

LOVE ALL, SERVE ALL

Forest Minister opens Nissan-funded Air to Water Project at Vandalur Zoo Daily 2,000 liters drinking water for visitors, animals

As a part of its CSR initiatives, Nissan Motor India Private Ltd has partnered Sevalaya to implement the innovative Air-to-Water Project at the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, Chengelpet District.

The Air-to-Water project was inaugurated by Shri K Ramachandran, Honourable Minister, Forest Department Govt of Tamil Nadu, on Saturday, 18th December 2021, in the presence of Supriya Shau IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Environment, Climate change and Forests, Govt of Tamil Nadu, and Dr Shekar Kumar Niraj, IFS, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamil Nadu.

V Karunapriya IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Director, Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, Dr Kanchana IFS, Deputy Director, Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, Vani Aiyer, General Manager - Corporate Communication, Nissan Motor India Pvt Ltd, and V Muralidharan, Founder



Forest Minister Inaugurating Air to Water project

Also in this Picture: Sevalaya Murali, Senior officials from Vandalur Zoo, Vani Iyer, Nissan Motor India Pvt Ltd, Officials from Sevalaya and students

and Managing Trustee of Sevalaya participated in the function.

Speaking at the inauguration, Shri K Ramachandran, Honourable Minister Forest Department, Govt of Tamil Nadu

appreciated the services of Sevalaya, which has been working for the welfare of the underprivileged for the past 34 years. "I personally know well about Sevalaya services for the welfare of the tribes in Gudalur, Nilgiris district," the Minister said.

"Ensuring the health and hygiene of people will be of prime importance at this critical stage of COVID-19 period. Implementation of Air-to-Water plants is a significant step in the same direction which aims to help the public, other staff at the Zoo, and animals to get access to clean and safe drinking water.

The innovative technology of converting the moisture in the air to water is a long-lasting solution for drinking water scarcity.

I thank Nissan company for funding this project and Sevalaya for implementing it effectively". the Minister added.



Under this project, the moisture in the atmosphere is condensed into water by an Atmospheric Water Generator and Remineralizer and purified to provide pure drinking water to the visitors at 2 water kiosks set up in the Zoo. On a day, the two kiosks produce 2,000 litres of water - sufficient for about 1,000 visitors, staff and animals at the Zoo.



BNY sponsors grocery kits for the flood-affected



Grocery kits worth ₹1,000 each, containing essential items like rice, dhalls, wheat flour, oil, Sugar, basic spices, soap, were distributed to 500 families in Kazhuperumbakkam and Chinna

Kozhuvuri villages in Villupuram District on 12th December 2021. These families were worst affected by the incessant rains that lashed Puducherry in the first week of December. 10 people

lost their houses.

The kits were sponsored by BNY Mellon. Sevalaya in association with Agni Sirakula Welfare Association, a local NGO, identified the beneficiaries and coordinated the procurement of materials, transportation and distribution.



PPG Asian Paints supports COVID-19 relief measures



150 grocery kits and 5 Oxygen concentrators were handed over to M Aarthi, IAS, District Collector,

Chengelpet on 13th December 2021, by B Prabhu, Head Production Manager, and A S Sridhar , Head Quality of PPG

Asian Paints and L Ashok Kumar, AVP Operations and Mathankumar, Centre In Charge of Sevalaya's Sunguvarchatram centre.

PPG Asian Paints sponsored the kits and the oxygen concentrators. Sevalaya is the implementation partner.



Asian Paints sponsors 750 grocery kits for the flood-affected



750 Grocery kits, containing essential items like rice, dhalls, oil, sugar, and basic spices, were handed over to Dr M Aarthi IAS, District Collector of Kanchipuram, on 6th December 2021, for distribution to the families affected by the heavy rains that lashed the district. The kits were sponsored by Asian Paints.

Sevalaya is the implementation partner coordinating the procurement of materials, packing and transportation.

Acheron sponsors groceries for the tribals



Groceries for a month for 100 tribal families at Thondialam, Semban Colony, Melmohanalli, Puthurvayal and Vimalagiri in Gudalur, Nilgiris District, were sponsored by Acheron.

The families belong to Paniyar, Kurumbar and Kattunaicken tribes. Sevalaya coordinated the identifying of beneficiaries, procurement of materials and distribution.



S ShanmugaPriya, Centre In Charge, Sevalaya, Thanjavur has been selected as a Member of the Advisory Board for Thanjavur District formed under Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961 by Department of Social Welfare and Women's Rights, Govt of Tamilnadu.

Sevalaya's Thirumurthy Memorial centre at Urapakkam inaugurated



V Karunapriya IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Director, Arignar Anna Zoological Park inaugurated the eighteenth centre of Sevalaya at Urapakkam.

