



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

JANUARY 2017

Hit hard by Vardah, Sevalaya seeks help

On 12th December 2016, the State administration and the Met department warned that the cyclone was going to hit Chennai and its environs badly. Sevalaya took all precautions to safeguard the lives – both human and cattle. But, the fury of Cyclone Vardah that wrought severe damage on trees, infrastructure and buildings, left us bewildered.

The staff took extraordinary care to provide for the residents of the campus – the destitute children living in the hostel, senior citizens who have stayed with us and experienced firsthand the travails of last year’s floods.

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Below : Gaushala compound wall



Top : Sevalaya campus denuded of green cover, after cyclone Vardah

Below : Sevalaya campus, full of trees, before cyclone Vardah



Having received estimates for repairs and restoration of damaged infrastructure, costs add up to about ₹ 30 Lacs. We appeal to our donors to join hands with us to restore the campus.



Sevalaya Murali receiving cheque for ₹ 50,000 towards rehabilitation efforts after Cyclone Vardah, from S Chandrasekaran, District President, Sri Satya Sai Seva organisation, Chennai Metro South; S Rangaswamy, Convenor of Sai Samithi, looks on.

Bouncing back

Sevalaya has been working for the cause of environment and one of the major activities under this is tree planting. For more than two decades, we have been planting trees in Sevalaya Kasuva campus and also in the surrounding 40 villages.

All children were encouraged to plant trees as well as nurture them. The four storied school building was surrounded by trees from all sides. Even during the peak summer, the school stayed cool. but during the cyclone we lost all the trees. The children residing in the hostel were the first to notice the change. They could be heard desolately saying



Richa Singh, Deputy Manager - CSR, Cholamandalam Investments and Finance Company pvt ltd., planting tree saplings

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Joy of giving : the way of life

Dear Friends,

Last year it was water, this year it is the wind! Chennai seems to have problem with two of the five basic elements, in successive years. But fortunately this year the loss of human life is very limited but many trees fell lifeless. Compounding the problem was the fact that these trees fell on transformers, electric cable and telephone lines rendering most of Chennai, Thiruvallur and Kanchipuram without power and clean water. Chennai got the priority and bounced back within 3 days, but the villages and districts are still under darkness, even a week after the cyclone.

Sevalaya has been advocating planting of lot of trees and set an example, by planting a lot of trees inside the Kasuva campus. At any time of the day, the whole campus was cool, shades spreading all over the school area and children enjoyed playing under the trees. Many individuals and corporate houses sponsored tree planting activities and we encouraged our children and staff to plant trees in

all 40 villages around the campus. These activities are going on for more than a quarter of a century and the whole area had a beautiful green cover.

But the cyclone nullified the 25 years effort in less than two hours. Every day morning from 5:30 to 6:30 and also in the evening from 6:00 to 7:00 we used to hear the cacophony of various types of birds. The trees were the home for nearly 5000 birds. All these birds have been rendered homeless this year. We also promoted alternate forms of energy by installing solar panels on top of all buildings and we were using solar energy to the maximum extent possible. Now the wind has blown all these systems out of gear. Trees and communication equipment have fallen on the solar panels. Compound walls have fallen off. Our network and security systems have all been cut off. Our Kasuva campus looks like a battle field after a major war!

We need lot of volunteers, and financial assistance to clean up and restore our campus to its original state. It may take a

while before we get back to normalcy. I am sure all donors of Sevalaya will pitch in and support.

We want to start our tree planting work once again. But this time we will carefully avoid avenue trees. These avenue trees are less expensive and grow very fast. But if we see the trees that have fallen, most of them are avenue trees. Major damages have happened because of them. So we will try and select trees, which are stronger – it will take a longer time to grow, but let us not worry about it. We will restart with all the lessons we have learnt.

The city planners also should look at the issue in this angle and plant better trees. Sevalaya is willing to support this activity in all the three districts. Let us get back the green cover once again, to save future generations from the ferociousness of nature.

Thanks and Regards

Sevalaya Murali

...Continued from page 1



Solar panels and communication tower destroyed by high velocity winds

But, our entire crop of trees, numbering 300, was felled by the ferocity of the cyclone. The age of the trees ranged from three months to more than 25 years. They were lovingly planted by the staff, donors, volunteers and the residents over a period of years. It is a huge emotional loss for Sevalaya, as the trees shared a unique bond with each and every member of our staff and the people who visited our campus.

