was celebrated on 23/01/2013. Swami Atma Gnanandaji Maharaj of Sri Ramakrishna Mutt, Mylapore was the Chief guest. 1500 students from all over Tamil Nadu participated in the free State level open book examination conducted by Sevalaya. The Chief Guest distributed prizes to the state toppers. Sevalaya students presented a colourful cultural program.

The 64th Republic Day was celebrated on 26/01/2013. Mr. K. Sathiyam (Inspector of Police, Thiruninravur) hoisted the National flag. The students of Sevalaya presented cultural programme. The highlight of the cultural events was the juggling of balls and Diabolo tricks by Sevalaya students. The students were trained by the German volunteer Ms. Rosa. The students also sang a song "Don't Worry; Be Happy" with Rosa on the guitar.

A Blood Donation Camp was also organized by Sevalaya in association with the Indian Red Cross Society in which the staff, trustees, alumni, and NSS students of Magna Engineering College who were camping at Sevalaya donated blood. 66 units of blood were collected.

The Farewell party for the outgoing XII standard students was hosted on the day. Mr. V. Muralidharan, Managing Trustee spoke to the alumni and the present students. He invited the alumni to visit the campus more often and get involved in the activities of Sevalaya. XI Std students presented an entertainment show. The event culminated with lighting of candles by all with prayers for good results and best wishes to all the students past and present.

Visits

Mr. Rajeev along with 4 students from Std IX participated in the trip arranged by TERI to Grundfos where they learnt about the methods practiced to conserve Energy in Green building and about different methods to be adopted to minimize water wastage and conserve the existing resources of this precious commodity.

Students of Guru Nanak College accompanied by their Counselor Ms. Samantha presented an entertainment show for students of Sevalaya and the counselor had a session with the girls of Std IX on 18/01/2013.

Students of Chennai Public school taught Origami to std VIII students on 19/01/2013.

Training

On 19/01/2013, Ms. Sheeba, English teacher and Mr. Kumar, Social Science teacher of SBOA Matriculation Hr. Sec School took classes for students of Sevalaya and the classes were observed by staff of Sevalaya. The teachers learnt how English learning could be made more effective through activities and how to incorporate a lot of relevant GK with the content in Social Science. Ms. Selvi, Counselor of SBOA Mat. Hr. Sec School held a session for a few students.

State level prize winners of Ramanujan exam



The Primary school staff attended a Cluster Resource Centre Training by the Education Department on 19/01/2013 simple science experiments.

Ms. Nirmala & Ms. Vijaya attended training on Realistic goals organized by iVolunteer at Chennai on 24/01/2013.

Mr. Chidambaram, Personality Development trainer conducted training sessions for Std IX & XI students on 31/01/2013.

NSS Camps

The NSS students of Magna Engineering College camped at Sevalaya from 20/01/2013 to 26/01/2013. They cleaned the campus, celebrated National Voters Day, helped and participated in the Republic Day Celebrations & blood Donation camp. They also organized sports for all students on 24/01/2013.

Clubs

The students had a session on appreciating Tamil poems in the Tamil Club Meet on 18/01/2013. In the Maths club Meet on 22/01/2013 the students were given activities on factorization.

The Science club meet was held on 29/01/2013 and the students read about great scientists.

The Social Club members were taken to the village Panchayat office on 30/01/2013 where they learnt about the duties and rights of Panchayat and its functioning.

In the Karuna Club meet on 31/01/2013 the students were taught about the nutritional values of the traditional food prepared with millets in Tamilnadu.

Gandhi Team

Events

On 04/01/2013, devotional 'GhoPooja' sponsored by Mrs. Annapoorna of Thiruninravur was conducted.

Smokeless Bhogi rally, to create awareness among the public on the evils of burning plastics was held on 11/01/2013. The rally was flagged off by councilors of Pakkam and Puliur villages. 1500 students from nearby schools and colleges participated. The students raised slogans and carried placards emphasizing on not to burn plastic wastes during Bhogi. Prizes were distributed for best slogans & best cheering groups.

A volley ball Competition for village youth was organized on 15/01/2013. 46 teams from different villages participated in the tournament which is organized every year to channelize the energy of the youth in a positive way as an alternative to Jallikattu or bull fight.

Medical Camps

On 20/01/2013, a free Anemia Blood Test camp was conducted by Nutrition expert Dr. Malavika in the Villages of Vathatoor and Komakkamedu. 69 villagers were benefitted.



