

Forest Minister inaugurates paediatric ward Renovation Sponsored by BNY Mellon



Forest Minister K Ramachandran inaugurating paediatric ward. Also in pic Dr Palanisamy, Additional Director, Nilgiris District Health Services and Vidya Durai, BNY Mellon India

BNY Mellon sponsored ₹20 lacs for the renovation of the Paediatric Wing at the Government Hospital in Gudalur, Nilgiris district to equipping it with necessary medical equipments.

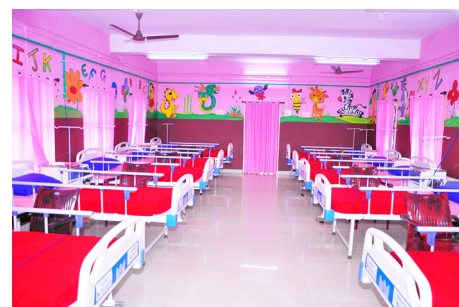
The project which was implemented by Sevalaya was inaugurated by the

Honourable Minister for forests, K Ramachandran on 27th March 2022.

In his keynote address, the Chief Guest recalled the timely help rendered by Sevalaya during the pandemic period by setting up an oxygen plant at the Gudalur hospital and expressed his gratitude to

the team for completing the renovation of the Paediatric Wing with all necessary medical equipments. The brightly renovated 10 bedded ward has attractive cartoon paintings on its walls.

Vidya Durai, India Lead, Global Impact Citizenship, BNY Mellon India, Dr Palanisamy, Additional Director, Nilgiris District Health Services, Dr Praveen Raj, CMO, Gudalur, Government Hospital, and Saravanakannan, Revenue Divisional Officer, Gudalur, were also present on the occasion.



RNAIPL sponsors Miyawaki project



The inauguration of the Miyawaki Urban Forestry Project at Appur village, sponsored by Renault Nissan Automotive India Private Ltd (RNAIPL) was held on 20th April 2022.

The Chief Guest Biju Balendran, MD

and CEO of Renault Nissan Automotive India Pvt Ltd, said that the mission was to green the environment around the company premises. 500 tree saplings were planted in Appur Village under this project. 50 saplings were distributed to the local villagers and employees

of RNAIPL. As a part of community engagement and creating employment opportunities, two locals are employed to maintain the forest by regularly watering the plants and de-weeding.

Miyawaki is a technique pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, that helps build dense, native forests. Miyawaki forests grow in two to three years and are self-sustaining. They help lower temperatures in concrete heat islands, reduce air and noise pollution, attract local birds and insects, and create carbon sinks.

Appur Panchayat President Kumarasamy said it was good to plant 500 saplings in their village and assured full cooperation from the community to maintain the forest.

Bharathi Chellamma journey to Kadayam starts..



Mahakavi Bharathiyar is one of the inspirations of Sevalaya. Statues have been installed and memorials have been established for the great poet in Ettayapuram, Puducherry, Chennai - all places associated with his life. Even in Varanasi, where he spent a few years as a student, a statue of the poet has been installed in his memory. It is very unfortunate that there are no traces of Bharathi in Kadayam, the birthplace of his wife Chellamma. Bharathi married Chellamma at Kadayam village on 27th June 1897. Later, in 1919, when Bharathi was released from Cuddalore jail, he lived in Kadayam for 2 years.

Sevalaya has initiated a project to perpetuate the memory of Mahakavi at Kadayam. As a first step Sevalaya will be installing a life-size statue of Chellamma and Bharathi on 27th June 2022, on the occasion of the 125th wedding anniversary of the poet at Kadayam.

A 7ft tall statue of Bharathi with his hands over the shoulder of Chellamma is ready and had been waiting to go to Kadayam for the past 4 years.

The journey of Bharathi Chellamma towards Kadayam began on 17th April 2022.

The Bharathi Chellamma statue was flagged off from the residence of the sculptor Surendranath after a small function, on 17th April 2022. The statue was placed on a decorated Rath which then proceeded to Sevalaya's Kasuva centre. The Rath Yatra will proceed from Sevalaya's Kasuva centre in

Thiruvallur District, going across different districts of State, reaching Kadayam on 1st June 2022.

Uma Bharathi, relative of Mahakavi Bharathi, popular artiste J Jeyaraj, and wood sculptor Appar Lakshmanan were the Chief Guests for the function.

