

## German Technology Rain Water Harvester Installed



*N J Rao, General Works Manager, Asian Paints Inaugurating Rain water Harvester at Kasuva centre.*

Sevalaya has implemented an Asian paints-sponsored ₹15 lacs project for the installation of Eco Bloc Rain Water Harvesting system at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre in Thiruvallur District and in Panchayat Union Primary School at Gunduperumbedu village in Kanchipuram District.

Eco Bloc Water harvesting employs technology of German company GRAF. It has many advantages over the conventional rain water harvesting. The output is directly consumable. The

installation is modular, faster and offers high capacity as also longer life, but low on maintenance.

N J Rao, General Works Manager, Asian Paints Pvt Ltd inaugurated the system at Kasuva centre of Sevalaya on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021. With a capacity to harvest 22,50,000 litres of water per year through the 15 wells installed, the system will cover 1,150 sq.m area of old age home and 350 sq.m area of Community College and Medical Centre. This project will benefit the 350 residents of the

Children and Old Age Homes ensuring uninterrupted water supply. It will also help effective usage of rainwater by recharging the ground water table. On 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021, the Eco Bloc Rain Water Harvest project at Panchayat Union Primary School, Gunduperumbedu Village was inaugurated by S Deepak, Environmental Manager, Asian Paints.

The wells have a capacity to harvest 4,50,000 liters per year. About 190 students and Staff from the school will benefit.



*S Deepak, Environmental Manager, Asian Paints inaugurating rain water harvester at Gunduperumbedu*

## Renault Nissan Sponsors mobile medical services



*Amirthlingam, CSR co-ordinator, Health, H Vijayanand, VP operations, Biju Balendran, MD & CEO from RNAIPL and Sevalaya Murali flagging off the Mobile Medical Van.*

Renault Nissan Automotive India (P) Limited (RNAIPL) has funded free Mobile Medical Service for six months, covering a potential 40 villages in Kanchipuram District. This project has brought medical

aid, along with free medicines, to the doorsteps of the economically weak and sick villagers who otherwise have to commute to Government Health Centres at distant locations.

A team of Doctors and Nurses will visit villages six days a week. Sevalaya has been running the Mobile Medical services programme successfully since 2017, covering 1,00,000+ villagers in 80+ villages in Thiruvallur and Kanchipuram districts.

Biju Balendran, MD & CEO of RNAIPL made a special mention of Sevalaya's successful implementation of green environment project, appreciated by visitors and government officials. The happy experience had led to the current project, and RNAIPL was looking forward to collaborating with Sevalaya for many such blooming projects in the future.

H Vijayanand, VP operations RNAIPL, Prasanna P, VP Donor relations, Sevalaya, Amirthlingam, CSR Co-ordinator, Health projects participated in the function.

# Joy of giving: the way of life

Dear Friends,

In one of my visits to Thanjavur, Sevalaya centre head there, Priya, told me about a temple in Katharinatham village. It is a old temple but not many visitors and a kind of 'poor temple'. I get interested in such temples as there will be no disturbance and we can have a peaceful time in the temple. As we had some spare time during that visit, we decided to go to that temple. When we drove into that village, I observed that it was full of huts and poverty is visible everywhere.

The temple is built by Chola kings and now comes under the management of Marathas royal family. The temple was empty and with not many devotees to support the running of the temple, Lord Shiva was also poor there! There was a tea shop in front of the temple, but no tea available! No one comes there, so they are not ready with milk etc., but just as a matter of practice the old lady keeps the shop open! We started chatting with her and found that the village needs medical support. There is no doctor there

and nearest primary health centre is 8 KMs away. There is no public transport and hence reaching out to medical support even in case of emergencies is impossible.

We met a beggar couple both complained that they can't see properly hence we have to give them money! I asked them if they ever saw a doctor to see what is wrong with their eyes. They said "All that is only for rich people. We poor people, we have no doctors. If I lose my eye sight, it is my fate. So please give me some money so that I can eat today".

