



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

MARCH 2016

NGO Leadership Summit : Balancing Heart, Head and Hand

## CEOs discuss NGO Leadership challenges

Over 50 CEOs and leaders from leading NGOs came together at the 3 day NGO Leadership Summit – Balancing the Heart, Head and Hand. Organised by Sevalaya, in association with Antony Silard, CEO, Center for Social Leadership (CSL), USA at Anna University Alumni Centre on 17th, 18th and 19th February 2016, it was a by invitation summit, meant for capacity creation in India's NGO sector. It dealt with a wide range of topics which included converting pain to passion, leadership styles, passing on the passion, and work life balance.

In his inspiring inaugural address, reminiscent of the Late Dr Kalam's simplicity and clarity, Ponraj cited anecdotes from the former President's life. His address was a perfect beginning to the summit, wherein he shared with the audience a few stories of common men who have become game changers in their chosen field of activity, by daring to think differently. He differentiated between activists and actionists and touched upon how 'actionists' will go a long way in solving issues and bridge the difference between people. He stressed upon the need for more actionists for a better future and society.

Anchoring the sessions was Anthony Silard (Tony), leadership guru and consultant for Fortune 100 companies, political leaders and G20 ministers.



*"We need more Actionist than Activists" - V Ponraj in his inaugural address.*

Tony called upon the delegates to become leaders and change makers and not just focus on raising funds. He facilitated an interactive discussion about leadership traits like passion, empathy and trust. He elaborated on how the fusion of these three traits along with honesty and integrity make a great leader, who can create a positive change in the society. There were discussions on emotional competence, developing listening skills and tuning to the mindset of the donors without blindly launching into the routine pitch for funding. The need for a Compassionate Communication for a healthy and effective work atmosphere in NGOs and "Lonely at the top" were the other topics discussed.

Tony also elaborated on how leaders should be flexible and retain control

at the same time. Classifying leaders into three types – transactional, transformational and transcendental, Tony stressed on the transcendental leadership in which the leader enables followers to become leaders. This paves the way for quality leaders to blossom. While talking about control he opined that a leader should be assertive and call a spade a spade. Dissent is ok but should not be disruptive, was the message.

There were breakout sessions handled by the Trustees and Advisors of Sevalaya. Prof Gopaldaswamy Ramesh, Author and Adjunct Professor handled the session on Learning organization; Thomas T Abraham, former Special Director, Corporate Communications, Ashok Leyland on Communication; R Shankar, Director Impec filters, on motivating and retaining staff; Sarath Divella, Country Head, Lionbridge Technologies on Volunteer management; Kumaran Mani, CEO, Tenth Planet Technologies on technology driven NGOs; Thilak Iyer, corporate trainer, Networking; Prof Dr. S V Mani, former Vice President, TCS on NGOs and Government and Julie Kantor, President & CEO, Twomentor, LLC on bringing the fun in fundraising and Women in STEM.

The highlight of the 3 day summit was the Corporate Panel discussion on Day 2  
*Continued on page 2*



*Left : V Muralidharan, V Ponraj, Thomas T Abraham, Anthony Silard at the inaugural function  
Centre : Corporates Panel discussion featured Ashwin Kumar Iyer, Jagdish Acharya, Rishikesh Joshi, K Srinivasan, Anurag Pratap Kumar and was moderated by Thomas T Abraham  
Right : The three days marked active floor participation, broadening the width of views and perspectives*

# Joy of giving: *the way of life*

Dear Friends,

Year after year we see Governments of all the countries increase the budget allocation for security expenses. In our house we employ security staff and may be install CCTV cameras. A time may come we have to employ armed guards too! If in our home budget, a major portion is expenses on security, will we like it? But that is what Governments all over the world are doing. If all Governments decide that they will not step into the territory of other nations and stand by it, do we need security forces?

In addition to declared wars, which are relatively easy to fight, we seem to have undeclared war, on a daily basis, across the borders. There is infiltration, shooting, killing every day. There seems to be no end to this. World news is full of bomb blasts and deaths everywhere. If less people die, it is not news anymore. At least 100 people should die to qualify for front page news!

