



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

JUNE 2016

## Board results: 100% in Std XII, 99.3% in Std X



Smiles and cheers all over

For the seventh time, Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School for the rural underprivileged children has secured 100% pass results in the XII Std Board Examination, held in March 2016.

All 143 students who appeared for the exams were successful. 12 students scored above 1000 and 55 students

passed with distinction while 69 secured first division marks.

Sevalaya, gratefully acknowledges the dedicated efforts of the teachers, who work with missionary zeal and fervor to serve the poor and needy, and not merely for the salary they earn. We also acknowledge with gratitude the consistent and generous contributions



Waiting to get a glimpse of the marks scored.... Hurrah I have passed !!

of our donors, without whose support, the above results could not have been achieved.

In the X Std Board Examination held in March 2016, the children secured 99.3% pass results, with one lone child failing.

152 out of 153 students who appeared for the exams were successful. 7 students scored above 450 and 105 students passed with distinction while 139 secured first division marks.

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## Std XII Toppers: 3 first generation students, all girls, secure 1-2-3 rank



**S Poornima**  
1128 / 1200

S Poornima, the first ranker with a total of 1128, is the daughter of a mason. Her mother who works for daily wages has been a pillar of support in encouraging her to study, as a result of which she is the first girl child in her family to complete Std. XII. She says "I attribute my success to the steady encouragement and support of my teachers who were always motivating and encouraging me at every step, spending extra hours clearing my doubts and correcting the smallest of

mistakes in each test paper. My dream is to become a Chartered Accountant."



**M Nandini**  
1117 / 1200

M Nandini, daughter of a milk vendor, scored 1117 with a centum in Commerce. She is a sincere and hardworking student. Although very quiet in class, she never hesitates to approach the teachers even after school hours, to clear her doubts. Her willingness and enthusiasm to learn is infectious enough, that the teachers also feel motivated to help her.



**R Ishwariya**  
1093 / 1200

R Ishwariya, daughter of a village tailor, who stood third with a total of 1093.

Ishwariya overcame several odds as she was suddenly afflicted by health problems and could not even hold a pen during the revision tests and board exams, early this year. However constant encouragement from her teachers and parents helped her surmount these obstacles and she secured 3rd in the school. She turned emotional on hearing the news that she stood third at school.

# Joy of giving: *the way of life*

Dear Friends,

Once again Sevalaya children have proved that underprivileged children from the villages can do equally well in academics if proper facilities are given to them. A school with proper classrooms, laboratories, equipments, books, note books, other learning kits, library and above all caring teachers, will make sure that children who have lost both parents, children with single parents, children from broken families, children from bonded labourer families, children who have criminal background and left under the care of Sevalaya under Juvenile Justice act, children from very poor village families can also do well in 12th and 10th grade exams. On the day the 12th grade exam results came out, the school was like a temple where festivals were going on. Along with the students who came to see their results, we also had alumni members and children from the next batch, eagerly waiting to see the results. Same was the case for 10th grade results too. Sevalaya once again achieved 100% results in 12th grade and 99.3% in 10th grade.

When we look at the results considering they are all first generation learners, we can understand the effort put in by the teachers. Good facilities in this village have been made possible by generous contribution by people like you. When you see that every paisa donated by you has been put to good use and has resulted in good outcome, you can experience the joy of giving. Sevalaya thanks you for your continuous support in the last 28 years. This year also we have 2000 such children, who need your support. To get the initial requirements of two sets of uniforms, notebooks and other educational kits, we need an average of ₹1000 per child. To support a child for a full year for education, it will cost ₹ 8000 per child, per year. If you prefer to create an educational endowment to support one child permanently, it will cost ₹ 1,00,000. You can send cheque drawn in favour of Sevalaya to our city office address or you can do a direct transfer to our bank account.

More details are provided in our website [www.sevalaya.org](http://www.sevalaya.org)

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We are sure of your support this year too.

Thanks and Regards

Sevalaya Murali

*Continued from page 1*



*Sweet rewards of hard work*

## Std X toppers



**A Mahalakshmi**  
487/500



**S Nithesh**  
484/500



**K Vaishnavi**  
471/500

**A Mahalakshmi**, the first ranker with a total of 487/500, scored centums in Mathematics and Social Studies. She has been a student of Sevalaya from Balwadi. Daughter of a mason, this all rounder has won several prizes in various extracurricular activities. Calm and quiet by nature, Mahalakshmi has to help her mother, who is not keeping good health, with housework. She manages both work and studies with ease. She attributes her success to the steady encouragement and support of her teachers who were always motivating and encouraging and spending extra hours clearing her doubts.