This opened up the next project for Sevalaya. We decided to have a medical camp in that village. The following week, a team of doctors, nurses, volunteers and staff of Sevalaya landed up in the village early in the morning and started the medical camp, inside the temple. We were surprised to learn that our doctors are the first doctors to enter that village in Independent India! We identified many cases who needed investigation and further treatment. Some severe

cases were referred to Thanjavur medical college with request to the panchayat officials to follow it up.

We found a deaf and dumb girl around 20 years of age. She has lost both her parents, and her very old grandmother takes care of her. The grandmother was in tears when she told us that some ruffians in the village misbehave with the girl and the girl is helpless.

Sevalaya agreed to shelter the girl and give her vocational training in the community college in Kasuva village, Thiruvallur district.

Sevalaya is planning regular medical camps and also will start a tuition centre in the village soon. We have many such villages, and, we need support to reach all such places.

Thanks and Regards

Sevalaya Murali



You can donate via  
**G Pay** 9710907675

## Great opportunity to volunteer in an NGO

Want to volunteer in an NGO? Are you a college student or a working person? Have you dreamt of volunteering in an NGO?

If yes, this is just for you. Sevalaya is seeking volunteers to work on our Organic farm in Kasuva centre.

Volunteers will find organic farming in 5 acres of the land earmarked for the purpose, very energizing and rewarding. The vegetables, fruits, and greens cultivated in the farms feed 200+ residents of Sevalaya in the boys' and girls' home as also the old age homes. They will go into 1,500 meals cooked every day.

That will be the result of your energy and efforts!

For more details contact

e: [head.volunteers@sevalaya.org](mailto:head.volunteers@sevalaya.org)

m: 9080265930



## New comers to Gaushala - Cow & calf

K G R Mohan, one of the long-time donors of Sevalaya donated a cow and calf to Gaushala on the occasion of his father K G Raman's 12<sup>th</sup> day ceremony on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021.



## Inner wheel Donation



Inner Wheel Club (IWC) of Madras donated 50 kgs of rice to Sevalaya



# Creating a scientific temper



*Capt R Venkatesh, CEO, Nithya Chandrasekar, HR, from DP World, and Sevalaya Murali with the prize winners.*

Capt R Venkatesh, CEO-DP World, Chennai was the Chief Guest for Science Day Celebration on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar School, Kasuva, Thiruvallur District.

The Chief Guest visited Dr A P J Abudul Kalam Science Centre. He noted with happiness that village students were getting more opportunities compared to many city students, at this Science centre. Students can learn more through hands on activities in labs in such science centres.

He also said he would speak about the Science Centre at Sevalaya to other city

schools and motivate them to visit this Centre.

Nithya Chandrasekar, HR, DP World, was the Guest of Honour at the Event. In her speech, she expressed her hope that the students would make best use of the opportunities provided by Sevalaya.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, this year the events were held online. Annual Science day is celebrated every year at Sevalaya, to expose the students' talents in Science and inculcate scientific temper in the students. Usually students in and around Thiruvallur district participate in the competitions and exhibition where they

present their models.

Earlier, quiz, drawing and innovations competitions were held online. 270 students participated from Chennai, Virudhunagar, Madurai, Kanchipuram, Papanasam and Puducherry. 28 students received prizes in different categories. Others were given E-Certificate. E Manigandan, student of Sevalaya Std XII, who created an automatic sanitizer machine using scrap materials got Third prize for his innovation.

A Cultural programme was presented by students from Kasuva. Sevalaya alumni received sponsorship cheques ₹14,607 each from Help Foundation USA, to continue their higher education.



*Capt R Venkatesh, CEO, & Nithya Chandrasekar, HR, DP World listening to students explaining the project.*

## TCL Elder's interaction



40 volunteers from Tata communication Limited interacted with 40 elders from Kasuva and Thanjavur old age home on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 for about 2 hours.