One of the top peaks of Himalayas,

covered with snow, is a perfect place for a holiday resort. But Siachen is far from a holiday resort. It is the world's highest altitude battle ground. Our army is guarding the border there under extreme conditions. In the recent massive avalanche many soldiers were killed and the nation was shocked. In addition the news that Lance Naik Hanumanthappa Koppad was found alive six days after the event – under 35 feet of ice - 45 ° C temperature – it is difficult even to imagine, how he could have managed in that terrible condition. We can't tolerate even couple of degrees change – if there is an increase, we need air conditioners, if couple of degrees less, then we need a blanket. But Hanumanthappa survived for six full days, fully packed in ice, his only job there was to guard the borders of the nation - this is possible I think only by will power. Even after he was rescued, miraculously alive, and medical treatment was provided, unfortunately he could not survive. These soldiers did the ultimate sacrifice, giving up their lives for the sake of the nation. The nation salutes them.

Billions of dollars are spent and millions of lives are sacrificed – if at all, these can be diverted to developmental projects, the world will be a better place to live in. One of the wishes of Mahatma Gandhi was to have a nation without army and to have only “Shanthi Sena” – peace workers. We have moved too far away from the dream of Mahatma Gandhi – are the nations ready to rethink?

Can Siachen become a holiday resort instead of graves for our dear ones?

Thanks and Regards

Sevalaya Murali

## We've moved

Keeping in line with Sevalaya's growing activities, the city office has moved to a suitable location.

Our new address :

**54, P S Sivaswamy Road (North),  
Mylapore, Chennai 600 004.**

We invite you to our new office.

*Continued from page 1*

where the NGOs got an opportunity to interact with senior leaders from top 5 corporates, K Srinivasan, Senior Partner, PwC; Anurag Pratap Kumar, CSR Head of Capgemini; Rishikesh Joshi, Head, Corporate Services at L & T Infotech; Jagdish Acharya, Advisor, Asian Paints; and Ashwin Kumar Iyer, CEO, Vedantaa Senior living. The corporate leaders elaborated on three essential aspects

they look for in funding proposals submitted by NGOs - alignment of cause, a clear execution plan with time lines and measurability of impact. They suggested that NGOs should think like corporates in terms of project implementation and corporate should also learn to think like NGOs when it comes to social causes. This will help in a better mutual understanding and reduce the gap. The

## Participants' feedback

It was an opportunity to understand the CSR space better and a forum to discuss how we can bring different stakeholders together. I believe that there is a lot of work to be done in the area of cooperation and collaboration. And I am glad I participated.

**Jagdish Acharya, Advisor – Corporate Social Responsibilities, Asian Paints Limited**

Thank you so much. Had a rich learning and will be implementing them.

**Prof. Samuel Johnson K, VIT Business School & Learning Research Cell**

The panel discussion on “Corporate- NGO Interaction” was quite fruitful and helped us understand the questions in the minds of NGOs. The gesture of Murali and Ranga taking it upon yourselves to serve food to the participants was very touching. It demonstrated the spirit of “Seva” and how such events are to be handled.

**Rishikesh Joshi, Corporate Services, L&T Infotech**

A big thank you to the entire team of Sevalaya for organizing the Summit, so correct to the T. It was an absolutely flawless, well organized event. I thoroughly enjoyed all the three days. It helped us, unwind, network and learn. Congratulations.

**srividhya v, CIOA**



expectation of the corporate to keep the administrative costs to minimum so that majority of the funds directly flow to the beneficiaries was also discussed.

The session was interactive and saw active participation from all the attendees. At the end of the session one could feel that the chasm that existed between the corporate CSR activities and the NGOs had come down by quite a bit.



Team Sevalaya with Anthony Silard and Julie Kantor

## Sevalaya hat tricks at Design for Change Award



For the 3rd consecutive year Sevalaya is among the top 100 schools in the country, to be awarded the Design for Change 2016 Award. The Design for Change is an international contest for school children, conducted by The Riverside School, Ahmedabad. The children are encouraged to identify an everyday problem they face and to arrive at an innovative solution for the same.

This year Sevalaya children conceived a novel way to collect omnipresent paper and plastic waste found in the



school premises and in village roads. The children designed a new type of dust bin, which consists of a cardboard base in which broken cycle spokes are fixed. All the paper and plastic litter flying around are brought and inserted in the spokes. So this acts as a novel way of collecting paper and plastic cover waste and also takes the shape of a dustbin.

Now the school is free of paper and plastic wrapper waste and our children contribute positively to our Prime Minister's Swachh Bharath campaign.

