



Rotary Club of Chennai Bharathi donates 20 cycles

Rotary Club of Chennai Bharathi along with Rotary Club of Plainsboro, North, and South Brunswick, and other supporting clubs of RI District 3232, in association with WCCG, donated 20 bicycles to the female students and staff of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School to commemorate, "International Day of the Girl Child - 2023" on 16th October 2023.

Rtn Usha Saraogi, Chairman of Women Empowerment RID 3232, and Rtn A N Rajasekaran, Chairman Community Service Development RID 3232 were the Guests of Honour.

Rtn Jayashree Kadambi, President - Rotary Club of Chennai Bharathi, Rtn S Sridhar, President - Rotary Club of Madras Golden City, and Eathish Kumar, Member WCCG attended the event.

Five bicycles were distributed to Sevalaya staff during the event, and 15 bicycles

were given to girls. The guests expressed their pleasure in contributing to the students' well-being and commended Sevalaya for their services.

Earlier, Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee, extended a warm welcome, followed by mesmerizing

cultural performances by students.

Teacher S Mariammal presented a memento to special guests on behalf of Sevalaya and the event concluded with a vote of thanks from N Navin Kumar, AVP, Donor Relations, Sevalaya.



Members of Rotary Club of Chennai Bharathi donate 15 cycles to girls and 5 cycles to staff.

Students excel in Robotic competitions



100 students from Sevalaya participated in the Robotics competition hosted by Robotex India at Alagappa School, Purasawalkam on 23rd September 2023.

Among 20 participating schools, Sevalaya won II and III prizes with cash rewards in categories of Entrepreneurship Challenge and Line Follower. This event gave the young learners a great opportunity to

learn about robotics and technology. The teachers at Sevalaya, who received special training for this programme, played a crucial role in nurturing the students' interest in robotics.

350 children at Sevalaya School benefited from 1 year programme sponsored by BNY Mellon India Pvt Ltd, creating a mass awareness about robotics. This opened

up a new world of knowledge and opportunities to them.



World Elders Day



World Elders Day was celebrated at Sevalaya's Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa Old Age Home in Kasuva centre, on 4th October 2023.

The Chief Guest, R Sumathi, District Social

Welfare Officer, Thiruvallur, graced the occasion with her presence.

A dedicated team from the Social Welfare and Rural Welfare departments, One-Stop Centre Councillors, and Case

Workers actively participated in the event. They engaged the elders by singing, sharing stories, and having interactive discussions, developing a sense of belonging and togetherness.

They sponsored fruits and biscuits for the 80 senior citizens.



Trip to Mysuru



23 students and 2 staff members of Sevalaya, went on a two day trip to Mysuru on 28th September 2023.

The students had a fantastic time exploring the Mysuru Palace, Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple and Brindavan

Gardens. They also enjoyed the travel on the Vande Bharat Express train. The trip was sponsored by Sri Sastha Seva Samithi Charitable Trust, Chennai.



Karmaveerar Kamarajar award to Sevalaya's service

Kamban Kazhagam, honoured Sevalaya Murali with "Karmaveerar Kamarajar Award", for exceptional service in the field of education, at their 8th Annual function at Krishnagiri, on 8th October 2023.



Best medical service award



On 8th October 2023, Sevalaya Samaritan hospital's medical team extended support to the 'Happy Street' programme held in Gudalur, The Nilgiris district.

P Selvaraj, DSP, Gudalur and Mohammed Gudharathula, RDO, Gudalur presented

a memento of appreciation to S R Priyadarshini, Centre Head at Gudalur, for the valuable assistance in providing medical care to the people of Gudalur.

DTCC volunteers makes 1500+ seed balls



DTCC organised a seed ball making event at Global Info City in Perungudi on

26th September 2023. S C Suresh, Incharge of Green Campus, Sevalaya,

provided guidance on making the seed balls to the 32 staff from DTCC. The staff made over 1500 seed balls. These seed balls will be collected from the staff and dispersed in dry lands and lakes, contributing to a greener environment as the seeds grow.