Sevalaya has started this new centre at Urapakkam, thanks to the generosity of Radhamani Thirumurthy, who donated

her house at 1965 Sq ft of land to Sevalaya in memory of her husband Thirumurthy.

A free evening tuition centre, for poor students of Stds LKG to XII Std, will be run at this centre.

30 students have so far enrolled here.

Speaking on the occasion, Karunapriya IFS said, "It is better to help with education than to give food, clothing and shelter to others. This country will prosper only if all the people progress. Sevalaya is playing a major role in the progress of the country. Sevalaya is a ray of hope for the future of this country".

She also appealed to people to do their best to help others rather than go to the temple and worship.

Dr Kanchana, IFS, Deputy Director, Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, in her speech, said, "I am amazed at the work of Sevalaya". She also appreciated the magnanimity of Radhamani who donated her house to Sevalaya in the hope that her husband's wish would be fulfilled.

Radhamani Thirumurthy and friends and relatives of Late Thirumurthy participated in the function.

Dhwani -The musical connect



Dhwani is the Karaoke band of the residents of Prestige Bella Vista Apartment complex in Porur, Chennai,

who believe that they can use music to help others.

19 members of the band presented a musical event at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre on 18th December 2021.

Sevalaya children and elders also participated and sang songs. There was a good balance of songs, including Bharathiyar Songs, other patriotic songs, devotional songs and neutral film songs.

The programme was thoroughly enjoyed by the children and the elders.

After a musical feast for the ears, the residents were treated to a festive dinner sponsored by Dhwani.



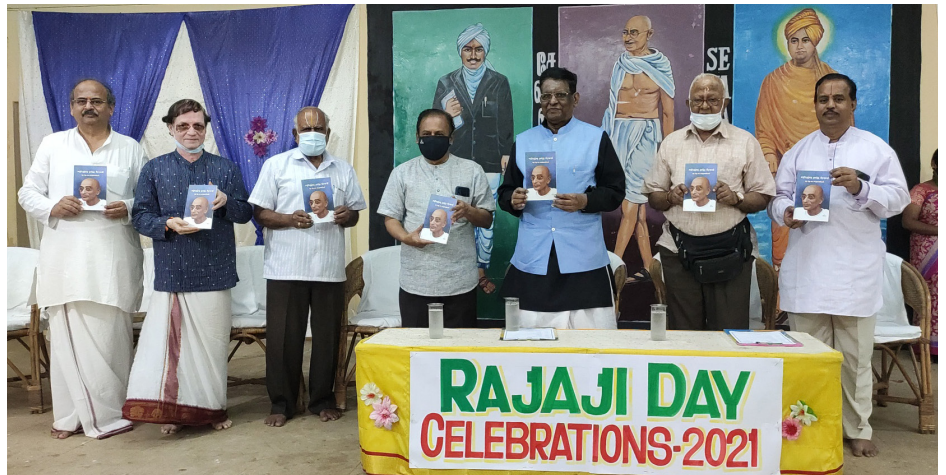
Former Meghalaya Governor chairs Rajaji day celebration

Rajaji day celebrations in Kasuva included the release of a book titled “*Saadhi Baedhathai thagarththa Rajaji*” (Rajaji who demolished the caste differences) compiled by Dr K Kannan, son of freedom fighter Gandhi Ashram krishnan.

The Chief Guest, V Shanmuganathan, Former Governor of Meghalaya released the book and presented the first copy to V S V Ramanan, Editor, Kalki magazine.

The Chief Guest exhorted the children to “regularly visit temples and pray, not consume alcohol and be honest” and helped the students to take an oath on those lines, to follow the above values. These were the values followed by Rajaji himself.

V S V Ramanan advised all the teachers to read the book released. Dr K Kannan felt that the book would help students



in handling the differences and living harmoniously in the society.

Earlier, various competitions were conducted for students all over the State. 476 students from 38 schools participated in the competitions. Prizes

were distributed to the winners.

Sevalaya Murali welcomed the gathering. S Kanchana, Head – Value Education proposed Vote of Thanks. The function ended with the National Anthem.

Remembering Srinivasa Ramanujan, The Maths Genius

The Birth Anniversary of Mathematics genius Srinivasa Ramanujan was celebrated at Kasuva centre on 22nd December 2021.

Badri Seshadri, M D East chapter, Synprosoft was the Chief Guest. In his address to the students he said, “Despite poverty and lack of basic facilities at home, Ramanujan invented outstanding concepts in maths, because of his passion for numbers, dedication, hard work and commitment.

