



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

July 2015

## Modern *gaushala* inaugurated Hygienic housing for 70 cows



N. Vittal, IAS (Retd), inaugurating the new Gaushala

For those with a religious bent of mind, it is worshipping a Goddess; for animal lovers, it is taking care of an animal with respect and dignity; for environmentalists, it is providing organic manure to strengthen Mother Earth; for nutritionists, it is reinforcing the virtues of cows milk, the most healthy drink.

Since 1991, Sevalaya has been taking care of cows both milch and dry cows. With the new *gaushala*, housing 65 cows, Sevalaya continues to pursue this noble cause with improved infrastructure and renewed vigor.

Inaugurating the the newly built Vinobhaji *gaushala* in 1 acre land at



Sevalaya campus , N. Vittal , IAS (Retd), Former Central Vigilance Commissioner stressed on the need to protect the dry cows, highlighting that one of the basic causes for many social evils plaguing the world today was because of the human tendency to value everthing only on monetary terms and forgetting the social value. Quoting an ancient Tamil verse which proclaims that this world survives only because the selfless service of those who live for others, he lauded the efforts of Muralidharan, the founder of Sevalaya and the team for the sustained services for the poor and the needy for 27 years and offered his best wishes for the institution to grow and reach out to more and more needy people.

The new *gaushala* has excellant facilities for the cows. Each cow is in a separate enclosure with easy access to feed and water. The urine flows through a specially constructed channel draining into a pit where it is diluted and used as an organic fertilizer . The *gaushala* , has been constructed at a cost of Rs 30 lakhs. Rajiv Bharwani of Hongkong has sponsored this construction.

### Highlights of the new *gaushala*

**Land area** - 1 acre

**Built up area** - 4000 sq.ft

**Capacity** - 70 cows

**Facilities** -

Seperate enclosures for cows

Seperate feeding area

Designated Pooja mandapam

Channel for collecting urine

Staff quarters

B. NagarajaRao, President of SMSO Nidhi Ltd, V.Ramaiah, a long standing donor, Sivagami, Manager of the Thiruninravur branch of State Bank of India and Directors of SMSO Nidhi Ltd, participated in the function.

The children presented a colourful cultural programme on the occasion.

### Revathy visits Sevalaya



Noted film star and director Revathy celebrated her daughter Mahee's 2nd birthday at Sevalaya. Revathy along with her parents, sister and other family members spent time with the children and senior citizens and enjoyed the special Kerala lunch with them. Revathy has been a strong supporter of Sevalaya for more than two decades.

# Joy of Giving : Way of Life

Dear Friends,

Sevalaya School is located in a small village, as you all know. The very purpose of Sevalaya School is to serve the rural poor. But running a school in a small village has its own problem. Getting good quality teachers is a problem. This has become a problem in city schools also, may be good quality teachers are not there in the market. When we have this gap, we can fill it up with committed volunteers taking classes, along with the available teachers. But again the distance from city becomes a problem even for the most committed volunteer.

We have been trying to use technology to solve the problem. Last year we started using Video conferencing facility so that volunteers from remote locations can take classes. We installed our own transmission tower, improved the infrastructure with more projectors and screens and speakers etc. We got good response for this from our supporters, Prof. Srinivasan from Florida, USA started conducting Physics classes, our committee member Ramesh conducted Maths classes, Paddy from

Bangalore conducted English classes, Indu Madhavan from Australia conducted Maths classes and many more. We also had Manoj and team from UK having story telling for the small kids. Of course we had power cuts, the network going down etc., but none of this dampened the enthusiasm of volunteers as they saw the children enjoying the classes.



Rahul. N



Sneha. B

This year the next generation of our supporters is showing interest in conducting classes. Ramya, daughter of Indu Madhavan is in discussion with our teachers to start classes. Sneha, granddaughter of Prof. Srinivasan, during her school holidays, has started taking English, Maths & Science classes. As she is studying in USA, she is not able to take

classes in Tamil, but her mother is helping her with the translation. Master. Raghu, son of Natraj & Mita Ray, who are our supporters from day one, is also studying in USA. Last summer when his parents brought him to Sevalaya he got very impressed with the kids and the senior citizens. It seems he kept talking about them even after going back to USA. This summer he has come back to India, his main objective in India is to meet the kids and senior citizens in Sevalaya! He is in his 6th grade and he wants to come back next year and spend the whole summer at Sevalaya and take classes.