On the occasion of this historic event, various competitions like oratorical, dance and Bharathi poem recitation were held for the students. The winners of the competitions presented their prize-winning performance at the function at Kasuva centre.

Speaking on the occasion, Uma Bharathi said "It was due to the divine grace of Bharathi and Parashakthi Sevalaya Murali could conceive such a huge project and execute it with confidence and determination". She assured her support and also said that she will mobilise support for this project amongst her friends and relatives.

Artiste Jeyaraj offered his felicitations to Sevalaya Murali and the sculptor Surendar.

Wood sculptor Appar Lakshmanan asserted that it is absolutely essential for any artist to internalise the concept which will reflect in his/ her creation. "Unless Surendar has internalised Bharathi, he could not have sculpted this life-like statue with just a photograph of the illustrious couple" he said.

Artist Mari Anand recollected his long association with Sevalaya Murali and thanked him for this great opportunity to

his son Surendranath to create the statue of Bharathi with Chellamma, the only statue as a couple in the whole world.

Earlier Sevalaya Murali welcomed the gathering and briefed about how the Project was conceived and developed. S Kanchana, Head of Value Education Department and coordinator of the Project proposed the vote of thanks.

The staff of Sevalaya who created the beautiful Rath were appreciated on the occasion. And amidst the Prayers and wishes of all present, the Rath commenced its historic journey.



Komatsu sponsors RO water plant



Komatsu sponsored drinking water facility was inaugurated at Echoor village panchayat in Sriperumbudur block of Kanchipuram district on 29th March 2022.

The project which will benefit 3000 people from 800 families was implemented by Sevalaya.

Hiroshi Shirato, Plant Director, S Srikrishna HR Director, T Lakshminarayanan, Finance Director, Komatsu were the Chief Guests at the occasion. Echoor Panchayat President Kumuda Dominic, ward members and villagers were also present at the function. Expressing his happiness

on inaugurating this facility, Hiroshi Shirato, said that Komatsu wished to implement more such projects in this village. However this would be decided after observing how well this facility was maintained and used by the villagers.

T Lakshminarayanan said that Komatsu was celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and it gave them all great pleasure to implement the project in this village. He hoped this facility would be used in a proper and useful manner.



A slew of CSR projects sponsored by Komatsu



Komatsu has partnered with Sevalaya to implement several initiatives that will benefit the rural underprivileged especially the rural women and Government school children.

These initiatives worth ₹40 lacs include incinerators and tables in 10 Government schools, sewing machines for 100 village women, medical equipments (physiotherapy instruments, dental XRay machine) for the rural medical centre at Kasuva and tables for the library coming up at Kadayam.

S Kailash, Senior Manager, Komatsu and S DilliBabu, Assistant Manger, Komatsu were the Chief Guests at the function organised to distribute the sewing machines to the villagers.

Speaking at this function, inaugurating the first phase of the project, S Dilibabu asked the children to follow the principles of Bharathiyar, Gandhi and Vivekananda.

He further added that Komatsu has fully realised that real happiness lies in Giving and therefore tries to constantly give whatever it can to help the

underprivileged. He requested Sevalaya to identify the needs of the people .

Kailash said that Sevalaya has been offering a lot of services to improve the lot of the underprivileged women in the society and it gave them great pleasure to work in association with this organisation

He hoped this donation given with lowered hands would help to uplift their lives.

A Rinesh, studying in Std IV of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Primary school, handed over his piggy bank savings as donation for the upcoming Bharathi Chellammal Learning Centre at Kadayam.



Welcoming the Tamil New Year....



Dr V P Ramamurthy Chairman and V R Dhanalakshmi, Chairperson of Dhanalakshmi College of Engineering were the Chief Guests for the Tamil New Year celebrations at Kasuva centre.

The children presented a colourful cultural programme. V R Dhanalakshmi, in her address to the students insisted that love and compassion for all is the most important value to be imbibed by the students.

"One can conquer the world by love" she stated. "God resides where Love is present. And in that sense, Sevalaya is a temple" she declared. Dr V P Ramamurthy said, "Service to mankind is service to God. It is by Divine grace that Sevalaya Murali has dedicated himself to the service of the underprivileged."

The Chief Guests released the monthly manuscript magazine "Vidiyal" prepared by the students.



At the Tamil New Year and Vishu (Malayalam New Year) celebrations at Sevalaya's Gudalur centre, the Chief Guests were Vennila, 16th ward Councillor of Gudalur Panchayat, and councillors Verghese of 5th Ward and Abitha of 12th ward of Puthur Vayal Panchayat.



