



126th Wedding Anniversary of Chellamma - Bharathi



Sevalaya Dance school students with Hon'ble Speaker M Appavu and other Chief Guests

The 126th wedding anniversary of Chellamma - Bharathi was celebrated by Sevalaya on 27th June 2023 at the Chellamma - Bharathi Learning Centre in Kadayam.

M Appavu, Honourable Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, was the Chief Guest for the celebrations. He praised the activities of Sevalaya and spoke about the greatness of Chellamma and Bharathi.

The speaker commended Sevalaya for establishing the Chellamma - Bharathi Learning Center in Kadayam village to prpetuate the memory of the illustrious couple in the birth place of Chellamma.

He also highlighted Chellamma's efforts in publishing Bharathi's books, ensuring that future generations be inspired by his immortal writings.

The festival commenced in the morning with a procession by the school students on the streets of Kadayam. They paraded along the main streets of the village, carrying a palanquin with the portrait of Chellamma - Bharathi statue.

The procession was flagged off by Vijayakumar, Inspector of

essays continue to inspire the youth to lead purposeful lives and act as a driving force to achieve their goals.

Uma Bharathi, a relative of Bharathi, lectured on the topic 'Bharathi at Kadayam.' She narrated the poems written by Bharathi at Kadayam and about his life at this village.

Na Kumar, a film director and writer, spoke about Bharathi's Universal love.

Though the society perceived that Bharathi's life was a struggle throughout

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Police, Kadayam, and K S Kalyani Sivakaminathan, a retired principal.

A seminar on Bharathi Chellamma was organised in the afternoon session. Vanavil K Ravi, Founder of Vanavil Cultural centre, delivered a talk about Chellamma and Bharathi, highlighting their merits and the sacrifices made by Chellamma that contributed to Bharathi's glory.

Niranjan Bharathi, great-great grandson of Mahakavi, delivered a speech on "Youth and Bharathi." He emphasized that Bharathiyar's poems, stories, and



Hon'ble Speaker M Appavu and Sevalaya Murali paying tributes to statue of Chellamma - Bharathi

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Vijayakumar, Inspector of Police, Kadayam and K S Kalyani Sivakaminathan, a retired principal flagged off the procession

due to poverty, the poet and his family were always happy and enjoyed life, he mentioned. "The inner happiness reflected in his poems." he observed.

Various competitions were conducted for

the schools in and around Kadayam, on this occasion.

Around 510 students from 22 schools participated, and the special guests felicitated the 90 winning students

Best NGO award from IOB Association



Best NGO award was presented to Sevalaya, by Ajay Kumar Srivatsava, Managing Director, IOB on 21st June 2023.

The award was presented at the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Overseas Bank, Retired employees association.

The association also honoured the toppers of Std XII from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva centre.

15 senior citizens from Sevalaya's Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa Old Age Home participated in the celebrations.

Asian Paints volunteers in organic farming



63 volunteers from Asian Paints, Sriperumbudur, visited Kasuva centre on 12th June and 13th June 2023.

The team volunteered in organic farming

activities, such as de-weeding and preparing the vermi compost pits.

The volunteers also interacted with the destitute elders at the centre.



by presenting them with Mahakavi Bharathiyar's poetry books and trophies.

The event was graced by the presence of Po Sivapadmanathan, South District Secretary of Tenkasi, Gopalan, President Pensioners Association, Kadayam, people's representatives, prominent personalities, and members of the general public.



Sevalaya records its heartfelt condolences on the passing away of V Manoharan, Retd Professor, Agricultural

University on 9th June 2023. Sevalaya remembers him with deep gratitude for his generous donation of a two-storey house at Dharmapuri, to run a free old age home in memory of his wife Late V T Shanthi. The home currently provides shelter to 20 destitute elders.

He also contributed for the construction of a block at Sevalaya's old age home at Zamin Endathur.



The passing away of V Ramaiah on 10th June 2023 is a great loss for Sevalaya. Sevalaya recalls with gratitude for his

contribution towards the construction of a donors reception room at Kasuva centre and his regular contributions to the organisation.

