



Heat and Control renovates sanitation at Govt. school 450+ underprivileged students to benefit in Chengalpattu district



Officials from Heat and Control Pvt Ltd, Govt school staff, and Village president join hands inaugurating the boys toilet renovation project

Heat and Control Pvt Ltd has sponsored ₹9.81 lacs to help over 450 underprivileged students, as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility.

Manoj Paul, General Manager - Heat and Control (South Asia), and Selvi Devaraj, Village President of Anjur, inaugurated the renovation of essential facilities in Government Higher Secondary

School, Anjur, Chengalpattu District on 5th September 2023.

The project included the renovation of 4 boys toilets, 25 urinals for boys, and a 15,000-litre water tank at Anjur in Chengalpattu district.

Sevalaya, as the implementation partner, played a vital role in bringing about the transformation.

Prior to the renovation, the school suffered from inadequate sanitation facilities, exposing the children to significant health risks. Recognizing the criticality, Sevalaya launched an awareness campaign with students, before the renovation of the boys' toilets and ensuring proper water facilities, thereby contributing to the fight against disease.

T S Krishna Prasath, Manager, Human Resources and Administration from Heat and Control Pvt Ltd, Rethen Basker, Headmaster, Government Higher Secondary School, Anjur and staff from Sevalaya participated in the function.



Manoj Paul and Selvi Devaraj inaugurating the renovated boys toilet

Bharathi Gandhi Vivekananda day celebrations



Students proudly shows off their certificates from the BGV competitions, along with the Special Guests

On 11th September 2023, Bharathi Gandhi Vivekananda (BGV) Day was celebrated at Chellamma Bharathi Learning Centre

in Kadayam, Tenkasi district. The day honoured the legacies of great leaders like Mahakavi Bharathiyar, Mahatma

Gandhi, and Swami Vivekananda.

Keezhambur Sankara Subramanian, Editor - Kalaimagal Magazine, Prof Dr Sundaram, Secretary, Sri Parama Kalyani Schools, Alwarkurichi, P T T Rajan, Publisher, Kalaimagal Magazine, Suresh Kumar, Member in Tamil Department, United Kingdom, Sethu Ramalingam, President, Readers Circle, Kadayam and Neelakandan, Retired Headmaster were the special guests of the BGV day function.

The Chief Guest, Keezhambur Sankara Subramanian, released a book, "தெரிந்த பாரதி தெரியாத விஷயங்கள்" (Known Bharathi; Unknown facts), authored by him.

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Keezhambur Sankara Subramanian in his speech mentioned that it was Bharat Mata's blessings that powered Muralidharan to serve the cause of the underprivileged and create a positive impact on thousands of lives.

He also spoke about Bharathi's essay on Papanasam and Bharathi's connections with Keezhambur and Papanasam.

Earlier, competitions like Speech, Poetry, Essay, Painting, and Quiz were conducted

for school and college students on the occasion of BGV Day.

1,942 students from 25 districts participated in the competitions. The Special guests awarded prizes to the winners of the competitions.

The judges of the competitions were also presented with mementos. Souvenirs were presented to the Special Guests.



Keezhambur Sankara Subramanian releases, "தெரிந்த பாரதி தெரியாத விஷயங்கள்" (Known Bharathi; Unknown facts), presenting the first copy along with esteemed dignitaries

Samaritan's care: medical camp for tribal community



Sevalaya's Samaritan Gramodharan Samithy arranged a medical camp for tribal people in Puramanavayal Tribal village, The Nilgiris district on 19th September 2023.

A total of 24 people, 7 men and 17 women, benefitted from this camp. The medical camp addressed common health issues like fever, skin infections, body pain, cough, vomiting, giddiness,

body weakness, back pain, knee pain, allergies, throat infections, and joint pain.

The mobile medical van that facilitated this noble initiative has been sponsored by DTCC - The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation.



