



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 6

Sevalaya's News Letter - January 2012 Serve 10 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

Colonel John Pennycuick was an English engineer. He was posted in south Tamil Nadu, during the British India time. Tamil Nadu has been having water crisis from that time onwards. When he was posted in India, he wanted to take some effective corrective action to this water problem.

He studied the situation of south Tamil Nadu and decided that if he can reverse the course of a river flowing west, the area south of Madurai will be able to get water. He worked out a detailed blue print for the project and submitted it to the Government, with a detailed budget. As the water had to flow through a hill, the budget was quite high. Initially the Government was hesitant to spend this money.

Pennycuick came up with a suggestion that he will get the local workforce to contribute labour and by that he can reduce the overall cost. The Government agreed after lot of follow-up and finally the project work started. But the local workforce lacked commitment and often stopped work as they had to attend to many local festivals! I wonder how we can have so many festivals, when we had a water problem! So the cost went beyond the budget and the British Government cancelled the project, when it was half-way through.

Pennycuick was very upset as the project was his baby. He then went back to his home town and spoke to his wife. He explained to her how the project will help south Tamil Nadu and how he is duty bound to complete this work. Finally his wife donated all her jewellery for the expense of the project!

Pennycuick returned to India with his own money now and with that, completed the project successfully! The west flowing river was made to flow eastwards and south Tamil Nadu, got the much required water at last! Thus in 1895, the "Mullai periyar dam" was constructed by a British engineer, with his own money!

Today, after a century, there is tension between Tamilnadu and Kerala. There is disagreement about the safety of the dam, level of water that can be maintained etc. The border between these two states looks like international border and there is violence on both sides. Tamils living in Kerala are attacked, and Malayalees living in Tamil Nadu are also attacked. There are "paper tiger" political parties and politicians, who have their own short term goals for fanning the passion on both sides, poisoning the minds of common people. Electoral victory seems to be the only goal for such politicians and they don't care for the water problem, friendly relation between two states, national integration etc., - all such things take a back seat! Both the southern states are peace loving and it is highly disturbing that such violence is happening when it is peak season for Lord Iyyapa devotees from all over the world to travel to Sabarimala in Kerala.

State Governments, central Government, supreme court etc are not able to sort out this problem yet.

Should Pennycuick come back to resolve this problem? Or should he go back to his wife and ask her for suggestions to bring peace between Tamils and Malayalees?

Do we deserve Independence?

Thanks & Regards

Murali



Honble Ministers Mr.C.Ve Shanmugam and Mr.B.V.Ramana at the Annual day Celebrations

Administration & Public Relations

On 15/12/2011, Mr. V. Muralidharan was the chief guest and inaugurated Puthiya Thalaimurai free tuition center at Pazhaverkaadu village in Thiruvallur district

Sevalaya was invited to the community empathy outreach fair by Infosys, Chennai on 07/12/2011 and 08/12/2011. The Community empathy sabbatical at Infosys aimed to encourage its employees to work on community development initiatives which benefit the community at large. Ms.Diana Lenin and Mr. Kamalakannan from Sevalaya interacted with Infosys employees who were interested in exploring options for participating in the activities of Sevalaya.

Ms. Aarthi of GiveIndia and 12 associates from Cognizant Technology Solutions who had donated to Sevalaya through GiveIndia visited Sevalaya on 03/12/2011. After a brief orientation about the activities of Sevalaya they went around the campus and interacted with the children and senior citizens. They played cricket and throw ball with the children.

Wedding Bells.....

Mr. Gokul and Ms. Bargavi celebrated their wedding on 16/12/2011 at Vadapalani, All the gifts received in their marriage were donated to Sevalaya.

Bharathi Team

Competitions, Events outside Sevalaya.....

400 students from sixth standard to ninth standard participated in the competitions like drawing, singing etc conducted by "ILAM PIRAI" Charitable Trust on 03/12/2011.

On 10/12/2011, Mr. P.Narayanamoorthi along with 20 students of IX and XI std visited the Poondi forest at Thiruvallur. This programme was arranged by Forest Extension Centre.

Sangeetha from 5th standard participated in 'Gita chanting' competition finals at Chinmaya Vidyalaya school at Annanagar, Chennai on 04/12/2011

25 children participated in Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan match at Sevvapet on 18/12/2011 and won prizes.

Prabhu of XI Std and Vijay of IX Std participated in the Environmental camp at Rajasthan organized by TERI as a part of its EduXchange programme from 08/12/2011 to 18/12/2011.



Sevalaya participated in the competitions conducted by Vasishtar Academy, Erode & won several prizes. P.Dilipkumar of XI std was declared district winner in poetry.

Events

Sevalaya's 23rd Annual Day was celebrated on 09/12/2011. Mr. C. Ve. Shanmugam, Hon'ble minister for School Education and Mr. B.V.Ramana, Hon'ble minister for Environment were the chief guests on the occasion. Sevalaya's 23rd Annual report was released on the occasion by the Hon'ble Minister for School Education. Mr.R.Manimaran, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Chief educational Officer, Thiruvallur and other officials from the District Education Department participated in the function.