Green initiative by Lions Club of Madras Cathedral

A tree plantation drive was organised by Lions Club of Madras Cathedral at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre, on 15th October 2023.

The club sponsored 100 saplings which included varieties of amla, chikku, mango and lemon.

Ln Rajesh, President, Ln Dinesh Prabhakaran and Ln Amuthan, Treasurer from Lions Club of Madras Cathedral participated in the programme.



Anna university students entertain Sevalaya residents



70 NSS students from Anna University, CEG campus volunteered at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva centre, on 24th September 2023.

They interacted with 140 students and organised a drawing event and sports activities for them. They also interacted with 65 senior citizens and entertained them by singing.



Avighna volunteers support organic farming



28 volunteers from Avighna Systems Pvt. Ltd helped in organic farming at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre, on 7th October 2023.

The volunteers were engaged in various activities such as de-weeding and filling the vermi-compost pits.

Zoo trip with BNY volunteers



108 students of Std II at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva, went on a tour to Arignar

Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur on 2nd september 2023. They were accompanied by 100 volunteers

from BNY Mellon.

The children had an exciting safari adventure and were amazed by watching the animals.

The trip and refreshments were sponsored by BNY Mellon India Pvt. Ltd.



Volunteers' visit



On 27th September 2023, 80 students studying B.Tech in Artificial Intelligence at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Chennai visited Sevalaya's Kasuva centre.

They celebrated the 70th birthday of Mata Amritanandamayi, the Chancellor of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, with the children and elders at Sevalaya.

The students engaged the children with

fun activities like musical chair, origami, and colouring. They also played sports like basketball and cricket with the children.

The students entertained the senior citizens by singing. They also donated provisions and stationery to the organisation and sponsored lunch for the residents of Sevalaya.

Fund-raiser by Sevalaya UK



Sevalaya UK's first fundraiser by organising an Indian cultural event was a big hit. The event was presided over by the Ramji Chauhan, Mayor of Harrow. The show commenced with a welcome address by Sujatha Renganathan FCCA MBA, Trustee of Sevalaya UK followed by an address from the Mayor of Harrow.

The evening witnessed many talented entertainers, including dancers, singers, and an innovative vegetable themed fashion show. The guests had the chance to eat some delicious Indian food and dance to some excellent Bollywood karaoke performed by the *Yaarana* team.

The night finished with a word of thanks from the trustees of Sevalaya UK, Rajesh Chandrasekaran and Yaq Pacha.

The event was well attended and supported by donors.

Tamil Nadu Tourism Department's excursion



16 students of Stds VI to XII from Sevalaya visited the Government Museum and Chennai Rail Museum in Chennai, on 10th October 2023. They had an

enriching experience exploring antiques, sculptures, and various artifacts. The trip was organised by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Department of Thiruvallur District.

Gandhi Jayanthi celebration across locations



Ram N Ramamurthy, CEO, EIPP Solutions Private Limited, Ex- President, Rotary Club of Madras Mount and A Pandian, Technical Lead, Lopex Technologies were the Chief Guests of the Gandhi Jayanthi Celebrations held at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre on 4th October 2023.

They paid tributes by garlanding the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi.

During his speech, Ram N Ramamurthy emphasized on the value of hard work and persistence in achieving success through education. He encouraged students to support Sevalaya in future.

A Pandian shared his connection with Sevalaya to the students.

Earlier competitions including speech, poetry, quiz were conducted across different schools in Tamil Nadu. 332 students from 23 schools participated in the competitions.

Out of the 30 winners, 4 students received prizes from the Chief Guests. Prizes for the remaining winners were couriered to them.

Ambattur



Dr I R Oviya, Assistant Professor (Senior Grade), Dept of Computer Science and Engineering, Amrita School of Computing was the Chief Guest at the Gandhi Jayanthi Celebrations held at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Ambattur on 4th October 2023.