Communication and power were hit badly, and as at the moment of this newsletter going to the press the communication network is patchy and it is very difficult for the campus staff to reach out to the outside world. The security system and the CCTV units were ripped out of

its moorings. Power lines have been severely disrupted and the campus is without power the whole day. More than a quarter of our solar panels have either been broken or rendered ineffective due to damage. Over the past year, we have been increasingly using solar energy to power our primary and secondary schools as well as use it for lighting up our kitchen and old age home.

Some of the sheets which covered the sheds just ripped and flew away. Ceiling fans were twisted out of shape. Our compound wall measuring about 750 running feet was knocked down and lay flattened.

All of us at Sevalaya thank you all for your spontaneous support and calls enquiring about our staff and campus residents!



Part of the ripped solar panels smashed into our girls hostel terrace

Bouncing back...

that they already feel the heat during the afternoons, as they walk around the campus. They have expressed their willingness to volunteer during the weekends and holidays to go around the campus and villages and assist in planting trees.

The cyclone took out the trees in just two hours. We took two days to clean up the debris. Our first order of business was to start planting trees. We know the summers in the coming years are going to be intense, with no tree cover. Richa Singh, Deputy Manager, Cholamandalam Investments and Finance Co. Ltd., came to our campus and planted the new saplings at the campus. Our staff pitched in and planted a few trees, too.

We are confident that the new trees will bring back the rich flora and fauna, soon.



Sevalaya Alumni cleaning Thiruninravur temple tank

Sevalaya wins overall championship trophy at Bhumi Nakshatra competition



Winners of the Bhumi Nakshatra overall championship

Sevalaya kids have once again proved their ability to excel in extracurricular activities, just as they do in academics. They have won the Bhumi Nakshatra competition for the 7th consecutive year, held on 27th November 2016, at Kumararani Meena Muthiah Arts & Science College, Adyar.

Bhumi Nakshatra is a competition held among NGOs across Chennai, in arts, cultural and sports. 600 students from 20

NGOs participated in this competition. This was a follow up to the competition held on 9th October 2016 and the finalists from that competition were called up to compete against other schools. 27 Sevalaya kids participated in dance, drama, painting, clay modeling, quiz and elocution competitions and Sevalaya won the Bhumi Nakshatra overall championship trophy for the 7th consecutive year.

Uratha Sindhanai celebrates Bharathi Day at Sevalaya



Uratha Sindhanai, an association based in Chennai conducted a competition on Bharathiyar songs, poems, and essays on 5th December 2016 at the campus. The president of the Association S V Rajasekar, Vice President Padmini Pattabhiraman, Members S R G Sundarram and S Bopal

Singh visited the campus on that day. 60 students from Std VI to Std. XI participated in the competitions.

On 11th December 2016, J Balasubramaniyan, Director, IDBI Federal Life Insurance Co. Ltd; N Panchapakshan, Sai Shankara matrimonial; Dr J Baskaran, members of *Uratha Sindhanai* visited campus, and distributed prizes to the winners of the competitions conducted on 5th December 2016, under the aegis of 'Bharathi Ula.' 4 students sang Bharathi songs and teacher Abirami sang 'Ninnai saren adainthen' to start the proceedings. The program was attended by 400 students and 20 senior citizens.

The sway of Mahakavi Bharathiyar's poems carries on forever



On 3rd December 2016, Sudha Umasanker, Journalist, Social activist & Storyteller came to the campus and conducted a story telling session for residential children of Std V to VII. She gave a power point presentation on Mahakavi Bharathiyar's biography. Students enjoyed the session and listened with rapt attention. The presentation had a powerful effect on the students. 43 students attended the session.

Science Centre attracts rural students



Eager students from Govt High School, Vadamadurai at the science centre

60 students studying between Std VII and Std IX and 2 staff from Government high school, Vadamadurai, visited Sevalaya's Dr Abdul Kalam Science centre on 25th November 2016. They were fascinated by the Biology models and spent a lot of time asking questions about the circulatory system and nervous system. Sevalaya's science centre is sponsored by Page Pierre Foundation.

"It was nice to be able to learn from the models what our science teachers taught us. I was able to understand the circulatory system much better. I would like to visit the science centre again."

G Deena, Std VI, Govt. High School, Vadamadurai

"It is indeed a great pleasure to visit Sevalaya's science centre. The students learning ability could be visualised in the centre. Thanks for the opportunity."

