



AGS Health inaugurates 3 RO plants in Chengalpattu district

Benefits 6,000+ villagers



Sevalaya Murali, the Founder and Managing Trustee explained why the RO plants were important. He mentioned that during free medical camps, they found that many villagers were getting sick from diseases carried by polluted water.

Beneficiaries conveyed their appreciation and agreed to maintain the facilities.

Notable attendees included Pon. Boobalan Shakila, President of Zamin Endathur Panchayat, and A A Kingston, VP, Operations at Sevalaya. M Kalidas, a community member, delivered the Vote of Thanks, marking the event's conclusion.

AGS Health, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, sponsored the construction of 3 Reverse Osmosis (RO) water plants in Ozhavetti, Maruvalam, and Zamin Endathur villages, located in the Maduranthakam Block of Chengalpattu district. Sevalaya was the implementation partner.

of CSR & D&I at AGS Health, graced the inauguration ceremony. They extended their gratitude to Sevalaya for their assistance in identifying the beneficiaries and overseeing the project implementation.

Sakthi Prasanna highlighted the importance of providing clean drinking water to communities.

AGS Health inaugurated the RO plants on 14th March 2024.

S Sakthi Prasanna, AGM of CSR & D&I, and Paul Anbuhezhan, Team Member

The project, costing ₹14.62 lakhs, is expected to benefit approximately 6,000 villagers.



900+ AGS employees plant 5,000 saplings and disperse 23,900 seedballs



As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities, AGS Health conducted seed-ball making and tree plantation drives across various locations in South India, with Sevalaya as the

implementation partner. The initiative unfolded across multiple locations, including Tirupati, Chennai,

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Vellore, Bangalore, and Hyderabad.

In these five locations, 900+ employees across centres made 23,900 seed balls - mud balls filled with seeds of select plants. These seedballs, which will grow into shade-giving trees, were thrown far and wide by the employees. They also planted 5000 saplings of guava trees and shade giving trees.

S Sakthi Prasanna, CSR, AGS Health, coordinated the drive across the locations with S C Suresh, Head, Gandhi Unit and Green Campus, Sevalaya guiding the activity.

L Ashok Kumar, AVP Operations at Sevalaya, and Ashish Anand, Manager at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (IMGT Div) participated in this drive.

Montessori Exhibition: A journey of learning

Shailesh Jha, Plant Head, and T Sridevi, Deputy Manager HR at BorgWarner Cooling Systems India Private Limited, inaugurated the Montessori exhibition at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Nursery and Primary School, Kasuva centre, on 16th March 2024. Mrs Shailesh Jha graced the event with her presence.

BorgWarner generously sponsored Montessori kits and renovations at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre, providing a conducive learning environment. The Chief Guests handed over the Montessori kits and observed the children's learning process.

Shailesh Jha commended the Montessori method, foreseeing bright future for the students and pledged continued support from BorgWarner. T Sridevi praised Sevalaya's creche facilities, affirming



BorgWarner's support for the right cause. The exhibition showcased various projects by 149 Montessori students, highlighting their creativity and skills.

Cultural performances by children added vibrancy, and prizes were awarded to parent volunteers who helped organise the exhibition.

Sevalaya Murali welcomed the gathering. N Annapurna, Trustee, Sevalaya and N Navin Kumar, AVP, Donor Relations, participated.



EXL Service cleans out 480 cubic feet of waste at Besant Nagar Elliot's Beach



Paul, Divakar Jalandiran, Vijay Togo Kurien Poovathingal, Payal N Chhabria, Deepthi Shetty, and Mohan R Babu, Managers from EXL Service, participated in the beach cleaning drive.



EXL Service, Chennai as a part of its CSR activity partnered with Sevalaya, conducted a Cleanup drive in Besant Nagar Elliot's beach, Chennai on 14th March 2024. The employees were split into 5 groups each.

Equipped with gloves, masks, and garbage bags, they collected litter. Each

team was assigned a specific area and tasked with gathering plastic, paper, bottles, and other waste materials.