**S Nithesh** stood second scoring 484/500 with centums in Mathematics

and Social Science. He is from Bandikavanur and had a horrifying experience during exams. After the Maths exam, his mother was bitten by a snake. With the moral support of his teachers he prepared for the next day's Science exam and scored 99 marks in the subject. His father is a driver and mother a daily wages labourer. A student of Sevalaya from Balwadi he aspires to join IAS. He attributes his success to the good environment which motivated him to study and hard working teachers who spared no efforts to help the students. He feels that the daily prayers in the school assembly created a positive energy field which influenced him and others. His pillars of success are his mother and teachers. His mother has recuperated well.

**K Vaishnavi** who stood third with a total of 471/500 lives in Thumbur village with her parents and three sisters. Her father Kumar works in a tea stall while her mother is a homemaker. She attributes her success to Sevalaya, her teachers' extra efforts and her supportive parents. She joined this school only in IX and the entire atmosphere was a pleasant surprise for her. Attending various kinds of training, functional English classes, large labs with hands on experience opened up a new dimension of knowledge and increased her thirst for learning. She enjoys helping others and motivates slow learners in her class and assists them with their lessons. This girl is determined to become a Maths Teacher.

# Resurrection of Gandhi Study Centre at Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya Samithi



Rishikesh Joshi, Head Corporate Services, L&T Infotech inaugurating the GSC. Also in the picture: S Pandian, Chairman, Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya Samithi, Dr Annamalai, Director, National Gandhi Museum, Dr M Rajaram, IAS and Sevalaya Murali

Gandhi Study Centre situated in Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya Samithi campus, was reconstructed in a matter of four months after the Chennai floods. The building was ravaged by the floods and thousands of valuable books, some originals signed by Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and C Rajagopalachari were soaked and lost forever. Many historical artefacts

were lost. Office equipment and IT systems were also rendered unusable.

Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya Samithi commands an emotional bond with the father of our nation in that the foundation stone was laid by the Mahatma himself, and has been adhering his message ever since. Sevalaya took the initiative to rehabilitating the building



The Centre affected by floods (above) and after reconstruction



by approaching Corporates to restore the centre. L&T Infotech, an IT Major, promptly came to the rescue and was committed to the cause of rebuilding the centre. With their contribution the reconstruction was carried out at a rapid pace, and the building was inaugurated on 11th May 2016.

## "Ecoholic" at HTC Global Services

Sevalaya Murali spoke about how youngsters can contribute for a eco friendly environment, in HTC Global Services as part of "Ecoholic". He distributed plant saplings to the employees. Radha Srinivasan and Dr Shreevidya Venkatraman also participated in the meeting.



Daan Utsav, the festival of giving is celebrated pan India during the first week of Oct every year. As a precursor to the event, the national meet of Daan Utsav 2016 was held at Mumbai between 19th-22nd May, 2016. Fifty volunteers from all over India participated in this meet, to plan and discuss ways of spreading the message of giving. Radha Srinivasan, VP-Donor Relations, Sevalaya played an active role in the meet.

## Organic Tomatoes at Sevalaya farm



Among the vegetables that are sprayed with pesticides, tomatoes are ranked among the top 3 in the world. The goodness of any vegetable is lost when they are sprayed with pesticides. Sevalaya, always being eco friendly aims to deliver the best services to our residents and the community at large. In addition to our other organic vegetables, we took a step further and planted tomato seeds in our organic farm, early May. Tomatoes are rich in Vitamin C and have immense health benefits. We expect nature to reward us with a bountiful harvest of cherry red tomatoes, soon.

## BNY volunteers transform classrooms

Since February 2016, about 50 volunteers from BNY Mellon come to Sevalaya campus every Saturday, and have been quietly transforming classrooms, one by one. In each of the twenty four classrooms, they have painted patterns, drawn formulae, so as to enable the students to remember things by association. The dedication of the volunteers is admirable and they approach each task with enthusiasm. They also conduct classes on drawing, painting and craft work and provide an outlet for the creativity of the children in each of their visits. The volunteers also lend a hand in computerizing the library catalogue.



*BNY volunteers creating magic in the classrooms with their paints and brushes*



*BNY Mellon Volunteers computerising the library catalogue*

## Summer camps with SCOPE Volunteers



SCOPE International has shown keen interest in sponsoring children's education and volunteering at Sevalaya school. Their staff numbering 85, volunteered for 6 days between 5th May to 14th May 2016. They came on different days to volunteer. It was a pleasure to see the youngsters reach out to the children and become children themselves. The children were in the midst of a summer camp and the volunteers conducted music sessions for the students where they learnt to sing many songs, made a foray in to drawing and paper shape cutting techniques and other decorative crafts like greeting

card making, and pot painting. SCOPE volunteers sponsored painting kits to all students, and conducted projects in science. The children had interactive sessions on basic spoken English. They were taught about traffic rules and road safety. At the end of the volunteering sessions, they gave away participation certificate to all the students. 70 students from Std VI to Std VIII benefitted from the summer camp.

