

# Sevalaya wins Champions of Chennai 2022

Sevalaya won the Champions of Chennai Award in the category of Social Initiatives, awarded by the KSA Trust, a public charitable trust. Their vision is to recognize silent champions who have impacted people around them positively and have thus made the world a better place to live in.

Sevalaya Murali received the award from the Chief Guest Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS, Commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation, at a function held in Chennai on 18th August 2022.

Noted Bharathanatyam dancer and Kalaimamani awardee Priyadharshini Govind was the Special Guest at the

In his acceptance speech, Sevalaya Murali briefly spoke about the services offered by Sevalaya, particularly in the field of education of the rural children from poor families and eradication of child labour in 40 villages in Thiruvallur District. He narrated the story of how the free education offered by Sevalaya has helped the daughter of a vegetable vendor to become a doctor.



Sevalaya Murali receiving award from Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS, Commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation along with Kalaimamani Priyadharshini Govind

## Renault Nissan sponsors medicinal garden

Renault Nissan Automotive India P Ltd (RNAIPL) team inaugurated a medicinal plant project in Appur Village in Chengalpet district on 28th July 2022.

Implemented by Sevalaya, 500 selected medicinal plant saplings are to be planted in a 2,000 sq.ft area as part of the CSR project sponsored by RNAIPL.

Chief Guest Rajasekar Bhatt, GM-PLE & CSR Environment & Health, RNAIPL, Anish Baijal, Global Vice President; Adrian Smart, VP HR & GA, AMEI; Michael Jude, Director HR, Nissan Motor Corporation, David Jaykumar, Director-HR, AMIO; and Dhushyanthkumar, Director-HR &



GA, RNAIPL expressed their interest in learning the names and benefits of the medicinal saplings.

This project is expected to benefit around

1,500 residents of Appur Village.

Sevalaya promotes many afforestation projects in and around Chengalpet district.

## **Ernst & Young funds Miyawaki forest**



1,000 saplings were planted to create a dense forest at Nallur

village, Kancheepuram district, on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

Chief Guest, Hemalatha Sarvesan, Centre Head Chennai, Ernst & Young, inaugurated the Miyawaki project.

This is part of CSR Funding from E&Y for this project, where Sevalaya is to create a forest in the 4,000 sq .ft land in Nallur village.

The selected saplings were planted at 2 feet distance between each sapling and a security fence surrounding the property was also built. This greening project is to benefit over 2,000 families in Nallur village.

LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

# 1,000 students say no to liquor

On 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022, nearly 1000 students of Sevalaya in the age group of 11 to 17 years took an oath, holding the hands of their mothers, that they will abstain from alcohol

The occasion was Putlibai Day held at Kasuva with students from Sevalaya's school and students who joined online from Govt. Schools in Thanjavur and Sirgazhi.

It was on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1888, that Mahatma Gandhi promised his mother that he would not touch wine, women and meat, before leaving for England for his higher studies. To commemorate this occasion and to create awareness amongst the youth, and to help prevent them from falling prey to alcoholism, that Sevalaya has been organizing Putlibai Day since last 7 years.

G Ram Mohan, Retd, Railway Safety Commissioner, a staunch Gandhian, the Chief Guest for the event, administered the Oath to the students and also sponsored T-shirts with slogan "I Promise that I will never drink alcohol" printed on them. Other special guests were Senior officials from Sundaram Fasteners Ltd, Autolec Division, N Sadagopan, Executive Vice President, Operations, S Arul, GM Human Resources, K Kalimuthu, AGM Human Resources and Aarthi Krishna, AGM Human Resources Sweets were distributed to the students and their mothers.

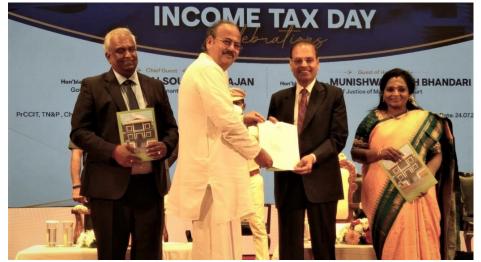


Students taking pledge saying no to liquor



G Ram Mohan, Retired Commissioner of Railway Safety & N Sadagopan, Executive Vice President, Operations, Sundram Fasteners Limited Autolec Division, while reading the pledge to over 1000 students.