S Vinod kumar, Science teacher, Govt High School, Vadamadurai,

Vishal's sister visits campus



Aditi Madhusudhan, Sister of Tamil film actor Vishal interacting with elders of Sevalaya

Sevalaya's R Archana aims to represent the nation in Olympics



Early in December, R Archana participated in the State level Republic day Sports athletics competition at the Kalasalingam University, Virudhunagar, and secured the Bronze medal in the 80m hurdles (under -14) category, with a timing of 14.90 seconds (Winner: 13.4 seconds), missing silver by a mere 0.1 second. This has been a breakthrough year for Archana, who

is studying in Std. VII. On 3rd June 2016, she won the Gold medal in the Divisional (Ponneri, Thiruvallur, Kanchipuram, and Chingleput) 80m hurdles, held at Velammal School, Ponneri. In November this year, she participated in the National level competition held at Vishakapatnam, and came 8th. Sevalaya's PT teacher M Nithyanandam, saw the determination in

Archana's eyes, when she exhibited the hallmarks of a good athlete, like self-motivation and turning up for practice two hours daily, and putting in a lot of hard work. Apart from 80m hurdles, Archana also regularly participates in 200m and Long Jump. She is getting better by the day and she is already representing the district at the State level soon.

Her parents are her source of strength. They make a living by selling vegetables in the local market. They are very proud of the accolades she wins in various tournaments and provide full encouragement. At school she is guided by the sports as well as academic team. Her class teacher says that her levels of concentration have increased and she is in the top half of the class now.

Sevalaya provides Archana with nutritious food and supplements for general stamina and strength, daily. Lionbridge technologies Pvt Ltd has been a constant source of inspiration and support to the sports activities at Sevalaya.

Rob Stephenson trust (UK) donates cricket kit



On 4th December 2016, Philip Mckechnie and Emre Samyan, friends of Rob Stephenson Trust UK visited Sevalaya with gift from the Trust- cricket kits consisting

of gloves, cricket balls, pads and other accessories. The children were overjoyed as cricket is their all time favourite sport.

Tailoring training for Irula Women at Tiruttani



Tailoring Training for Irula women in progress

A N Sabira, tailoring teacher of Sevalaya's Vadanallur community college, travelled to Tiruttani to take tailoring class for the Irula community women. This training is sponsored by L&T Infotech and is conducted every month. 25 women from Tiruttani and Pallipattu villages attended the garment cutting and stitching class held at Velu Naicker Thirumana Mahal, Tiruttani on 25th November 2016. Sevalaya's tailoring training is sponsored by L & T Infotech.

Prasan Vidhya Mandir visit

On 3rd December 2016, 34 students and 9 teachers from Prasan Vidya Mandir School, Kanchipuram, interacted with our senior citizens and children. They sang and danced with and for the elders. They presented a puppet show which amused the children. Many children from the hostels were bewildered by the puppetry and were eager to pull the strings themselves. The school also donated provisions and stationeries to Sevalaya.



Teacher and students from Prasan Vidhya Mandir enjoy lunch with Sevalaya residents

Motivate yourself, reach goals – Volunteer shows the way

240 students from Std III to Std VIII were given a powerful lesson on self motivation by Indhu Madhavan, a VCON volunteer from Australia, who visited our campus on 10th December 2016. She went to each class and interacted with the students. She mentioned that each student must make an effort to increase 10 % of marks from their previous exam. She asked the students to read the headline news, every day and give utmost concentration in all subjects. She exhorted the students to rid themselves of fear and shyness and answer questions boldly. She mentioned that Sevalaya should always be in their thoughts and actions and that they should pitch in to help other deserving students, as they grow up in life. She also spoke about the need to maintain a healthy



diet as they grow up. She distributed chocolates to our students.

Naresh P, Std VII : "I am very happy to see Indhu mam in person. I will do my best to achieve the goals set for myself."

Lingeswaran R, Std VIII : "After interaction with Indhu mam I will surely overcome my fear and talk boldly."

Understanding Physics – training for our teachers



On 10th December 2016, Prof. S Swaminathan, IIT Delhi (Retd) a long time well wisher and volunteer of Sevalaya, taught Physics from Isaac Asimov's book - Understanding Physics. He explained about Inclined planes, Acceleration & Free fall, through slides. He gave projects like sun dial, History of measure and time. The power point slides, duly translated in Tamil were very helpful to the teachers and are being used in their classes. 13 teachers of science and maths benefitted from his session.