One must have interest and commitment, then everything will fall in place. Even surpassing Ramanujan’s achievements is possible”.

In the previous month, a statewide Maths



Talent Test was conducted in which 950 students from 70 schools participated. 23 toppers were selected and awarded

prizes at the Ramanujan Day event. Parents accompanied winners to receive prizes.

Their flying dream comes true!



RAINDROPSS is a Chennai youth-based social organization focusing on creating

awareness on social issues through entertainment and media.

VANAMAE ELLAI is a program organized by Raindropss, bringing alive the dream of a plane ride to children of various orphanages.

30 children from Sevalaya and other homes were taken on a 2 day trip to Rameshwaram and Madurai by train on 20th December. On 21st December the children visited Dr APJ Kalam House, APJ Abdul Kalam Memorial and Danushkodi.

On 22nd December the children visited the famous Madurai Meenakshi Amman

temple, Teppakulam and Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal.

And they flew back to Chennai from Madurai. The return trip by flight was flagged off by Dr V G Santhosam Chairman, VGP Ulaga Tamil Sangam in the esteemed presence of Dr Sultan Ahmed Ismail, Member – State Development policy council, actor and social activist Aari Arjunan, VGP Rajadas, Director – VGP group of companies and Playback singer Velmurugan.

The programme was sponsored by Ulaga Tamizh Sangam.

Bharathi Ula - taking Bharathi to schools



Uratha Sinthanai Readers and Writer's forum and *Nam Uratha Sinthanai*, a Tamil monthly magazine, jointly organise *Bharathi Ula* function every year in various schools at different districts of Tamilnadu. The aim of this programme is to celebrate Bharathi's birthday by spreading the inspiring life and messages of Mahakavi Bharathiyar among the next generation.

Bharathi Ula 2021 was celebrated at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre on

21st December 2021.

Popular Tamil writer Pattukkottai Prabhakar, the Chief Guest for the function in his address said, "Bharathi is multi-dimensional personality – a fine human being, connoisseur of arts, a person with social consciousness, writer, and poet. I am very happy to participate in the *Bharathi Ula* programme, especially at Sevalaya which is the effect of an inspiration drawn from a poem of Bharathi. He encouraged the students

to read good books, study well and make the best use of the opportunities provided by Sevalaya.

Kalaimamani J Balasubramanian, the Managing Trustee, Savithri Foundation, insisted that it is not enough if to just read and appreciate Bharathi's poems.

"One should live according to the values learnt from the poet's writings," he said. He also donated 100 books to the Sevalaya library.

Sevalaya students S Saradha and T Thembavani sang Bharathiyar songs. S Gayathri, T Raswanth, R Vilasini, K Manikandan, B Krithiga and R M Soundaryalakshmi spoke eloquently on various topics related to the messages of Bharathi. The students received special gifts at the hands of the Chief Guest.

Padmini Pattabiraman, President, Udhayam Ram, General Secretary, and Pichammal, Executive Committee Member, and other members of *Uratha Sinthanai* participated in the function.

Elders day out



On 24th November 2021, the grandpas, grandmas and staff at Thanjavur Old Age Home went on a trip to the Ayyarappan temple at Thiruvaiyaru, Hara Saaba Vimochana Perumal temple (the 15th among the 108 Divya Desams of Shri Vaishnavites) and Kodiamman temple.

Then they halted for dinner at the organic food restaurant *Iyarkaiyin Thalaivan* where the grandmas and grandpas enjoyed healthy millet dosa varieties. The owner of the restaurant, Mohan, served wheat halwa for dessert, free.

Nikhil Johri, a long-standing donor sponsors this one-day outing programme, every month, for the elders at the Old Age Home at Thanjavur.

Vaccination drive



Sevalaya has been lending a helping hand to the government's mass vaccination camps for COVID-19, conducted by Puliur Primary Health Centre, Thiruvallur District.

Sevalaya actively supported the government by plying its medical van to transport the staff and the vaccines to the camp areas for 13 days.

1500+ people were benefitted from Sevalaya's services.

Rotary club donates groceries



Members from the Rotary Club of Taramani donated groceries worth ₹60,000 to Kasuva centre

Praveen Kumar, President, Rajakumar, Director Community Service Health, A Anantha Balan, Treasurer, S S Ganesh, Director, vocational service, K Dhamodaran, Director, Club Service, P Saravanan, Director, Community Service Development, Sharath, Past president RCG, and Jayachandran, Director, Youth Service visited the centre and handed over the groceries.