A beaming Vijayalakshmi said, "I learnt many new words in English. Making craft items and pot painting were very interesting. We had fun playing many games."

## Quaid-E-Milleth Arts College NSS volunteers



*NSS volunteers at organic farm*

NSS Volunteers from Quaid-E-Milleth Arts College, in association with MN Eye hospital sponsored an eye camp, organized by Sevalaya, at Pakkam and Kasuva villages. Preliminary eye tests were conducted by a qualified ophthalmologist and patients with issues were referred for further treatment.

## In the magical 3D world of Jungle Book



SCOPE International sponsored 450 children from Sevalaya to watch Walt Disney's Jungle Book – 3D animation movie at Satyam Cinemas on 23rd April 2016.

While the 3D movie was a new experience for the children, watching it at Satyam Cinemas was a novelty for them. The children were excited at the ambience in the theatre and enjoyed the popcorn, juice and chocolates.

"I had never been to such big theatres it was very nice and I enjoyed the movie" says V Nithyasri of Std V. "I liked the movie, the forest, the animals and the boy Everything was good" says M Nethra.



*SCOPE volunteers Pot painting session in progress*

## Training on teaching methods, handling anger and brain development for teachers



*Residents of Sevalaya enjoying Thappu, Parai with VIT volunteers*

On 9th May 2016, Prof K Samuel Johnson from VIT University conducted one day training for teachers on teaching methods, anger control & brain development. He gave tips on how to handle students and suggested good



*Sarath Divella, Country Head, Lionbridge technologies, India with VIT Volunteers*

e-learning websites. 34 teaching staff participated in the interactive session. The volunteers spent time at the hostel and taught the children how to play the folk instruments of *Parai* and *Thappu*, as well as guitar and drums. The children



*Training session by Prof Samuel Johnson, VIT, Chennai*

also got an opportunity to play these instruments and enjoyed the session. English teacher D Aswini is happy that she could upgrade her technical skills and is now confident of video recording a lecture and uploading it in Youtube.

## Agastya Science Centre - opening the Magical world of Maths & Science



*Hands on learning at the Science Workshop*

From 9th May to 13th May 2016, volunteers from Agastya Science Centre, Kattupakkam branch, conducted science workshop for students.

With the help of a host of models in two mobile labs, the volunteers taught the students the basics of Origami and Kirigami to make mathematical diagrams. They explained formulae by using shapes. In Physics, they explained the workings of a periscope, and reflection with models. The concepts were very clearly explained through these models. The friendly

### Fire Hazard – awareness program



*Demo given by Fire service officers*



*Trainers from Agastya Science Centre interacting with Sevalaya students*

volunteers made learning mathematics and science fun and enjoyable for the students.

“Learning about Solar and Lunar eclipses, functioning of human organs and other basic concepts with models made my understanding clearer. My interest in Science has deepened.” says Ranjani of Std VI.

“It is quite fascinating to make models using origami and kirigami” says C Saravanan of Std VII excitedly.

On 16th April 2016, a special awareness programme was conducted M Manivannan, District fire officer, M Subramaniam, Assistant District fire officer, M Selvaraj, Tirur fire officer for 250 students at Sevalaya campus on fire safety, first aid and fire fighting. The officers explained to students on the importance of being vigilant and alert when a fire accident occurs. The officers had brought all the equipment and demonstrated live by creating a fire and extinguishing it by using the equipment.

## Preparing for UPSC and TNPSC exams



Cracking State and Central Government exams are often viewed as a herculean effort, and, at times people who write the exams are overwhelmed by the same.

Sevalaya conducts coaching classes to dispel this notion, and from time to time, invite officials from the state and central government to motivate people who write the exams.

This time N Lakshmi Narasimhan – Auditor CAG Chennai and N Munusamy Private Secretary, Southern Railway from *Nandhavanam Kalvi Arakattalai* explained the different types of Group exams, and academic qualifications required to crack the same, to the 25 alumni who participated in the program.

## Rotary club award to Kingston



*A Kingston, VP Operations, Sevalaya receiving the May Day Award from Rotary Club of Madras Vadapalani*

# Healthcare to become a major player in Sevalaya

**Dr D Avinash**

Long before Dr D Avinash joined Sevalaya, he was introduced to the organization, by one of his senior doctors, during his college days.