At Sunguvarchathram centre the Chief Guest K Santhosh Kumar, Advocate, Sunguvarchatram, gave motivational Speech and interacted with the students at Tamil New Year celebrations.



S Radha, Manager at Cyber Soft was the Chief Guest at Tamil New Year celebrations at the Community College in Ambattur.



L Deepa Loganathan Member of the 16th ward was the Chief Guest for the Tamil New Year celebrations at Vadanallur



At the Tamil New Year celebrations at Pattinampakkam centre, Dance Master Latha was the Chief Guest. The students of the computer course and tailoring course participated in the celebrations. The Chief Guest appreciated the services rendered by Sevalaya.



R Kannan, HR Manager, BPS Industries was the Chief Guest at the celebrations at Zamin Endathur centre



Mahavir Jayanthi across locations



At the 2621st Mahavir Jayanthi celebrations at Kasuva centre, S Raj Kumarji Barjathya Jain, President Sri Jain Maha Sangh, Chennai, Sapanji Sankhla Jain, Principal of RMK Residential Senior Secondary School, Kavaraipeitai, Neelesh Kumar Jain, and Saroj Kumar Jain, Entrepreneurs and Ajay Jain, Manager, Apollo Times were the Chief Guests.

Sevalaya children presented a colourful cultural programme. Sapanji, Principal of RMK Residential school, Kavaripettai in her address appreciated Sevalaya's activities. Chief Guest, Rajkumarji, President of Sri Jain Maha Sangh, Chennai, narrated the principles and values of Mahavir in his speech in Hindi.



At Thanjavur centre, Mariyamman Kovil Panchayat President Dhanasekaran, and Panchayat council members Kannan and Raja were the Chief Guests for the Mahavir Jayanthi celebrations and Tamil New year The Chief Guests distributed fruits and bread to the elders.



B Kannan of East West Pharma, Kumbakonam was the Chief Guest for the Tamil New Year celebrations and Mahavir Jayanthi at the tuition centre at Eraharam. He spoke to the students about the traditions of celebrating Tamil New Year and Mahavir Jayanthi.



At the Mahavir Jayanthi and Tamil New Year celebrations at Uthiramerur centre, the Chief Guests were R Gowtham Chand Jain Sri Balaji jewellers, Uthiramerur and B Bilke Financier & Pawn Broker.



M R Vinutha B.A., M.Sc., Founder, Swastha Remedials, Ambattur was the Chief Guest for the Mahavir Jayanthi celebrations at the Ambattur.

HSBC donation



HSBC Electronic Data Processing India Private Limited donated 62 UPS to Sevalaya in the presence of Arpita Agarwal, Centre Director for NCR & Chennai, HSBC Electronic Data Processing India Private Limited on 19th April 2022

Dance programme



Eight Girl students of Stds VII and IX from Sevalaya's school performed at a cultural event at Ernst & Young's office at DLF, Porur, Chennai on 8th April 2022.

Two children performed a dance and 6 children participated in the group song. The students sang Bharathiyar songs. The songs chosen for dance were also from Bharathi's works.

The corporate celebrates *Chiththirai Thiruvizha* every year and this year was special with staff returning to office after a gap of two years.

Moorthi, the co-ordinator of the event, warmly welcomed the Sevalaya children and gave special gifts to them.



Grateful for the opportunity to serve

Lalitha Iyer, a social worker and a Yoga enthusiast is a very cheerful and positive person, who loves to interact with people. A teacher by profession, she has worked in various schools and colleges in India and the Middle East. "I am passionate about teaching," says Lalitha Iyer.

She strongly empathises with the less fortunate. "I am grateful for what I have



and I am very particular that I must do whatever I can to help, particularly the underprivileged students." She says. She has created audiobooks for the visually challenged.

Having been introduced to Sevalaya by her neighbour, Lalitha Iyer has visited the Kasuva centre many times. "I am very impressed by the cleanliness, orderliness, dedication, care for abandoned old people, giving importance to education and value system at Sevalaya." she observes.

Every year she donates new sarees, dhotis and shirts for the *thatha pattis* at Sevalaya's Old Age Home. In fact, the first purchase for Diwali in their family is for the elders at Sevalaya.