Over 54 large bags full of trash, equivalent to 480 cubic feet, were removed from the beach.

Loknath Margan, Mary Jenita C, K Tina, Jose Antony, Abhay Kumar Sinha, Jaya



Amazon distributes 204 hygiene kits



On 27th February 2024, over 60 employees from Amazon India, Perungudi

participated in a hygiene kit packing event. The hygiene kit, containing

essentials including bathing soap, towel, comb, hair oil, hand wash, nail cutter, toothbrush, and toothpaste, were meticulously packed by the volunteers.

204 kits were prepared during the event. Bringing together Amazon India and Sevalaya, the event was part of an employee engagement programme for social impact, facilitated by Goodera.

The kits were distributed to children of Sevalaya's Swami Vivekananda Boys' Home and Mother Teresa Girls' Home, Kasuva centre.

VPG supports computer lab setup for girls school



Vishay Precision Group, Inc. (VPG), as part of its CSR initiative, sponsored 19 computers to the Government Girls

Higher Secondary School, Sriperumbudur on 27th February 2024.

The computer lab was inaugurated by Inbal Dangur, Vice President of Human Resources at VPG, in presence of Flora Lewin, Vice President of Information Technology at VPG. As an implementation partner, Sevalaya has taken the responsibility for the carpentry and electrical work required to set up a fully equipped computer lab.

This CSR project aims to positively impact over 400 students enrolled in Stds VI to

VIII. 5 Teachers and 30 students from Government Girls Higher Secondary School and officials from VPG participated in the function.



Abbott Health care donates 10 cycles



Abbott Diabetes Care donated 10 cycles to students of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva on 6th March 2024.

The cycles will help the students travelling long distances save time and focus on their studies.

Kalyan Sattaru, General Manager, Abbott Diabetes Care, South Asia presented the cycles and interacted with the students. Gratitude is extended to Zeeshanul

Haque and the dedicated team from the Board Game Co for facilitating this impactful partnership.



Digital literacy programme at Sirkazhi



JR Charitable Trust is sponsoring a Digital Literacy initiative at S M Hindu

Higher Secondary School, Sirkazhi, Mayiladuthurai district.

Sevalaya is the implementation partner, coordinating and organising the programme. As part of this programme, Sevalaya organized different activities like quiz, drawing, making things out of cardboard, and designing greeting cards.

More than 160 students from Stds VI to IX joined in fun activities on 12th March 2024.

The Special Guest, R Chandrasekaran, Founder, JR Charitable Trust, gave out prizes to 30 students who won in the competitions.

Arivudai Nambi, Headmaster of S M Hindu Higher Secondary School, Sirkazhi, and R Vijaya, the education head at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva centre, also took part in the event.

National Science Day celebrated at Kasuva

Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva celebrated National Science Day on 28th February 2024.

Lakshmi Karthigeyan, Director, Bhakta Mines and Minerals Pvt Ltd was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Interacting with students, she covered topics from natural resources, pioneers of science and the importance of health to attain one's goals and succeed in life.

Special Guest Dr P Meera, a long-time donor, volunteer and supporter of Science Club activities at Sevalaya, encouraged students to share the benefits and learnings from the club's activities. Students stated that the club's



activities enabled them to deepen their scientific knowledge and develop their skills.

77 students from Std I to V participated and performed a Mime Drama, showcased exhibits and awareness

posters on various topics like Energy Conservation, Space Exploration and Human Body. The interaction with the Chief Guest was very educative and inspiring for the students.

Vivekananda Jayanthi celebrated at Sevalaya

Ambattur



V Devishree, Senior Manager, Indirect Taxation, Ashok Leyland Limited was the Chief Guest at the Vivekananda Jayanthi Celebrations held at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Ambattur on 12th January 2024.

Earlier competitions on the, "Life and Works of Swami Vivekananda" were conducted across schools in Ambattur. 27 students received prizes from the hands of the Chief Guest.

Uthiramerur



Vivekananda Jayanthi was celebrated at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Community College, Uthiramerur on 11th January 2024.