He was discussing his plans with us and wanted to conduct spoken English classes, Maths etc. He was not sure if he will be permitted to do this, as he may be seen as too young for the role. But looking at his enthusiasm and commitment to volunteering, we said he can plan and come back next summer and take classes. He was so happy and this 11 year old said "Finally I found a purpose for my life !"

Thanks and Regards  
Sevalaya Murali

## 2000+ Sevalaya children receive 20 lakhs worth educational kits and uniforms



Dr. V G Santhosam, Chairman , VGP Group of Companies distributing uniforms to the children

Educational kit containing 2 sets of uniforms, notebooks, school bag, pen, pencil, crayons were distributed to 2000 underprivileged children studying at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School on 1st June 2015. The Chief Guest Dr. V G Santhosham, Chairman, VGP group of Companies

distributed the free educational kits to the children. Sevalaya has compiled a Bharathi Syllabus based on the ideal education proposed by Bharathi in one of his verses. Dr. V G Santhosham released the Bharathi Syllabus and Abdul Gani, Social Activist, received the copy.

## A large heart



Rs. 1000 is not a small amount for a person who makes a living by delivering milk packets and working as a domestic helper. But Valliammai, a resident of Thiruninravur thought it fit to contribute Rs. 1000 from her meagre income towards annadhanam for the residents of Sevalaya. A spiritually minded person she thought that the best way to observe her husband's death anniversary. On 18th June 2015, 20 Sevalaya elders had a good lunch, thanks to her generosity.

# Page Pierre Foundation's continuing support

Page Pierre Foundation has been a strong supporter of Sevalaya since 2008. Its contribution has been singular in the creation of excellent and crucially required infrastructure in Sevalaya's Kasuva Campus. They include dining hall, boys home, girls home and solarisation of most of the campus.

In continuation of the previous years' grants, this year the Page Pierre Foundation has generously donated USD 90,000 for :

- the construction and purchase of equipments for a Science Centre at Sevalaya. Sevalaya would be the first school to have a Science Centre in Thiruvallur Dist.
- the construction of Hostel auditorium in the old Gausghala site at Sevalaya
- purchase of Furniture for the school and
- Sound proof false roofing for the 3rd floor of High School Building.

**Science Centre:** In Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, presently 2000 students are studying. At present there are no Science Centres in Sevalaya or in the surrounding schools in Thiruvallur District. A Science Centre in

Sevalaya will not only benefit the thousands of students studying here, year on year but will also benefit the surrounding schools and students in the surrounding villages.

The Science Centre will foster curiosity, critical thinking and creativity through hands-on programs. The program will catalyse Sevalaya school and educators to improve the content and quality of education for rural children and teachers. The program will help to internalize and rapidly disseminate hands-on science into the school system and create a model for replication. It would significantly improve the classroom learning environment – better and more productive student-teacher interaction, more hands-on learning opportunities, improved overall learning and understanding of concepts, higher levels of curiosity and creativity.

## Hostel Auditorium at old

**gaushala site:** It has been decided to construct an auditorium for the hostel children at the site where the old gaushala stood. The hostel students in Sevalaya's Children's Home will be

benefitted by an auditorium which can be used by them for their Yoga sessions, activities conducted by Corporates for the students, NSS camps conducted by college students and many other events. These activities will be in the ground floor and the building will have a first floor which will have a dormitory, coordinator rooms and toilets.

A stage will be built in the ground floor auditorium and audio visual equipments including speakers, mikes, projector, screen, computer would be provided for conducting programs.

## Furniture for Primary and High

**School :** Every year there is increase in student strength in the school, where on an average about 120 children join. Thanks to the funds from Page Pierre Foundation, Sevalaya students would be benefitted from additional writing tables and sitting benches.

**Sound proof partition :** The third floor in the High School building needed Sound proof partition between classrooms. This has been possible with the support received from Page Pierre Foundation.

# International Yoga day celebrated

"Yoga, the immortal cultural outcome of the Indus valley civilization dating back to 2700 BC brings about an upliftment in both the material and spiritual aspects of life" said P.D. Narayanaswamy the guest at the International Yoga day celebrations on June 21st at Sevalaya's Kasuva campus. He shared his views about his own Yoga teacher training conducted by Sivananda Ashram which had infused him with an energy and zest for life.