"Respect for fellow human beings and sharing without judging others are the values I cherish. Sevalaya is a trustworthy organization where every rupee of your donation is spent only for a good cause.

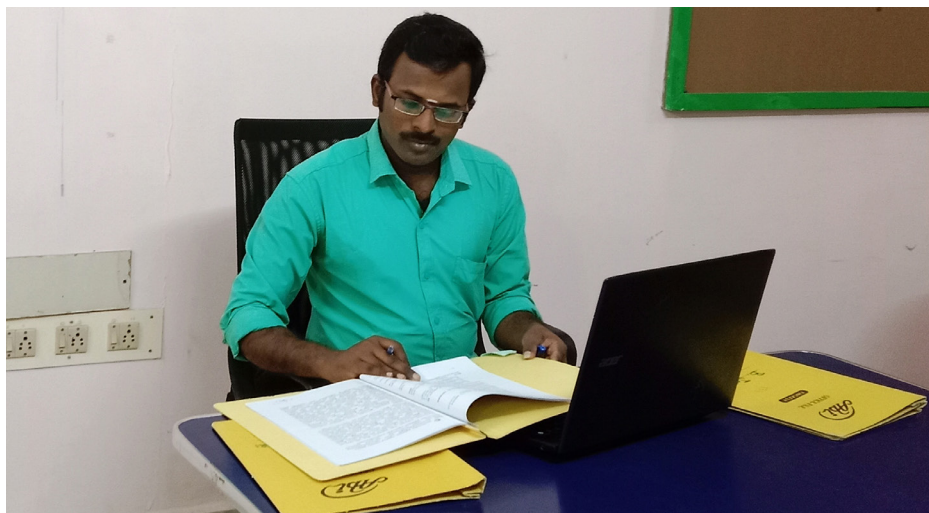
I am very grateful for the opportunity Sevalaya has provided me to do my bit for the society," concludes Lalitha Iyer.

A Passion for teaching English

K Pandi, M.A, B.Ed, D.T.T, Deputy Head of Kasuva centre 1 and PG English teacher at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar HSS is very happy that he is living his dream, of helping underprivileged students get over their fear of English and do well in the subject.

A native of Virudhunagar, he lost his father when he was studying in 10th std. He has three brothers but they gave up their studies mid - way and started working, after the demise of their father. Pandi completed schooling in Tamil medium but had a burning desire to learn English. During his school days, his class teacher motivated him to learn English effectively and supported him till the final board exams. "I was inspired by her, especially her fluent English speaking skills and I also wanted to become an English teacher and speak like her." Says Pandi.

After 12th std, he joined a Garments factory at Tirupur as an Asst Merchandiser. "But my intense desire to improve my English skills led me to join a private Training Academy in Tirupur. Inspired by my English trainer there, I



quit my job at the Garments factory and enrolled for B A in English Literature at the Coimbatore Government Arts College "he continued.

He passed his under graduation with laurels topping the University exams. He then completed B.Ed at Saidapet Government Teachers College (Institute of Advanced study in Education) and was selected as the best outgoing student of his batch.

Though he was selected in Ponneri Matriculation School with a good salary package, he decided to serve in an NGO. He joined as the Headmaster of Mahatma Gandhi High School, run by a small NGO with just 100 children. In one of the HMs meetings at CEO office, he met the Headmistress of Sevalaya's school. Having come to know about Sevalaya's service activities and the vacancy for an English teacher post, he applied for a job and was

selected. Pandi joined Sevalaya in June 2018 as a bachelor.

He started his career as an English Teacher, residing at the hostel and took extra efforts to teach English to the hostel children. The next year he got married and now he is the proud father of a baby boy

"I am very satisfied teaching English to the underprivileged children especially preparing them to face the board exams using simple innovative teaching techniques, simplifying the learning process thus quelling their fear of English. As I reside in the staff quarters at Sevalaya I am also able to take part in many of the activities of the NGO, learning new skills in the process. I am also happy that major life turning events in my life have taken place at Sevalaya because of the positive vibration here" says Pandi joyfully.

The resurrection of Jesus celebrated



At the Easter Celebrations Ambattur centre, the Chief Guest was S P P Selva Kumar, Principal Sethu Bhaskara Higher Secondary School, Ambattur.



Rev Ps John Joseph D.E.E, B.TH , of Calvary Christian Mission, Pillaichathram was the Chief Guest for the Easter celebrations at Sunguvarchatram centre.