The aim of the programme was to keep all the elders engaged. The elders interacted with the volunteers eagerly, sharing their experiences during the lockdown. They also talked about their day-to-day life and also insisted that volunteers should take preventive measures to stay safe from the corona. The two hours session was very interesting for all the elders.

## SCGBS Interaction

Volunteers from Standard Chartered Global Business Solutions (SCGBS) started interacting with the elders at Kasuva and Thanjavur old age home from 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

The main aim of this interaction is to create a life book about the elders and hand it over to them. In the one-hour session every day, one volunteer will interact with one elder for three days to collect details about her/him.



## Tree plantation drive

Sevalaya has targeted to plant 30,000 tree saplings by 2022 to commemorate 30+ years of service. 23,000 plus saplings have been so far planted. Many

Corporates, Colleges supported planting samples.

I Jebakumari Annie, DD, Horticulture department and 50 students from Thiruthangal Nadar College of Arts and Science planted 100 banana saplings on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 in the Kasuva agriculture field. Sudha Ulagaoli mother of Vasanthan, Founder of Vasanthan library visited Sevalaya's Kasuva centre on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 with team of 8 members and donated 250 fruit saplings like plantain tree, pomegranate, and lemon tree. They planted the saplings near the medical centre, community college, and kitchen.





# Door Step Medical Service at one more district

V Kalaiselvan, Chairman, Ammapettai Panchayat Union on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021 inaugurated a free medical camp organized by Sevalaya which was at Sri Kalahastheeswarar Temple at Katharinatham Village, 20 Kms from Thanjavur.

A team of doctors and nurses from Sevalaya conducted general health checkup for 120 villagers at the free medical camp. Various tests were carried out which revealed the prevalence of heart diseases, BP, diabetes etc. Required medicines were also distributed to the patients free.

This backward village does not have medical facilities and the nearest Public Health Centre is 8 kms away. Most of the villagers are daily wagers and do not get regular jobs. Poverty coupled with lack of proper transport facilities is an



*Medical camp at Katharinatham village.*

impediment for the villagers to get access to medical care. Under these conditions, the one day medical camp conducted by Sevalaya was a boon for the villagers. The village was identified by Sevalaya to

carry out services for the underprivileged. Sevalaya plans to conduct a free mobile medical camp held twice a month benefitting nearly 100 families living there.

## Women' Day Special Medical Camp



Special free medical camps were organised for women, on the eve of Women's Day on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

The camps were conducted at Thuyamariyanai Elementary school, and in Katharinatham village in Thanjavur. Besides 125 women, many men also attended the camp.

One of the patients was a deaf and dumb young woman. It was found that she had been sexually abused. The poor orphan woman could not explain what had happened to her and had not even consulted a doctor. Treatment was given to her and she would be accommodated in the Sevalaya hostel and vocational training will be given to her.

Two men, one who met with an accident and another one a chronic alcoholic, could not come to the camp venue. So the doctors visited their huts to see the patients. It came to light that the man

met with an accident three days ago and the wound was already infected. Dressing up was done and medicines were given.

The alcoholic, who was also badly hit in an accident caused by drunken driving, was unable to get up and walk. The doctors suggested to him to take an X-ray and other tests in the Thanjavur medical college hospital and contact with results to decide the course of treatment.

The camp at Katharinatham was a follow-up of the earlier camp held there a fortnight ago, where the underprivileged people got checked by a doctor for the first time in their lives.

There are still many such interior villages in India that do not have basic medical facilities, setting the future agenda for Sevalaya.



*A beneficiary at the medical camp at Katharinatham*

## COVID-19 Vaccination



COVID-19 vaccination camp was arranged for the residents of Sevalaya at Kasuva centre under the guidance of Dr Jawaharlal, Deputy Director Health, Thiruvallur District as per District Collector's orders on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021.

