

LOVE ALL, SERVE ALL

Foundation stone laying by Honourable Speaker Shri M Appavu For Chellammal Bharathi Centre at Kadayam



Hon'ble Speaker M Appavu at the groundbreaking ceremony of Chellammal Bharathi Centre, Kadayam

Tamil Nadu Speaker M Appavu laid the foundation stone for the Chellammal Bharathi Centre at Kadayam, marking the first step in Sevalaya realizing a long cherished dream. Bharathi, alongwith Gandhi and Swami Vivekananda form the Trio that inspired the formation of Sevalaya.

The Chief Guest, recollected the life of

the great poet, his love for the Tamil language, his services for the Tamil society and contributions for India's freedom struggle.

He suggested that it would be apt that Honourable Chief Minister M K Stalin unveils the statue of Chellammal – Bharathi and inaugurate the Centre, when ready. He assured the Government's

full support to Sevalaya for this noble initiative.

I Paranthaman MLA, (Hon. Member of the Legislative Assembly, Egmore), E Raja (Hon. Member of the legislative assembly, Sankarankoil) Janani Saundarya, DRO, Tenkasi, and P Sivapadmanathan (South District Secretary, Tenkasi) were the special guests. All of them in their speeches lauded the efforts taken by Sevalaya to popularize and spread Bharathi's greatness to the whole world, which had been denied to him during his lifetime. Many wellwishers, Bharathi lovers and members of public participated in the function.

Rajkumar Bharathi, the great grandson of Mahakavi Bharathiyar, and Isaikkavi Ramanan (poet, writer) joined the program online and extended their felicitations. Ramanan said that in those days when Bharathi stood helpless after his release from Cuddalore prison, his brother in law Appadurai (Chellammal's brother), had come forward to extend a helping hand and invited the family to stay with him in Kadayam.

Similarly now Appavu, the Honourable Speaker has supported Sevalaya in its efforts to install Chellammal Bharathi statue in Kadayam.

Why a monument at Kadayam?

Statues have been installed and memorials have been established for the great poet Bharathi, at all places associated with his life: in Ettayapuram, Pondicherry, Chennai, even in Varanasi, where he spent few years as a student. Yet, there are no traces of Bharathi in Kadayam where he had spent two years and penned many immortal poems. It has been the dream of Sevalaya to perpetuate the memory of Bharathi in Kadayam.

Sevalaya has planned to set up a vibrant centre at Kadayam, in place of the old dilapidated library. A new library with modern amenities, museum on the theme of Bharathi in Kadayam, and an auditorium where regular programmes on Bharathi's will be held, is being planned.

Centre stage will be a life size statue of Bharathi and Chellammal.



The world will prosper in knowledge and intellect, if both men and women are deemed equal.

- Subramanya Bharathiyar

Bharathi Chellammal Centre, Kadayam
Implemented by
Sevalaya

Free breakfast programme for Govt schools at Thanjavur



Sevalaya has been running a free breakfast programme for nearly 2000 school children in Thanjavur, since 2018.

On 4th January, 2022, T K G Neelamegam, MLA Thanjavur, inaugurated the latest phase, to run till end of the current academic term, sponsored by Petrofac.

Beneficiaries are the nearly 2000 children are studying in the Government girls' Higher Secondary School and Panchayat Union Middle school operating in the palace complex and Panchayat Union Middle Schools.

With board exams round the corner,

special classes have been started for students of Stds X, XI and XII.

The free breakfast will ensure that the scholars will not suffer hunger pangs, so that they can focus during the class sessions.

The Chief Guest noted with appreciation that since the introduction of the free breakfast programme, pass percentage and academic performance of students of these five government schools have improved. He applauded the free education given to 2,000 children – soon 2,500 - in Sevalaya's school at Kasuva.

Punitha Ganesan (Secretary, Bharath college of Education), special guest, recalled her childhood as a Government school student, and committed to support Sevalaya's service activities.

The headmistresses and teachers of the schools also participated in the programme.

New year celebrations at Kasuva centre mark Ground breaking for ₹2 crore new school building



The New Year Day celebrations and the ground breaking ceremony for the new school building were held at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre on 1st January 2022.

Chief Guest Aravind Srinivasan, a long time donor is sponsoring the construction of the new school building in memory of his wife Radhika Srinivasan, who was a teacher.