## **Income Tax Department gifts for Sevalaya**



Income Tax Department handing over the cheque to Sevalaya Murali along with Dr Tamilisai Soundarajan, Honorable Governor of Telangana & Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry and Sri Ravichandran Ramaswamy, IRS, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax TN & Puducherry

As part of the social outreach efforts, officers and staff of the Income Tax department of Tamil Nadu & Puducherry contributed a cheque of ₹75,000 and furniture items including 30 Chairs, 6 Office Tables, 1 Computer Table, 4 Computer systems and 10 Almirahs to Sevalaya in recognition of it's services to the underprivileged.

Sevalaya Murali handed over the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of Sevalaya to the Chief Guest Dr Tamilisai Soundarajan, Honorable Governor of Telangana & Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry and Sri Ravichandran Ramaswamy, IRS, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax TN & Puducherry at the 162<sup>nd</sup> Income Tax day celebrations held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022, at Music Academy, Chennai.

## Tailoring classes at Gudalur Community College

# Stitching together their torn lives



Sevalaya's Community College at Gudalur, teaching tailoring, continues a social service started in 1993 by Samaritan, the erstwhile trust that joined the Sevalaya fold in 2021. Relaunched as a 6 hours a day, 6 days a week, 6 month course on 1st September 2021, it has been running to full capacity since then.

Of the 35 trainees of the first batch who completed, seven have found jobs at garment factories. Some of them have contracts to stich large quantities of

cloth bags. 11 financially weak trainees, including a tribal and some single mothers have been gifted machines to work from home.

The new batch with 43 trainees started in April 2022.

The mainstay and the driving force of the college are its two teachers, Sumathi and Nazeera. Sumathi started teaching tailoring in 2009. Nazeera was a trainee of the 2015 batch. She joined Sumathi as a teacher in 2017. They make a great

pair with a shared passion, initially in tailoring, and now to make their trainees successful.

Nazeera's father had an old sewing machine, to make mattresses and sell. She was always fascinated by tailoring. After her marriage to Showkath Ali, an auto rickshaw driver, she sought out Samaritan's tailoring class to fulfil her childhood wish and hoping to supplement her husband's income. Sumathi was her teacher and the two



Twin pillars of Gudalur Community College: S Nazeera and Sumathi Selvakumar



S R Priyadharshini Centre Head, Gudalur

of them hit it off well. After training, when a vacancy arose, she joined as a teacher in 2017.

Most of the trainees have their own unique struggles to grapple with. Having experienced the rough end of life, the two teachers are compassionate. Says Nazeera "When I see a dull face, I know where to begin". "I am strict with them about attendance and punctuality", adds Sumathi.

The teachers create a personal rapport with the trainees and soon they come out with what is hurting them. All problems cannot be solved, but the weight on their minds can be lightened. They are proud of the many instances wherein through counselling and compassion, trainees could be weaned away from depression and negativity, giving them optimism and courage. "Confidence changes them", remarks Sumathi.

The closeness helps in studies, too, as Nazeera explains" They do not fear us. So, be it theory or practicals, they will ask questions till they are clear, and we have the patience",.

In the opinion of Gudalur Centre Head S R Priyadharshini, that the training is free yet good quality is a clincher. Shifting the class to the centre of town, opposite the bus stand, has made commuting easy. By adding machines and making the classes full day, course duration was halved to 6 months, to train more women. Besides 16 normal machines, it has 2 power machines and 2 speed machines, each costing over ₹15,000. The college can do with more. One challenge Priya and the teachers are focused on is, how to get the tribals to make use of the opportunity.

Significantly, even in distant villages, dress is more than a bare necessity. Ready-mades are a craze. Even with the popularity of readymade garments, the need for tailors will stay, with the fashion conscious customers. "Many girls want alterations to ready-mades for a perfect fit. And they are willing to pay well for alterations", observes Sumathi.

As Nazeera points out, "trainees show us YouTube videos and ask us to teach how to stitch those". The customer is surprisingly aware and fashion conscious. Many of the trainees will graduate to fashion designing, to cater to evolving tastes and trends.

The way they shape lives of helpless women is now widely known in that region. That resultant respect combines with the satisfaction of seeing women without hope now standing on their own feet, expressing their heartfelt gratitude.

For many desperate women of Gudalur, tailoring machine is proving a sure way to stitch together their frayed and torn lives.