The children were told about the significance of the summer solstice which falls on June 21st ,the starting of the dakshinayana period popularly known as the Sadhana pada when one should strive to make these practices a part and parcel of our life. Regular practice of yoga would strengthen the immune system , keep our body & mind healthy and pave the way for a balanced ,peaceful life.

The Prime Minister's efforts at the UN General assembly which had culminated

in 177 nations of the world in coming together to celebrate this day were also recollected. The guest then guided the assembled 165 children to practice the asanas, pranayams as suggested in the common Yoga protocol provided by the Government of India .

C. Nithya and team from Isha Foundation, Avadi had conducted several programmes for children in the past one week to create an awareness about the importance of Yoga. Yoga is practiced regularly by students at Sevalaya 's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School.





## Dreaming to become a teacher

**C. Kanchana**  
Office Assistant

Anyone who has come to Sevalaya campus could not have missed seeing a young lady in the school Headmistress's office bustling about attending to everyone with a smile. 'Kanchana please bring the file; all this teacher/student is a refrain often heard here'.

C. Kanchana whose husband works as a tailor in Ambattur, came to know about Sevalaya through a relative staying in this area. She got admission for her son in Balwadi and shifted to Kasuva in 2006. She used to work as a daily labourer in the fields but her health conditions were a hindrance. Then when her daughter was admitted in 2008, she came to know

through one of the teachers that there was a vacancy in Balwadi and joined as a helper. Slowly she started assisting in the HM's office, putting things in order, maintaining the files, records and other important documents. Her activeness, cheerfulness and maturity soon made her an invaluable assistant and when the then Headmaster G. Chittibabu came to know that she had two arrears to be cleared in her Std X he motivated her to complete it.

After completing Std X with the help of Science teacher G. Chittibabu and Social Sciences teacher, R Vijayaraghavan, Kanchana who is an intelligent person,

got motivated to study further. Vijayaraghavan was ready to advise and guide her in every step. After completing her duties at office, she would come and sit with the XII students to learn English in the evening special class. Whenever the Accounts and Economics teachers were free, she would get her doubts cleared. Soon she had cleared XII exams. There is no stopping and now she is doing her B.Lit in Tamil, thanks to Mara Breech Foundation who are supporting the education of Sevalaya staff. She will graduate in 2017 and then dreams of completing the Pandit training course and becoming a teacher. Her son is now in Std IX and daughter is in Std VII.

Whether it is rain or shine she is there at 8.00 a.m everyday and opens the office and starts the work for the day. She is ready to step in and help when there is additional work in the evenings on holidays and Sundays. She is one of the strong pillars of the organization sharing a good rapport with all the staff and students, ready to step in and help wherever required and in whatever way possible.



*Volunteer Charlie taking class to Sevalaya Children*

My ten months at Sevalaya have given me a lot of happy memories. Each day brings something new, funny, exciting and often way out of my comfort zone; whether it's deciding to start teaching a group of teachers or thinking it a good idea, wisely or unwisely, to let forty kids near large quantities of glue in order to complete a paper maché activity.

I came to Sevalaya in search of a change from my normal routine in England- safe to say I got it! At the beginning, and in the midst of some crippling bouts of homesickness, it's easy to fall into the

mentality that 'west is best' and firmly stick to the ideas and beliefs that you were raised up on. But now I realise that the unknown is not wrong, it is simply totally different and I am humbled that I have been able to learn about (and hopefully pick up) some of the Indian mentality. The fact that most of these children have so little, materialistically speaking, yet are still willing to offer you proudly and with smile what they do is one of the things

I really will treasure and hope to take back with me to England. It is impossible

*"Lots of happy memories"*

**Charlie Palmar,**  
Volunteer from United Kingdom

to count the number of times we've been given gifts of drawings, flowers and pencils (plus countless chalk pieces 'gifted' from their classrooms).

I feel that Sevalaya's academic success is second by far to its ability to turn out, year after year, kids who value and are so grateful for their education and will always greet you with a smile. Simply put, Sevalaya should pride itself on its habit of creating nice and decent people to go out into the world.

I really would encourage everyone to try and experience something totally new because now, having emerged on the other side, I can tell you that it's absolutely worth it.