The ₹2 Crore infrastructure will have 9 class rooms in a total area of 9304 sq. ft, thus offering quality education free of cost, to 500 more

underprivileged students.

The Chief Guest said he was happy to participate in the New Year Day celebrations and the ground breaking ceremony for the new building on 1st January, which happens to be his late wife's birthday.

"When I first visited the Kasuva centre I was amazed at the wide range of services for the welfare of the underprivileged", he said. Aravind Srinivasan recalled his association with Sevalaya since the 2015 Chennai floods. He and his friends had

contributed for the flood relief activities, pandemic relief initiatives and are also sponsoring the education of some children of Sevalaya.

"This is the time to enjoy with friends. But it is also the time to focus on studies. Make the best use of the opportunities offered by Sevalaya, study well and come up in life" he added.

Sponsorship cheques for higher education were presented to a few alumni on the occasion. This is the fourth year of support by LatentView towards higher education of deserving Sevalaya students.

Sevalaya children presented a colourful variety entertainment programme. A cake baked at Sevalaya's bakery was cut and distributed to all.



Welcoming the New Year 2022



Sevalaya Samaritan celebrated New Year with the tribals at Koravayal in Sreemadurai village in Gudalur. The programme was organised by Revenue Divisional Officer J Saravanakannan. Cakes were cut and distributed to the tribals. Sweets, blankets and grocery kits were also distributed. Tahsildar P Krishnamurthy, Deputy Tahsildar S Shanthi, Revenue Inspector D Uma, Village Administrative Officer R Parvathy and volunteer Rajesh Arjunan participated in the celebrations.



New year was also celebrated at Sevalaya Samaritan community College at Gudalur. V Govinadaraj and V Bhakthavatsalam, Proprietors of Janaki Ammal Kalyana Mandapam were the Chief Guests. They advised the students to make the best use of the free training provided by the college.



Jai Sathish, General Secretary, Thanjavur South District was the Chief Guest at the New Year Celebrations at Sevalaya's Gandhi Ashram Krishnan Memorial Old Age Home at Thanjavur.



R Kalaiselvi, Anganwadi Worker at Eraharam was the Chief Guest for the Christmas and New Year celebrations.



At the celebrations at Thirubuvanai centre, Puducherry, V Ejileradjane, Commissioner, Mannadipet Commune Panchayat was the Chief Guest.



A Sujatha and A Kavitha Malarvizhi, Teachers of Panchayat Union Middle School, Mambakkam were the Chief Guests for the New Year celebrations at Sunguvarchatram centre.



Christmas and New Year celebrations were held at Ambattur centre on 5th January 2022. T Edward, Auditor, Internal Audit Wing, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Chennai was the Chief Guest.



Dr R Uma Devi Block Medical Officer, Manamadhy Block, Uthiramerur Taluk participated in the New Year celebrations at Uthiramerur centre.



At the Ravanamudram centre, popular debater V Selvi from Vikramasingapuram, Ravanamudram landlord V Kalyanasundaram, ward member Kanaga Pichiah and Panchayat President Janab Muhammed Hussain participated as Special Guests.



At Zamin Endathur centre, P Raja Ramakrishna, Direct councillor 12th ward, Chengalpeta participated as Chief Guest.

Vivekananda day celebrations across all locations



Swami Sarvasahananda, Assistant secretary, of Sri Ramakrishna Mission Malliyankaranai village, Uthiramerur, was the Chief Guest for the celebrations at Uthiramerur. Highly appreciative of Sevalaya's services, inspired by Swami Vivekananda, Swamiji blessed the students.

long association with Sevalaya. "I am inspired by Sevalaya Murali, in whom I see Bharathi, Gandhi and Vivekananda" he mentioned. Stressing upon the importance of education to succeed in life, he advised the students to make the best use of the opportunities provided by Sevalaya. He also assured his continuous support to the organisation.

In his inspiring, motivating and interactive speech, Lakshmanan Krish urged the students to be bold and also shared his travelling experiences with the students.

Earlier statewide competitions were conducted for schools on Swami Vivekananda, in which around 700 students from 20 districts participated.

Rangoli competitions were conducted in the neighbouring 40 villages in which 400 women participated.

Many sports competitions were also for the villagers in which 600 people participated. Prizes were awarded to the winners.