Sevalaya family offers its prayers for the departed souls to rest in peace.

Vacation over, students are back

Students received with gifts

The school re-opened on 12th June 2023 for the Stds VI to XII, after a long summer vacation. For primary classes from UKG-Montessori to Std V, reopening was on 14th June 2023, after 50 days. The teachers were waiting for the arrival of the students. All classrooms were sanitised in advance. The toilets, the playing area, and common areas were all cleaned up. For 150 LKG-Montessori children, it was their first ever classroom experience. They were welcomed with balloons, crowns and sweets. Yet, there were mixed feelings.

Excitement and expectations dominated. Not that the vacation was bad. The initial days of vacation were the best, relaxing and taking it easy.

The majority of youngsters had spent their summer vacation visiting their grandparents and home towns. They were treated to special cuisine that their grandmothers had served. There were festivals in May that everyone in the village participated. Many visited numerous public attractions, including Mahabalipuram, Thirupathi, Marina Beach....

Almost all of them spent their free time playing games with friends. With



the assistance of their mothers and grandmas, some of the girls picked up some lessons in cooking while some others tried some sewing.

Missing school

Some kids missed their school life, classroom, friends, and the familiar environment.

At school, they receive their meals on schedule, which is often not the case for some of them, during the vacation. Some mentioned the support system in the school which they missed. In the

event of a difficulty, they instantly inform the teacher. Some students would find any excuse to speak with their teacher and meet in person in order to stay motivated. During the vacation, many do not have the atmosphere at home to



After a long time, I am back in my school today. I am very happy to see my teachers and my friends. I really liked the way my teachers greeted me with sweets and small gifts as soon as I entered the classroom. After the completion of the entire year's exam, I was very happy that the holiday had come. But within a week, that joy was gone. I couldn't stay at home because of the heat. That's when I realised it would be nice to go to school. We are very happy to see some new students in the classroom.

M Kavya, Std V



Over the summer I really missed all of my teachers and classmates. After enjoying my vacation for the first five days, I started to grow bored because I wasn't seeing my friends, classmates, or teachers. Since everything in my life occurs in their presence, or at least I can inform them the following day, this long break was really difficult for me. The only thing that makes me happy is I attended dance lessons during my vacation and competed in the "World Record Dance Programme" at Puducherry by dancing nonstop for eight hours. Approximately 2500 pupils took part in the programme.

D Liya, Std VIII



I scored good marks in the 10th Std exam. I spent my vacation time by helping my mother at home and taking care of my sister. To utilise the leave

usefully, I continued my Silambam class from the month of April. I took part in an Inter State competition and I won the third prize. I received my first cup in my life, and I felt very happy.

Umapathy, Std XI

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express their emotions, nor a patient ear.

So they were quite excited to return to school so they can converse and interact with their friends, instructors, teachers and other non-teaching staff. They will feel inspired and more prepared to take on the forthcoming academic year. On the first day, the “bridge course” was given, wherein 40 teachers participated.

For the teachers, it was the opportunity to put into practice inputs received at training courses they attended during the summer vacation, to improve the quality of teaching.

A new year commences, with new hopes and aspirations.

Education Sponsors’ Support

Sevalaya delivers quality education, thanks to donors including Andritz, Kone, Matrimony.com, Latent View and BNY Mellon.

They fund the school supplies such as clothing and uniforms, notebooks and stationery, transportation for students, sports, printing, telecommunication, electricity costs, upkeep and repairs, internet and phone costs, question papers and exam fees, among other things. With the assistance of these wonderful donors, we are able to offer high-quality education each year.

The thank-you message sent to them is genuine expression of gratitude.

Parent's Feedback



My husband works as a labourer. After 20 years of marriage, we got a daughter. Her name is Veeralakshmi. I have not

studied. My husband has studied only till Class 8. I wish that my child, who is a divine gift, should get that education which I did not get. We cannot help her with her education. If my child studies in Sevalaya, my child would also do well, I believe. On my child’s first day in school, I distributed sweets to all the children. I am infinitely thrilled. I am sure Sevalaya will make my dream come true.

