



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

## Sevalaya's News Letter

JUNE - 2005

**Dear Friends,**

Akshaya Tritiya falls on the third day (Tritiya) of the new moon of Vaishakh month. This is one of the most auspicious days according to the Hindu calendar. According to the Puranas, this day marks the beginning of the Treta Yug. The birthday of Parashurama, the sixth incarnation of Vishnu falls on this day. It is believed that by doing a good deed on Akshaya Tritiya one can earn Punya (merit) for life. This day is considered auspicious for starting new ventures and making new purchases. (This year Akshaya Tritiya was on 11<sup>th</sup> May)

This was the description I could see in one of the websites (blessingindia.com) about the function Akshaya Tritiya. It only says that it is a good day according to Hindu belief and any good deed done on this day will give you more merit; you can also start new ventures and buy new things. Only the last part seems to be catching on in recent times. Akshaya Tritiya has become synonymous with buying gold.

Only in the last couple of years this craze has picked up like this. This passion for buying gold is pushed up by mega advertisements in leading news papers – many of them come up with special supplements for two or three days! There are many huge hoardings kept on important junctions with pictures of models glittering with gold all over. The main areas where there are many jewellery shops get totally crowded and this year in Chennai traffic was not allowed in some of those roads. I am told that gold coins were sold on the platforms, as there was no space inside the

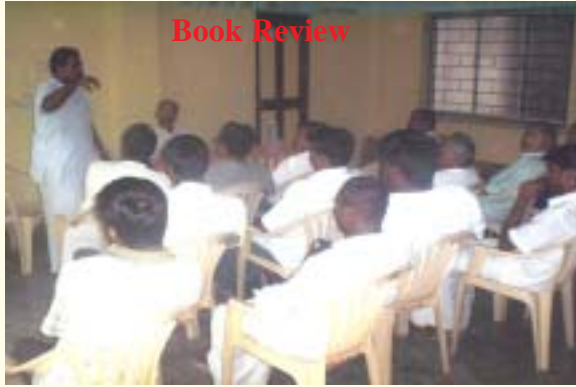
shops! Yes, we are living in a poor country, where gold coins are sold on roadside platforms! People were shopping for gold right from early morning till mid-night.

Millions of rupees worth of gold has been sold on a single day in just one city, Chennai. I am sure this was the case in all major cities in India. Many shops announced special discounts and even banks announced special schemes and loans to enable people to buy gold. All this was designed to make people greedier for gold!

I wonder what sort of feelings it will create in the minds of all the poor people who see these advertisements and hoardings. Is it not a sin to have festivals celebrated like this, when we are living in the midst of people who can't afford proper food, education, medical care or even safe water? If a small portion of the money, which was spent on gold purchase on that single day, was diverted to helping the poor, we could have fed poor families for more than a year!

Why did we forget that Akshaya Tritiya is also for doing good deeds? Who will release full-page advertisements in newspapers calling people to do good deeds on this day? Who will put up big hoardings for this? No one has a commercial interest in doing so; hence it will not be done. We, as friends of Sevalaya, can start propagating this message to everyone known to us. Lets us start a campaign and urge people to do good deeds on this day.

Thanks & Regards  
**Murali**



**Book Review**

**Study Circle**

Date : 07/05/05  
 Book : Learn to Live  
 Author : Swami Jagadanandaji  
 Speaker : Renuka  
 Venue : Service Centre

Date : 14/05/05  
 Book : Yoga & Bhoga  
 Author : Guruji Thavayogi C K S  
 Speaker : Dhamodharan  
 Venue : Service Centre

Date : 21/05/05  
 Book : Stories That make us think  
 Author : Pulavar Elankarukirai  
 Speaker : Easwari  
 Venue : Service Centre

**Temple Visits**

The staff and some children of the Home were taken on a 3-day trip to the ancient temples of Swamimalai, Thiruvenkadu and Gangaikonda cholapuram from 06/05/2005 to 08/05/2005

Hostel Students went to the Amman Temple Festival on 15/05/2005, at Kasuva. The Hostel boys were taken on visit to the



**Danish Girls' Programme**



**Kangai Konda Cholapuram - Tour**

Vinayaka Temple at Ramanathapuram village on 21/05/2005.

**Events at Sevalaya**

14/05/2005 - A career counselling and guidance session was conducted our volunteer Mr. Muthukumar for the students who had completed +2.

14/05/2005 - A. Annamalai, Trustee, shared with the staff of Sevalaya, his experiences during his recent visit along the route of Salt March from Trichy to Vedaranyam, originally led by Rajaji, 75 years ago during the Salt Satyagraha Movement.

**External events, Programmes etc...**

22/05/2005 - V. Muralidharan, Managing Trustee was the Guest speaker at the Annual General Body Meeting of Yuva Shakthi, a chennai based voluntary youth organisation. He spoke to the members about "Commitment to Organisation".

**On AIR...**

All India Radio, Chennai is broadcasting a series of lectures in Tamil, to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Salt Sathyagraha. As a part of the series, a talk on "Interesting



**Strategy Meeting**



**R. Vinoth Kumar**  
1028 / 1200



**R. Divya Bharathi**  
1024 / 1200



**P. Thiagarajan**  
1019 / 1200



**S. Mari Muthu**  
1016 / 1200

Incidents during Salt Sathyagraha" by Bhuvanewari Muralidharan, Hony. Correspondent was broadcast on 03/05/2005. The Managing Trustee V.Muralidharan's talk on "Gandhiji's Leadership Qualities" was broadcast on 17/05/2005.