The Chief Guest delivered a speech on Gandhiji's life journey - "From Mohandas

Gandhi to Mahatma." She also motivated the students to be perseverant and never give up on their goals.

Uthiramerur

J Grace, HR & Manager, K2 Cranes & Components Pvt Ltd, Chengalpet was the Chief Guest of the Gandhi Jayanthi Celebrations held at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Uthiramerur on 3rd October 2023.

Pattinapakkam



M Gnana Prakash, Senior Team Member, Shell Business Solutions was the Chief Guest of the Gandhi Jayanthi Celebrations held at Gayathri Memorial Vocational Training Centre, Pattinapakkam on 4th October 2023.

Navratri celebrated across locations



Navratri was celebrated at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre, Thiruvallur district on 14th September 2023, in a grand manner.

The Chief Guest, Dr Chidambaram Annamalai, Software Engineer from Google, Zurich, inaugurated the function.

Students presented cultural performances highlighting the significance of Navaratri.

In his speech Dr Chidambaram Annamalai shared how he came to know about Sevalaya which supports underprivileged students in the field of education.

He expressed his happiness in interacting with XI Std students and promised support for all future endeavours of Sevalaya.

S Kanchana, Head of Value Education, presented a memento to the Chief Guest.

The various units at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre did Navratri Pooja every day, by taking turns , for all the nine days.

Gudalur



P Saravanan, Managing Director, Murugan Electronics and Furniture, was the Chief Guest of the Navratri

Celebrations held at Sevalaya's Samaritan Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Gudalur on 21st October 2023.

Zamin Endathur



M M Shankar, Advocate, Madhuranthakam, was the Chief Guest at the Navratri Celebrations held at Sevalaya's Gayathri Narayanan Memorial Community College and Janaki Ammal Vijayaragavachariar Memorial Senior Citizens Home, Zamin Endathur on 18th October 2023.

Time to give back

BE Mechanical Engineering in 1981 from College of Engineering, Guindy, the first female engineer at KCP Limited, Chennai, MS in Industrial Engineering from Texas Tech in 1984, stints at Intel, Novell, Sun Microsystems, then a founding member of an Enterprise Application Integration start-up before moving to Cisco Systems in 2008, handling global channel marketing, travelling all over the world.... That is a brief charting of Mala Ranganathan's academic and career graph.

Meanwhile she got married to Ranganathan, her classmate in College of Engineering, Guindy. Shortening his corporate life, Ranganathan is an investor in high tech. The two have one daughter: Mayuri, who graduated in International Relations from NYU and joined Ernst & Young in New York city as a paralegal.

Mayuri is currently pursuing her Masters in Management at INSEAD Business School in Fontainebleau, France.

Mala recalls that "caring for those around has been a habit with me all my life". She



was a scribe for the blind when she was in college. Strong in mathematics, Mala has been an informal tutor for her friends for many years. Word-of-mouth enlarged her clientele and she started donating the earnings to support good causes locally and in India. While at Cisco Systems, she was a female mentor as part of "We Teach Science Foundation" teaching Math on-line to the underprivileged.

Mala's introduction to Sevalaya was through one of her classmates settled in Australia. Meanwhile, Mayuri, on her trip to India during the summer of 2016, taught English for 3 days at Sevalaya. She was careful to use grade-appropriate vocabulary, and watched Tamil movies to improve her Tamil vocabulary.

In August, Mala taught Math (Stds VII to XII) for six days at Sevalaya, under Cisco System's Time2Give (Your Cause, Your Passion, Our Time) initiative. It took some dexterous use of English and Tamil for all classes which made it very interesting



for all, learnings on both sides included. "Those kids absorbed the lessons like sponge". Most satisfying to Mala has been the special classes in person that she conducted for 5 high potential kids of 12th Standard, preparing them for JEE Math main tests and ongoing weekly on-line sessions in support of the same, since June 2023.