## Elders presented with sarees and dhothies



Mani Mudhaliar Trust, a regular donor of Sevalaya has donated sarees, dhothies & towels for 65 elders in Sevalaya's old age home on 3rd June 2015. The trustees visited campus and gave dhothies and sarees to them.

Sevalaya expresses its thanks for the gesture of the trustees and their affection to elders.

## Sevalaya partners Paperman in Recycle League Campaign



Sevalaya, in partnership with Paperman, helps recycle waste from your home, office, school, college and donate the proceeds to education for underprivileged children of Sevalaya.

This initiative is part of the Chennai Recycle League Campaign organized by Paperman, as part of Environment Day Celebrations

Paperman will collect the trash (newspaper, old books, scrap, ewaste etc) from your door steps and send the converted cash as donation to Sevalaya.

Simply click the following link :

<http://paperman.in/sevalaya>

## Matram Foundation transforming four lives

Matram Foundation, an organization which mobilises support for the higher education of students has brought a good change in the lives of four Sevalaya students who had secured good marks in Std XII.

Thanks to the efforts of Matram foundation, Sathyabhama University has offered free seats for C. Mageshwari and R. Nandini in Electronics and Communication Engineering for the entire 4 year course. The university has also offered them free accommodation in their hostel for the 4 years.

C.Mageswari's father is an agricultural labourer. Her mother stitches blouses and works as a daily wages labourer. R. Nandhini's father is a driver and her

mother is a house wife.

Both the students were very happy about getting an opportunity to pursue their higher education in a prestigious university.

Through the efforts of Matram foundation, 2 more students of Sevalaya got free admission in engineering colleges. B.Jayapraveen is pursuing higher education in Agni Institute of Technology and K. Prabhakaran is in Peri Institute of Technology.

We thank Sathyabhama University, Agni Institute of Technology and Peri Institute of Technology for providing a good opportunity to our children.



The four whose life is set to change: (L to R) B. Jayapraveen, K. Prabhakaran, C. Mageswari and R. Nandhini

## Students in News 7 Channel programme



A unique program was organized by News7 Tamil channel for the benefit of students who wish to pursue higher studies. The title of the program was "What to study? – Where to study". Ten students of Sevalaya participated in the program anchored by Vasanth of News7 Tamil channel. Our students asked

various questions to noted educationists, Baskaran and Nedunchezhiyan who counselled them about the various choices they have. Although Sevalaya students were invited for participation, the programme intended to benefit all the students who wish to pursue higher studies.

## Topper among eight schools



'Law to all' is a student's initiative formed by students of Law College. Their main idea is to inculcate values to the children and they have named it as 'Karpom

'Karpipom' (Let's Learn and Let's Teach). This team consists of 30 members from the college. This year they have decided to create awareness about Environment to the children and they conducted essay competition to the children on the topic "Thagam"(Thirst).

S. Ramya studying Std XI in Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School won the overall prize. She came first among the competitors from 8 schools in Thiruninravur.

She was given a medal and a cash prize of Rs. 500.

## Awareness rally against child labour: 350 students participate

Thiruvallur District Child Protection Office (Department of Social Defense, Govt. of Tamil Nadu) and Sevalaya jointly organized a rally against Child Labour during the Child Labour Eradication Day on 12th June 2015, in which 350 students from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Angel Matriculation School and Dasar High School participated. The rally started from Shanmuga Marriage Hall in Thiruninravur and ended in Dasar School ground. Sevalaya has been working for eradication of child labour and is instrumental in bringing down child labour to 0% in 40 villages around Thiruninravur.

Flagging off the rally A.R.Ragulnath, (Deputy Collector) said that engaging children in labour is against law and the children should go to school and develop their talents.



A. R. Raghulnath, Deputy Collector, flagging off the rally

## Home management committee meeting

Home management committee meeting was held at Sevalaya on 19th June 2015. The committee is formed by the District Child Protection office of every district in every home. The main idea of this committee meeting is to talk to the children of every home to identify their problems and find a solution for the same. The committee consists of members of District Child Protection Office, members of Juvenile Justice Board, Chairperson of Child Welfare Committee, the matrons of the home, the superintendent of the home and two representatives each from boys home and girls home.



# Mass drill training for Sevalaya students

Co-curricular activities help the various facets of personality development of a child and a natural yearning for physical activity makes the weekly mass drill a pleasurable activity in schools. It is a break from routine class work, a chance to mingle with all and at the end it leaves one with more energy, self esteem and confidence.