### Strategy Meeting

The management committee and staff of Sevalaya sat together from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2005 for a strategy meeting, to discuss high level goals and unit level goals for the year of 2005-2006.

**A detailed analysis of the results is given below:**

#### Over all performance in HSC Examination 2005

S. No.	Name	Total Marks out of 1200
1	R.Vinoth Kumar	1028
2	R.Divya Bharathi	1024
3	P.Thiyagarajan	1019

#### Over all performance in Computer Science Group

S. No.	Name	Total Marks out of 1200
1	R.Vinoth Kumar	1028
2	R.Divya Bharathi	1024
3	K.Chitra	973

#### Over all performance in Agriculture Group

S. No.	Name	Total Marks out of 1200
1	P.Thiyagarajan	1019
2	S.Mari Muthu	1016
3	P.Balaji	976

#### Subject wise ...

S. No.	Subject	Tot. No. of Students	No. of Stds. Passed	No. of Stds. Failed	Pass Percentage
1	Tamil	50	50	~	100%
2	English	50	50	~	100%
3	Physics	25	24	1	96%
4	Chemistry	25	18	7	72%
5	Mathematics	25	18	7	72%
6	Computer Science	25	25	~	100%
7	Biology	25	25	~	100%
8	Agriculture	25	25	~	100%

### Time To Rejoice...

The first set of Higher Secondary Students (+2) wrote their Board examinations in April 2005 . All the students of the Agriculture stream of study passed successfully. The overall pass percentage is 80%. R. Vinoth Kumar of Computer Science Group secured first rank in School with a total of 1028 out of 1200. His parents are construction labourers. Divya Bharathi of Computer Science Group stood second with a total of 1024 out of 1200 and Thiagarajan of Agriculture group ranked third with a total of 1019 out of 1200.

## WORK AS A SOURCE OF JOY

*Compiled from Swami Vivekananda's Quotations*  
(Source: "Personality Development"-published by  
Sri Ramakrishna Ashrama, Yadavagiri, Mysore  
570020.)

**Q: *What makes one work well and at one's best?***

**A:** Nothing makes us work so well at our best and highest when all the responsibility is thrown upon ourselves. How will you behave if I put a little baby in your hands? Your whole life will be changed for the moment; whatever you may be, you must become selfless for the time being.... Stand up, be bold, and be strong. Take the whole responsibility on your own shoulders, and know that you are the creator of your own destiny. All the strength and succour you want is within yourselves.

**Q: *A basic doubt. How to work?***

**A:** Work for work's sake. If a man works without selfish motive, he gains the highest. Love, Truth and unselfishness are not merely figures of speech, but they form our highest ideal, because in them lies such manifestation of power.

**Q: *How we can work if we do not have the passion?***

**A:** The calmer we are, the better for us, and the more the amount of work we can do. When we let loose our feelings, we waste so much energy, shatter our nerves, disturb our minds and accomplish very little work. It is only when the mind is calm and collected that the whole of its energy is spent in doing good work.

**Q: *What is the specialty about this discourse on work? Every one works some way or other in this world...***

**A:**...But there is such a thing as frittering away our energies. The Gita says that it is doing work with cleverness and as a science; by knowing how to work, one can obtain the greatest results.

**Q: *Then, tell me how to work.***

**A:** Work like a master, and not like a slave. Work through freedom! Work through Love! Every act of love brings happiness; there is no act of

love, which does not bring peace and blessedness as its reaction.

**Q: *But my work is boring.***

**A:** It is the worker who is attached to the results that grumbles about the nature of the duty that has fallen to his lot; to the unattached worker all duties are equally good, and form efficient instruments with which selfishness and sensuality may be killed.

**Q: *Yes, but still, the work assigned to me is insignificant.***

**A:** Duty of any kind is not to be slighted. A man who does the lower work is not, for that reason only, a lower man than he who does the higher work. A shoemaker who can turn out a strong, nice pair of shoes in the shortest possible time is a better man, according to his profession and work, than a professor who talks nonsense every day of his life.

**Q: *Is it wrong to aspire for more coveted jobs?***

**A:** By doing well the duty which is nearest to us, the duty which is in our hands now, we make ourselves stronger; and improving our strength in this manner step by step, we may even reach a state in which it shall be our privilege to do the most coveted and honoured duties in life and in society.

**Q: *How to find joy in my work?***

**A:** Work with love. Every act of love brings happiness. There is no act of love, which does not bring peace and blessedness as its reaction.

**Q: *Why should we do good to the world?***

**A:** Apparently, to help the world, but really to help ourselves. The world does not require our help at all. This world was not made that your I should come and help it...The desire to do good is the highest motive power we have, if we know all the time that it is a privilege to help others. It is not the receiver that is blessed, but it is the giver. Be thankful that you are allowed to exercise your power of benevolence and mercy in the world, and thus become pure and perfect.

**FOR FREE CIRCULATION :**

Send your comments to: Sevalaya, #3, First Link Street, Karpagam Gardens, Adyar, Chennai-600 020.

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