R Kannan, Teacher, Sevalaya : "Today, I learnt about pole star, free falls, and about Earth rotation. I liked the video about migratory birds."

With best compliments

"Better is to educate an underprivileged child"

-MahaKavi Bharathi

"The soul of India lives in its villages"

-Mahatma Gandhi

"God comes in the form of Roti for a hungry man"

-Swami Vivekananda

Well wisher

Sevalaya participates in CSR Leadership conference



Radha Srinivasan, VP – Donor relations, participated in the CSR Leadership conference 2016, conducted by Nasscom Foundation at Bangalore.

Shell competitions

Road safety



At a programme conducted by Shell India Pvt Ltd for road safety awareness, Sevalaya students exhibited their knowledge and knocked off prizes in all the activities – writing, slogan creation and scripts. S Thenmozhi VIII A and P Janaki VIII G were the winners in Essay writing competition. While three students won prizes in the first two, we got the second prize in Scripts.

This programme was held at T N Rajarathinam hall, Adyar on 20th November 2016. 700 students from 30 schools participated in this awareness programme.

Awareness programme

Drug abuse



P Senthil, District child protection officer, Thiruvallur, visited Sevalaya campus and stressed the importance of abstinence from drugs and other vices. This programme for Std. X students was held on 23rd November 2016 and a few parents also participated. M Dasarathan, Member of Child welfare committee and A Mani, Project Co-ordinator, Child line also spoke impressing on the children about the dangers of addiction. It was heartening to note that the students listened to the talk intently. The talk was given to Std X students, and some parents also the session.

M T Anandan

Teacher, motivator, friend and gentle guide to primary school students

M T Anandan hails from a village near Nagari, AP, whose traditional family work is either weaving or teaching. He moved to Tamilnadu after finishing his Std X exams, and was chosen on merit to study D. Ted (Trichy Govt college) after securing high marks in Std. XII.

He heard about Sevalaya through a friend and applied for a job. He was surprised when he saw that the campus had an old age home, hostels for boys and girls, and a Gaushala along with the school. He fell in love with the place immediately. He says he still remembers Mr. Muralidharan's words when he was offered employment - "Sevalaya is home to orphaned children and children who have not experienced parental love. Our job is to provide such an atmosphere for them to learn and thrive."

He says, "The way my colleagues and students accepted me overwhelmed me. They cared and treated me with respect and there is camaraderie that I have never experienced anywhere."

He also says with a big smile, "From a stage where I thought how am I going to stay away from home, I started thinking how can I leave this place and go home. I am perfectly at peace spending weekdays and weekends at Sevalaya."

He has come a long way from the time he joined as a teacher for Std. I to becoming



a headmaster of the primary school (Std I - Std V) overseeing the education of more than 1000 children!!

He is a self-motivated individual, which is evident from the fact that he has completed his BA and B.Ed, after joining Sevalaya.

Anandan says, "every sphere of my life has improved after I joined Sevalaya - whether it was acquiring the reading habit motivation, PC skills in the academic area, and learning how to interact with local bodies, district and state govt officials. I must thank Sevalaya for sponsoring my higher education and sending me for numerous seminars and training sessions which have helped in expanding my knowledge in many areas of teaching and administration. I was presented with many opportunities to learn new things, including how to ride a motorcycle. In my village, I knew only the main roads. After joining Sevalaya, I know every nook and corner of all the villages," he adds with a chuckle.

"My colleagues used to scare me that after marriage, I will not be able to spare

enough time for Sevalaya. So I postponed my wedding by a couple of years!! But now, I have an understanding wife who supports the nature of work I do. We are proud parents of a healthy 5 month old boy

"I must say, joining Sevalaya has been the best decision in my life. It has given me a fantastic perspective to life. Seeing the smiling faces of the children every day, is a joy to behold, one that I will not trade for anything else" concludes MT as he is fondly called !

"I am a student of Sevalaya since Balwadi. Anandan sir used to take class for me in Std. I to II. He always used to give us practical examples, which made us understand the lessons well. Whenever we participate in competitions, he motivates us and boosts our confidence. Recently, I won a prize in the Bhumi Nakshatra competition, due to his encouraging words and positive comments. I dedicate my prize to Anandan sir."