Exnora *mami's* 3G support to Sevalaya

Sulochana Ramaseshan (87) has been a staunch supporter of Sevalaya for 28 years. The association started in 1993 when she became the President of Exnora International. Through Exnora, Mami (as she is fondly called by all the members of Exnora and her contacts) is working for the downtrodden, slum dwellers, educating their children.

Raised and educated in Mumbai, *Mami* moved to Delhi after marriage. Her husband was employed in RBI. She has lived in many cities in India. She and her husband finally



settled in Chennai in 1980.

Sulochana *Mami* has two daughters. One works as a Principal in a government school in Canada. Another daughter is settled in Chennai.

Mami is a donor of Sevalaya for the past 25 years. She has been mobilizing support for Sevalaya and has been arranging for donations of new clothes for all the resident children and elders for Deepavali.

She also helped Sevalaya to get rice as a donation from Rajasthan Youth Association, regularly every month, for the past several years.

During one of her visits to Sevalaya's Kasuva centre in the earlier years, she accompanied Durga Stalin, wife of M K Stalin, the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu.

"Sevalaya is like my family and Murali and Bhuvana are my family members. Whenever I organize a drive to support NGOs, Sevalaya is the first NGO that come to my mind. I consider it a boon to be associated with Sevalaya.

Now the third generation of my family is also involved. My grandchildren also regularly contribute to Sevalaya" says the octogenarian happily.

Naveen Kumar S: Sevalaya's helping hand

Naveen Kumar, a post graduate in commerce, works as a cost controller senior executive with an MNC. He lives with his parents in a rented house in Vengal. He attributes his success to the education he got at Sevalaya and the financial help it offered when he was struggling to complete his graduation. His father used to work as a labourer in a private printing press while his mother was a daily wage earner. Life was tough as his father's income was less and his mother did not get a regular income. Since the past few years his father has not been able to work due to spinal cord injury.

He recollects his happy go lucky attitude during his school days. He cleared his Xth scoring 60% marks but was not interested in continuing his studies. However he had been hearing about Sevalaya from his friends and neighbours and decided to



join the school here.

He found it very difficult to adapt to the new atmosphere. The special classes, more emphasis on daily learning, regular tests were tough at times but the challenges brought out the best in him and his attitude towards learning changed. The love and affection shown by his teachers slowly changed him. Later he started enjoying the longer hours spent at school and started working hard to score good marks.

He remembers fondly some of teachers R Kannan, S Lakshmi and Annapurna for their care and love. He still thanks his English teacher because without her help he would not have been able to improve his communication skills. He feels his English language skills played a major role

in helping him do better in life. When he scored more than 80% in his XIth board he could not contain his excitement.

Not only academics, Sevalaya also helped him to hone his sporting skills in Volleyball and Kabbadi. He got lots of opportunities to participate in speech, exhibition, drama and other events.

The opportunities to speak on a stage in front of others helped to increase his confidence levels and till date this has helped him face problems boldly.

When he faced difficulties during his graduation. At the same time, Sevalaya helped his brother Yuvaraj to complete his course in Psychotherapy.

Naveen has special talent in mime, street play and thappattam. Along with a group of friends, he is teaching these arts to other students who are participating in competitions and winning many prizes .

After completing his education, he got a small job in Shriram Transport, but the money was not enough to support his family. Few years later in 2018, he got a better job in CMA CGM.

Naveen conveys his heartfelt thanks to Sevalaya and his teachers and wants to help the present generation of students in all possible ways. Sevalaya is proud of Naveen and wishes him all success for his future.

Remembering Bharathiyar

Mahakavi Bharathiyar, alongwith Gandhiji and Swami Vivekananda, was and continues to be the inspiration for Sevalaya.

A report on Bharathiyar Day celebrations from various locations



The chief Guest at the Dharmapuri centre, Honourable MLA S P Venkateswaran appreciated Sevalaya for its service to the destitute elders. It "ideally everyone should take care of the elders at their homes; but unfortunately old age homes have become inevitable these days as there are many destitute elders with no one to take care of them" he observed. He also noted that alcohol is the root cause off all evils in the society and everyone should work together to fight this evil.

Sonia Gndhi Venkatesan, Councillor, Thengamarathuppatti and Maheswari



S Murali Aruban, Assistant Professor, PG and Research, Tamil Department, New college, the Chief Guest of Bharathiyar Day celebrations at Kasuva Centre cited that he is able to see that at Sevalaya, education is being sowed as a seed and not hammered like a nail.

Competitions like Quiz and Bharathiyar Poem recitation were conducted as part of Bharathiyar day celebrations. Around 550 students from various schools across Tamilnadu participated in these online competitions and 30 students were awarded prizes.



E Sekar, Vice President, Manavalakalai mandram, Ambattur the Chief Guest, distributed Course completion certificates to all the Students.