Volleyball Tournament on Mattu Pongal Day

German Volunteer Rosa performing diabolo trick

Mobile Library

Mobile Library visited Koyambakkam on 06/01/2013, Komakkamedu on 13/01/2013 and Aayaloor on 20/01/2013.

Vivekananda Team

Events

On 05/01/2013, the Sri Sathya Sai Temple Group from Ambattur sponsored whole day special meals to all the residents of Sevalaya. They also entertained the small children, creating play area with bouncing castles etc.

On 14/01/2013, Pongal festival was celebrated in the Campus in the traditional manner. The campus was decorated with colourful Rangolis. Decorated new earthen pots were placed on brick stove at the open ground. The stove was lit at the auspicious time. Pongal, a sweet dish made out of milk, rice and jaggery was prepared and offered to Sun God. Dr. S.Rajesh and Dr. S.Madhu of Thamaraipakkam, and Shri. Venkatesa Mudaliyar, landlord of Puliur village were the chief guests.

On 14/01/2013, New College students and Rotract club of Green galaxy conducted games for the resident children and distributed prizes.

On 16/01/2013, ten resident boys participated in the Kanum Pongal Volley Ball Tournament organized by Puliur Panchayat.

On 18/01/2013, students of Guru Nanak College conducted counseling for the resident students and performed cultural for the Senior citizens.

On 27/01/2013, Team IIT visited the campus and counseled the higher class students regarding how to prepare for public exams. They also conducted the forenoon study hour for all the resident students of Sevalaya.

On 24/01/2013, forenoon, a team of Sevalaya Staff visited the Udavum Karangal campus in Thiruverkadu. It was a session of learning cum sharing of ideas regarding the cleanliness, quality and well-being of the residents.

Visit to places of worship

On the New Year Day on 01/01/2013, the resident Girls visited the Pakkam Nagavalliyamman Temple. On 04/01/2013, the resident boys visited the Puliur Chelliyamman Temple.

Corporate Visits

On 26/01/2013, staff of Wipro, Chennai lead by Ms. Chitra Gomathy visited the Campus, conducted games and distributed Prizes to the resident children. They also donated one Syntex Overhead water tank & Ten Rice bags to Sevalaya.

On 26/01/2013, the staff members of Life Insurance Corporation of India, Thiruvallur lead by Mr. Shankar visited the campus and sponsored a special lunch to all the residents.

On 26/01/2013, the class wise academic toppers among the resident students were motivated by the MTS Telecom Company. Ten students received quality school cum travel bags on the Republic day.



State level toppers of Vivekananda Exam with Swami Atma Gnanandaji Maharaj

Vivekananda's Karma Yoga. What is my duty?

If anyone asks you "Tell me in a nutshell what karma yoga is, you can say unhesitatingly, without fear any distortion, "It is working incessantly; doing one's duty; working selflessly; and working efficiently."

Now, we will study what is one's duty, and what one has to do and what one should not do. The idea of duty differs from nation to nation and from ages to ages. So is the concept of what is moral and what is immoral. Yet all of us know that there must be some universal idea of duty. Similarly, on the subject of what is the right thing to do and what is not, when practical situations arise, one is in a dilemma. This is called "Dharma sangatam" in day to day parlance. Swamiji gives us a rule –of-thumb guideline."It is not the thing that defines a duty. To give an objective definition of duty is entirely impossible. Yet, there is duty from the subjective side. Any action that makes us go Godward is a good action; any action that makes us go downward is evil and not our duty. But it is not possible to make out with certainty, which acts have which tendency in relation to all persons, of all sorts and conditions.

There is, however, only one idea of duty which has been universally accepted by all mankind, of all ages and sects and countries, and that has been summed up in a Sanskrit aphorism thus: Do not injure any being; not injuring is a virtue, injuring any being is a sin." Compare here what Poet Bharathiyar says in his Bhagavad- Gita commentary: "What is virtue? What is sin? Any act that harms oneself or others is a sin; any acts that make oneself or others happy is a virtue." Swamiji, quoting Bhagavad-Gita, adds, "It is our duty that work which will exalt and ennoble us in accordance with the ideals and activities of the society in which we are born."

He also gives us a word of caution. "There are two ways left open to us; the way of the ignorant, - who think that there is only one way to truth and all the rest are wrong, and the way of the wise, who admit that, according to our mental condition or the different planes of existence in which we are, duty and morality may vary."

SPONSORSHIP DETAILS

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



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