When he saw requirement for a Doctor, at Sevalaya, it was too difficult to resist. His instincts to serve the poor and underprivileged sections of society took hold and he joined soon thereafter. Dr Avinash says, "I was pretty much impressed about the activities going on in the community through Sevalaya. I think services rendered by Sevalaya



will reach more people and in different areas in the future. I also noticed that behind every system of Sevalaya there is a proper planning methodology through which optimization is achieved. I like this approach a lot.

His next steps are to improve the hospital

services. "Health care should become a major part of Sevalaya soon. Mahatma Gandhi health centre should attain a brand value" he opines.

Dr Avinash hails from Hyderabad. He studied MBBS in Chennai and started practicing at different ICUs and hospitals.

## A boy for all seasons - Yogesh Kumar



Bright and vivacious S Yogesh Kumar, who has passed his Std XI, has been a resident of Sevalaya's Swami Vivekananda Boys Home for the past 10 years. He dreams of becoming a software engineer.

A native of the Melapedu village, he lost his parents in an accident at the tender age of 6. He and his elder brother Dilip were day scholars at Sevalaya School and were being taken care of by their grandmother, before they were admitted in to the hostel. His brother is working after completing Std XII from Sevalaya, and is taking care of their aged grandmother.

Yogesh, an intelligent boy, loves reading books and is a frequent visitor to the school library. As the Cultural Minister of the Children's Parliament, he loves

reviewing books he has read, during the weekly *Nila Muttram* (gathering around the moon). He picked up this habit and love for books from his teacher P Soundarajan, who was also in charge of the library earlier. He gratefully remembers the wardens and teachers who literally brought him up from the age of 6. Several values like caring for others, sharing things, completing allotted work on time have been imbibed by observing warden/teachers like Saktivel Murugan, B Selvanayagam and M T Anand. He particularly remembers Saktivel Murugan Sir's guidance with pride. He is very fond of the present warden G Krishnaswamy whom he calls "Appa". He shares all his thoughts, ideas and issues, with his "Appa".

"This hostel is my home, my family, my

life, and I will always come back here to help even after I settle in life" he says passionately. Ever ready to extend a helping hand, visitors to the dining hall would have surely noticed this boy who helps in serving meals to the other residents of the boy's hostel. If someone is sick, Yogesh takes the initiative and serve them meals in their room. After serving everyone, this caring young man has his meals and reaches school on time for his classes.

A sports enthusiast, he is a part of the school's handball team. He joined the computer science group in Std XI after passing Std X with 412 marks. He is an affectionate "Anna" to all the boys in the hostel and the first one to step forward to help in any activity/work at the hostel. He in turn is a favourite of the wardens and is always in their prayers who wish to see his dreams come true.



Sevalaya Murali in "Just Oru Vivadham" programme on Peppers TV

## Tailoring training to Irula women



L&T Infotech and Sevalaya provided free tailoring machines & kits to Irula women in Tiruttani on 8th March 2016. As a follow up measure, L&T Infotech and Sevalaya give free training for a year. 60 Irula women attended the first of the tailoring training classes conducted by Kaveri, tailoring instructor at Sevalaya on 16th April 2016.

## Light music programme for residents



On 14th May 2016, a team of musicians from 'Saraswaras – The Endless' visited Sevalaya and conducted a light music programme for elders and children. They sang devotional and patriotic songs. G R Baskara Rao, the coordinator of the programme expressed his happiness to present the programme for the residents of Sevalaya.

## Zoo trip for students by RYA Metro



134 students and 4 staff of Sevalaya were a part of the group of 5000 children from 54 NGOs in and around Chennai who were taken on a trip to Vandalur Zoo on 23rd April 2016. The trip was a part of the "Apna Bana Lo" project of Rajasthan Youth Association's Chennai Food Bank. The organisers also donated bed sheets, tumblers, plates and cups to the children. E Vignesh of Std VI said "I was thrilled to see the animals and various birds in the zoo."

## Motivational talk by Alumni students



14th May 2016, saw Sevalaya's alumni taking it upon themselves to bring together 120 students who had written their Std XII board exams to give them a motivational talk. G Ilayaraja, an alumni introduced himself to the students and spoke about his formative years at Sevalaya. He went on to say that the years he spent at Sevalaya shaped his life and his thirst for higher education landed him wonderful opportunities in India and abroad. He opined that hard work and education will always stand in good stead. He mentioned that sky is the limit, for those who try. Ashok, other alumni said that gaining practical experience is more important than getting marks. Abiraj and Ms Devi also encouraged the students to aim high and work hard.