Sevalaya girls win 1st prize at handball tournament

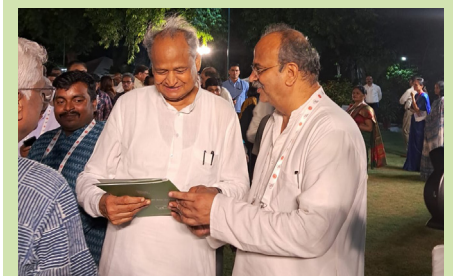


The girls team of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva centre, won the first prize in the handball tournament organised by Tamil Nadu Physical Education Sports University on 7th September 2023, at Vandalur.

9 teams across Chennai participated in the competitions.



Rajasthan invite to Murali



Sevalaya Murali was invited as a special guest by Rajasthan Government, for the inauguration of 'Gandhi Vatika', the biggest Gandhi museum in India.

He shared information about Sevalaya with Ashok Gehlot, CM, Rajasthan and Tushar Gandhi, Great Grand Son of Mahatma Gandhi.



Bharathi Fest conducted by Hindu College



10 students studying in Std XI and XII of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva centre, participated in the "Bharathi

Fest" conducted by Tamil Forum at Dharmamurthi Rao Bahadur Calavala Cunnan Chetty's Hindu College on 11th September 2023.

Competitions like oratorical, poetry, essay, painting, singing, quiz were conducted.

M Kausika, a Std XI student, was awarded a special prize in the singing competition.

250 students from Government and private schools participated in the competitions.



Sevalaya wins second place at Bhumi - Nakshatra competitions



Sevalaya secured Second Place in the Bhumi Nakshatra Competitions held at Patrician College of Arts and Science, Adyar on 2nd September 2023.

Out of the 35 students who participated from Sevalaya, 3 won first place, 2 won second place and 3 came third in the competitions in which they participated.

964 students from 38 NGOs participated in the competitions in 16 categories.

Janmashtami costume competition by ShoppeSeva



M Narayan and Sevalaya Murali distribute prizes to the winners

On the occasion of Krishna Jayanthi, a costume competition was conducted by ShoppeSeva for the children under 10 years of age.

The contestants were requested to send photos of children dressed up as Radha and Krishna. Participants were from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The winners were selected from the photos received and

prizes were distributed to the winners at a function on 16th September 2023 at ShoppeSeva's outlet.

The Chief Guest M Narayan, Managing Director, Polyene General Industries Pvt Ltd, Ambattur awarded prizes to the winners.

Narayan was all praise for the services done by Sevalaya. He appealed to the participants of the function to support Sevalaya by shopping at ShoppeSeva. One of the kids recited slokas from Bhagavad Gita. The Chief Guest gave a gift to the child.

20 parents and their children participated in the function.

Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee, Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan, Honorary Correspondent, Kala Rao, Executive Committee Member, P Prasanna, VP - Donor Relations,

Sevalaya and Raghavan Santhanam, AVP - Sales, ShoppeSeva participated in the event.



Community college students' industrial visit to tailoring units



20 students from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College in Sunguvarchatram visited V Care Embroidery Service on 7th September 2023. They had hands-on experience

learning kerchief stitching, cutting, and using different cutter machines.

On 15th September 2023, 20 tailoring trade students from Sevalaya's Samaritan

Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College in Gudalur visited GM Garments.

They learnt about garment making and practiced cutting and sewing of women's garments.



Teachers day celebrations across the locations



Teachers day was celebrated at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School in honour of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's birth anniversary on 12th September 2023.

Dr Sethu Kumanan, Chairman of Sethu Bhaskara Group of Institutions and Sethu Valliammal Educational Trust, Chennai, the Chief Guest, paid tributes to Dr Radhakrishnan. Students presented a cultural programme, emphasizing the value of teachers. Sethu Kumanan spoke about Bharathiyar, Gandhi, and Vivekananda's greatness and shared personal anecdotes. He said that he was inspired by Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and planted 55,000 saplings in 300 acres of land near Karaikudi with the help of his Agricultural college students.

He also released the September issue of the "Vidiyal" monthly magazine, and congratulated the students who contributed for the magazine. Sevalaya gives silver coins to all staff members on

the occasion of teachers day. This year the staff members received these coins at the hands of the distinguished Chief Guest.

Zamin Endathur



Teacher's Day was celebrated at Sevalaya's Janaki Vijayaragavachariar Achariyar Memorial Free Senior Citizens Home in Zamin Endathur on 4th September 2023.