A Mohammed Shafi, Proprietor, Blossoms Garments, Chief Guest at the function organised at Gudulur Sevalaya, highlighted that Bharathiyar had fought for the upliftment of women. As a personal contribution to that cause, the Chief Guest promised one month's industrial training in his organisation, to all the girl students of Sevalaya's community college at Gudalur.

He also offered employment, on satisfactory completion of training. Started in 2021, the Community College offers training in Tailoring and Craft



A Mariyappan B.E., VAO, Nagakudi Village the Chief Guest at Eraharam centre offered felicitations and donated stationery items to the students of the evening tuition centre.



A Chithra, Panchayat President, Molachur, was the Chief Guest at the Sunguvarchatram centre. Stressing upon the importance of education, she spoke to the students about how education helped her to be successful in life.



Ranganathan, M.A, B.Ed, Best teacher award recipient, was the Chief Guest at the Thanjavur centre and shared interesting and inspiring anecdotes from Bharathiyar's life.



K Kalaivani, MA B.Ed, Head Mistres, Panchayat Union Middle School,

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Champaran, Gandhiji and Rajendra Prasad-(2)

(Source: At the Feet of Mahatma Gandhi by Dr Rajendra Prasad)

Gandhiji was very serious that he should reach Champaran at the earliest and start work. He took the earliest train and broke the journey at Muzzafarpur. Muzzafarpur was the headquarters of the Commissioner of Tirhut Division. The Secretary of the Bihar Planters' association, organization of Indigo planters also lived there.

Gandhiji decided to meet both of them before he proceeded to Champaran. Before departure, he had wired to Acharya Kripalani who was a professor in Muzzafarpur College. Though Gandhiji and Kripalani had been in correspondence with each other, they had not met personally.

Train arrived at midnight in Muzzafarpur Station. Kripalani and his students started looking for Gandhiji in the upper class compartments. Not finding him, they started running hither and thither in the platform trying to locate him.

Rajkumar Shukla, guessing the situation, approached them and said that Karma Vir Gandhi was there if they were searching for him. They looked in the direction pointed out by him.

There he was, in front of a third class compartment, wearing dhoti, kurtha and a hand spun cap (later came to be known as Gandhi cap), with a bundle tucked under his arm, and a tin box containing some dates and ground nuts in one of his hands. This brought them all to a standstill. Kripalani was the warden of the college hostel. He arranged for Gandhiji's stay in the hostel and went home. Though the college was not a Government owned one, has been receiving grants from the Government and hence they exercised control over the management.

Gandhiji had therefore to leave the hostel very next morning. He moved to a lawyer's house. Shortly after this episode Kripalani had to resign the job, as his having harboured a rebel in the hostel was not taken kindly to by the Government. After he was relieved of his post, Kripalani joined Gandhiji, and associated with himself in the work at Champaran.

Gandhiji met the Commissioner of the division and the Secretary of the Planters' Association. They both dissuaded him from going to Champaran. They claimed

that the Government had ordered an inquiry in to the grievances of the ryots which were mostly exaggerated.

If Gandhiji visited the place there was likely to be breach of peace. The more they dissuaded him from going, the more suspicious he became and more confirmed in his opinion that something must be wrong somewhere. He decided to proceed to Champaran. He had already wired Babu Braj Kishore Prasad at Darbanga, as he was considered to have special knowledge of the conditions of Champaran.

A large number of ryots of Champaran turned up at Muzzafarpur on hearing that Gandhiji had come to help them. They narrated their tales of woe and confirmed the reports given to him by Rajkumar Shukla. In fact, the poor ryots were frightened and spiritless. In fact the ryots had known very little about Gandhiji. It was a matter of mystery for Rajendra Prasad as to how these peasants developed courage and confidence that their deliverer had come.

(to be continued...)

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Marutham was the Chief Guest at the celebrations at Uthiramerur centre. She spoke on the importance of education of girl children.



Dr I Kathirvel, HOD , Dept. of Tourism, NCC Officer, Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Arts College, K T Kuppam, Puducherry,

was the Chief Guest the celebrationa at Thirubuvanai centre, Puducherry.

He recalled how bharathiyar faced a lot of difficulties during his life but strongly believed that men and women are equal and worked for the same.



At Ravanasmudram centre, P Prakash,

M. Com, President, Rotary Club of Kuttralam and President of Press Club of Tenkasi was the Chief Guest.



Pon Sakila Boobalan, B.Sc, B.L., Panchayat President, was the Chief Guest at the Bharathiyar day celebrations at Sevalaya centre at Zamin Endathur.

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