



Pondhur pond to yield 75,000 litres of potable water

BorgWarner sponsors ₹46 lacs pond cleaning and protection project



Shailesh Jha, Plant Manager, BorgWarner and M Senthil Rajan, Village President, Pondhur inaugurating the construction of compound wall and desilted pond.

Sevalaya has successfully completed the cleaning of Pondhur pond in Sriperumbudur, which was previously contaminated and inaccessible for drinking water and construction. Once a vital source of drinking water for the community, it had been left abandoned due to the rampant dumping of non-degradable waste including plastic.

BorgWarner, a global leader in manufactures and supplies technologies and solutions for internal combustion, hybrid and electric vehicle products, funded this ₹46 lacs project of cleaning the pond, as part of their CSR activity. Sevalaya was the implementation partner.

Starting January 2023, after two and a half months of hard work, Sevalaya managed the clean up of the pond and constructed a compound wall and grill around the 1,165 sq ft pond, to prevent any further dumping of waste, ensuring that the water source remains clean and safe for the community's use. Recharging will yield an estimated 75,000 litres of potable water.

Shailesh Jha, Plant Manager, BorgWarner and M Senthil Rajan, Village President inaugurated the project.

Shailesh Jha said, "We are completely satisfied with the implementation of the project." He also mentioned that his company plans to extend their support to other local areas in the community.

C Sundara Bharathi, Finance Controller, X Edison, Supply Chain Manager, and D P Praveen, HR Manager, L Sathish Kumar, Assistant, HR Manager

from BorgWarner, A A Kingston, VP, Operations, N Navin Kumar, AVP, Donor Relations, L Ashok Kumar, AVP, Operations and M Mathan Kumar, Project Co-ordinator from Sevalaya were present at the event.

Before



After



Actor Delhi Ganesh visits Sevalaya



Film Actor Delhi Ganesh visited Sevalaya's Head office at Alwarpet on 4th May 2023 and presented a cheque of ₹1 lac towards donation for Sevalaya activities. The cheque was received by Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee.

Inside

Results are out

Meet the Toppers - Page 2

Summer coaching camp - Page 3

Sevalaya children excel in Board results

True to tradition, Sevalaya students have done well for themselves at the latest board exams also.

All the 142 children cleared their Std XII for a 100% result for Sevalaya, while 141 of the 143 Std XI students were successful, for a 98.6 % result. In Std X the overall school result was 95%.

Given their social and family background, these children achieve by overcoming various odds and challenges. Cramped homes, no study space, unreliable power supply, financial difficulties, and in many

cases, alcohol addiction of fathers, a home atmosphere not conducive to learning, lack of healthy nutritious food and health issues.

But they show great resilience, and eagerness to improve their lot. Many of them have supportive parents who find education the escape route.

The moral support of Sevalaya teachers, their regular counselling and special coaching classes have helped these children to give their best in their examinations. The teachers do it in

mission mode.

The heart-warming transformation which continues to change lives for the better, is played out round the year, year after year.

Making it possible are the well-wishers, philanthropists and corporates who lend their unstinted support.

For the gritty stories of the toppers, visit:

<https://sevalaya.org/news/sevalaya-school-2022-23-board-exam-toppers/>

2022-2023 School Toppers

Std XII



Nithyasri V
581/600

Centum in Accounts and Commerce



Yuvashree K
575/600



Logeshwari N
568/600

Centum in Commerce

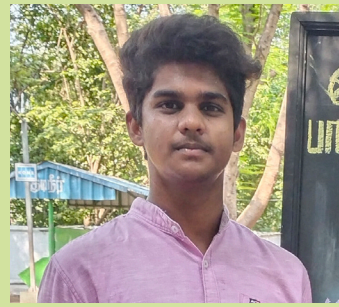
Std XI



Kaviya S
519/600



Thembhavani T
514/600



Saran S
506/600

Std X



Pavithra M
467/500



Sri Priyanka S
461/500



Dhivya dharshini E
448/500

100 join summer coaching camp



Come summer and one can find posters, bills advertising all sorts of camps for children during the long holidays. Dance, arts, skating, dramatics - the list is long but the classes are costly. Learning and fun, but at a high cost!