S Durgadevi, Std V

Christmas celebrated with piety and gaiety

Rev R Daniel, Souls redemption Church, Thirumazhisai, was the Chief Guest at the Christmas celebrations at the campus on 24th December 2016. The campus wore a festive look despite the fact that it was hit by a cyclone just a couple of weeks earlier. Balloons and festoons decorated the entrance, and the auditorium. About 20 volunteers from the church sang carols, recited psalms from the Bible and enacted the spirit of Christmas. The highlight of the programme was the drama by the church group which Satan danced around the children and threatened them. Santa then made a grand entrance and drove the Satan away. Santa then rallied the children, sang the "Jingle Bells" song and distributed chocolates to the children. The central theme of the drama was the



triumph of good over evil. Rev R Daniel applauded the Sevalaya cultural team who sang songs about Christmas. He mentioned the life of Jesus Christ, and asked the students to lead a spiritual and intellectual life, and always help the community. He expressed his hope that

the children who grow up in Sevalaya will carry forward the atmosphere of love and compassion throughout their lives. Three Santas came from the Church and mingled freely with the children and later cut the Christmas cake, which was sponsored by Thomas Simon, HR, TCS.

Alumni - Ilangovan Karthick From Kasuva to Dammam, Saudi Arabia

Karthick joined Sevalaya hostel, when he was about 8 years old in 1989 (Std. III), after his father passed away. His family, consisting of his mother and three siblings (elder sister, younger brother and sister) live in Avadi, about 25 KMs from Chennai. Karthick has been working for Al Najim Saudi International company, as an Instrumentation and safety technician, since 2012, after finishing his B.Sc in Bio-Technology in New College, Chennai. His entire studies was sponsored by Sevalaya.

Fondly recalling his Sevalaya days, he says, "Apart from studies, we were always involved in some activity at Sevalaya. I was interested in singing, drawing, cultural activities, sports, and NCC. Our hostel wardens always used to egg us on to try out new activities. I used to draw well during those days, and was an integral member of the cultural team, enacting plays and performing skits. In sports I have represented Volleyball, cricket and handball, at the district level."

Maths genius Srinivasa Ramanujan day

28 students from 20 schools across Thiruvallur, Chennai and Kanchipuram districts won prizes in the Maths Talent test conducted by Sevalaya in memory of Mathematics genius Srinivasa Ramanujan around 300 students from 60 schools took this test. The prizes were distributed



Karthick was doing odd jobs after his graduation, when a neighbor pointed him to an overseas recruiting agency. Things just fell in place and all of a sudden he had to board the flight. It was then, he says, "I was, at once, filled with happiness, trepidation, pangs of separation and my mind was a cauldron of emotions. My mother and siblings calmed me and said all this was for the best. Flying for the first time in an airplane was quite an exhilarating experience. I was even more fascinated when I saw the infrastructure and people, when I landed in Dammam. It was a culture shock, coming here and it took me a few months to assimilate into the place. Now, I feel a lot more comfortable."

On his future plans, He says, "I want to start a business, and provide employment to the local youth and will hopefully have something in place when I come to India in 2018."

Karthick signed off saying, "If not for Sevalaya, I will not be where I am today. All my needs were taken care of as I was growing up. I just needed to study hard. I was very fortunate to have guidance from teachers and friends at all times."

Karthick sponsors lunch and education expenses for children of Sevalaya and says that whatever he does will never be enough. He is constantly motivated by the Sevalaya logo – "Love all, Serve all".

Early adapters of Digital India



Villagers assembled at Sevalaya to hear about mobile payment and digital outreach

On 29th November 2016, S Krishnamoorthi, Manager, SBI, Thiruninravur and E Ganesh, Marketing Assistant, Regional business office, spoke to nearly 1000 villagers about the use of the simple mobile phone as banking medium. They explained the advantages of using mobiles for all transactions like booking tickets for movies, travel, make payments, transfer funds. This move

by Rev R Daniel, Pastor T N DeCruz and T N Charles Benny, on 24th December 2016, at the campus. The children and parents toured the campus and had lunch with the children of Sevalaya. The Chief Guest also released the November month manuscript of 'Vidiyal' which showcases the talent of our students.



L to R: Sevalaya Murali; S Krishnamoorthi, Manager, SBI; E Ganesh Marketing Assistant, Regional business office, SBI could pave the way for their salaries to be credited directly to their account by their employers. They could also make payments for purchases at their local provision shops with their mobile phones using the mobile banking facility. There would be no necessity for them to visit the banks in person. This would also help in the growth of small and medium business.

