

Bharathi - Chellammal 124th wedding anniversary TN Speaker promises couple's statue at Kadayam

Honourable Speaker of the Tamilnadu Assembly, M Appavu has assured the installation of a commemorative statue of Mahakavi Bharathiyar and his wife Chellammal at Kadayam, where their wedding took place on 27th June 1897.

The speaker was the Chief Guest at the 124th wedding anniversary celebrated at Kadayam on 27th June 2021. Sevalaya has been celebrating the wedding Anniversary for the last 3 years at Kadayam, the birth place of Chellammal.

In his welcome address Sevalaya Murali highlighted that memorials of the Mahakavi are found in all places connected with his life: Ettayapuram, his birth place; Chennai and Puducherry, where he spent many years and even in Varanasi where he spent a few years as a student. "But there is no trace of Bharathi in Kadayam, from where his wife hailed and where he spent two years. He composed many immortal songs here. Bharathi was far ahead of his time. At a time when women coming out of the house itself was a taboo, he walked on the streets of Kadayam with his hands over his wife's shoulders, shocking the residents. He was excommunicated for breaking the traditions. And to correct that wrong, Sevalaya has made a life size statue of Bharathi Chellammal, in the same pose with Bharathi's hands over his



wife's shoulder" he mentioned. He also said that Sevalaya had been making efforts for the past 3 years to get permission from the Government to install the statue and appealed to the Speaker to help in this matter.

The Speaker, in his address, was highly appreciative of Sevalaya's efforts to perpetuate the memory of Bharathi and assured that the statue would be installed before the next wedding Anniversary.

S Gopala Sundarraj IAS, District Collector, Tenkasi, P Siva Padmanabhan, District Secretary, Tenkasi, Sridhar Vembu, CEO, Zoho, R Kumar, Union Secretary, Kadayam, participated as Special Guests and offered felicitations.

Rajkumar Bharathi, great-grandson of the

poet, and Isaikkavi Ramanan, poet, orator, and an ardent admirer of Bharathi offered felicitations online. Grocery kits which included 25 Kgs rice and other items for a month were distributed to 100 people whose livelihood was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

State-level competitions – oratorical, quiz, and poetry recitation were conducted online in which 1000 students participated. The Chief Guest distributed prizes, trophies and certificates to the winners.



Minister Avadi S M Nassar launches COVID-19 relief operations sponsored by Kone Centennial Foundation & Kone Elevators



Avadi S M Nasar, Honourable Minister for Milk and Dairy Development, Govt of Tamilnadu launched COVID-19 relief projects worth ₹4.35 lacs sponsored by Kone Centennial Foundation, Finland, and Kone Elevators India at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre on 3rd June 2021.

Sanitary kits worth ₹550 each were distributed to frontline health workers in various locations of Sevalaya and dry ration kits worth ₹2000 each were distributed to 113 families who had lost their livelihoods due to the pandemic.

Sevalaya is the implementation partner for this COVID-19 relief initiative, coordinating the procurement and distribution of kits.

Each kit consists of 10 face masks, 1 face shield, 2 sanitizers, 1 handwash.

The Minister also flagged off Sevalaya's free Ambulance services for the transit of COVID-19 patients to and from the Government General Hospital, Thiruvallur.

A Krishnaswamy, Member of the Legislative Assembly from Poonamallee Constituency, Bujji D Ramakrishnan, Thiruvallur North Union Secretary, Kutti (a) Bakthavatchalu, President, Panchayat Union, Puliyur, Barkathullakhan, Vice President, Thiruvallur Union, R S Rajarjan, Advocate participated in the event.

The 300 sanitary kits were distributed at various Sevalaya Centres.

Centre	No of kits
Gudalur	20
Kanchipuram	15
Kasuva	110
Madhuranthakam	20
Ravanasamuthram	20
Thanjavur	70
Thirubuvana	45



K Sundar, MLA, distributing sanitary kits at Uthiramerur.



D Ragurajan, Inspector of police, Kadayam, Tenkasi, and C Annamalai, Village Administrator Officer distributing sanitary kits



Mageshwari, Inspector of police, Sunguvarchatram, distributing sanitary kits.