Amsa Krishnan, Koduvalli



My name is Murali. I work in a Private Company for weekly wages. My wife Kalaivani is a 100 days (MGNREGA)

labourer. We have a son Dharaneshwaran who is studying in Sevalaya right from his Montessori. He is studying in 9th grade now and his skills in sports have been brought out

by Sevalaya. During the summer holidays, he attended summer sports camp conducted by Sevalaya. We are very much grateful to Sevalaya.

Murali, Kavanur

Teacher's Feedback



We made small gifts to welcome the students and we could see the excitement on their faces.

We received a lot of training during this holiday to make the students enjoy learning. We look forward to taking what we learnt during that training to the students. The students are coming today after a long break. We never know, some might have had some tragedies. So we plan to take the lesson sportingly throughout the day today.

We are determined to show progress in all respects this year.

Arasani A, Secondary Grade Teacher



I have spent five years working in Sevalaya. I really miss my class students during vacation because I become

so bored without them and their participation in my classes. I really missed their affection.

A teacher's life would be monotonous without leading prayers, using a piece of chalk, tracking attendance, chatting with colleagues, teaching lessons, and writing notes, among other activities. Thanks to my wonderful students, I will have all these, again.

Maheswari C – TGT

Credit: **S Mariyammal**

Fun day for Sevalaya residents



On 23rd May 2023, BNY Mellon volunteers organised a fun day out for 72 residents of Sevalaya Homes. They were taken to Vivekananda House and Marina Beach in Chennai. The children and elders spent a lovely day strolling around the beach

and had a great time playing in the water. BNY Mellon generously sponsored the transportation and snacks, making the outing even more memorable for the residents.

Student Wins Second Prize in "Khana Khazana: My Food Heritage"



E Swathy, of Std VIII from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School won second prize in the essay and drawing competition, "Khana Khazana: My Food Heritage" on 25th May 2023.

The awards by the Young Intach team were given region-wise. Earlier, the competitions were conducted at Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Matriculation School, Thiruvannamiyur on 4th February 2023.

9,000 students of Std VII and VIII from 100 cities in India participated in the competitions, 5 students from Sevalaya participated in the competitions.

NIAS orientation programme for gifted and talented students



R Vijaya, Head of Education, and K Pandi, Deputy Head of Education, participated in the NIAS Education for Gifted and Talented programme.

This orientation programme was organised by the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, on 13th June 2023.

The primary objective of this programme is to identify and nurture gifted and talented students through various assessment tools and provide guidance on mentoring them. In addition, they received mentorship on creating portfolios and enhancing their skills beyond academics.

NSS camp



On 20th May 2023, 60 NSS students from the College of Engineering, Guindy volunteered at the Kasuva campus. The students participated in an interactive session with destitute elders at the Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa Old Age Home.

The students had a fulfilling experience and were able to connect with the elders in a meaningful way. They took the time to listen to their stories and learn from their experiences.

Kamban kazhagam competition



Kamban Kazhagam competitions were held at Children Garden School, Mylapore on 10th June 2023.

230 students from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, participate in various competitions, including oratorical and recitation.

T Thembhavani, Std XII, won the second prize in the recitation competition. Participation certificates were distributed to all the students who took part in the competitions. 24 schools from across Chennai competed in the event.



Irrespective of cast, creed, religion... the Sevalaya creed

Sevalaya entered the life of R Sangeetha Veena, through her mother Vijayalakshmi, who, in turn, was introduced to Sevalaya by her colleague in BSNL and author Latha Ramakrishnan. In the early 90s, Vijayalakshmi used to arrange for monthly collections among the staff at Telephone Exchanges, to support Sevalaya. She did that till she retired in 2013.

Sangeetha's links with Sevalaya strengthened with her first visit to Sevalaya's Kasuva campus with her mother, in 1991. "It was a small unit. There were some 30 children and the staff were very friendly. There I met Murali and Bhuvana", she recalls.