## Visit to Queensland with Raindropss



Sevalaya was one among the 5 Homes, whose children were taken on a day's visit to Queensland, the amusement Park on 23rd April 2016, by Raindropss, an Indian youth based social organisation, as part of their "Annual summer kondattam" The children thoroughly enjoyed the rides and the water games.

## Sevalaya practices its "Motto"

In keeping with Sevalaya's motto, "Love all Serve all", 12 transgender women from *Vidivelli Thirunangaigal Nalavazhvu Sangam* (Dawn of hope Transgenders' Welfare Association), Thiruvallur district, celebrated Transgenders day with elders of Sevalaya. On 15th April 2016, 12 persons, led by Shanthi, Treasurer and T Viji, Secretary of the organisation visited Sevalaya campus and joined the elders of old age home for lunch.

## Health camp by medical centre



Dr Avinash who joined Sevalaya recently, visited Velliur village on 10th May 2016, and conducted a general health screening camp. This village, 10 Kms from Kasuva does not have a health centre. About 95 villagers were screened, where Blood Pressure was checked and free medicines were also given to those who needed medication.

## Training on Leadership in Education



*D Pradap, Teacher from Sevalaya at the "Leadership in Education" training*

Training in Educational Leadership is a programme of Kuruvila Jacob Initiative for Promoting Excellence in School Education managed by the Kuruvila Jacob Memorial Educational Trust.

The training conducted in 3 sessions spread over a year, focussed on Facilitative leadership, Instructional Leadership and Institutional Leadership. Topics covered included communication, challenges for the modern leader, time management, motivation, team learning, curriculum designing, lesson designing, instructional effectiveness, HR management, Office Management, Management cycle and TQM (Total Quality Management). Sevalaya was the only NGO participant in this programme in which 17 schools participated.



## “Indian Opinion”

The journal Indian Opinion was started in 1904 to serve as a means of communication amongst the Indian community in South Africa. Though Gandhiji was not technically the editor of the journal, he was actually carrying on with the entire work; the financial burden also entirely fell on him. He writes about his experience with the journal, which will be a lesson to all of us in the present generation on ethical and responsible journalism. He writes:

“I cannot recall a word in those articles set down without thought or deliberation, or a word of conscious exaggeration, or anything merely to please. Indeed the journal became for me training in self-restraint, and for friends a medium through which to keep in touch with my thoughts. The critic found very little to which he could

object. In fact the tone of Indian Opinion compelled the critic to put a curb on his own pen. Satyagraha would probably have been impossible without Indian Opinion. The readers looked forward to it for a trustworthy account of the Satyagraha campaign as also of the real condition of Indians in South Africa. For me it became a means for the study of human nature in all its casts and shades, as I always aimed at establishing an intimate and clean bond between the editor and the readers. I was inundated with letters containing the outpouring of my correspondents’ hearts. They were friendly, critical or bitter, according to the temper of the writer. It was a fine education for me to study, digest and answer all the correspondence. It was as though the community thought audibly through this correspondence with me.

It made me thoroughly understand the responsibility of a journalist, and the hold I secured in this way over the community made the future campaign workable, dignified and irresistible.

In the very first month of Indian Opinion, I realized that the sole aim of journalism should be service. The newspaper press is a great power, but just as an uncontrolled pen serves but to destroy. If the control is from without, it proves more poisonous than what of control. It can be profitable only when exercised from within. If this line of reasoning is correct, how many journals in the world would stand the test? But who would stop those that are useless? And who should be the judge? The useful and the useless must, like good and evil generally, go on together, and man must make his choice.”

# 28th Annual Report Communication Sponsorship

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We are happy to share with you a novel opportunity for you to support Sevalaya and benefit from visibility for your brand in a philanthropic context. This opportunity comes in the form of ‘Communication Sponsorship’ in Sevalaya’s 28th Annual Report.

Sevalaya Annual report reaches 10,000 people in the Government and Corporate sectors, besides High Network Individuals. Additionally, uploaded on our website, it enjoys perennial viewing.

In keeping with the design of the

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similar space in an issue of Sevalaya’s monthly newsletter “Love all Serve all” will come as a bonus.

Additional insertions in the newsletter can be booked at moderate extra cost. 8,000 printed copies of the newsletter and an additional 25,000 copies as emails are despatched to our donor community. Uploaded on our website, the newsletter also enjoys added visibility. Communication Sponsorship shows your company/brand in a favourable light generated by the goodwill Sevalaya enjoys.

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