B Dhanalakshmi, CEO, 81 ward, Ambattur was the Chief Guest for the Swami Vivekananda Day Celebrations at Ambattur centre on 12th January 2022.

The Chief Guest shared anecdotes from the life of Swami Vivekananda.



At the celebrations at Sunguvarchatram, M Baskar, Headmaster of Higher secondary School, Molachur was the Chief Guest.



In Kasuva, both Pongal and Vivekananda day functions were celebrated on 13th January 2021.

Lakshmanan Krish, Adventure traveller, mentor and Business Consultant and P V Sathish, S/o of Late Venkatesa Mudaliyar, landlord at Pakkam Village and veteran donor of Sevalaya, were the Chief Guests. Conveying his wishes to the children and elders, Sathish recalled his father's



At the Vivekananda Day celebrations at Sevalaya Samaritan Community College at Gudalur, V Indra Devi and PU Sumitha, Trainers of *Manavalakkalai* yoga were the Chief Guests. Indra Devi in her speech mentioned that Vivekananda laid his hopes on the youth

of the Nation. Sumitha mentioned that Vivekananda called for 100 strong youth- both physically and mentally to change the world. "Service to the needy, the downtrodden was Swamiji's main teaching," she observed.



M Marikumar, Union Councillor, was the Chief Guest for the celebrations at Ravanasamudram centre.



N Srinivasan, Correspondent, Swami Vivekananda School, Thirubuvanai was the Chief Guest for Sevalaya centre. He spoke extensively about the teachings of Swamiji to youth and appreciated Sevalaya for the services rendered to the underprivileged, in accordance with Swamiji's advice that Service to Man is Service to God.



K Sakthidasan Teacher, Govt high school Zamin Endathur was the Chief Guest at the celebrations at Zamin Endathur centre.

He shared inspiring quotes of Swamiji and advised the students to read Swamiji's writings.

Pongal celebrations across all centres



Sevalaya Samaritan celebrated Pongal with the tribals at Odakkolli village. P Krishnamoorthy, Tahsildar, Gudalur, D Uma, Revenue officer and R Parvathi, Village Administrative Officer participated as Chief Guests at the Pongal celebrations.



Muthulakshmi Ramadurai, Panchayat President, was the Chief Guest for the Pongal celebrations at Ravanasmudram centre.



G Hemalatha, Chairman, Uthiramerur Municipality participated in the Pongal celebrations as Chief Guest at Uthiramerur centre.



V Parthiban, Wellness coach, Wellness centre, Ambattur was the Chief Guest for the Pongal celebrations at Ambattur centre.



S Vendamani, Panchayat President, Santhavellore, the Chief Guest for Pongal celebrations at Sunguvarchatram centre explained the importance of Education in everyone's life and delivered a motivational speech to the students.

S Manivasagam, Sevai Sathish, Councillor, Sevvapet, D R Robinson, G T Travels, Chennai, and R Arun Prasad Thiruvallur also participated in the celebrations.



At Thirubuvanai centre, Puducherry, The Chief Guest Dr A Sivakumar, Asst Professor, Tamil Dept, Perunthalaivar Kamarajar College, Madagadipattu, insisted that we should celebrate the festivals by knowing the purpose of it as our ancestors have created every festival with a scientific reason.

Pongal is a harvest festival to thank Sun

god and the animals that have helped in the harvest, he added. He also insisted that everyone should cultivate the reading habit and read our rich literature.



At Eraharam centre, the Chief Guest G Silambarasan, Home guard, police department, advised the students to be grateful to farmers who give us food, during this harvest festival. He also distributed stationery to children.



Punitha Ganesan, Founder and Secretary of Bharath College of Science and Management, was the Chief Guest at Pongal celebrations at Old Age Home in Thanjavur centre. She distributed prizes to the winners of competitions held as part of Pongal celebrations.



M V Bhaskar Advocate, Madras High court, who was the Chief Guest at Zamin Endathur centre advised the students to use the opportunity provided by Sevalaya and come up in life.

Soaring high on the wings of sports

Sevalaya has a comprehensive sports talent search scheme that evaluates each student. The promising ones are identified, selected and given scientific training.

Many students have got free admission, in colleges for higher education, under sports quota.