In 1993, Sangeetha landed a job in New India Insurance. Her office was close to Sevalaya Head Office, then in Mylapore's V M street. She visited Sevalaya office and soon became friends with Sevalaya's Founder couple. "The Muralis attended our wedding in 2003", she recalls. She would make trips to Kasuva with friends and colleagues, at least once every year: train to Pattabiram, then bus. Her first donation was a sum of ₹1,000, when

she was 23. Her support grew, by selling tickets for fund raising events, and through various ways. Later, husband V Kalyana Sundaram, an Advocate, currently with Nokia, also joined her in her support and visits to Sevalaya. Meanwhile, Sangeetha switched to Royal Sundaram, and is currently the Head of Medical Claims.

The couple have one son: Sankalp, doing Biotechnology in Vellore Institute of Technology. Sankalp's birthday becomes an occasion for donations. Besides, the couple have influenced friends to route donations and endowments in favour of Sevalaya.

So many trips, and her top-of-the-mind memory is what she reads every time to see the Sevalaya gate. Written on the wall near the gate, in two languages is: "Please shed your preferences, prejudices, if any, on the basis of Caste, Creed, Religion, Language, Sex, Nationality etc while entering". The powerful universal principle that underlines equality and inclusiveness that respect all humans as humans. Also, the Sevalaya creed.

International Yoga day celebrations



Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School at Kasuva centre celebrated International Yoga Day on 21st June 2023 with day-long events.

Yoga sessions were organised for both students and parents throughout the day. The day commenced with an exclusive morning yoga session for hostel children.

V R Sundarambal, Yoga & Fitness Trainer from Chennai Runners and an official of Canara Bank led the session. She guided the 120 participants, including two online attendees from the USA to do asanas, and pranayama.

Over 400 participants from 15 centres joined the online session in the afternoon. The participants included parents also. Yogasharan VS Prakash from Atma Niranjana Yoga Vidyalaya, Bihar School of Yoga Tradition, conducted the session.

In the evening, Isha volunteers from Avadi conducted a session exclusively for students. Three volunteers were present in the campus, while two others joined online. 270 children from Stds VI to IX participated in the session.

8 volunteers from Dr Ambedkar Law

University taught simple asanas and pranayama to students of Std III. 147 children participated. The volunteers encouraged them to continue these exercises at home.



Awareness programme by Avadi Police commissionerate



The Crime Against Women and Children Unit, in collaboration with the Child Welfare Committee, organised a powerful awareness programme for the students of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, located in Thiruvallur District, on 15th June 2023.

Led by Inspector D Subhashini and Sub Inspector A Mallika from the Avadi Police

Commissionerate, the session highlighted the importance of careful selection of friendships.

The speakers advised students to communicate their problems with their parents and stressed the significance of using the Kavalan SOS App, specifically designed for the safety of children and girls. Helpline numbers were provided for immediate assistance.

The students were also cautioned against accessing illegal websites and using social networks like Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram. The speakers emphasized the importance of cyber safety and the risks associated with uploading photos and creating reels, which can be exploited by online hackers and attackers.

240 students from Std XI and XII participated in the programme,

Important helpline numbers, such as the Child Safety Line and Child Help National Child Abuse Hotline, were provided to the students, ensuring they have access to help and support whenever needed.

The session was very helpful to me and I learnt a lot about the helpline numbers, social awareness and also guidelines given by the Chief Guest.

I will obey all the instructions as said to shape my character and lead a disciplined life.

V Barath Kumar, Std XII

Green Today, Clean Tomorrow!- Environmental Day Celebrations

Kasuva



Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva centre, celebrated World Environmental Day on 17th June 2023.

R Christopher, Regional Talent Development Expert from Momentive Performance Materials India Pvt. Ltd., was the Chief Guest. He appreciated Sevalaya for providing value education to the children through its unique Bharathiyar Gandhi Vivekananda (BGV) syllabus.

Christopher also highlighted the significance of practicing RRR (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) for a better environment.