## Sumathi Selvakumar wins Excellent employee award

Sumathi Selvakumar, teacher at Sevalaya's Community College at Gudalur, is one of the two Sevalaya employees to win the Excellent Employee award, the second highest employee award for 2021-2022.

She wins the award for being an effective teacher as also a positive influence on the trainees and helping them get over their challenges in life. Having fought heavy odds for long with courage, she is well qualified for that.

The only daughter of estate laborers, Sumathi failed in the 10th standard and in two years, she was married off in 1996. Her husband Selvakumar bore the responsibility to run a joint family of four brothers and their parents. He ran a business, selling and financing furniture. Then came the financial crisis in estates and many of them closed down, pushing workers to unemployment. His business failed. No money even to run the home! The joint family drove out Selvakumar, Sumathi, their daughter and son. The family of four lived in a tiny one-room house. On top of that, a debt of ₹1 lacs Selvakumar had incurred, to build a modest house on the land allotted by the Government, started to haunt him. Selvakumar turned to drinks for solace.

"There was no food at home. My children lived only on the ration rice I would boil for the whole day with some curry masala scattered on top", recalls Sumathi.



Selvakumar will return drunk, and violent. Partly to escape him, Sumathi started attending tailoring classes run by her neighbour Kavitha at her home on behalf of Trust Samaritan. After attending the class in the morning, she will stitch till 8.00 in the night to earn some money.

"Even ₹10 was a big amount, and some help", remembers Sumathi. By collecting the small amounts she managed to accumulate ₹3,000 and bought a machine and started stitching at home. Then the main teacher Kavitha got married and Sumathi joined as the teacher in her place. Sumathi used to always be beside Kavitha who was hearing impaired

and had learned a lot from Kavitha. So she had no problem taking on the responsibility.

Meanwhile Selvakumar's behavior became impossible. Elder girl Anusuya was good in studies and scored well but the atmosphere at home was so dismal, she had to be put in a hostel. Then a golden ring Sumathi had borrowed from her sister went missing. Sumathi confronted her husband. He confessed to having pawned it. Sumathi redeemed it over a period of time, paying up ₹1,500.

That confrontation triggered a change in husband. He started attending Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and finally kicked the habit. With a capital of ₹1 lacs rustled up by Sumathi, he started a new business and is now a changed man.

Understandably, Anusuya, who has completed B.Sc Nursing and is working as an instructor in Nursing training college, and Manoj, who has completed GNM Nursing and working as a Nurse in a Private Hospital are all admiration for their mother. Sumathi is a hero in her neighbourhood. A good teacher who lends a shoulder to her trainees in trouble, she has helped many women find their footing after faltering.

She is relieved at the turn of events, and mighty happy that she can make a positive change in so many lives.

## 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Chennai Rolling Run



Chennai Runners and Porur Racers organised the "Chennai Rolling Run" programme to raise awareness about road safety, tree planting, and the importance of living a healthy lifestyle in Madha Engineering College, Kundrathur. Over 1000 people participated in the Marathon. Sevalaya participated in the program as an NGO Partner, with 8 students and 25 volunteers for the events. The volunteers from Sevalaya participated and performed a very well-appreciated mime skit, presented valuable quotes using placards, and assisted in the medal distribution. Sevalaya students also participated in the 10 kms Marathon. Sevalaya also provided ambulance support for the event.



## Sevalayans participate in Kalaignar Marathon



150 children from Sevalaya successfully completed the run at the *Kalaignar* Memorial International Marathon 2022 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022 and received medals.

A longtime donor of Sevalaya sponsored the registration fee for the event for all 150 children.

Over 39,000 runners from various

districts of Tamilnadu attended the programme. Honourable Chief Minister of Tamilnadu M K Stalin flagged off the event along with Udhayanidhi Stalin, Honourable MLA, Honourable Minister for Education Anbil Magesh and Honourable Minister for Health Ma. Subramanian.



## Sevalaya beats the District Champions in Basketball Tournament

Sevalaya's team won the Under-19 Basketball Tournament" at the Velammal Sports Festival held on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Totally 12 students participated in this tournament.

In a tough match, the Sevalaya team beat the district champions - Velammal team, 31-16, to win the match. Kudos to the team and trainers!



## Rotary club takes Sevalaya kids on VGP outing



100 hostelites from Sevalaya's home had a gala time exploring the biggest and coolest walk-in aquarium at the VGP Marine Kingdom.

On 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022, the Rotary Club of Madras celebrated the fourth season of their Magnum carnival.