Bridging this gap, Sevalaya has been conducting free summer camps for the underprivileged children for the past 25 years.

This year, from 25th April 2023 to 15th May 2023 a sports camp was conducted for students of Sevalaya and computer and spoken english for both students of Sevalaya and interested students of nearby schools.

At the camp, 100 children from Std II to Std IX participated in the different activities from 6.15 am to 9.30 am. They got training in yoga, cardiovascular

activities, road races, weight training and strengthening exercises. They were also trained in athletics, volleyball and basketball.

Specialist Coaches

A Sankarapandian, Physical Director (Basketball), V Karthick, (Handball coach), G Kavitha (Athletics coach), D Manikandan (Volleyball coach), A Shamsheer Basha (Basketball coach) coached the children.

"In the beginning the players were too scared to show their skill on the field. They were not able to take free throws. Now from 10 free throws they are converting at least 8", says A Sankarapandian, Physical Director.

A lot of fitness practice and individual attention was given to the athletes. The coach noted that the athletes have

improved a lot in high jump and long jump.

The students were given nourishing Multigrain porridge for breakfast every day. Parents happily ensured that their children were dropped at the campus on time.

25 select children out of the 100 got special basketball training as a part of the activities planned for the year in collaboration with Hi5, an NGO dedicated to coaching basketball to underprivileged children. This camp was inaugurated by Sandeep from Hi5. The children were coached by, G Arvind Swamy and S Gouri from Hi5.

The spoken English classes from 10 am to 12.30 pm had students from Stds VI to XII.

Framing sentences using different tenses, storytelling, conversations, framing and answering various types of questions helped to improve communication skills and vocabulary. Children worked in pairs and teams to practice and improve themselves. Children made new friends and had fun as they tried out the conversations in pairs.

Some found the joy of giving, by volunteering. V Lakshmi is a senior English teacher handling higher secondary classes at R M Jain school, Thiruvallur. As a volunteer, she wanted to assist the spoken English class. She said that it gave her immense pleasure to help the children and found them enthusiastic

Continued on page 4



My sincere thanks to computer teacher Devaraj. He taught us in a very simple and interesting way. I have never handled a

computer and did not know how to use the 'mouse'. But now I can handle the system with confidence. Thank you Sevalaya for providing an unique experience this vacation.

S Madhumita, Std VIII
Dasar High School, Thiruninravur

Continued from page 3



and motivated.

30 students from Sevalaya and 10 from other schools participated in the computer classes and learnt MS Office, MS Word, MS Powerpoint, MS Excel, Photoshop. Handling the computer hands-on was a new experience for many.

Creating files in the system and working on them gave a sense of accomplishment and confidence.

The 15 days camp ensured that children spent nearly 3 hours learning and practicing new skills and will surely help them in their academics once school reopens in June.

Parents were as enthusiastic as the children themselves.

B Karishma's father V Balaji worked as a priest in a local temple at Thiruninravur.

He sought half an hour's permission to drop his daughter at Kasuva campus daily. He offered to come early, to compensate. But he was told to come at his specified duty hours or leave the job. Balaji was forced to leave his job. He is proud of Karishma and does not regret his sacrifice. For many children, the camp offered new experiences, opening a new world of possibilities.

Then there is the forming of attitudes. "When striving for excellence there's a lot we can learn from thinking like an athlete. Setting goals and working towards them in a systematic manner are important steps, as is dedication to the sport, but there are other aspects to an athlete's mindset that we can draw upon when we aim high", says A Sankarapandian, Physical Director, Kasuva centre.



In this camp, I learnt so many things and gained more knowledge in English. I learnt how to speak in English fluently and to make the

sentence with proper use of tenses. I will read newspapers, books and try to speak in English and improve myself.

M Kumaran, Std VIII
Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar
Higher Secondary School



I attended the summer camp for the last 15 days and enjoyed it very much. I have participated in athletics for the past one year.

Apart from that, I also participated in summer training camp. I am very much interested in athletics. I have a dream: to participate in international events and win a medal for India.

S Ramya, Std VII
Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar
Higher Secondary School

Credit: **S Mariyammal**

Foodbank sponsors trip to Tirupati



Food Bank, Chennai arranged a special trip to the Tirupati temple for underprivileged and physically challenged students on 25th April 2023.

