



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

## Sevalaya's News Letter

Love 1

MAY 2006

Serve 2

Price Re. 1

### Dear Friends,

The current job scenario in India is very good for some people and at the same time a big problem for many. There are many thousands of unemployed youth, knocking at the doors of many organizations asking for any sort of job, standing in long queues in front of employment exchange offices, totally frustrated, and losing all hopes in life. At the same time the IT boom in India continues and company after company announce that they will be requiring tens of thousands of more people to work in their organization. There is basically a mismatch in what the big organizations are expecting and the type of skills the people seeking job possess. This employability problem is troubling both the organizations and the job seekers equally.

One of the 'missing' skills is the computer awareness. Today for any type of job, you need to know how to use computers. Even if you are applying for a job in a Charity organization like Sevalaya, you need to know Word processing, Excel, Tally etc. So there is a rush in cities to get this extra skills needed so that the probability of getting a job may increase. Any business minded person will make use of this opportunity and open institutes which will conduct computer awareness classes and charge for it. There is nothing wrong in this. As there is more demand and as the promised job will get you fat salaries, these courses are offered at much higher rates. As such rates can be paid only by the rich and upper middle class people, and as such people live in cities and near by

areas, these institute open shop only in and around cities.

This trend increases the divide between the cities and the villages, the rich and the poor. One more case where rich can become richer and poor will become poorer. Understanding this situation, Sevalaya started conducting free computer awareness classes for village youth. These classes have been going on for the past three years, every summer. The computers donated to Sevalaya by many donors, like TCS, are used for this purpose. The computers are used full time during school days by the school students and during the summer, as the school is closed for vacations, instead of keeping these computers unused, we are letting the village youth use this. Thus the utilization of the resources is 100%.

In the past three years, many poor village youth have come and learnt computer free of any charges and with Sevalaya's certificate have gone ahead and got jobs in many organizations. This year also the response was very good and 75 youth have enrolled themselves for these classes. The Sevalaya school staff have sacrificed their vacation and conducting these free classes, in the true spirit of 'Seva'.

The village youth who once thought that computer jobs are not for them are slowly coming out of that myth. The hands which were once busy catching live mouse are now busy operating the computer mouse.

Thanks & Regards

**Murali**



**Mahaveer Jayanthi**

**Events at the Campus**

Sri Rama Navami was celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2006. The Managing Trustee V.Muralidharan spoke to the children about the qualities and values that we have to imbibe from the life of Sri Rama.

Lion B.Jayaraman of BJ Exports Avadi is a well known philanthropist. Any memorable occasion in his life, he sees it as an opportunity to lend a helping hand to the poor and the needy and the underprivileged sections of the society. Sevalaya is a beneficiary of Mr. Jayaraman's generosity. This year Mr. Jayaraman celebrated his birthday with our children and senior citizens, on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2006. He arranged a feast for them and personally served each one of them.

Mahaveer Jayanthi was celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2006. Lion. Bhora and Mr. Chain Chand Kothari were the Guests for the occasion members of the Thiruninravur Jains Association also participated.

Tamil New Years Day was celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2006. Mr. G.D.Rajasekar , President of Koyambedyu Periyar Vegetable Merchants Welfare Association, was the chief Guest. The office bearers and many members of the association participated in the celebrations. They provided a festive lunch for the children on the occasion and assured continuous



**Easter Celebration**



**Tamil New Year Function**

support for Sevalaya by providing free vegetables in the years to come.