Bharathiyar Day was celebrated at Sevalaya on 10/12/2011. Mr. Rajendran, RI Thiruvallur was the chief guest on the occasion. Prizes were distributed to the toppers in the State Level open book examination on Bharathiyar conducted by Sevalaya .

Mr. V. Rao from Help Foundation visited Sevalaya campus 17/12/2011 and interacted with the children sponsored by the Foundation.

Maths Genius Sri. Srinivasa Ramanujan's 125th Birth Anniversary celebrations were held on 24/12/2011. Mr.Kannan. P. Srinivasan (Chairman P.K. Srinivasan Math Education & Research Trust) the chief guest of the function enthralled the audience with a brief yet beautifully chronicled life history of Sri Ramanujan & distributed prizes to the toppers of the Ramanujan Maths talent test - an inter district contest for students of Chennai & Thiruvallur Districts conducted every year by Sevalaya.

Christmas & New Year was celebrated at Sevalaya on 27/12/2011. Dr. Poovai Jagan Murthy (Ex member of Legislative Assembly) was the chief guest on this occasion. Pastor Charles Benny delivered the Christmas message & Mr. D'Cruz and friends entertained the children with a cultural programme. The children were delighted to see the Santa Claus dancing to the jingle bells and distributing sweets and cakes to them.

NSS Camps

The National Service Scheme (NSS) students from New College, Chennai visited Sevalaya as a part of their NSS program and were involved in various activities like cleaning the Sevalaya Campus etc. They conducted a medical camp at Puliyur village in Thiruvallur District.



Study Circle

On 03/12/2011 Ms. Kalamari shared her views on the book on "Success from Today" (Tamil) by Mr. Lena. Tamilvanan.

On 10/12/2011, Ms .P. Lakshmi shared her views on the book "Get released from mental stress" (Tamil) by Mr. S.Suryamurthy.

Training programme

On 10/12/2011 Dr. S.S.Rajagopalan (Educationist) delivered a speech on Right to Education Act to the staff of Sevalaya. He also answered all queries of the staff in this matter.

Ms. N. Annapurna & Mr. S. Anantharajan completed the 2nd module of the Education for Leadership programme conducted by Kuruvilla Jacob Memorial Trust from 17/12/2011 to 22/12/2011. The session about Instructional leadership had a lot of interesting sessions on teaching learning methodologies.

Volunteers

Mr. Finn Bruggemann, a volunteer from Germany stayed in Sevalaya from 01/12/2011 to 20/12/2011 and was involved in agricultural activities in Sevalaya. He also took English classes for the students of Sevalaya and guided the late bloomers to score higher marks.

Volunteer Ms. Lim Zhi Jing from Singapore came to Sevalaya on 20/12/2011. She is conducting various programmes for the hostel students of Sevalaya.

Mr Ray, a volunteer from Canada visited on 24/12/2011. He joined the celebrations of the Mathematics Genius Srinivasa Ramanujam's Birthday Anniversary and distributed prizes to the children.

Vivekananda Team

Events

Sevalaya encourages its alumni to interact with the present students on the opportunities available to them once they complete School education and share their experiences. This month 3 alumni of Sevalaya – M.Sandhya , Gayathri and G.Thenmozhi spoke to the residents on 03, 11 and 17/12/2011.

On 11/12/2011, three volunteers from TCS, Velachery visited Sevalaya and interacted with the residents of the Old Age Home. They conducted small games like musical chair etc for the residents.

Sevalaya celebrated the onset of Margazhi- the Tamil Month which is considered to be holy, by organizing a programme on 17/12/2011, to introduce Thiruppavai- a collection of 30 devotional verses composed by Andal, one of the 12 Alvars (Devotees of Vishnu). Mr. R. Sathyanarayanan of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India was the chief Guest and spoke to the children about Andal and her devotion to Lord Ranganatha. Smt. Mangammal, a resident of the Old Age Home sang the first verse of Thiruppavai and explained its meaning. It is a month long programme with 1 verse per day being explained to children.

On 18/12/2011, 42 residents from our home participated in X-MAS & New Year celebrations arranged by Institute for Financial Management & Research, Nungambakkam, Chennai.

Visit to places of worship

On 02/12/2011& 11/12/2011, boys' home residents went to Perumal Temple at Kasuva village. On 02/12/2011&16/12/2011, girls' home residents went to Vinayaga Temple at Ramanathapuram village. On 08/12/2011, the Old Age Home residents went to Shivalinga Temple at Thamaraiakkam.