# They accompanied the children around the five aquatic zones in the 70-meter underwater tunnel watching the exotic animals, live feeding shows and touch pool exhibits. Sevalaya thanks the Rotary Club of Madras Magnum for sponsoring this wonderful trip to the Marine Kingdom.



#### **Apollo Hospital runs a First Aid Program**



On 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022 Apollo hospitals conducted Basic Life Support (BLS) training with first aid and Cardio

Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) through a project *Prashikshan* by Billion Hearts Beating foundation.

This programme was led by E Anandhababu, Sr Executive, Billion Hearts Beating Foundation, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai, Balaji, Nurse, Apollo Hospital, Chennai, E Balasubramanian Sr Supervisor, Pharmacist, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai.

40 boys and 40 girl students attended the session and keenly observed the practical demonstration.

#### **Outing for Elders**



Gandhi Ashram Krishnan Memorial Old Age Home at Thanjavur is home to 16 destitute senior citizens. This facility was constructed by Sevalaya five years ago on the land donated by a longtime donor of Sevalaya in memory of his father Gandhi Ashram Krishnan, who was a Gandhian and a freedom fighter. Another longtime supporter of Sevalaya, Nikhil Johri has been sponsoring a one day trip for the elders every month.

On 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022, 9 Elders and 4 staff had an enjoyable day's outing. They started with prayers at the Vinayaka temple at the campus and visited Chandran Koil in Thingalur. They performed *puja* in the name of the donor Nikhil and his family at the temple.

They then visited Thyagaraja samadhi on the banks of river Cauvery and relaxed there for a while. Sasikala Paati sang a few devotional songs there. The outing ended with a very special lunch at Vasantha Bhavan, with takeaway parcels for the elders and staff at the Home too. Sevalaya thanks Nikhil Johri for bringing joy to these elders.

## Sevalaya's Montessori Exhibition on Colours



On 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022, a colour exhibition was held at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Kindergarten and Primary Montessori School.

Every month, an exhibition is held on various topics like Fruits, Vegetables, Automobiles and others to help children learn more about them.

In August 2022, the exhibition was on colours, with the children bringing a variety of materials from their homes which were then displayed in respective colour-related classrooms.

The teachers shared a lot of interesting colour information with the kids. Students from Montessori to the eighth standard attended the exhibition and expressed their delight and enjoyed seeing the children's creativity.

Colour is an expression of happiness, not a word.

A world devoid of colour

A simple brick structure

It will be lovely to look at, but happiness? Let's look at the colours!

## Students give demos to Volunteer from USA



5 students of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, R Kalaivani, Vilashini, K Monisha S Dhivya and T Deepika from Std IX presented demos to Gayathri Venkat of Educationist Tutors, USA on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022. They spoke on topics like Force and pressure, Matter around us, Reflection of light, Changes around us, Universe and space.

Gayathri Venkat, herself a Sevalaya Volunteer was very happy with the fluency of the students and appreciated the teachers V Poongothai, A Hindumathi, S Jayaseeli, A Nirmala, and S Maheswari who trained them. R Vijaya, HM and L N Anupriya, Head - Quality and Volunteering coordinated the programme.



#### Little Volunteer from UK



B Dheeksha and her mother Vasavi Balaji from UK, relatives of Prof Dr S V Mani, Executive Committee member of Sevalaya, visited Sevalaya's Kasuva centre on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Dheeksha began the first day of her volunteering with a Spoken English class for the students of Std VIII.

#### **USA Volunteer Visits Kasuva**



Anish Kumar, student of South Brunswick High School, volunteer from New Jersey, USA, paid a visit to Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Sec School on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022. He has been teaching spoken English to 9 children since 2020. He came here to reward the highachievers with gifts and chocolates. He spent time with students of Std VII, speaking about their goals and also talked about our country.

He expressed his gratitude and happiness at being given this opportunity to serve.

#### **Mobile Medical Camps**

BNY Mellon and VPG have been sponsoring funds for CSR- Rural Health Service in Thiruvallur and Gudalur respectively, runs a mobile medical camps. Typically, a medical team consisting of a doctor and two nurses travel for the medical camp.

On 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022, the mobile medical van visited remote villages in Thiruvallur district conducted free medical camp. Over 143 beneficiaries with various ailments were given free treatment and medication.