## 100% Achievement Award



Veltech group of institutions, Avadi, honoured the Principals of the Government and Private higher Secondary schools in Chennai, Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur districts, which have secured 100% pass results in the XII Std Board Exams in 2015 at a function organised on 14th February 2016. S Kannappan, Director of School Education and P A Naresh, Joint Director of Public Libraries were the Chief Guests. B Nirmala, Headmistress of Sevalaya School received the award on the occasion.

## Varied activities at Republic day celebration

26th January 2016 was an activity filled day at Sevalaya. Ramani Raghavan, Lead associate Partner, IBM, USA, was the Chief Guest at the 67th Republic day Celebrations and hoisted the National Flag. Speaking on the occasion, he recalled the role of teachers in shaping the lives of the children and being the son of a teacher, he said that he enjoyed visiting schools and interacting with students.

The children presented a colourful variety entertainment programme that included skits, dance and music on the theme of patriotism.

The Annual Alumni meet was held on the day. 150 alumni gathered at the school and had a fun get-together with their teachers and other friends. They had also organised a blood donation camp, in association with the Thiruvallur District chapter of the Indian Red Cross Society. Nearly 100 people including the staff,



*Mr and Mrs Ramani Raghavan at the Republic day celebration*



villagers and alumni donated blood.

A farewell party for the outgoing students of Std XII was also organised on the day. The alumni interacted with the students sharing their experiences on life after school. It was an emotional meeting with many students talking about how Sevalaya has played a major supportive

role in their lives. The students also were very appreciative of the caring attitude of the teachers and expressed their gratitude. They promised to keep in touch with the school.



*Republic day March past by JRC students trained by former Central Reserve Police personnel C M Vadivel*



# Sevalaya's new Science Centre : Taking Science to rural children

Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Science centre, an initiative of Sevalaya sponsored by Page Pierre Foundation, Switzerland, is the culmination of Sevalaya's aim to take Science to rural schools.

As a step towards kindling the curiosity of the children, and developing scientific temper in them by providing access to practical models, which, we hope, will contribute to better understanding of basic concepts of Science, Sevalaya has set up this science centre. The Centre has been aptly named after Late Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, former President of India, who, hailing from a simple rural background, achieved great heights in the field of Science and in the hearts of the children of this country.

The Centre was inaugurated by Page Pierre, Founder of Page Pierre Foundation on 29th January 2016. Dr Daniel Oyon, Academician & Consultant, Page Pierre Foundation, Switzerland, and his family, N Lakshmi Narayanan CEO, Cognizant Technology Solutions and Immanuel Alphonse, Programme Manager, Junior Achievement India also participated in the inaugural function.



*Page Pierre inaugurating the Science centre. Also in the picture Dr Daniel Oyon, and V Muralidharan*

Sevalaya has thrown open the doors of the centre free to all the schools in keeping with its vision of making quality education accessible to poor rural children. Schools from nearly 41 villages around Kasuva have shown keen interest in making use of this facility offered by Sevalaya.

Till date, in addition to Sevalaya school children, 41 students from Panchayat Union middle School and Government

High School in Melapedu, Nadukuthagai, Palavedu and Melakondaiyar villages have visited the Science centre.

The centre has models of all the scientific concepts prescribed in the syllabus by the state government, from primary to higher secondary. The Physics section has 38 models, Chemistry section 53 and the biology section 8 models including human anatomy. The science teachers of Sevalaya school explain the concepts and demonstrate the experiments. Students also get a chance to try the experiments which gives them a better understanding. There is also a Maths kit which makes learning Maths fun for the primary section up to Class VII.

"Our children enjoyed the visit to this Science Centre. The teachers explained the concepts with the help of models, very clearly to the children. The students got a better understanding of Newton's laws, Galileo's pendulum Theory and UV Method in Physics section. In the biology section models showing functioning of the heart, stages of growth in plants were all very interesting and informative to the students" were some of the feedback from visiting schools.

## Why Science Centre?

In most of the schools, learning Science is confined to classrooms and text books with children having absolutely no practical idea of the concepts that are taught. Science practical classes are only for the higher Secondary section, where the students repeat a few experiments as taught by the teacher in the labs. Getting full marks in practical exams is almost the norm and it helps to boost up

one's total percentage in Science in the Board Exams. Other than this there is no learning of fundamental principles, no curiosity to explore, and experimentation among the children. So despite our huge population, India draws a blank in the field of scientific research and invention.

Sevalaya's Science Centre hopes to address this gap for the rural children.