Sevalaya Alumni and staff would be covering different villages educating people in person and clearing their doubts to assist seamless transfer from cash based economy to a cashless one.

"Thanks to Sevalaya for organising this programme. We came to know in detail about how we can use mobile phone for buying our needs and expenses. Though this might cause some inconvenience in the beginning, looks like this is good for us and for our country."

Mala, a villager

"The Bank manager clearly explained how allowing someone to deposit money in our account without any reason is illegal, and risky."

Anjali, a villager

The Saint with a Difference

Swami Vivekananda was a multi-faceted personality. He is a spiritual giant and a social reformer. Besides these, there are several traits of the Swamiji which also merit a deep study to be of profit. To glean in to his total personality, we have to look at some of the highlights of his life and messages. This precisely will be our theme for the year 2017. In this, we will be following "The Life of Swami Vivekananda by his Eastern and Western Disciples"-an authentic biography.

There are three main factors which shaped his character and destiny.-his innate spiritual tendency, the influence of his parents and studies, and the guidance of his guru Sri Ramakrishna.

His innate spiritual tendency was evident from his purity, thirst to know God, his search for one who has seen God, and his final surrender to the Master.

His mother Bhuvaneshwari Devi inculcated in him the ideal of noble feeling, high thinking and right action. It was through his father Vishwanath

that he gained his broad mindedness, manliness and respect for any genuine national tradition. His father's influence served him to widen the scope of his learning by directing his attention to the culture of different lands.

As a Brahmo Samajist, he believed in a formless God. But unlike others of his group, he was convinced that if God really existed, He would surely appear in answer to the sincere prayers of devotees. There must surely be a way to realize God. In his quest for realizing the Truth, he approached several spiritual authorities including Maharishi Devendranath Tagore. But none of them could quench his thirst. It was at this juncture that he met with Sri Ramakrishna. At the first available instant, he put to him the blunt question, "Have you seen God, Sir?" The answer came forthright from the lips of Sri Ramakrishna. It was a positive affirmation. He said, " One can see and talk to Him as I am seeing and talking to you. God listens to the sincere prayer of

the human mind. I swear you can see Him more intensely than you see me. You can talk to Him more intimately than you talk to me. One can hear His words and feel His touch."

Sri Ramakrishna's basic conviction was that all religions are true. Every religious system is a path to God. The three systems, Dvaita, Vishishtatvaita and Advaita are not merely complementary to one another. They are stages in Man's progress towards the Goal. "Compassion for Creatures! Compassion for Creatures! Thou fool! An insignificant worm crawling on earth! Who art thou to show compassion! No, it cannot be! It is not compassion for others! But rather service to man! Recognize him to be the veritable manifestation of God!" This utterance by Sri Ramakrishna in ecstasy during a spiritual discussion was deeply etched in the mind of Swamiji.

These were the influences that turned the skeptic Naren to the spiritual Vivekananda- the saint with a difference.

Taking Physiotherapy to villages



Sevalaya's Physiotherapist Doneparthi Kotaiah was accompanied by a few staff on his visit to Karalappakkam and Kaiziyakondaiyar villages on 19th November 2016 for physiotherapy camp. Interferential therapy (IFT), Infra Red Ray Therapy (IRR), Ultrasound therapy (UST) were provided to the 14 villagers who benefitted from the treatment and expressed their happiness when they felt immediate pain relief. BNY Mellon sponsored the Mobile medical van which visits two villages each day.

Visit to Vandalur Zoo



A visit to the Vandalur Zoo made two weekends, 19th and 26th November 2016 exciting days for 569 students studying between Std II to Std V. They boarded the bus with eager anticipation and their joy on seeing the wild animals was a sight to behold. They spoke animatedly about the antics of the animals, the chatter of monkeys and the sudden occasional roar of the lion. Sevalaya thanks SCOPE International for sponsoring the tour and the volunteers for accompanying the children.

Sevalaya Staff help Banks/Public



Several Sevalaya staff volunteered at Indian Bank and State Bank branches in Thiruninravur from 18th November 2016 onwards by helping out in filling forms to exchange the now defunct ₹ 500 and ₹ 1000 notes. This was an impromptu gesture and was very well appreciated by the people who had queued up as well the bank staff, who were particularly under stress during the initial days of the demonetisation.

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