She also donated five copies of JEE study material/workbooks (Maths, Physics, and Chemistry) to supplement in-class learning.

Then came the last day, and time to bid good byes. "After all the fun we had, they were sad. Emotions welled up as autographs and group photos were taken". Mala took part in Onam celebrations as chief guest.

Moved by the experience, Mala plans to support a handful of deserving Sevalaya kids to proceed with their professional college studies.

"Reminds me of my own childhood"

For Ram N Ramamurthy, his father is a faint memory of someone who abandoned his wife and children. In 1977, Ram was sent from his home at Vallangai, Kumbakonam, to Ramakrishna Mission, Chennai, which offered free boarding and lodging. Thanks to his double promotion at KG, Ram joined the 6th standard when he was just 9. He was moulded by the disciplined life at the institution, where the days began at 5.00 am, with puja and physical exercises.

Ram completed his Diploma in Mechanical Engineering at Ramakrishna Mission Polytechnic College, Mylapore.

His professional journey began in 1985, in manufacturing. After 3 years, he switched to Sales and then Sales Training. Another



3 years with the National Institute of Sales and Ram felt there was limited career growth, and decided to work for himself, in Sales Training.

Then luck played its part, to change his life. A friend hunting for office space and computers led to a collaboration and the opportunity to head the operations of the startup IIST, doing sub contracted Data entry work for US clients. Ram

travelled to the US and secured the business directly. He set up his US office in 2002, and after tasting success, opened 5 international offices. His company also transitioned into a wholesale service provider for 90% of Caterpillar dealers in the US, converting ERP data into electronic invoices and payment system.

Ram sold off that company and now runs the Indian operations, with a headcount of 135.

Married to Krishnaveni, from Coimbatore, they have a son studying B Sc in Computer Science and Advertising, and a daughter working in the IT industry.

Ram's connection with Sevalaya started when he was invited as a Chief Guest at Sevalaya's Ambattur Community College when Ram was the President of Rotary Club of Madras Mount. He bought a cake from Sevalaya for the boys of the Ramakrishna Mission. That has led to a special relationship with Sevalaya. Visits to Kasuva centre reminds him of the environment he experienced during his own childhood.

Sevalaya champions: boys and girls triumph at district-level sports

Event	Date	Location	Participants	Winners
Thiruvallur Revenue District RDS Meet	16 th October 2023	Sevalaya campus	6 students from various schools	S Akshaya, Std XI (Pole - Vault)
Thiruvallur Revenue District RDS Meet	6 th October 2023	TSP-II battalion ground, Avadi	22 students from various schools in each events	J Lalitha Std XII (Discuss Throw) S Roopa Std XII (1500 mts, and 3000 mts)
Thiruvallur Revenue District RDS Meet	5 th October 2023	TSP-II battalion ground, Avadi	22 students from various schools	A Adhikesavan Std XII (110 mts hurdles)
Thiruvallur Revenue District level BDG/RDG Girls' Basketball Match	16 th October 2023	Don Bosco School, Redhills	12 girls (U14-RDG) and 12 girls (U-19- BDG)	Sevalaya Girls (under-14 and under-19)
Thiruvallur Revenue District level BDG Boys Handball Match	17 th October 2023	Nazareth College of Arts and Science, Avadi	16 students (U-19 boys)	Sevalaya boys (U-19)
Thiruvallur Revenue District Level BDG Girls Handball Match	18 th October 2023	Nazareth College of Arts and Science, Avadi	16 students (U-19 boys)	Sevalaya Girls (U-19)
Thiruvallur Revenue District level BDG/RDG Boys Basketball Match	17 th October 2023	Don Bosco School, Redhills	12 boys (U-14-RDG) and 12 boys (U-19-BDG)	Sevalaya Boys (U-14 and U-19)

The Department of School Education in Thiruvallur Revenue District recently organised a range of sports competitions that showcased the remarkable talents of students from various schools. These competitions included Pole Vault, Basketball, Handball, Discuss Throw and Hurdles. Similarly, in the Basketball and Handball matches, both Sevalaya's girls and boys teams secured the first positions, with further opportunities to compete at the state level.