## Anna University students market Sevalaya at Kurukshetra 2016



*V Muralidharan, Founder and Managing Trustee, Sevalaya receiving cheque from Vinithra and friends Anna university*

Kurukshetra 2016 is the annual techno-management fest of College of Engineering Guindy, Anna University.

One of the events was Marketing

Madness where the competing teams market an NGO of their choice and raise funds for the organization. Sevalaya was the most favoured NGO among students and attracted maximum contribution. The donation was handed over by Vinithra and friends from Anna University.

## BNY Mellon volunteers visit

As a part of BNY Mellon's Volunteer Hours Matching Grant program, a group of 20 volunteers representing various divisions of BNY Mellon, visited Sevalaya on 20th Feb 2016. This programme is designed to motivate their employees to volunteer specific man-hours on various projects in Sevalaya. The organization would

then give a matching grant to Sevalaya for the hours spent by the volunteer. The team took a detailed tour of the campus and discussed specific projects for volunteering like Library record entry, painting classrooms in Primary School with alphabets and pictures.



*Volunteers from BNY Mellon started computerising library data.*

# Prizes galore for Sevalaya athletes

*Sevalaya athletes return with a handful of medals and prizes from sports events*

**TSF** : Tamilnadu Sportsman Federation & Thiruvallur Athletics Association jointly conducted Tamilnadu state level kids open Athletics Championship-2016 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Chennai on 13th February 2016. V Kiruba of Std V won bronze medal in shot put and 400 mts running.

**YMCA** : Sevalaya's Primary school children won 3 Gold medals, 7 Silver medals and 4 bronze medals at the YMCA College Athletics Championship for Kids-2016 conducted by YMCA Athletics



Academy on 23rd & 24th January 2016 at Nandanam, Chennai.

**Chennai Super Runners** : 30 students from Sevalaya participated in the Republic day Kids Mini marathon for Cancer Awareness, organised by Chennai Super Runners at YMCA College grounds,

Nandanam on 24th February 2016. Cash prizes were awarded to S Sharmila and V Surendar of Std VI who came second, R Dinesh of Std VII who came third and G Saranya of Std VIII who came in fourth. Sevalaya athletic programme is sponsored by Lionbridge Technologies.



## Sevalaya excels at Thiramai Por



The annual event Thiramai por (battle of talents) - a one day sports event - conducted by Rotaract club of Akash is motivated by the urge to identify a fine talent in the sphere of sports among the underprivileged children. 30 students from Sevalaya participated in the event held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on 3rd February 2016. Our children won 4 gold, 8 silver and 7 bronze medals.



*Getting ready for the Kids Marathon*

## Overall Championship at Nakshatra



Nakshatra is a national inter-children's home talent fest of sports, art, literary and cultural events conducted annually by Bhumi, a youth – volunteer non-profit organization. 35 students Sevalaya

participated at the Sports events at Agni College, Navalur on 7th February 2016 and won the overall Championship. Here is the medals tally:

Event / Category	Junior	Senior			Super Senior		
	I	I	II	III	I	II	III
100 Mts		Y		Y	Y		
200 Mts	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	
400 Mts		Y			Y		
800 Mts							Y
Long Jump		Y	Y	Y	Y		
Shotput			Y			Y	
4*100 Mts Relay					Y (B)	Y (G)	

## HIV AIDS awareness



50 students from Dr MGR Janaki College of Arts and Sciences for Women visited Sevalaya on 30th January 2016. V Anuradha, faculty In charge of the Red Ribbon Club of the College organised a training programme by M Koteeshwari, Counselor, ICTC [Integrated Counseling & Training Centre], Nemam PHC, Thiruvallur for students of Stds XI and XII on AIDS awareness, Personal Hygiene etc, The college students also conducted a drawing competition for students of Std V and distributed prizes to the winners.

## Training for dealing with children

### Children in classrooms

56 teachers of Sevalaya School participated in a training programme on "Dealing with Children in classrooms" on 30th January 2016 conducted by R Kannamma, Psychologist at the Southern Railway Hospital. The session was an interactive one. "I learnt that for effective teaching, the teacher should be calm and relaxed while entering the classroom and should not express anger in class" said P Lakshmi, Economics Teacher.