B Rangarajan, Superintendent of Police, Villiyannur, G Ganeshan, Inspector of Police, Thirubhuvani, and N Kumaravel, Assistant Inspector of Police, distributing sanitary kits



R Saikrishnan, BDO, Madurandagam distributing sanitary kits.



S Janakiraman, Sub inspector of Police, Gudalur, distributed sanitary kit at Gudalur



R Divahar, Centre In Charge of Sevalaya Thanjavur, distributing sanitary kits.

Ankitara Foundation donates 6 Oxygen concentrators

Ankitara Foundation, USA, has donated towards purchase of 6 oxygen concentrators and 6 cylinders to Sevalaya.

On 17th June, 2021, 6 Oxygen Concentrators were handed over to Dr R Jesvin, Superintendent, and Dr S Agathiyan, Physician, Government General Hospital, Tenkasi, by A Sankili Boothathan, Project Coordinator, Ranasamudram, Tenkasi District, Sevalaya.

6 oxygen cylinders are used for the oxygen on wheels programme in Sevalaya ambulances.



VPG sponsors 4 Oxygen concentrators

Vishay Precision Group of Companies (VPG) has contributed towards purchase of Oxygen concentrators for Government hospitals in Tamil Nadu for treating the COVID-19 patients.

Sevalaya is implementation partner for this programme.

On 10th June 2021, officials from VPG, A Baskar, HR Manager, C Senthil, Safety Officer and I Bakgiyarajan, Associate Vice President, Operations, Sevalaya, handed over the Oxygen concentrators to Maheshwari Ravikumar, IAS, the then District Collector of Kancheepuram to be used for the patients at the Government General Hospital at Kancheepuram.



Page Pierre Foundation donates sanitary kits for 2500 families



Page Pierre Foundation, Switzerland sponsored sanitary kits for 2500 underprivileged families residing in 42 villages in the neighbourhood of Kasuva Village, Thiruvallur District, where Sevalaya centre is located.

Each kit at a value of ₹550, consists of 10 masks, 6 sanitizers, 1 handwash, and, becozinc tablet 30 nos.

On 19th June 2021 K Bhaskaran, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Head Quarters, Thiruvallur District, S Aparna, Sub Inspector of Police, Vengal, and, M Mani, President, Sivanvoyal Panchayat distributed the sanitary kits to the underprivileged families.

Sanitary kits for frontline workers by Asian Paints



Asian Paints has sponsored ₹5 lacs worth of sanitary kits for 500 frontline workers in the villages, and in the Government Hospital at Kanchipuram district. Sevalaya, the implementation partner, coordinated the procurement, transportation, and distribution of the kits.

On 5th June 2021, Senthil Kumar, Senior Manager Asian Paints, and I Bakgiyarajan, Associate Vice President, Operations, Sevalaya, handed over 400 N 95 masks, 1000 3 ply masks and 285 sanitary kits to Maheswari Ravikumar, IAS, the then District Collector of Kanchipuram.

Wolters Kluwer donates 500 Sanitary kits



Wolters Kluwer Pvt Ltd sponsored 500 sanitary kits worth ₹3 lacs for the frontline workers, who are on the field, exposed to risk in this pandemic. Each

kit consists of 10 nos. 3 ply masks, 2 sanitizers, 1 handwash and 30 Nos each of Becozinc, Ivermectin and Iron tablets. On 11th June 2021, R Divahar,

centre InCharge of Sevalaya Thanjavur, handed over the sanitary kits to Dr S Namachivayam, Deputy Director and Saravanan, Deputy Superintendent of Health Services, Thanjavur.

Story telling session



Grandparents in joint families would tell stories from epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata and children would unconsciously imbibe values listening to them. Now a days teachers try to instill such values through talks or moral science classes but children find it quite boring. Karthik Swaminathan's Mahabharatham sessions for hostel students studying in Std V have come as a refreshing change

Karthik, a student of Sri Sankara Senior Secondary school, Adyar, is an avid reader having a thorough understanding of these epics.

Listening to stories from a senior studying in Std IX, who makes the sessions lively through presentations depicting the characters and scenes, has been an interesting experience for the children and they are able to understand the underlying moral values.