70 Grandparents from Sevalaya's free old age home were administered Covishield vaccine by a team of doctors and nurses from the Government hospital, Thiruvallur. Blood pressure and blood sugar levels were tested for the seniors before vaccination.

Health officials from Thiruvallur District, Dr Uvaraj, Regional Medical Officer, Dr Kumar, Regional Health Superintendent, and Dr Ganasekar, Medical Inspector were present at the camp.

18 Grandparents from Sevalaya's free old age home at Thanjavur were administered Covishield vaccine on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at the Primary Health Centre, Kallukulam, Thanjavur.



# Green Marathon 2021



## Winners of Green Marathon, Ranipet.

5 students of Sevalaya participated in the under 20 Green Marathon conducted by police and the public in Ranipet district to highlight the importance of "Go Green" on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The marathon, in which 2000 people from all over Tamilnadu participated, started at Government Higher Secondary School, Ranipet.

The Chief Guest A R Gladstone Pushparaj,

IAS, District Collector, Ranipet presented awards to the winners. Three students of Sevalaya - R Dinesh, Std XII won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 10 Kms Marathon boys with a time of 36.50 minutes; S Sharmila, of Std XI, won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 10 Kms Marathon girls with a time of 44.50 minutes winning a cash prize of ₹3,500 each. V Vasanthi, of Std VII, won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 5 km marathon with a time of 22.30 minutes and got a cash prize of ₹2,000.

# Hewlett Packard Volunteering program



## Students at Hewlett Packard volunteering program

Volunteers from HP Company conducted a one-hour online session of fun-filled activities for children studying in Sevalaya's tuition centres in Kasuva, Nathamedu, Mambakkam, and Thanjavur on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Initially, tuition centres children started exhibiting their special talents. Sachin and Iraiyanbu from Thirubuvanai, Puducherry entertained with Karate steps and Mahalakshmi did a demo of silambattam.

Volunteers encouraged the children to involve in various activities like puzzles,

memory tests, and dance. At the end of the program, the children were given snacks and cool drinks at their respective centres, sponsored by HP.



# RHINO screened



## Students watching RHINO film.

Children's Film Society India (CFSI) arranged the screening of the film "RHINO" on World Wildlife Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021, at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre. The film show was arranged to raise awareness on the world's wild fauna and flora and the need to prevent poaching and protect endangered species.

One of the endangered species of the earth is the rhinoceros. Rhinoceros are killed by some poachers for their horns used by some cultures for ornaments or traditional medicine.

405 students of Stds IX to XI watched the movie. Adequate safety measures were taken with the students wearing face masks and seated apart maintaining a good social distance.

# Shining Star competition



Shining Stars is an inter-home competition held among the childrens' homes supported by Cognizant Outreach. On 6<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Shining Star conducted a "National Level Competition" for students from various NGOs. 410 students from 22 Homes in various cities like Chennai, Coimbatore, Hyderabad and Kolkata participated in the online event. Various competitions like Drawing, Poster making, Art from waste, English elocution, Spell bell, Singing, Solo dance, Group dance, Variety Entertainment were conducted.

16 out of the 23 students from Sevalaya who participated in the team/ solo competitions won prizes.



## Dream come true

Vaishnavi R joined Sevalaya in I std, in 2003. Her father is a forklift operator in a private company. Her mother runs a tailoring shop to augment the family income and bring up her 3 children. Her family situation did not deter Vaishnavi from dreaming: a good job, shine in career, work abroad, excel in her life and help underprivileged, rural students to come up in life.

She backed her dreams with hard work. She scored 84% in XII std and got admission in VIT (Velammal Institute of Technology). She concentrated on academics and passed out in B.E (Electronics and Communication Engineering) with 7.3 CPGA.

Though one of the few Tamil medium students in her class, she participated in activities such as taking seminars or volunteering for projects. The switch over to English medium was tough but teachers and friends helped her, appreciating her gutsy spirit.