Sevalaya's children enjoy this weekly drill activity and with nearly 635 children (Std VI-IX) on the field it is a treat to watch this exercise. Under the watchful eyes of the PT masters A. Sankarapandiyan and G.Nithyanandam, the children perform various types of exercises which improve their physical fitness.



## BGV gospel in the schools around Kasuva

R. Vijayaraghavan and A.Kumaresan, Social studies teachers play an active role in spreading the ideologies of Bharathi, Gandhi and Vivekananda to the schools in and around Kasuva village. On 19th June 2015, they went to Government Middle School, Melappedu and spoke about the ideologies of the great leaders.



## Anna Universtiy volunteers

Almost 120 volunteers from Anna University spent 10 days in the camp doing voluntary service.

They cleaned the area behind the old age home and also worked in the agricultural fields. They spent time with the children and the elders interacting with them. Apart from this they also spent time in the villages.

## Join hands to save our environment

World Environment Day was celebrated on 5th June 2015. Sasikala, Health inspector, Puliur was the Chief Guest. She inaugurated the Eco Club of the school.

She also flagged off a rally from the school to the nearby villages in and around Kasuva creating an awareness on the need to save environment. Tree saplings were planted in and around the school on the occasion.



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# Not lost anything, not even money, certainly not the soul!

Gandhiji's stay in Pretoria was a most valuable experience in his life. Among other things, it was there that he learnt the secret of success as a lawyer.

He was engaged to assist the attorney of Dada Abdulla in a suit for 40000 Pounds arising out of business relationships. Several intricate points of law and accounting were involved in the case. Gandhiji's task was to prepare the plaintiff's case and sifting of facts in support.

Facts are three fourth of Law. If we take care of facts, law will take care of itself. Facts means truth, and once we adhere to truth, law comes to our aid naturally. Convinced of this, Gandhiji dived deep in to the voluminous documents, and was able to see the facts in a new light. He was convinced that by the very facts of the case Dada Abdulla was sure to win. But he reflected. We do not know

Court's vagaries. How long the case will prolong, nobody could guess. Which judge would take the case was also a point to be considered. Meantime, Dada and the opposite party, Tyeb Sheth, who was also a relative and a business magnate, would be incurring huge expenditure which could be profitably put in business. The mental agony and growing animosity between the two families were immeasurable. Gandhiji boldly suggested placing the case before an arbitrator acceptable to both the parties. Even though there was hesitation on both sides, ultimately they saw reason and an arbitrator was appointed. The arbitration went in favour of Dada Abdulla. A very huge sum was to be paid by Tyeb Sheth, which would have led to his bankruptcy. In the business community, bankruptcy was worse than death. Gandhiji suggested to Dada to help Tyeb Sheth out by agreeing

to receive the payment in instalments spread over a long period. It was more difficult to convince him of the proposition, than it was even in working out a consensus about arbitration. Dada ultimately agreed and it was ultimately, "all's well."

Gandhiji concludes," My joy was boundless. I had learnt the true practice of Law. I had learnt to find out the better side of human nature and to enter men's hearts. I realized that the true function of a lawyer was to unite parties riven asunder. The lesson was so indelibly burnt into me that a large part of my time during the twenty years of my practice as a lawyer was occupied in bringing about private compromises of hundreds of cases. I lost nothing thereby-not even money, certainly not my soul."

## JRC club inaugurated



Junior Red Cross (JRC) club was inaugurated for the year 2015-2016 on 25th June 2015. The club was inaugurated by N. Annapurna, Trustee of Sevalaya. The club now has 62 members. The main motto of this club is Health, Service and Friendship.

## Social club inaugurated



Sevalaya does not believe in imparting a passive form of education and children are encouraged to participate in numerous extra curricular and club activities. One such club children enjoy is the Social club which select a new theme every year around which the yearly activities are centered.

This year's Social club was inaugurated on 26th June 2015 by Zoe Abott and

Victor Mignot volunteers from United Kingdom and Switzerland respectively. They shared details of the lifestyle and culture of their countries with the members of the club.

This year the theme of the club is "Cheran, Chozhan and Pandian". The children will learn about these great kingdoms –their culture ,agricultural methods, life style and trade.

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

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

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