Help Foundation donates Oxygen concentrator



Help Foundation USA, has donated an Oxygen concentrator which was handed over to Dr Shany Victoria, Medical officer, Katchur Primary Health Centre, Poondi Block, Thiruvallur District, on 16th June

2021 by Dr J Gokulakrishnan, Head Medical, Sevalaya and I Bakgiyarajan, Associate Vice President, Operations, Sevalaya.

BNY Mellon sponsors ICU beds



On 1st June 2021, Dr D Vidya, India Lead, Global Impact Citizenship, BNY Mellon, handed over 3 ICU beds worth ₹38 lacs to Dr A Jamila, MD, Vice Principal,

Stanley Government Medical College and Hospital. Ashokkumar L, AVP-Operations, Sevalaya, and Prof Dr R Radhakrishnan, Anaesthesia Department Stanley

Government Hospital, were present on the occasion.

BNY Mellon and Sevalaya have executed COVID-19 relief projects worth ₹50 lacs to Stanley Government Hospital, Chennai, Tamil Nadu in both the first wave and the present second wave.



PPG Asian Paints sponsors 20 Oxygen concentrators

PPG Asian Paints Pvt Ltd has donated ₹25 lacs to Sevalaya for COVID relief work as a part of its CSR initiative. Sevalaya utilised this amount to procure and distribute 20 Oxygen concentrators to Government Hospitals in Chennai and Kancheepuram Districts.

5 Oxygen concentrators were handed over to Maheshwari Ravikumar, IAS, the then District Collector, Kancheepuram by Parthasarathy P, Plant Manager, PPG Asian Paints to be used for the patients at Government General Hospital, Kancheepuram. Suresh C, Operations Manager, and Anantha Raj R, Engineering Manager, PPG Asian Paints, and A A Kingston, VP Operations, Sevalaya were present on the occasion.

15 Oxygen Concentrators were handed over to Dean Dr R Jayanthi, M.D., FRCP, Omandur Government Hospital, by P Parthasarathy, Plant Manager, PPG Asian paints. Officials from PPG Asian Paints, B Prabu, Manager Production and, R Ganapathy, Deputy Manager EHS, and medical officers from Omandur Government Hospital Prof Dr B Pushpa, MD, Prof & HOD, Pathology, Dr Ramesh, Nodal Officer, Prof Kumar, MD, PROF &HOD, Anaesthesia, Dr Gomathi, MD Associate Prof of Pharmacology, and Dr Anantharaman, Deputy Superintendent and L Ashok Kumar, AVP Operations, Sevalaya were present on the occasion.



Opportunity for knowledge sharing

Srikanth Nagarajan, CEO of Digitra Inc, a cybersecurity solutions company based in Newjersey has been a donor and volunteer for Sevalaya for the past four years. A native of Trichy, he is an Engineering Graduate from the Guindy College of Engineering.

His relationship with Sevalaya started when he first visited Kasuva centre to attend a function with his friend. He was taken on a tour of the centre by the staff.

The enthusiasm and commitment of the staff and service-minded leadership and simplicity of V Muralidharan, Founder & Managing Trustee impressed him.

"On that day, I decided to associate myself with the activities of Sevalaya and contribute to the best of my ability," says Srikanth.

"My mother, who always looks for opportunities to help anyone around in whatever way possible is my biggest source of inspiration" he adds.



Any important event in the family like birthdays, wedding anniversaries, Srikanth celebrates with Sevalaya sponsoring special lunch for the residents.

Apart from the financial contributions, Srikanth and his friends also conduct Spoken English classes for the High school children and say he is thrilled by the progress made by the children.

He extended these sessions for higher secondary students helping them to prepare for entrance examinations for professional courses.

Srikanth has roped in many volunteers for Sevalaya, his daughter Jahnvi Srikanth and her friends, Jishnu Subramanian, Anish Kumar and Archana Sundaram.

Inspired by Nelson Mandela's quote, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world", we would continue to share our knowledge with the rural children, and help in whatever way possible in future.

We thank Sevalaya for giving us the opportunity." concludes Srikanth Nagarajan.

Vasavi Seva Foundation donates 6 Oxygen concentrators

Vasavi Seva Foundation, USA, donated 6 Oxygen concentrators for the treatment of COVID 19 patients.