Physical Education Director A Sankarapandiayan and instructor M Nithyananadam encourage the selected students, ensure rigorous training and help them to perform to their maximum potential. Given below are the success stories of 3 boys, who were residents of Sevalaya hostel, talented in sports, nurtured by the organisation and have finally joined the Police force.



M Vasanth

The brothers M Vasanth and M Kesavan, hailing from a family of daily wage labourers in Thiruthani, are now posted as jail wardens.

Vasanth joined Sevalaya in XI Std. After completing XII, he did B.Sc in Computer Science and also applied for a Police job. He could clear the written test and physical test and was selected to join the Police force.

“The credit goes to Sevalaya and my teachers for training me to score good marks.

Physical exercises are very important for Police jobs. I got intense training in sports at Sevalaya only. So I was able to score full marks in the physical test.

My heartfelt thanks to Sevalaya for changing my career path. I will be grateful to Sevalaya.” says an emotional Vasanth.



M Kesavan

Similar is the story of his brother Kesavan. He too, following his brother's footsteps joined Sevalaya School in XI Std. He was interested in sports. He learnt to play handball at Sevalaya and won matches at the divisional level. He got a seat in Government Arts College in Tiruttani under the sports quota. After completing a degree, he too applied for a Police job like his brother and got selected again in sports quota.

“I have never played any games before joining in Sevalaya. Sevalaya has helped me to develop my talent not only in studies but also in sports.

Even though both my parents are illiterate, I and my brother have come to this extent only because of Sevalaya” concludes Kesavan.



R Pradeep

R Pradeep, son of a weaver joined Sevalaya in XI Std. He started playing

handball after joining Sevalaya. When he was in XII he was selected by the Sports and Games Federation of India and represented the state at the Games played in New Delhi. He too secured free admission-in college under sports quota.

He won many awards while representing his University and the State in his college days. After completing a degree, he joined MBA under the sports quota.

He also wrote the Tamilnadu Uniformed Services Recruitment Board exam and was selected for Tamilnadu Police Department. He is posted as a Police constable. During the lockdown days, he worked in Flipkart and contributed to Sevalaya out of his earnings.

Mattu Pongal



The cows at Sevalaya were decorated and worshipped on Mattu Pongal Day on 15th January 2022.

Balasubramani, Ex-President of Poliwakkam Panchayat, Param Chand Jain, Arjunan and Sevalaya Advisor Amarchand Jain and family participated in the celebrations.

A V Senthil, wealth advisor and a long time donor of Sevalaya participated in the celebrations online.



Christmas celebrations



On 23rd December 2021, Christmas was celebrated at the Kasuva centre. Vinod Jacob Chacko, Vice President & Head- Communications and CSR, L&T Construction and S Ram Kishore, Vice President & Head -HR (Divisional Corporate) L&T Construction were the Chief Guests.

Vinod Jacob Chacko explained the meaning of Christmas and said that life will be brighter if students utilise the opportunities properly. S Ram Kishore, in his speech, stressed the importance of education.

As a highlight of the function, Santa Clause entered the hall dancing with jingling bells, cut cake baked at Sevalaya's bakery and distributed it to the children.



Manova, Pastor, Maranatha Resurrection Ministries. S Ramarajan, Rtd., Principal of Ravanasamudram Government school, T Antony, Horticulture Teacher Kadayam and N Thangaraj, Secretary, Lions Club of Tenkasi were the Chief Guests at the Christmas celebrations at Ravanasamudram centre. Referring to Sevalaya's invocation song *Achamillai Achamillai* (No Fear; No Fear) by Bharathiyar, Pastor Manova said that was Jesus Christ's message to the world. Jesus Christ asked the people to fear not as He will always protect them. Certificates were distributed on the occasion to the students who completed the courses successfully.



Rev Fr F Charlesbabu, Head Master and Correspondent of St Mary High School, Upper Gudalur was the Chief Guest or the celebrations at Sevalaya Samaritan Community College at Gudalur.

The Chief Guest spoke to the students about the birth of Jesus Christ and his message for mankind.



Fr Maris Franklin Prabhu Parish Priest, St Theresa of Child Jesus Church Pappanallur was the Chief Guest for the celebrations at Uthiramerur centre.



In Thirubuvana, centre, Puducherry Sr. Kulandhai Terese participated as Chief Guest and spoke to the students about the birth of Jesus and his message of love for all.