Vaishnavi feels the exposure she got at Sevalaya, the chance to interact with volunteers from corporates and overseas volunteers, visits to corporate offices and teachers who put their heart and soul in their tasks are all responsible for what she is today. She remembers with pride how she got a chance to explain her project to Mayilsamy Annadurai, Head, ISRO, during the annual exhibition at school.

The BGV culture of Sevalaya has moulded her character. The 'STEPS' programme

conducted by BNY Mellon for college students improved her life skills, know more about computers and overcome stage fear.

At the summer camp conducted by Scope International, she was one among the top ten students selected from 100 participants and had been given a gift voucher which she invested in learning Coral draw, graphic design and a little more about computers. She never shies from taking up any task however difficult it may be and is always ready to help. She has participated in several alumni activities at Sevalaya, compering programmes and training and conducting competitions for Kargil Day for the students.

Earlier she worked in Software company, for more than one and a half year which helped her to manage her educational loan repayment and financially support her family. She was not happy with her job and resigned when lockdown started.

The COVID-19 crisis hit the family hard as both her parents were not having any work. After several rounds of interviews, Vaishnavi got selected as Member, Technical staff in HCL. She immediately rang up her role model V Muralidharan (Founder and Managing Trustee Sevalaya) to convey the good news. She is excited about this new job and determined to give it her best.

## Bouncing back from the blows of life

Rajeshwari Venkatesh (62) lived with her husband Venkatesh, her daughter and her son in her hometown Pudukkottai. 5 years ago, she lost Venkatesh to heart attack. Son Anand who completed XII had planned to pursue Medical education. However, the financial realities forced him to work as a newspaper boy and eventually, the challenges of life led to his suicide.

For Rajeshwari, this was a body blow. When her daughter Mohana Priya got married and moved out, Rajeshwari went to her sister's house to stay but that did not work out.



She was at her wit's end and confused where to go when some of her relatives advised her to approach Sevalaya's old age home at Thanjavur. She joined there with a heavy heart.

Initially, she refused to mingle with

others. The warmth and compassion she received slowly transformed her. She has got over her past.

Now she helps to do some work in old age home, leading a peaceful life. And other residents have become her family.



# International women's day celebration



*R Parvathi, B.A, Tahsildar, Ambattur, distributing exam pad to students*

Women's Day was celebrated across all locations of Sevalaya on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

R Parvathi, B.A, Tahsildar, Ambattur, was the Chief Guest at Kasuva centre. In her speech, she reiterated that all women should strive to overcome obstacles in life and become achievers. This can only be achieved by strong character, individuality, boldness and discipline.



Kavitha Ravi, MVKM Trust In charge, the Chief Guest at Ambattur centre spoke about self-confidence and self-discipline which is absolutely essential for every human being and women in particular to excel in life and enjoy a peaceful life.



The Chief Guest at Eraharam centre, Nandhini, Teacher, Gokilambal International School, Aangarai, spoke about the history behind the Women's Day celebrations, the struggles that

women underwent to gain respect and recognition and about a few powerful women leaders of the country.



Bhakyalakshmi, Secondary Teacher, Sailapathy Middle School, was the Chief Guest at Ravanasamudram Community College on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021. She gave a motivational speech about women empowerment. R S Nallaperumal, donor also participated in the celebration.



P Lathapriya, D Pharma, B.B.A, Revenue Inspector, Vallam, and Sinthasha Pakkiri, Senior Executive, PPG Asian Paints were the Chief Guests at Sunguvarchatiram. Around 80 members of Sevalaya staff, students, the PPG Asian paints team and alumni participated in the celebration. Chief Guest Lathapriya presented gifts to everyone and honoured the Sevalaya team and PPG Asian Paints.

The group of officials and volunteers from the PPG Asian Paints team had planned and conducted games like a ball with a bucket, paper cup building game and musical chair for all trade students, members and tuition centre children. Prizes were distributed to the winners.