A group of 78 students from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva centre, accompanied

by 5 staff members, embarked on this exciting journey.

The journey to Tirupati was enjoyable and entertaining for the children. They were delighted with mesmerizing magic tricks and mimicry performances that brought smiles to their faces. The Food Bank team

provided them with delicious food and refreshing beverages.

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam board had made special arrangements for darshan exclusively for the children, which made their trip memorable.

I visited Tirupati for the first time and I had a great experience. The people who organised the trip ensured our safety throughout. One of the highlights was getting to interact with physically disabled individuals, which was a new and eye-opening experience for me. Additionally, there were people on the train who dressed up like actors and entertained us with mimicry, which was a lot of fun. Overall, I really enjoyed the trip.

G Ranjani, Std XI, Sevalaya

Values and virtuous camp



Sevalaya organised Melseithalai camp in Thoothukudi District. The camp, coordinated by S Kanchana, Head of the Value Education Department and R Janakiraman, Value Education Coordinator of Sevalaya was conducted from 12th May 2023 to 14th May 2023. Over the course of three days, this camp aimed to instill discipline and foster good values in the children.

The camp commenced each day with a refreshing yoga session, designed to enhance the children's flexibility and promote a sense of calm. Following the yoga session, the children engaged in invigorating jogging exercises that

energized their bodies and prepared them for the day's activities.

One of the core focusses of the programme was to impart the teachings and principles of great personalities such as Mahatma Gandhi, Mahakavi Bharathiyar, and Swami Vivekananda. Through interactive sessions, the children learned about the remarkable lives and philosophies of these influential figures and how they approached various aspects of their lives with integrity and compassion.

In addition to the classroom sessions, the camp incorporated recreational activities and games, which brought joy and

excitement to the participating children. The highlight of the evenings was a campfire where the children bonded with one another, sharing stories and creating lasting memories.

During the camp, the children watched interesting videos that told inspiring stories of successful people. These videos showed how important it is to work hard and stay focused to achieve your goals in life. The children learned valuable lessons about how to make progress step by step.

The camp also made sure that the children had nutritious meals every day. The highlight of the camp is to make them become responsible individuals with strong moral values and a commitment to personal growth.



An enjoyable learning experience



9 staff members of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva centre along with 3 high school students, R Punitha, Volunteer and N Annapurna, Trustee attended a day long session with Master educator R S Nalla Perumal on 11th May 2023.

In the session Nallaperumal emphasized that time constraints shouldn't be used as an excuse for not finishing a lesson, but rather teachers should focus on effective

teaching methods to complete the lesson on time. He also stressed the importance of teachers continuously updating their knowledge and being prepared for class without relying on textbooks.

Throughout the session, he shared some noteworthy events and stories from his own life. He also discussed the benefits of symmetrical drawing and the span of attention. He emphasized that all teachers should act as secondary parents,

and every parent should be a secondary teacher.

As a fun teaching method, he provided tips on teaching various algorithms through a song. More sessions are planned department-wise to help teachers reinforce basic concepts to students.

The training proved to be immensely valuable, providing us with essential tools and strategies to prepare our syllabus well in advance and adopt a specific teaching method for optimum results.

Instead of directly stating the topic, he introduced it through related activities to spark curiosity and critical thinking in students. By prioritizing basic concepts over finishing the syllabus, he insisted on showing the dedication to build a strong foundation for learning. Overall, the teaching style is well-organised, interactive, and focused on helping students understand.

G Usha, Maths Teacher, Sevalaya

Training in Phonics for teachers



Valli Kumar, Phonics Trainer and Founder of InnoBrain Academy took a session on the topic of Phonics at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva centre on 25th April 2023.

38 teachers from Primary and High school attended the session.

She showed teachers how to teach the sounds of letters, the different types of sounds, and how letters can be combined to make words.

She also showed teachers some methods for helping students understand and write quickly.

Sevalaya student volunteers at Puttaparthi Ashram



10 students from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Kasuva Centre took part in "Seva Darshan" at the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Ashram at Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh.

The students and staff offered seva at the ashram from 6th May 2023 to 16th May 2023. The students were engaged in various tasks such as cleaning the temple and assisting with electrical

and plumbing work including.