"Our life should have a purpose. Our words and deeds should bring happiness to others" she mentioned. The visit of Santa Claus made the event enjoyable. The cake was cut and distributed to all.



At Sunguvarchatram centre Rev R David Dhinakaran, Presbyter In-charge, Sunguvarchatram Pastorate, CSI Diocese was the Chief Guest. The Chief Guest spoke about the birth of Christ and sang a few songs. A Christmas cake was cut and distributed to all.



At Thanjavur centre, MJF Ln Er A Sowri Raj, Chartered Engineer, Valuer, ASR structural Designer, Water Sheed Consultant, Ln K Veerasivaraman, REGION 9 – CQI, Lions club of Thanjavur Ancient City) and A Lourduraj, St Xavier ITI, were the Chief Guests.

The Chief Guests interacted with the elders at Old Age Home, cut cake and distributed it to them.



At Zamin Endathur centre R Samuel, Pastor of Redeemer Church at Ozhavetti was the Chief Guest. He shared many biblical stories.

Champaran, Gandhiji and Rajendra Prasad-(3)

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

At Champaran, Gandhiji stayed with Gorakh Prasad, a well known lawyer of the District, who had done something to help the tenants. There was one great difficulty.

Gandhiji did not know the local Bhojpuri dialect. Consequently it became necessary to have one or two interpreters. Two lawyers, one Babu Dharnidhar (a senior) and Ramnaomi Prasad (youngster) were deputed to accompany to act as his interpreters. Gandhiji arrived at Motihari which was the headquarters of the District.

A regular stream of people came and narrated to him their grievances. There was a case of a well to do tenant who had become the victim of a planter's wrath for some fancied offence. He was quite rich enough to keep an elephant.

The planter, with the assistance of the Police had his house looted, crop destroyed by grazing cattle. The trees in his orchard were laid waste by elephants, and even the tiles of the roof of his house were smashed to bits. The signs of vandalism were visible. Gandhiji, on his request, decided to go

to his village which was at a distance of 12 miles in his elephant, despite the blazing sun and hot wind. In the mean time, the Magistrate had issued a notice directing Gandhiji to leave the District of Champaran immediately. While Gandhiji was on his way to the village, he was informed by a Police officer that the District Magistrate wanted to see him.

Gandhiji returned with the Police officer, but left instructions to the lawyers to visit the place, make inquiries and return that night.

On his return to Motihari, Gandhiji was instructed by the Magistrate to leave the District. Gandhiji refused. He was served with a formal order. Gandhiji responded with a formal reply that he felt bound NOT to obey that order and that the Magistrate might take such action as he thought fit.

The Magistrate told him that criminal proceedings were contemplated and requested him not to visit the village till the machinery of law was set in motion. The same evening a summons was served on him, calling upon him to be present in the court the following morning to stand

his trial.

Gandhiji laboured very hard that night. He telegraphically informed his friends and co-workers of the developments. He sent a telegram to Polak, who was in India.

Polak was his friend and co worker from South African days. He also wrote a letter to Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy, that he was returning the Kaiser-i-Hind award as the Government had lost trust in him. He also prepared a report to be read out in the court the next morning. The greater part of the night was taken by these activities. The two lawyers who had been sent to the village returned by mid night and submitted their report.

Gandhiji apprised them of the developments and told them that probably he would be going to jail. He specifically asked them what their plans were. They were unprepared to answer this question, as they had never dreamt of such a scenario.

(To be Continued.)



*The world will prosper in knowledge and intellect,
if both men and women are deemed equal.*
- Subramanya Bharathi

Bharathi Chellammal Centre, Kadayam
Implemented by
Sevalaya

Want to pay your tribute to Mahakavi Bharathiyar?

Here is how. Help in the creation of Bharathi Chellammal Centre, Kadayam, being built by Sevalaya, with Tamilnadu State Government approval.

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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; vpoperations@sevalaya.org.

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Correspondents: Anandan M T, Anupriya L N, Dr Gokulakrishnan J, John Seba, Kanchana S, Kingston A A, Padmasri S, Prasanna P, Priyadarshini S R, Vijaya R
Layout: Rekha Perumal, Arunkumar G
Editorial & Design Consultant: Thomas T Abraham