M Krithika, MBA, Software development Instructor at WhiteHat Jr was the Chief Guest at Uthiramerur centre. She said her father was keen that she should be educated well and her education in London and subsequent employment in Germany had given her a wide exposure and moulded her. She encouraged the girls/women to be ambitious and aim high.



"Women have enormous power. They have to believe in themselves. Aim high and convert challenges into opportunities" was the central theme of the speech delivered by Dr Jamunashree, GDMO, PHC, Thirubuvanai, who was the Chief Guest at the Thirubuvanai centre.



Dr Priya, MBBS, Block Medical Officer, the Chief Guest at Zamin Endathur congratulated Sevalaya for its services to the underprivileged.



# Thillaiyadi Valliyammai

The Phoenix party meticulously adhered to the plan and was arrested. They were then tried and sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour. (September 23, 1913).

The sisters who had been disappointed in the Transvaal now entered Natal. They were not arrested for entering the country without permits. They, therefore, proceeded to Newcastle and set about their work according to the plans previously settled. Their influence spread like wildfire. The pathetic story of the wrongs heaped up by the 3 Pound tax touched the labourers to the quick, and they went on strike. Gandhi left at once to go to Newcastle.

The Transvaal sisters were also sentenced to imprisonment for three months and were kept in the same prison as the Phoenix party. The event stirred the heart of Indians not only in South Africa but in the motherland in its very depths. Sir Pherozshah Mehta in his speech at Bombay said that his blood boiled at the thought of these women lying in

jail herded with ordinary criminals and India could not sleep over the matter any longer.

The women's bravery was beyond words. In Maritzburg jail they were considerably harassed. Their food was of the worst quality. They were given laundry work as their task. One sister who was on a religious vow to restrict herself to a particular diet was badly treated and when she was released, she was a mere skeleton and her life was saved only by a great effort.

Then Gandhi narrates the story of Thillaiyadi Valliyammai, the brave girl of Tamilnadu origin.

She returned from jail with a fatal fever to which she succumbed within a few days of her release. (February 22, 1914) only sixteen years of age. She was confined to bed when I saw her. As she was a tall girl, her emaciated body was a terrible thing to behold. "Valliyamma! Do you not repent for your having gone to jail?" I asked. "Repent? I am even now

ready to go to jail if I am arrested." Said Valliyamma.

"But what if it results in your death?" I pursued. "I do not mind it. Who would not love to die for one's motherland?" was the reply.

Within a few days after this conversation, Valliyamma was no more with us in the flesh, but she left us a heritage of immortal name. Condolence meetings were held at various places, and the Indians resolved to erect "Valliyammai Hall" to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of this daughter of India.

Unfortunately, the resolution has not still been translated into action. But, whether a Hall is built in stone or mortar, Valliyamma's service is imperishable. She built her Temple of Service with her own hands and her glorious image has a niche even now reserved for it in many a heart.

The name of Valliyamma will live in the history of South African Satyagraha as long as India lives.



**Shoppeseva sells a serious of items manufactured at Sevalaya Community Colleges and some items created by rural artisans: Door Mats, Food Items, Bags, Shirts.**

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sales@shoppeseva.com | + 91 7299544401 | +91-7299564411 | www.sevalaya.org | www.shoppeseva.com

Send your comments to:

Head Office:

Sevalaya, F2 Pushkarani Apartments, #12, Ananda Road, Alwarpet, Chennai - 600 018., Tamil Nadu, India.  
m: 99414 50444, 94443 33529 e: sevalayabhuvana@sevalaya.org; vpopoperations@sevalaya.org.



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**Correspondents:** Anandan M T, Anupriya L N, Kanchana S, Kingston A A, Prasanna P, Vidhya Roobini K, Vijaya R

**Layout:** Rekha Perumal, Arun G

**Editorial & Design Consultant:** Thomas T Abraham