6 Students earns spot in Tamil Nadu's netball team



6 out of 9 students from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary

School, Kasuva centre, have been selected for the Tamil Nadu Netball team. The selection trial was conducted by SGFI (School Games Federation of India) at Virudhunagar Hindu Nadars Senthikumara Nadar College on 10th October 2023.

Qualified players will be participating in the Inter-State Netball tournament at Delhi in the month of December 2023.

Sevalaya student chosen for SGFI's inter-state handball tournament



J Lalitha studying in Std XII, at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva got selected in the Tamil Nadu Handball team. The selection trial was conducted by SGFI (School Games Federation of India) at SDAT stadium Thiruvannamalai on 3rd October 2023.

She will be participating in the Inter-State Handball tournament at Haryana in the month of November 2023.

Mahadev Desai - (2)

(Source: "The Fire and the Rose" by Narayan Desai)

Parentage.

Mahadev Desai's father, Haribhai was a teacher in a single-teacher school in Saras village at Olapat Taluk in Gujarat. It was in this village that Mahadev is said to have been born. Haribhai's wife Jamnaben was unhappy that the children of the first three or four deliveries did not survive. She was pious. Since the day she knew of her pregnancy, she intensely prayed to Siddhanath Mahadev in the shrine near her village. She vowed to give the name 'Mahadev' if it was a boy and Parvati if it was a girl. A boy was born on 1st January 1892 and was named Mahadev. Jamnaben died at the age of thirty-two. Mahadev was only seven years old then. The only thing he remembered of her was she had a charming face. She could not tolerate any child being scolded. She used to run the house royally even on her husband's meagre salary.

Father Haribhai was 5 feet and 7 inches tall and was fair in complexion. His face was lustrous, which reflected his inner purity. His eyes portrayed affection, which Mahadev showed in ample measure as he grew older. Mahadev imbibed cultural refinement mainly

from his father. After his mother's death, Mahadev was cared for by his grandmother.

After Jamnaben's death, Haribhai married Ichhaben. She was only three years older than Mahadev. He would address her Ichcha and play games with her. But, as he grew older, Mahadev gave her all the respect due to a mother.

Amongst other members of the family, his paternal cousin Chhotubai had a great influence in shaping Mahadev's personality. Both the cousins used to give lectures against the evil of alcoholic drinks. Chhotubai came and stayed at Sevagram for days together after Mahadev's death.

Summing up, as the author would say, "Born into a family which led a religious, honest, hardworking, simple, and clean life, Mahadev inherited an excellent seed which flowered into the tree of his later life- a life spent in the purification of mind and social revolution."

Early education

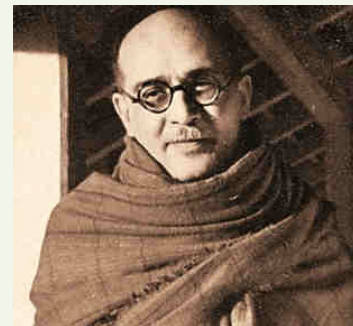
Mahadev studied for the first four years in the primary schools of the villages, wherever his father got transferred

to. There was no high school in Dihen village where Haribhai was working. As luck would have it, Mani Shankar Bhat, a resident of Dihen village, started a special class for English in that village.

The teacher was loving but strict. He was a master of English and was an expert in teaching. The students of his class would learn the basics of the English language in the three-year course. During this period, Mahadev also learnt Sanskrit verses of Kalidasa and other poets, stories from Vedas and Upanishads, Puranas, Ramayana, and the Mahabharata under competent masters.

He was proficient in English and completed the three-year course in only a year and a half.

To be continued.....



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