They also had the opportunity to participate in bhajans (devotional songs) and listen to speeches about Bhagwan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, which was an enlightening experience for all of them.

Volunteers were provided food and accommodation at Sri Sathya Sai Baba Ashram, Puttaparthi.

The opportunity to serve in the ashram was facilitated and coordinated by Sai Rangasamy of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Besant Nagar.

The activities were coordinated by M T Anandan, Head of Sevalaya's Homes, and G Rajadurai, AC instructor, Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College.

Session on Nature



Prof S Swaminathan, Retired Professor, IIT-Delhi and Co- founder of the Tamil Heritage Trust conducted an interesting session on "The Queen of Trees" at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva centre

on 29th April 2023.

He shared an interesting fact on the relationship between wasps and fig trees, an example of symbiosis. Fig trees rely on wasps to pollinate their flowers, while wasps need fig trees to lay their eggs and nourish their young ones.

He also added that mutually beneficial relationships have existed for millions of years and highlighted the importance of interconnectedness in nature.

40 teachers from Primary and High School and N Annapurna, Trustee of Sevalaya attended the session.

Sevalayans watch PS2



Volunteers from BNY Mellon arranged to take 94 residents of Sevalaya Homes - children and elders to watch the movie Ponniyin Selvan 2, on 6th May 2023. The children and elders enjoyed watching the movie.

75 volunteers from BNY accompanied them. BNY also sponsored transportation and snacks.

Elders' day out



10 Senior citizens from Sevalaya's Janaki Ammal Vijayaraghavachariar Memorial Senior Citizens Home, Zamin Endathur, visited Sri Aatcheeswarar temple at Acharakpakkam and Adhiparasakthi temple at Melmaruvathur on 21st May 2023.

They offered prayers and strolled around the temple and also had lunch in the nearby restaurant. All the elders enjoyed the sighting very much.

Nikhil Johri, a donor of Sevalaya, who contributes to the operational expenses of the Sevalaya's old age home at Zamin Endathur, sponsored this trip.



Industrial visit by tailoring students



17 students studying tailoring trade at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Community College, Uthiramerur centre made an industrial visit to Vijay Garments, Manufacturer and Exporter of Woven Garments, on 24th April 2023.

The students learnt about the intricacies of stitching dresses, creating unique patterns, and storing them in the warehouse. The visit gave them an in-depth understanding of the garment production process.



R Vijayakrishnan, General Manager at Vijay Garments organised this visit. Guru Krupa Foundation, USA is sponsoring the tailoring trade at Sevalaya's Community College at Uthiramerur.

16 students studying tailoring trade at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Community College, Ravanasamudram were taken on an industrial visit to Indica Fabrics Private Limited, Garments Manufacturer, on 16th May 2023.

The students found the visit of great value. They gained insights into stitching dresses, how to create unique patterns as also managing storage in the warehouse.

Overall, the visit gave them an in-depth understanding of the process of garment production.

The visit was organised by Jeyasudha, Tailoring instructor at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Community College, Ravanasamudram.

Labour day celebrations

Gudalur



Jc Lion Amb Dr R Pranesh Infant Raj, State Secretary, Un Defensor Derechos Human Rights Organization, Tamil Nadu President, International United Kalam Foundation, Thanjavur District Secretary Officer, Department of Youth Welfare Department was the Chief Guest of the Labour Day Celebrations at Sevalaya's Gandhi Ashram Krishnan Memorial Free Old Age home, Thanjavur on 29th April 2023.

M Abdul Razak, President, Gudalur Merchants Association was the Chief Guest of the Labour Day Celebrations at Sevalaya's Samaritan Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Gudalur on 4th May 2023.

Thanjavur



K Madhan, CSR Head, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd, Madhurantakam, was the Chief Guest of the Labour Day Celebrations at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Uthiramerur on 29th April 2023.

Zamin Endathur



S Arun Kumar, Branch Manager, ICICI Bank Limited, Madhurantakam was the Chief Guest of the Labour Day Celebrations at Sevalaya's Gayathri Narayanan Memorial Community College and Janaki Ammal Vijayaraghavachariar Memorial Senior Citizens Home, Chengalpeta on 5th May 2023.