E Kamalanathan, Correspondent of Om Sakthi Paramedical & Nursing College, Madhuranthakam, graced the event as the Chief Guest. He pledged

to offer ongoing assistance to senior citizens, including providing hearing aids and organizing orthopaedic camps. Additionally, he also promised to support the community college.

Ambattur



S Vasudevan, Managing Director, Pioneer Coldstone and Cladding Pvt. Ltd. was the Chief Guest at the Teachers day celebration at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Ambattur on 5th September 2023.

Pattinapakkam

J X Julius Caesar, Principal, Nellai Nadar Matric Hr. Sec. School, Kottivakkam, was the Chief Guest at the Teachers day celebration at Gayathri Vocational Training Centre, Pattinapakkam, on 7th September 2023.



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Uthiramerur



S Dhanajayan, Principal, Meenakshi Ammal Polytechnic College, Uthiramerur was the Chief Guest at the Teachers day celebration at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Uthiramerur on 5th September 2023.

Gudalur

S Saraswathy, Head Mistress, Panchayat Union Middle School, Gudalur was the Chief Guest at the Teachers day celebration at Sevalaya's Samaritan Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Gudalur on 4th September 2023.

Ravanasamudram

M Thanga Lakshmi, Head Mistress, Panchayat Union Primary School, Meenatchipuram was the Chief Guest at the Teachers day celebrations at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Ravanasamudram, on 5th September 2023.

Thanjavur

A Vincent, Teacher, Government Higher Secondary School, Kakkarai, Orathanadu, Thanjavur was the Chief Guest at the Teachers day celebrations at Sevalaya's Gandhi Ashram Krishnan Memorial Free Old Age Home, Thanjavur on 9th September 2023.

Sunguvarchatram

R Beatrice Kowsalya, Headmistress, C S I High School, Sriperumbudur, was the Chief Guest at the Teachers day celebration at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Sunguvarchatram on 5th September 2023.

Onam celebrated with gaiety



Mala Ranganathan, Global Chennai Marketing Lead at Cisco Systems, graced Sevalaya's Onam Celebrations on 29th August 2023. Sevalaya students celebrated Onam, adorning their classes with colorful *poo kolam*. Students and teachers from Montessori to Std XII, shared the tasty dishes they had brought and had a wonderful feast.

Teachers joined the festivities, enhancing the sense of community by wearing Kerala Sarees, making this celebration truly memorable.

Mala, residing in the US, returns to India yearly due to her love for education. Having come to know about Sevalaya through internet, she takes online Maths classes, for students of Stds VII to XII.



Ambattur



Krishnan Jayaraman, Vice President, Data Analytics, Aspire System Limited was the Chief Guest of the Onam day celebrations held at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Ambattur on 30th August 2023.

Zamin Endathur



L Thiagarajan, Assistant Branch Manager, Sales, Life Insurance Corporation of

India, was the Chief Guest of the Onam Celebrations at Sevalaya's Gayathri Narayanan Memorial Community College and Janaki Ammal Vijayaragavachariar Memorial Senior Citizens Home, Zamin Endathur on 29th August 2023.

Gudalur



A Ramesh Kumar, Chief Manager, State Bank of India, Gudalur was the Chief Guest of the Onam day celebrations held at Sevalaya's Samaritan Hospital, Gudalur on 26th August 2023.

Uthiramerur

G Shyam Prasad, Senior Manager, and S R Surej Mon, Deputy Branch Manager, from Indian Overseas Bank, Uthiramerur were the Chief Guests of the Onam Celebrations at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Uthiramerur on 29th August 2023.



Education resource centre – Transforming lives of tribal children

Sevalaya has been working for the upliftment of tribal communities in Gudalur through free health care and several other ways, since Samaritan Gramodharan Samithy came into Sevalaya's fold in 2021. In 2021, Sevalaya initiated a survey to identify locations to establish education resource centres, for tribal children in Gudalur and surroundings. Six interior hill stations without proper transportation were identified by Priyadharshi S R, the Gudalur Centre Head and her team.