On 4th June 2021, 4 Oxygen concentrators were handed over to the then District Collector of Thanjavur, M Govinda Rao, IAS.

The Oxygen concentrators will be used in the Thanjavur Govt General Hospital for COVID-19 patients.

Rajeswari, District Social Welfare Officer was also present at the event.

On 3rd June 2021. 2 Oxygen concentrators were handed over by Sevalaya to Dr K Tamilselvan, Medical Block Officer, Thalavady Primary Health Centre at Thalavady Village, 120 km from Erode, Thalavady Village is majorly populated by tribal families. The nearest GH is 54 km away from the village.



Food for COVID Positive pregnant women Ernst and Young session



Sevalaya stepped in to help the COVID affected pregnant ladies at Zamin Endathur Government Hospital.

With many people losing their livelihood, problems get compounded when pregnant women from these families get affected by COVID. They then need to be given special care in all aspects.

Sensing this requirement, Sevalaya with the support of philanthropic individuals has stepped in to provide 3 meals a day for 15 days to 15 COVID-19 affected pregnant women at Zamin Endathur

Government Hospital.

The tasty, nutritious food also has necessary ingredients to improve the immunity of the pregnant mothers.

Food packets were provided from 19th June 2021, to 28th June 2021. EK S Sasikumar, B.A., Ex Panchayat President, Zamin Endathur and Dr Priya MBBS., Zamin Endathur Government Hospital, launched the programme on 19th June 2021, by distributing the food packets to the pregnant women.



20 volunteers from Ernst and Young conducted sessions for 75 students of Stds I to XII residing at the hostel.

While it was story telling sessions for the primary school students, a wide range of topics were covered for the students from Stds VI to XII like Reducing Waste and Recycling, Making room for Nature, Energy for change, and conscious consumption. The sessions were interesting and interactive.

The sessions were very interesting, and volunteers were very interactive, which helped me to understand the topics covered, clearly.

G Ammu, XII D

Aravind Srinivasan donates sanitary kits



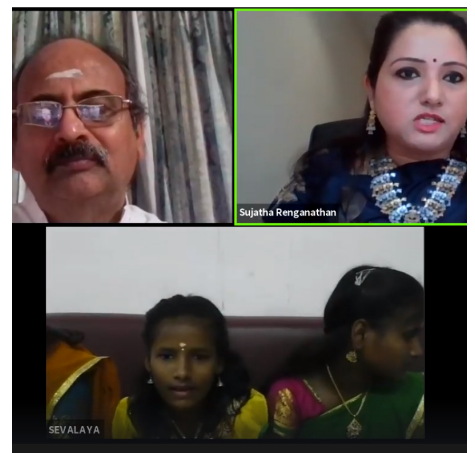
Aravind Srinivasan, Chief Financial Officer of Varroc Engineering and a long-time donor of Sevalaya, donated ₹1 lakh for COVID relief work. Sevalaya purchased 200 sanitary kits.

On 12th June 2021, R Divahar, Centre in charge of Sevalaya Thanjavur, and Dr HC S Kannan, Volunteer, Sevalaya, handed over the sanitary kits to Dr N Vijayakumar, Chief Doctor, Mannargudi GH, for distribution to the frontline workers, health workers at the Government Hospital at Mannargudi and villagers in

the surrounding areas.

On 15th June 2021, K Marimuthu, Member of Legislative Assembly, Thiruthuraiipoondi and M Manimegalai Murugesan, Union General Secretary, Kottur, Thiruvarur District distributed sanitary kits to frontline workers. R Divahar, Centre in charge of Sevalaya Thanjavur, and Dr HC S Kannan, Volunteer, were present at the occasion. Each kit consists of 1 N-95 mask, 2 hand sanitizers, 1 handwash, 1 face shield and 25, 3 ply masks.

Fund raising programme



Gnamamayam, a religious organization in UK, conducted an online fundraising programme, Balagokulam in aid of Sevalaya, on 31st May 2021. The programme was streamed live in Facebook. .