On 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022, the mobile medical van visited remote villages in Nilgiris and conducted free medical camp. Over 42 beneficiaries with various ailments were given free treatment and medication.





#### **Battle of the Buffet**



The Battle of Buffet is an annual fundraising event conducted as a part of the Daan Utsav - a week long festival conducted every year from Oct 2 to Oct 8 to celebrate the Joy of Giving.

Sevalaya is participating in the programme organised by Chennai Mission. BoB FUNDine - an evening of entertainment and dinner will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 at the Sir Mutha Venkatasubba Rao Concert Hall.

Sevalaya appeals to you to contribute a minimum of ₹500 to any amount higher. Donors of ₹7500 or above, may win a donor pass to BoB 2022 event.

Please contribute by using the link given below:

https://bit.ly/3TnVbAu

#### **Flood relief to Tribals**



Sevalaya provided food to over 48 Paniyar tribal families consisting of 115 tribals affected by recent floods due to heavy rains in the region.

These 115 tribals were currently given shelter at the government residential school in Puramanavayal.

Sevalaya Samaritan provides free medical services to tribals in the area.

### Kaizen Blitz at Kasuva



On 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022, over 150 Sevalaya employees from all locations gathered at the Kasuva centre for a completely unique experience, Kaizen Blitz. Over 500 kaizen ideas suggested by the 150 participants at this Kaizen Blitz.

Dr T M Venkatesan, Chairman and Mentor of Focus 5, was the Chief Guest. The other guests included J Arun Kumar, President of Rialto Enterprises, S Ravi, Manager GEA, BGR, P M Devarajan, TQM trainer & QCI master trainer and M G Murali, General Manager (Retd) Sundaram Clayton Ltd.

The participants were energised by the quiz conducted by Trainer PM Devarajan. It was also a demonstration of team work. Then the entire group was divided into 29 teams and post lunch spent an hour in their respective *Gemba* 

(Workplace). The team leaders examined the area and explained how they had established Kaizens, highlighting their importance. The second half session was led by S Rajagopalan, CEO Ashley Alteams. The afternoon session went with teams visiting their Gemba (working place) to explore and come up with Kaizens, which were then presented to the group and reviewed by a Jury board. The Chief Guest complimented Sevalaya for incorporating 5S and Kaizen and awarded shields to the winners.



# 75<sup>th</sup> Independence day celebrations across the locations



Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

Alumni of Sevalaya R Mohan, Assistant System Engineer, Tata consultancy services, Chennai and Dr S Yuvaraj, CKTP, Physiotherapist, GH, Thiruvallur and RTG Hospital, Redhills were the Chief Guests and they hoisted the National Flag.

Sevalaya children presented a colourful cultural programme of songs and dance.

20 students from Agaram Foundation performed traditional dances like *oyilattam, mayilattam, karagattam* and *silambam* enthralling the audience.

R Mohan said "Sevalaya not only teaches

education but also teaches good values. As students, you should also take advantage of the opportunities and come to a good position in life".

S Yuvraj shared his experiences in school and later when he joined college. Aalam Vizhudhugal, alumi association of Sevalaya organises Blood donation camp every year on Independence day and Republic day.

In this year's camp on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022 students, alumni and villagers participated in the blood donation camp. 55 units of blood were collected.

4 students who secured top three marks in Tamil in X std last year were given cash

awards sponsored by Sevalaya's long time donor G Sankar in memory of his mother V Rukmani, who was a Tamil teacher.

The Chief Guests released the August issue of a "Vidiyal" a monthly manuscript magazine, prepared by the the students with teacher's guidance.





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M Sivagami Annamalai, Ragavendra Catering service was the Chief Guest for the Independence Day celebrations at Ambattur centre.



Chief Guest K Swaminathan Chairman, Swathi Group of companies hoisted the National Flag at Sevalaya's Head office in Alwarpet, Chennai.



A Mariyappan, Village Administrative Officer, Nagakudi, was the Chief Guest at the Independence Day celebrations at Eraharam centre.



At the Independence Day celebrations at Samaritan Hospital, Gudalur, a Sidraj, Tasildhar, Gudalur was the Chief Guest and hoisted the National Flag.



At the Independence Day celebrations at Sevalaya's Dr Agarwal Education Centre at Koovamula village, Nilgiris centre, Chief Guest Sivagami, Chairman, Nellaiyam Municipality, hoisted the National Flag.