Ravanasamudram

L Balasubramanian, Balaji Knitmatics and Aditya Exports, Collar Knitting Machine Service Engineer, Kallidaikurichi was the Chief Guest of the Labour Day Celebrations at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College on 3rd May 2023.

Thillaiyadi Valliammai - (11)

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

Then Thambi Naidoo jumped to the stage and made a thunderous speech which deserves to be counted as one of the best speeches of the world. Here are a few excerpts of the speech.

"Your fathers were slaves. They were brought here as slaves deluded into thinking they were coming into a world where they could live happily and in comfort... Will you leave your children with a legacy of slavery, to perpetuate the system of exploitation? ... You forget that you possess an enormous power, the power to withdraw your labour, and bring the mines to a stand-still! Without your labour, the mines will shut down. Those who abuse you will be hurt financially and it will be a setback to their profiteering schemes!"

"Withdraw your labour! Stop work!-and watch the agony of the mine bosses! I am not asking you stop working for ever! Go on a strike for a week! A decent wage is not something that will be handed to you on a golden platter! You have to demand it! And, you must also ask for better working conditions and better living quarters!"

"Go back to work after a week, but leave the threat hanging in the air that you will strike again if they do not respond

positively to your demands!"

"Go with God, secure in the knowledge that He is at your side at all times!"

The workers surrounded him and asked him to lead their struggle. Thambi Naidoo advised them they had to select leaders from among themselves. He also assured that P.K.Naidoo would guide them.

Now, Thambi Naidoo took Valliamma aside and informed her that Gandhiji was being harassed and was continually being arrested. Gandhiji was not bothered about himself but about the other satyagrahis. He had contacted the Minister of the Interior and expressed his concern about the satyagrahis being molested were being thrown into jail. He had given him a clear warning that the death of the people was going to be laid at the Government's doors and the repercussions would be serious.

Valliamma responded by saying, "I will not allow myself to be deterred from my work. They can do what they like. The next towns I will be going to will be Dundee, Daunhauser, and Ladysmith. Then I will go to Pietermaritzburg and Tongaat. I will bring the Government to their knees."

Valliamma had been on the road for

about two months. It was beginning to take a heavy toll on her health. After addressing the workers in Charlestown, Dundee, Ladysmith, Daunhauser, Pietermaritzburg and other places and several other major towns, she took a break at Tongaat. She had lined up several speeches for the residents of the farms and towns nearby. It was after all the heart of the sugarcane fields and the fountain of exploitation of the Indian workers.

As soon as she had settled the satyagrahis who had accompanied her from Johannesburg at the homes of the local Indian merchants, she quietly and secretly contacted the employees of several of the farms.

Then what happened?

Await.!



Chellamma – Bharathi

126th wedding anniversary celebrations

Sevalaya is organising various competitions on the theme of Bharathi's life and poems for school and college students.

Prizes will be awarded to the winners at the celebrations on 27th June 2023.

An appeal to Bharathi lovers!!.

Join Sevalaya in celebrating the illustrious couple!

Sponsor prizes for the winners!

To donate please visit ...

<https://sevalaya.org/donate/>



+91 99414 50444



Send your comments to:

Head Office:

Sevalaya, F2 Pushkarani Apartments, #12, Ananda Road, Alwarpet, Chennai - 600 018. Tamil Nadu, India.

m: 99414 50444 e: vpdr@sevalaya.org | vpoperations@sevalaya.org



[/sevalaya](https://www.facebook.com/sevalaya)



[/sevalaya.ngo](https://www.instagram.com/sevalaya.ngo)



[/sevalayacharity](https://www.youtube.com/sevalayacharity)



[/sevalaya.org](https://www.sevalaya.org)



[/company/sevalaya](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sevalaya)



You can donate via any UPI app 9710907675

Correspondents: Anandan M T, Annapurna N, Anupriya L N, Dr Gokulakrishnan J, Kanchana S, Kingston A A, Mariyammal S, Prasanna P, Priyadharshini S R, Vijaya R

Copy Desk: Raghu S

Layout: Arunkumar G

Project coordination: Rekha Perumal

Editorial & Design Consultant: Thomas T Abraham