Sevalaya has started six education resource centres with the support of corporates.

At these centres instructor help the children with homework and projects

assigned in school, something their uneducated parents cannot do.

Sevalaya's support extends far beyond education. They ensure the children in their education resource centres have daily snacks, sports equipment, clothing, and even organize special trips. Recently, these children had a remarkable opportunity to visit Ooty for the first time, thanks to an enjoyable event organised by Sevalaya.

This experience added a truly memorable chapter to their childhood, especially considering that they live in the Nilgiris but had not previously visited Ooty. It is an unforgettable experience for these tribal children, and it reflects Sevalaya's commitment to enriching their lives.

Recognising their secluded existence, all the instructors are from the tribal communities. Naturally, the comfort is mutual. These instructors are particularly happy to be able to teach children from their own community. Importantly, they teach the students in their native languages. It is heartwarming to see how they approach teaching, taking into account the backgrounds and experiences of their students. This empathetic approach helps bridge the gap and creates a positive learning environment for both teachers and students. Thanks to this initiative, education has reached remote areas, some of them 30 km away from a main centre, and with no transport facilities. Some of these spots do not exist even on Google maps.

A Akisha, *Tuition Instructor, Kallichal Village, Gudalur*

Akisha's journey is an inspiration, showcasing the dedication of individuals who uplift underprivileged tribal communities. As the first graduate from the Mullu Kurumba Tribal Community in The Nilgiris District, she serves as a tuition instructor at Sevalaya's education resource centre in Gudalur. Her commitment to education is truly commendable.

Sickle cell anemia, prevalent in the region, claimed her father's life in 2019. Her mother works as a labourer and her brother Ajith joined work in a nearby fabrication company. Despite these hardships, Akisha pursued her education, completed her UG degree in English in 2019 and joined as a tuition instructor in 2022.

S Sorna Priya *Tuition Instructor, Solur Kokkal Village, Gudalur*

Sorna Priya's challenges doubled when she lost her father a year ago. She excelled in education and got a free seat in college. But she had to travel 3 hours every day to college.

Sorna Priya has two younger sisters, and

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She passionately assists over 25 children from both private and government schools in improving their reading skills. Before enrolling in the education resource centre, these students faced difficulties in reading, lacked interest in homework, and occasionally skipped school. Her teaching methods have had a profound impact, significantly enhancing her students' reading abilities. Education

truly has the power to transform lives and uplift entire communities, and Akisha is a testament to that transformative potential.

Running education resource centres in tribal villages was a formidable challenge for Sevalaya, but committed instructors like Akisha made it possible.



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all three of them have chosen to pursue Bachelor of Commerce degree. Their shared dream is to become auditors, representing a significant achievement for the tribal community they come from. The family's main source of income is their mother, who works as a daily wage earner in a tea estate and is also involved in farming labour.

Their community in Sholur Kokkal village

consists of approximately 300 families, with a local language called Kotha. Sorna Priya and her sisters are proud to teach their fellow community members in their native language. Within their community, they are affectionately referred to as "Akka" (meaning elder sister)

In Sholur Kokkal village, the primary occupations are pottery work and farming. The entire tribal community

deeply appreciates the support they receive from Sevalaya and the generous donors who contribute to the education resource centres. Sorna Priya, her sisters, and their fellow teachers at Sevalaya are making a meaningful impact on the lives of these tribal children, providing them with education and opportunities for a brighter future.

R Kumar

Tuition Instructor, Koovamula Village, Gudalur

R Kumar, born in a tribal family with 8 siblings, faced significant challenges in his life. He lost his father when he was 8 years old, and sadly, he also lost his mother 2 years ago. Despite the hardships, he pursued his education and became the first graduate in his family, earning an undergraduate degree in English literature.

When Sevalaya's education resource centre was started in Koovamula, his village, he joined as a Tuition Instructor for tribal children. He has 56 regular students from the tribal community. Around 110 families are in this village.



Kumar underwent training at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre in Chennai. Kumar learnt about Bharathiyar after joining Sevalaya. He was inspired by

the life of Bharathi and donated 20% of the first month's salary to Sevalaya's Bharathi Chellamma's Learning centre at Kadayam.