She cited her own life as an example of how from a tribal family she could rise up in life, because of education. She urged the tribal students to make best use of the opportunity provided by Sevalaya for learning using latest technology, referring to the smart board at the centre.



The 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebrations began in Pattinapakkam on 13<sup>st</sup> August, 2022, when the first batch of students who completed tailoring training received their certificates. The Chief Guests Murali Divisional Secretary and Geetha Murali, Councillor Pattinapakkam hoisted the National Flag and distributed the certificates to the students.



K Srinivasan, the Managing Director of Prime International India Pvt Ltd, hoisted the National Flag at Pattinappakkam centre on 15<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

Sandeep Murali, surgeon and Director Seethapathi Clinic & Hospital in Chennai, was the Special Guest.



Chief Guest A Rajasekar Lawyer at Kadayam, hoisted the National Flag at Sevalaya's Ravanasamudram centre on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022.



At the Independence Day Celebrations at Sunguvarchatram centre, Chief Guest D Kumutha Dominic, President, Echoor Village Panchayat hoisted the National Flag.



M Narayanan, Managing Director, Polyene General Industries Pvt Ltd hoisted the National Flag at the Independence Day celebrations at ShoppeSeva. On the occasion of 75<sup>th</sup> independence day he donated ₹7.5 lacs to Sevalaya for its services for the underprivileged.



At Uthiramerur centre, J Arockia Jenifer HR and Safety Manager from Sodecia India Pvt ltd hoisted the National Flag on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

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P Joseph Victor Raj, Director, Holistic approach for people's empowerment was the Chief Guest at the Independence Day celebrations at Thirubuvanai centre, Puducherry.



At the Independence Day celebrations at Thanjavur centre, M Singaravel, Block Health Supervisor, Government Primary Health Centre, Vallam was the Chief Guest.



Prof Dr P Amul Sofiya M A.,M.Phil., Phd HOD & Asst Professor, Sri Malolan College of Arts & Science, Madhurantakam was the Chief Guest at the Independence Day celebrations at Zamin Endathur centre.

## Birth of Sri Krishna celebrated



The joyful Gokulashtami celebrations with colorful performances by students was held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at Kasuva.

Dr M A Elangovan MD, Deputy Director of Family Welfare, JDHS Incharge, Thiruvallur, Dr Saravana Kumar -Block Medical Officer and Srimathi Devishri - District Child And Adolescent Health Officer were Chief Guests.

Dr Saravana Kumar highlighted that Sevalaya had indeed performed countless miracles in the area of social service and expressed his happiness for his association with Sevalaya. Dr Elangovan spoke about the story of the birth of Lord Krishna.





Gokulashtami was celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 at Ambattur centre and the Chief Guest was S Ramesh, General Manager, Jagrish Automation India Pvt Ltd.



At Eraharam centre, Gokulashtami was celebrated on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022. R Ramya, Project coordinator, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Athiyur was the Chief Guest.



Leela Vasu, District Vice President, All India Democratic Women's Association was the Chief Guest for the Gokulashtami celebrations at Gudalur centre.



Gokulashtami celebration was celebrated on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at Ravanasamudram centre. R Muthu, Teacher, St Joseph school, Panapoli was the Chief Guest.



R Silambarasan, President, Kiloy Village was the Chief Guest for Gokulashtami celebrated at Sunguvarchatram centre on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

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Gokulashtami was celebrated at Thirubuvanai centre, Puducherry on 19th August 2022. The Chief Guest was Dr Vidhya Ramkumar, Chair Person, Dowry Prohibition Advisory Board, Govt of Puducherry.



At the Gokulashtami celebrations at Thanjavur on 20th August 2022, R Vaideki, Natarajar Natya Vidyalaya was the Chief

At the Gokulashtami celebrations at Uthiramerur centre on 19th August 2022, G Sivakumar, District Social Welfare Officer, Admin-A, Kanchipuram was the Chief Guest.



M Balaji, VAO, Zamin Endathur, was the Chief Guest for the Gokulashtami celebrations at Zamin Endathur centre.

### Sevalaya bags first prize



18 students from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharatiyar Kindergarten and Primary School, participated in "Parampara cultural fest 2022" on 20th August 2022 at GT Vidyamandir School near Vengal.

Sevalaya students participated in dance, painting, fancy dress and group singing competitions. 8 students from std II won the first prize in group singing and were awarded certificates and shields.