R Kannamma interacting with teachers

### Children in conflict with Law

Madurai Institute of Social Sciences(MISS) had organised a training between 12th -14th February 2016, on dealing with children suffering from drug abuse. The training sessions were conducted by D Dhanasekarapandian, District Child Protection Officer (DCPO), Madurai and Dr. (Capt) D V P Raja, Chairman (MISS) G Krishnaswamy, Chief Caretaker of Sevalaya's Boys Home attended the programme. "The programme helped me to understand how to effectively handle children in conflict with law" was Krishnaswamy's feedback.

## Visit to Vanamahotsavam



600 students from Stds VI to IX and Std XI visited the Vanamahotsavam Exhibition organised by Sri Kanchi Mahaswami Vidya Mandir School on 2 February 2016. 45 students participated in the various competitions like Poster making, Oratorical and essay competition on the need to preserve forests conducted by the school and won prizes. The winners received prizes at the hands of G Srinivasan, Chairman cum Managing Director of New India Assurance Company Ltd.

### Guiding children to choose careers

Immanuel Alphonse, Programme Manager, Junior Achievement India, an organisation training students to make informed career choices and open their minds to their potential, conducted an interesting session for 414 students from Stds V to VII. A video on how balloons and pencils are manufactured was shown and the children were made to enact how things are produced, which led to a deeper understanding of different professions, roles and careers and how students' interests can lead them along diverse career and educational paths.



Immanuel Alphonse with children



Krishnaswamy receiving certificate from Dhanasekarapandian, DCPO

## Apollo Hospital's contribution

Apollo Hospital Education Research Foundation, pioneers in the health care Industry, has pledged to donate, all the medicines required by Sevalaya's 70 senior citizens. The first lot of medicines were handed over to V Muralidharan on 22nd January 2016.



L to R : Jayanthi Swaminathan, Senior General manager, Apollo Hospital Education & Research Foundation, Mythili Sriram, Coordinator CSR projects, C Sreedhar, CEO & V Ravichandran, Senior General Manager, Apollo Pharmacy, V Muralidharan & L N Anupriya - Sevalaya

## Teaching Dyslexic and Hyperactive kids



Training session by Harini Mohan

43 teachers participated in the training programme on dealing with dyslexic children and hyperactive children in classrooms, conducted by Harini Mohan, Co-ordinator, Madras Dyslexia Association.

## My idea of clean Chennai



Eight of our students participated in the drawing competitions conducted by Vasantha Memorial Trust on Cancer Awareness on 31st January 2016. 41 students participated the drawing completion conducted in various phases for Stds Pre Primary to IX, by Hepzibah trust on Clean Chennai on 7, 15 and 21 February 2016.

## Yousuf finds his feet

I Yousuf Kalib, was admitted in Sevalaya home along with his brother, who was a child in conflict with law. The boys were motherless and were in the care of their father before they were brought to Sevalaya by the District Child Protection Officer. Dwarfed in appearance, Yousuf, who is 18 years old, is of 3 ft height only. This had created an inferiority complex in him. He could not complete X Std and refused to study further.

When he was admitted in Sevalaya, he was withdrawn and would never mingle with other boys, for the fear, they would tease him. But the boys in our Home were very affectionate to him and made efforts to be friends with him. Now he has come out of his shell and seen freely moving with his peers. He has

## Sevalaya Alumni's Enterprising Initiative



Radha, a girl from poor family, studied in Sevalaya school from 6th to 12th. She also successfully completed the beautician course at Sevalaya's Community College. Now she has become an entrepreneur by opening her own beauty parlour at her village Kavanur. Her husband who cultivates and sells flowers fully supported her in the venture.

The parlour was inaugurated by V Muralidharan on 10th February 2016. Ranga Jahagirdar, Hindu Society of Ottawa-Carleton, INC, Canada also participated in the inaugural function.



joined Electrician course in Sevalaya's community College and shows a keen interest to learn the trade. He is much interested in coil winding.

"Yousuf is a very good student who has a quick grasp of whatever is being taught. He is very interactive in class" says K Kamalesan, Yousuf's Electrician Course Instructor.

## Amateurs on the way to become professionals



Sevalaya has a dance teacher now, thanks to the sponsorship by Lionbridge Technologies. Savithri Srinivasan, a dance teacher from Pakkam village comes to Sevalaya on Thursdays and Saturdays beginning from 3rd Feb 2016 to conduct dance class for 40 students. Our children so far have been performing dance in cultural programmes only with the help of YouTube dance videos for selected songs. It's exciting to see the children eagerly waiting for their dance classes each week. With proper training, we hope that imparting and cultivating one of the traditional arts to the children may even blossom into a career prospect.