To encourage the habit of tree planting, he distributed 50 saplings to the children.

Sunguvarchatram

G Tamil Selvi, VAO, Santhavellore was the Chief Guest of the Environmental day celebrations at Sevalaya's Mahakavi

Bharathiyar Community College, Sunguvachatram on 5th June 2023.

The Chief Guest shared valuable insights on saving the Earth, motivated the students to excel academically, and encouraged them to inspire others. She also gifted tree saplings to Sevalaya.

Ambattur



Saravanan, Founder, President VISAI, Thiruvallur was the Chief Guest of the World Environmental day celebrations at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Ambattur on 8th June 2023.

Uthiramerur

Environmental day was celebrated at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Uthiramerur on 6th June 2023.

The Chief Guest for the event was K Deenadayalan, Executive Officer of

Groveman Global Private Ltd. 50 students who studied computer and tailoring trades received course completion certificates from the Chief Guest.

Thanjavur



Dr B Rammanohar, NGC District Coordinator, Thanjavur and S Mohamed Lathif, Joint Secretary, Clean Thanjavur Movement were the Chief Guests for the World Environmental day celebrations at Sevalaya's Gandhi Ashram Krishnan Memorial Senior Citizens Home, Thanjavur, on 5th June 2023.

Zamin Endathur

A E Gangadharan, Block Medical Officer, District Secretary, Tamil Nadu Govt Doctor Association, Chengalpet, was the Chief Guest of the Environmental day celebrations at Sevalaya's Janaki Ammal Vijayaraghavachariar Memorial Senior Citizens Home, Zamin Endathur on 9th June 2023.

Thillaiyadi Valliammai - (12)

(Source: "Agony of Valliamma" by Aziz Hassim)

Within a short time, Valliamma and her comrades were arrested and hauled off to a prison cell. Then, they were herded to the railway station at Pietermaritzburg without any formal hearing or trial. The police officers threw Valliamma with her co-resisters into a filthy cell where they barely had any space even to breathe.

The magistrate ordered that they be incarcerated pending his pleasure. Several days later, they were inexplicably allowed to go on the express condition that they would be out of the town before the end of the day.

Valliamma found that the women who had accompanied her were some what disoriented and mentally exhausted. She urged them not to get dispirited. "Our rulers are shaken; they are getting worried. The number of times they arrested us, that alone proves that they are no longer as confident and as complacent as they used to be. Be brave and don't waver." she said to them. This re-inspired her comrades.

At this juncture, Mr Badat who had earlier helped them when they were on their march at Newcastle came on the scene. He had come on noticing them and was concerned that they were out in

the cold. He assured them of all comfort that they required and took them to his town. There, Aysha Badat and a group of women, came out from their home and warmly received them. They had heard of all the activities of the marchers. "Our people view you as heroes; our houses are now your homes." they said.

True to their words, they provided them all facilities so that they all felt quite at home. Valliamma on the verge of exhaustion collapsed into an improvised bed in the corner of a small room. She was comforting her colleagues and at the same time planning the next day's journey. She was making a mental note to ensure all her eleven colleagues carried some food to replenish their energy and keep going.

It was a bad dawn. Five huge men with wide shoulders and barrel chests intimidatingly arrived. With a large axe, they broke open the door. In the force, the house itself shook and the door flew into the ground.

Valliamma jerked upright, her mind completely disoriented. She jumped to her feet and emerged out from the room. She saw Badat rushing out in sleeping dress from his room in disarray.

he confronted the men and questioned their atrocity. He was delivered a blow on the side of his face which sent him reeling, and he fell into the floor. Valliamma quickly stepped in front of Badat in an attempt to protect him from the brutes. She was slapped on her head, and she fell into the ground. The gang lifted her off the floor and cuffed her hands behind her back.

They took Valliamma and her comrades in to a cell in which African criminal prisoners had been lodged. The prisoners saw the way in which the warder was manhandling the women; they vowed to kill him. Valliamma counselled them patience and preached them the Nonviolence principle. Gandhiji had said, "An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind."

(To be continued)



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