Students from UK, Australia and children of Sevalaya participated in the programme. They recited slokas and sang devotional songs. Sujatha Renganathan, a finance professional in UK and Sevalaya's well-wisher and donor hosted this program.

Crossing the border

It was November 1913, and the stage had come for crossing the border. The labourers' strike was in full swing. Men, as well as women were on the move between the mining district and Charlestown. Of these, there were two women with their little ones one of whom died of exposure on the march. The other fell from the arms of the mother while she was crossing a stream and was drowned.

But the brave mothers refused to be dejected and continued their march. One of them said, "we must not pine for the dead who will not come back to us for all our sorrow. It is for the living for whom we must work."

With ineffable peace brooding over them, the Satyagrahi-s were living in their camp, careless of what the morrow would bring.

Gandhi wrote to the government that they did not propose to enter the Transvaal with a view to domicile, but as an effective protest against the minister's breach of pledge and as a

pure demonstration of their distress at the loss of their self-respect. The government would be relieving them of their anxiety if they were good enough to arrest them where they then were, that was Charlestown. But if they were not arrested, and if anyone surreptitiously entered the Transvaal, the responsibility would not be that of the fighters. There was no secrecy about the movement, and none of them had any personal axe to grind. Finally, he assured the Government that if they repealed the 3-pound tax, the strike would be called off and the indentured labourers would return to work. They would not be asked to join the struggle directed against the rest of the grievances.

The position was uncertain and there was no knowing if the Government would arrest them and if so, when. They, therefore, decided to leave Charlestown and enter the Transvaal at once if the Government did not put them under arrest. If they were not arrested on the way, the 'army of peace' would march

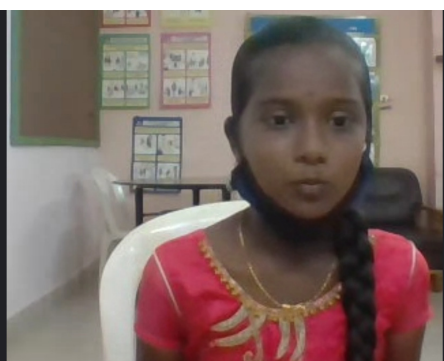
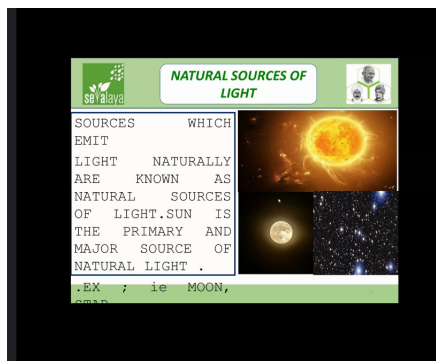
twenty or twenty-four miles a day, for eight days together to reach Tolstoy Farm, and would stop there till the struggle was over. In the meanwhile, they would work at the farm to maintain themselves.

They also made other preparations for the march, like medical kit, food ration etc. The problem of course was to find bakers and traders to support them. A large European bakery in Volksrust willingly contracted to supply bread at each place. They did not take advantage of the awkward state of the fighters to charge higher than the market rate.

Gandhi made one more effort to achieve a settlement. After having sent several letters and telegrams, he ventured to make a phone call even at the risk of being insulted. He asked the secretary to General Smuts to tell him that they would stop the march if he promised to abolish the 3-pound tax. The reply he got was, "General Smuts will have nothing to do with you. You may do just as you please."

(To be continued.)

Sevalaya kids impress with presentations



40 students of Std VII, Sevalaya children who underwent the 12 week long tutorials in Science and Maths, amazed all with their newly acquired presentation skills.

The tutorials were conducted by US based Team Educationist, who have gifted tablets and internet connection to

these 40 students. On 26th April 2021 this session was conducted at Kasuva, online, to mark the end of the programme for this term.

Students from the USA, who trained the Sevalaya students, Gayathri Venkat, coordinator of the Educationists team, Sevalaya Murali, G Ramanathan, Trustee,

and Sevalaya teachers joined the online session.

Each student gave a colourful presentation on a chosen topic, utilizing all the skills they had learnt in the 12 week tutorial.

"I am very happy to see all the children talking in English with confidence", said Sevalaya Murali. He praised the tutors who had trained the students well.



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