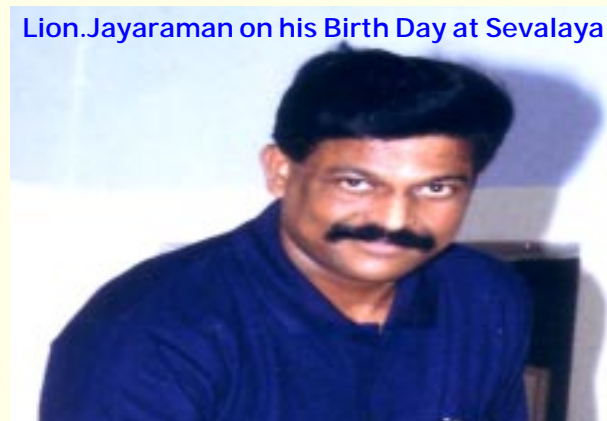
Easter was celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2006. Pastor Victor of Ebenezer Church, Thiruvallur was the Chief Guest. He spoke to the children about the Easter festival, the day on which resurrection of Jesus Christ happened, how it symbolises hope and a new beginning.

The annual one month free computer course for the village youth conducted by Sevalaya was inaugurated on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2006 by Dr. R.K.Raghavan ,Advisor, TCS and Former Director of CBI. 75 students have enrolled for the course . The participants will be given training in MS Word, MS Excel, Power Point and MS Access.

A 3 – day Yoga camp was held for the children ,senior citizens and staff from 27<sup>th</sup> April 2006 to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2006. Mr. T.S.Narayanan conducted the training.

**Events/Programmes where Sevalaya participated...**

The annual 3 day camp at Camp Tonakela, Avadi was held from 19<sup>th</sup> April to 21<sup>st</sup> April 2006. Each day was dedicated to the Trinities of Sevalaya respectively. On the first day – Mahakavi Bharathiyar



**Lion.Jayaraman on his Birth Day at Sevalaya**



**Computer Course Inauguration**

Day – Bhuvanewari Muralidharan held an interactive session with the children guiding them to think on the values they should absorb from reading Bharathiyar's poems – Fearlessness, Truth, Honesty etc. On the second day – Mahatma Gandhi Day – A.Annamalai spoke to the children about Gandhiji's life and message. On Swami Vivekananda day T.S.Venkataramani asked the students to hold group discussion on how they will apply Swamiji's teachings in the day today life. Many sports competitions were held for the children every day. They also enjoyed an hour of swimming every day in the swimming pool at the camp site. The camp was inaugurated by Lion.Govindarajan, Secretary of Tonakela Association. Sri Rathanji, Venkateshwara Jewellers, Avadi was the chief guest for the valedictory function on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2006.

Sri Krishna Sweets, a leading business house of Indian sweets, is organising programme every day of the year for 365 days under a novel concept of "A good deed a day." On 28<sup>th</sup> April 2006 they hosted a dinner for the children of Sevalaya. The evening was filled with fun and frolic. Various games were conducted for the children and they were treated to a delicious dinner which concluded with the children's all time favourite - ice creams and cakes. Special mention must be made about the hospitality extended to the children on the occasion, by the Managing Director Mr. Murali and his wife and the staff and volunteers.

### Study Circle

T.S.Venkataramani, Hony. Coordinator spoke to the staff about Kanchi Paramacharya's "Voice of God" (Tamil) on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006. "Prosperous living in Old Age" (Tamil) by DR. N.Mohandas was reviewed by A.Sankarapandian on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2006. On 15<sup>th</sup> April 2006 V.Muralidharan shared his thoughts on the book "A drug free prescription for a Happy Living" (Tamil) by Mr. Rathinam. "Teach the children the art of thinking" by P.C.Ganesan was Latha's choice for



**Avadi Tonakela Camp**

discussion on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2006. Selvam reviewed the book "The science of Neurology and beyond" by Swami Ranganathananda on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

### Students Study Circle:

On 8<sup>th</sup> April 2006 P.Mahalakshmi spoke about the book "Women Achievers" by Mr. Sivaranjan .

### NSS Camp:

40 students from veterinary College in Vepery conducted a 10 day NSS camp from 7<sup>th</sup> April 2006 to 16<sup>th</sup> April 2006. The III year students visited nearby villages, educated the villagers about maintaining the cattle, common diseases that can affect the cattle and poultry . They also checked up the cows in Sevalaya's Goshala and in the nearby villages and distributed free medicines. They entertained the children of Sevalaya with a cultural programme on an evening during their camp.