## Life time achievement award



*Amarchand Jain, Advisor, Sevalaya receiving "Award for Life Time Achievement" awarded by ABS Vidya Mandir and Raj TV*

## Music in the air

From 1st February 2016, 20 children from Sevalaya learn music via video conferencing. Every Monday, from 10 to 11 AM, Padmini Ganesh, a volunteer from Bangalore, connect with the children via V-Con and conduct classes. The children enjoy the music lessons and it is a pleasure to hear their collective voices when they sing in unison.

## Awareness on breast cancer



Lns C Shanthi, social worker, conducted a Breast Cancer Awareness programme for 50 women staff of Sevalaya on 4 Feb 2016. She explained the various stages of breast cancer. Reiterating the cruciality of early detection, she also educated the staff about self examination.

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## A sacred recollection and penance

With his characteristic transparency Gandhiji narrates a bitter incident while he was practising as a lawyer in Durban. His office clerks were often staying with him. They belonged to different communities and provinces of India. He treated all of them as members of his family but Kasturba had reservations in the matter. The house was built after the Western model, and the rooms did not have any outlet for dirty water. Each room had therefore chamber pots. The clerks would clean their pots. There was one Panchama clerk, who was new in the household, and hence did not know this practice. It was the accepted duty of Gandhiji and his wife to attend to the cleanliness. Kasturba did not like Gandhiji cleaning the pot of a Panchama and at the same time she was not happy doing this job, although she did take up this work. Gandhiji writes, "Even today I can recall the picture of her chiding me, her eyes red with anger, and pearl

drops streaming down her cheeks, as she descended the ladder, pot in her hand." Admitting himself as a "cruelly-kind" husband, he writes that he regarded himself as her teacher, and so harassed her out of his blind love for her. He was not satisfied with her doing the job, but he wanted her to do it cheerfully. He raised his voice and said, "I will not stand this nonsense in my house." The wife shouted back, "Keep your house to yourself and let me go." Gandhiji forgot himself and the spring of compassion dried up in him.

He writes: I caught her by the hand, dragged the helpless woman to the gate, and proceeded to open it with the intention of pushing her out... The tears were running down her cheeks in torrents, and she cried, "Have you no sense of shame? Must you so far forget yourself? Where am I to go? I have no parents or relatives to harbour me. Being

your wife, you think I must put up with your cuffs and kicks? For Heaven's sake, behave yourself, and shut the gate. Let us not be making scenes like this."

Gandhiji put on a brave face, but he was really ashamed. He shut the gate. "If my wife could not leave me, neither could I leave her... We have had numerous bickering, but the end has always been peace between us. The wife with her matchless power of endurance has always been the victor."

Gandhiji comments on this incident, "I thought that the wife was the object of her husband's lust, born to do at her husband's behest rather than a helpmate, a comrade and a partner in the husband's joys and sorrows. It was in the year 1900 that these ideas underwent a radical transformation, and in 1906 they took concrete shape...My domestic life became and is becoming more and more peaceful, sweet and happy."

# You can shape a life ...without taxing yourself

Please sponsor one or more of the Sevalaya residents - 200 children and 70 elders - or its 2000 school children who receive free education. That is a good way to show your care, even as it reduces your tax.

Contributions to Sevalaya's Children's Home, Old Age Home as also to the School Expenses Project qualify for 100% tax exemption under Sec. 35 AC/80GGA of Income Tax Act.

*Please donate generously and avail of tax rebates*

## Swami Vivekananda Navarathri celebration in Chennai

The nine days Swami Vivekananda spent at Chennai, on his return from the trip to USA, after his world famous speech at the World Parliament of religions, Chicago was celebrated as Vivekananda Navarathri by Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai, from 6th February to 14th February 2016, at Vivekananda Illam on the shores of Marina Beach. Pictorial exhibition on Swami Vivekananda, lectures by eminent personalities, book fair and various cultural events were



*Sevalaya children and senior citizens arriving at Vivekananda Navarathri celebrations*

organised on all nine days. A 3D show on Vivekananda's Speech at the Parliament of Religions was the highlight of the events. 150 children and 20 senior citizens from Sevalaya participated in the celebrations on the evening of 14th February. They enjoyed the 3D show. They were very thrilled to be in the room used by Swami Vivekananda and meditated there for a few minutes. They also enjoyed watching the Kuchipudi Dance programme.

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