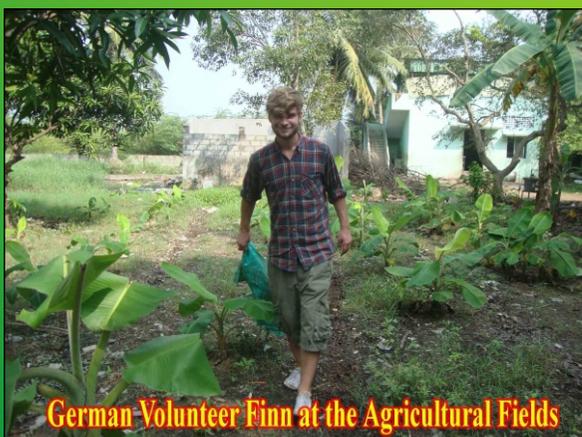
Students Study Circle

On 03/12/2011, B.Dilli Babu, XI std. reviewed the book "First Aid Medicine", edited by Mani Megalai Press.

Gandhi Team

On 02/12/2011, Mr.P.Narayanamoorthy and students Parthiban and Manikandan from 8th standard attended Design for Change programme at Chennai. The students talked about their project on "Organic farming."

Mr.S.Karthikeyan from Om Sakthi Industries, Kumbakonam gave training to handle power weeder at paddy field in Kattiyampandal village, Kanchipuram dist on 22/12/2011



The Butcher's Gita

We have seen that Karma Yoga is one of the four classified systems to attain the goal of liberation, or in easily understandable language-eternal peace, whatever be the external circumstances. We have also seen that it means working incessantly, efficiently and selflessly.

The question now arises as to what is the right work one has to engage oneself in. Swamiji has devoted a whole chapter on "What is duty?" According to him any action that makes us go God-ward is a good action and is our duty; any action that makes us go downward is evil and not our duty. Still more simply, "Do not injure any being; injuring any being is a sin."

Bhagawad Gita speaks of Swadharma-duty dependent on birth and our position in life. It is our duty to do the work that would exalt and ennoble us in accordance with the ideals and activities of the society in which we are born. No duty by itself is superior or inferior. It depends on the way in which we perform it. A cobbler who makes a nice pair of shoes with all devotion is better than a professor who does a slipshod job.

To illustrate the concept of Swadharma, Swamiji narrates a story. The story of a Sannyasin who was proud of his power by which he could burn an offending crane is known to us. The Sannyasi went on his begging rounds. The lady whom he called out to give him alms, asked him to wait. He was offended, and thought, "you wretched woman! How dare you make me wait? You do not know my powers yet." While he was thinking thus, the voice came from inside, "Boy! Do not be thinking too much of yourself. Here is no crane!" He was astonished. How did the lady know what had happened. When she came out and offered food, he fell at her feet and said, "Mother! How

did you know that?" She said, "My boy! I do not know your Yoga or your practices. I am a common everyday woman. I made you wait because my husband is ill and I was nursing him. All the life I have struggled to do my duty...that is all the yoga that I practice." She directed him to a vyadha (butcher) for getting further illumination. The Sannyasin was bewildered. He had to wait a long time at the butcher's while he was washing and cutting meat and was attending to customers. After finishing the work, the vyadha took him to his house. There he washed his elderly parents, and nursed them. Then he spoke very high philosophy, which forms part of Mahabharata, and is known as Vyadha Gita. To the puzzled Sannyasin, the butcher said, "No duty is ugly. No duty is impure.

My birth placed me in these circumstances and environments. In my boyhood I learnt the trade. I am unattached and I try to do my duty well. I try to do my duty as a householder, and I try to do all I can to make my father and mother happy. I neither know your Yoga, nor have I become a Sannyasin, nor do I go out of the world in to a forest. Nevertheless, all that you have heard and seen has come to me through the unattached doing of the duty which belongs to my position."

Again Swamiji recalls an advice given to him by a sage, "Let the end and means be joined in to one. When you are doing any work, do not think beyond. Do it as worship, as the highest worship, and devote your whole life to it for the time being."

He concludes with this golden advice, "To the grumbler, all duties are distasteful; nothing will ever satisfy him, and his whole life is doomed to prove a failure. Let us work on, doing as we go, whatever happens to be our duty, and being ever ready to put our shoulders to the wheel. Then surely shall we see the light!"

SPONSORSHIP DETAILS

SPONSORSHIP	CHILDREN HOME		OLD AGE HOME			
	Contribution(Rs)	Endowment(Rs)	Contribution(Rs)	Endowment(Rs)		
FOOD					Residential Expenses for one Child/one child/one Grandpa/year	6000 80000
Milk(One Time)	500	7000	200	3200	Maintenance of One Cow/year	6000 80000
Breakfast(one day)	1000	14000	500	7000	Education Expenses for one Child/year	6000 80000
Lunch/Dinner	2000	28000	1000	14000	Salary for one staff per month	5000 850000
Lunch/Dinner with sweet or fruit	2500	35000	1250	20000	Funeral Expenses for one Grandpa/one Grandma	5000 70000
Fullday food Expenses	3500	50000	2000	28000	Cultural Expenses for one child/one Grandpa/one Grandma	1000 14000
Fullday food Expenses with sweet or fruit	5000	70000	3000	42000	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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