T Arul Dinesh CSC, Church Father, Kadayam was the Chief Guest for the Easter Celebrations at Ravanasamudram.



R Kingslin Managing Director, Info Bell Technologies Pvt Ltd was the Chief Guest for the Easter celebrations at Thirubuvanai centre, Puducherry.



PR N Palraj, D.Ted, B.Th, DCA, Paster, AG Church, Zamin Endathur was the Chief Guest for the Easter Celebrations at Zamin Endathur.



Reverend Dr Abhishek Baskaran, Chief Pastor at Apostolic Assembly Uthiramerur was the chief Guest at Easter celebrations held on 16th April 2022, at Sevalaya's Community Center in Uthiramerur

Grandparents day



S A College of Arts & Science, National Service Scheme (VeeraRaghavapuram, Avadi), organized Grandparents Day at Kasuva centre on 28th March 2022 to honour our grandpas and grandmas.

50 students from S A college participated in the event.

They conducted *Patha poojai* for 25 grandmas and grandpas.

NSS students of S A College of Arts & Science welcomed the gathering and performed cultural programme and also presented some gifts to our Thathas and Pattis.

College principal Dr Malathi Selvakumar gave the inaugural address and Chief guest Super Singer Selvi Akshaya sang songs for the grandparents.

The Director Dr Sai Satyawathi gave a special address and commented that elders are the boon in the country and we must always be grateful to them. NSS coordinator proposed a vote of thanks

Thirukkural for children

A programme was conducted on 26th March 2022, by Vijaya Kumar of English Express Academy at Kasuva centre based on *Thirukkural*. 22 volunteers helped run the session for 292 enthusiastic children from Stds V and VI. The topics included Train the brain, Do good be good action, Vision Mission Role play, Environment 2030, Voice Accent, Safety & First Aid, Transform to legend, BMI Gym, See the World, etc. The theme was to help develop moral values and general awareness amongst students.



Champaran, Gandhiji and Rajendra Prasad-(6)

(Source: "At the Feet of Mahatma Gandhi" by Dr. Rajendra Prasad)

He was an English man who had perhaps been in South Africa. They were talking of so many things but before Gandhiji could leave for the Court as scheduled at 3 00 PM, the Magistrate had sent him a message that he would not pass orders that day, but fixed the day for it some six days hence.

Gandhiji went back to his residence, where too a large crowd of ryots who awaited his return. About this time, Rajendra Prasad arrived at Champaran. He and his colleagues who arrived with him, communicated their decision to go to jail if and when needed.

Details were worked out. Gandhiji divided the volunteers in to batches of two to carry on the investigation and court imprisonment one after the other.

The idea was that one batch should continue the investigation and when it was imprisoned, the next batch should take its place, and if they could get others to follow, they should also carry on in the same fashion.

A little later, Gandhiji received a letter from the Magistrate intimating that he had reported the whole matter to the higher authorities, and requesting him not to visit any village till such time as the judgment was delivered. Gandhiji readily acceded to this.

The idea of voluntarily going to jail was a novel one in India. Till Gandhiji came, they would not do anything that would in the ordinary course entail imprisonment. They would do things in such a way as would enable them to avoid going to jail. If they wanted to talk sedition, they would do it, but would think of Sec 124 A of IPC and would use such language as would enable them to keep them out of trouble!

A little later, a formal order arrived and the case was withdrawn. Gandhiji saw the District Manager and was told that he could continue with the enquiry, but he should see that there was no unrest.

The team then began to record formally the statements of the ryots. Gandhiji

had impressed on the team that the statements might be exaggerated and even be false, and as lawyers, they should use their legal acumen and take them down after fully testing them.

A large number of ryots turned everyday, and in spite of working from early morning till evening, they could not complete the work. During the enquiry, Police officials were being present and observing the proceedings. This irritated the lawyers and complained to Gandhiji.

But, Gandhiji chided them saying that they were objecting to the Police presence just because there was the fear of the Police in their heart and that they should the fear and drive out the fear from the hearts of the ryots also. They should state whatever they had to say boldly and fearlessly in the presence of the Police, Magistrate or the planters.

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

Implemented by - Sevalaya

Sevalaya is building a monument to the great poet, at Kadayam, where he exemplified gender and social equality through action.

Chellamma Bharathi Learning Centre, Kadayam being built by Sevalaya, with Tamilnadu State Government approval.

Contact: 99414 50444
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