### Temple Visits:

On 14<sup>th</sup> April 2006, Tamil New Years Day the hostel children were taken to the Hanuman Temple at Pakkam

### Akshaya Thrithiai - A Welcome Trend

Last year around the same time, during "Akshaya Thrithiai" the editorial of our news letter spoke about how the occasion has been commercially exploited by the business houses to push up the sales of gold and about the mad rush for purchasing gold. The true spirit of the occasion – that any good deed done on that day will prosper- was also mentioned. Our donors and well wishers have responded to this positively as always. This year Sevalaya is receiving calls from many people who wish to contribute to Sevalaya for the occasion. We thank you all!



## Caesar's wife

Mahatma Gandhi was unquestioningly the leader of the masses, particularly in the Indian struggle for independence. His qualities of leadership have become a subject of study in management circles. What stands out in Gandhiji, apart from all text book enumerations is the uncompromising standards of propriety he set for himself and those who are closest to him. For, he knew, with the Gitacharya, that what good and great people do - the common people tend to follow. He knew that as the leader's wife Kasthuri bai has to be beyond reproach. He was harsh on her for her apparent reluctance to clear the chamber pot of a colleague. He put her on the dock and made her publicly apologise for failing to account for a paltry sum.

He was critical of her for wanting to show some special consideration for her children. Mahadeva Desai and she had to face his wrath when they went to Puri Jagannath temple when he had vowed not to visit the temple unless it was opened to the Harijans. Many a sympathizer of Kasturibai seems to conclude that the life she led with her spouse was intolerable.

The truth seems to be that she shared the passion for Service with Gandhiji.. The unsophisticated village-girl became the Matriarch of the nation - Ba - in her own right; owing to the rigorous discipline she underwent at the feet of the Mahatma. For a correct appraisal, of course, we have to know the mind of Ba.

Paramahansa Yogananda was Gandhiji's guest for a while in the Wardha Ashram, and in his famous book "Autobiography of a Yogi" he has brought to light a letter addressed by Ba to Gandhiji. It runs thus:

"I thank you for having had the privilege of being your life long companion and helpmate.

I thank you for the most perfect marriage in the world based on brahmacharya and not on sex.

I thank you for having considered me your equal in your life work in India. I thank you for not being one of those husbands who spend their time in gambling, racing, women, wine and song tiring of their wives and children like the little boy quickly tires of the childhood toys...How thankful I am that you were not one of those husbands who devote their time growing nice on the exploitation of labour of others

...How thankful I am to you that you put God and country before bribes! You had the courage of your conviction and a complete and implicit faith in God. How thankful I am for a husband who put God and country before me!

.. I am grateful for your tolerance of me and my shortcomings of youth, when I grumbled and repelled against the change you made in our mode of living, for so much so little!

...As a young child, I lived in your parents' home; your mother was a great and good woman! She trained me, taught me how to be a brave courageous wife and how to keep the love and respect of her son, my future husband.

..As the years passed and you became India's most beloved leader, I had none of the fears that beset the wife who may be cast aside when her husband has climbed the ladder of success, as so often happens in other countries. I know that death would still find us husband and wife."

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Editor: [T.S.Venkataramani](#)

**Send your comments to:** [Sevalaya, Kasuva, Pakkam \(P.O.\), Near Thiruninravur - 602 024, Tamil Nadu, India.](#)  
Phone Nos. : [9444346699](#) (Ramani), [9444620286](#) (Bhuvana), [9444620289](#) (Ravi), [26344243](#) (Campus), [26346162](#) (Old Age Home)  
E.mail : [sevalaya@vsnl.com](mailto:sevalaya@vsnl.com) visit at: [www.sevalaya.org](http://www.sevalaya.org)