#### Awareness session



On 6th August 2022 Sub Inspectors of Police, Malliga and Pramila from the Avadi Commissioner's office, visited Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Hr sec school and conducted an awareness session on prevention of suicide.

They provided a brief overview of the Pocso Act (2012) for both boys and girls under the age of 18 and stressed that marriage of children under 18 years of age is a criminal offense.

The police personnel also discussed the causes and consequences, of child marriage. They also stressed upon how education can alter a person's life. Cautioning the teenagers against uploading their photos on social media, they also provided the toll free number, where girls can reach out for help in situations of danger.

559 children from Stds VI-XII attended the session.



#### The Ember Kingdom 3.0 Bharathiyar Sangam



The Ember Kingdom, a Chennai based youth organisation for helping poor children for their education and entertainment, hosted an event Ember Kingdom 3.0 for the Children of various Homes on 21st August 2022 at Kumararani Meena Muthaiah College of Arts and Science in Adyar.

172 students and 8 staff members from Sevalaya attended the event. 30 students took part in the various competitions like group singing, dancing, pyramid formation, mime, and skit in which over 300 students from various NGOs took part in the competitions.

The organizers provided lunch and snacks for all the children. Certificates were given to all the children who participated in the competitions.

# **Competitions**



On 6th August 2022, 5 students from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Hr. Sec school participated in an oratorical competition organised by Bharathiyar Sangam at Chennai University under the leadership of Dr Ulaganayaki.

Students from 20 schools and five colleges participated in this competition. The first three places were won by Sevalaya students. K Geethalakshmi of Std IX won the first prize. V Cinderella & D Janani of Std VIII won the II prize while K Priya Latha of Std VIII got the third prize. The panel of judges were Dr P Gowri, Prof Tamil Department. (Retired) Quaid-E-Millath Government Women's College, Dr Iswari Head of Tamil Department, Hindu college, Pattabiram.

## Thillaiyadi Valliamma - (2)

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

The following is the report of the 10 year old Valliamma addressing a rally.

The address somehow reminds us of Chatrapati Shivaji's clarion call to his army as portrayed by Mahakavi Bharathi

"Those of you who come today for entertainment, the fun is over. You can go home now and continue to be the Government's slaves. The rest of you, who value your freedom and justice, stay and listen."

"We were born free. We need no one's permission to demand our rights. Evil must be destroyed, before it destroys you. And, talking, as we are doing today, and you have been doing for a long time, will change nothing. We must confront this enemy, in his own castle, and tell him that his time is up! He must now step aside before the anger of the people removes him."

"What can they do to you, those animals who take all your possessions, and give it to their own people, who have more than enough anyway? Throw in jail? Feed you rubbish with weevils in it? Beat you up and abuse you? But, they are

doing it even now, even as we talk."

"You have nothing left; nothing to lose. When you are on the ground, you can only go up. It is time for you to rise and let the enemy know that you have called on God to come to your rescue. Let them try and fight Him! But God will be only at your side if you go in to battle. But, talking is not fighting. Just the other day, Gandhiji said,' you must be afraid of neither imprisonment, nor deportation.

You must not mind being reduced to poverty. Nor must you be mashed into a pulp with a mortar and pestle.' Listen to him. Learn from him."

"Don't demonstrate only in our areas, where the oppressors don't see us. Go in to their own districts, where they live like kings with money from your hard work. There are good people among them too.

Let them see what we have been reduced to. This is a lot better than coming to these rallies and talking among ourselves. We must instruct our leaders that the time for talking is over."

The crowd was hypnotised. It was fired up

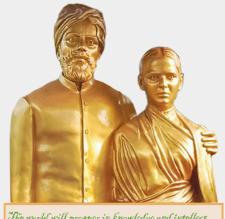
and ready to march to the white areas.

Gandhi who was released from prison only the day before, was awe struck and was curious to know about her, her family and where she lived. Learning that her parents were satyagrahis in and out of jail frequently and that when the parents were in locked up in jail it was that little girl Valliamma who was feeding her younger siblings from money she earned by hawking.

He expressed to his colleagues his intense desire to meet her parents.

-To be continued-





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

Chellamma Bharathi Learning Centre, Kadayam

Sevalaya is creating a monument for Bharathi at Kadayam where he exemplified gender and social equality through action. The monument will have Library, digital library and museum all of which are yet to be setup. We seek your participation in this great work of Sevalaya.

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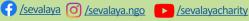


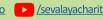
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