We stick with Sevalaya - Raghavendran and Anuradha



Raghavendran Samarao has been a dedicated supporter of Sevalaya, closely associated since its inception. He

completed Computer Science Engineering from Madras University in 2000 and started working in the financial sector in Mumbai. Later, he worked with TCS (Tata Consultancy Services) including a 3 year stint in the USA. He then shifted to CTS and subsequently worked as an independent consultant for a US healthcare provider out of New Jersey, USA. Now he relocated to India and is with Sonata Encore Pvt. Ltd, as a technical lead.

Raghavendran tied the knot with Anuradha in 2002. Post her M.Com, Anuradha taught commerce and accounts at SDNB Vaishnav College until 2013. Her passion for Sanskrit led her to a different path. Presently, she teaches Sanskrit through Samskrita Bharati.

The connection of this couple with Sevalaya runs deep and long. Both are related to Sevalaya Murali. "We were

short on finances and Murali anna personally supported to pursue my education. It is remarkable how Sevalaya Murali finds all the time to spend on Sevalaya especially when he was working for TCS, whereas we struggle to find time for simple things", says Raghavendran.

As a child Anuradha also heard about Sevalaya Murali in her family. Raghavendran used to see Sevalaya newsletters in his mail in early 2006. The columns written by Sevalaya Murali led him to explore more about Swami Vivekananda and he became a regular visitor at Ramakrishna Math library at Mylapore. He recommends the book "Living at the source" that contains Swami's powerful words.

They are actively supporting Sevalaya by sponsoring education for children and also meals on their son Srinivas's birthday. Currently in his second year of engineering, he likes to spend time with the Sevalaya children.

The couple knows of other NGOs but they also know Sevalaya utilizes the donations well. So they are determined to stay with Sevalaya.

Mahadev Desai - (1)

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

A Yogi and a Patriot

It seems as if providence brought Mahadev Desai and Gandhi together in order to give a twist to Indian history.

In 1915, Gandhi recently returned from South Africa was yearning for a round the clock ally who would be accomplished, faithful and truthful. Mahadev Desai, a sensitive young man with a flair for friendship and with literary gifts in Gujarati and English was longing for a chance to serve a man worth serving.

Mahadev Desai often took Gandhi's dictation-in his life and on his notebooks. His diaries recorded Gandhi's doings, conversations, political parleys and ethical dilemmas. Sometimes, his articles and briefings interpreted Gandhi's mind better than Gandhi's own pen or tongue.

Gandhi looked upon him as a son and said to him in 1917": I have got in you the man I wanted-the man to whom I can entrust all my work someday and be at ease." (Raj Mohan Gandhi in his foreword)

Mahadev Desai died at the age of 50 at

Agakhan's Palace at Poona, where he had been interned with Gandhi, Kasturba and a few other patriots. Gandhi described his death as the death of a Yogi's and Patriot's death.

How and where the last rites were to be performed was the question that was uppermost in the minds of Sushila Nayyar, Mira, Kasturba, Sarojini and above all, Gandhiji himself. Government had arranged for his cremation in the Ghat. They did not want to give the body to anyone. The place of their internment, and the death of Mahadev, the Government had determined to keep as a closely guarded secret.

Gandhi expressed his desire to the authorities that the body should be cremated by himself. He expressed his anguish that he had to cremate the body of Mahadev Desai whom he thought would cremate him. Permission was given to Gandhi as per his desire. Kasturba was shaken. She gave her blessings with hands folded and tears in eyes. "Mahadev, be happy wherever you go.

You have served Babu constantly and given happiness to all. May you also be

happy." She said.

From the time of Gandhi's arrest on 9th August 1942, all those who have been put in jail with him found Mahadev to be under great stress. Gandhi had repeatedly indicated that he would be going on a fast unto death when he was arrested. He would not even take water during this fast. Mahadev opposed this idea.

The discussions had not ended when they were arrested. Mahadev held off Gandhi's fast. Where everyone's appeal failed to stop Gandhi from undertaking the fast unto death Mahadev succeeded, according to Pyarelal.

To be continued....



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