Swamiji Chidatananda, Sri Ramakrishna Mission and S Sanjai Branch Manager

Equitas Small Finance Bank were the Chief Guests of the event.

Earlier competitions on the, "Life and Works of Swami Vivekananda" were conducted across schools in Uthiramerur. Out of 125 students, 25 received prizes from the hands of the Chief Guests.

Zamin Endathur



R Gnaa Kumaran, Founder and Director, Great Energy Wellness Research Centre was the Chief Guest at the Vivekananda Jayanthi Celebrations held at Sevalaya's Gayathri Narayanan Memorial Community College and Sevalaya's Janaki Ammal Vijayaraghavachariar Memorial Senior Citizens Home, Zamin Endathur on 12th January 2024.

Gudalur



V Mathiyalagan, Secondary Grade Teacher, Panchayat Union School, was the Chief Guest at the Vivekananda Jayanthi Celebrations held at Sevalaya Samaritan Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Gudalur on 20th January 2024.

Pada Pooja to Sevalaya elders



30 students of Std VIII from Sri Chaitanya Techno School, Kolappancheri visited Sevalaya's Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa Old Age Home, Kasuva centre as part of their Smart Living Programme on 17th February 2024.

Accompanied by 4 teachers and carrying the "Respect Your Parents and Grandparents" message, the students performed a Pada Pooja to the elders.

The students shared fruits and biscuits as gifts, had a lively interaction with all the elders and took their blessings. 40 elders participated in this programme.

Managing a Million Missions - Book release function



Sevalaya Murali received the first copy of *Managing a Million Missions* - a book on NGO Management, authored by Dr Muthusami Kumaran, Associate Professor, University of Florida and Mathew Cherian, Former CEO of HelpAge India.

The book was released by Dr Sethu Kumanan, Chairman, Soka Ikeda College

of Arts and Science for Women, at an event in Chennai on 9th February 2024.

The book contains a compilation of experiences of top NGO leaders across the globe, with knowledge on how to run an NGO and the best practices adopted by these NGOs.

Electricity and drinking water facility at Mahakavi's birthplace



In response to an appeal by the officials in charge of the house at Ettayapuram in

Thoothukudi District, where Mahakavi Bharathiyar was born, Sevalaya donated

an RO water purifier and an inverter. These donations worth ₹1 lakh will ensure the availability of pure drinking water to the visitors to the memorial and, and uninterrupted power supply.

Sevalaya Project Coordinator for Tenkasi, Sankili Boothathan handed over the water purifier and the inverter were handed over to in the presence of Pool Pandian, District Library Officer, Kovilpatti, and, Pon Paramanandham, Selection Grade Deputy District Collector, Ettayapuram.

Sevalaya Staff receives *Veera Mangai* award



K N Thilagavathy, In charge of Sevalaya's V T Shanthi Memorial Senior Citizens Home, Dharmapuri was honoured by

Inaindha Karangal, Dharmapuri with the '*Veera Mangai*' award on 16th March 2024 in a ceremony held at Marutam Nelli Polytechnic College, Pallapatti, Dharmapuri. B T A Silambarasan, Founder, Inaindha Karangal was the Chief Guest.

A highly motivated differently-abled person, Thilagavathy has been associated with Sevalaya for almost 7 years. Dignitaries including R Sukumar, Narsuvai, Dr K Govind, Head, Marutam Nelli Educational Institutions, G Gayathri Govind, Secretary, Marutam

Nelli Educational Institutions, Dr A P Deepapriya, Professor, Dharmapuri Medical College and N Illango, Teacher and Social Activist participated.

Career guidance session



Srividya Sudharson, Psychologist and Director of Transcend - Center For Personal Excellence, Chennai, conducted a Career Guidance session for students of Std X and XI at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva centre on 10th February 2024. Speaking about career planning, she explained how setting a goal, thinking about it constantly and working towards it paves the path to success. 148 students participated in the session.

A V Senthil donates stationery items

A V Senthil, a long-time donor, donated pens and other stationery items to 275 students of Std X and Std XII appearing for Board Exams studying at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva centre on 10th March 2024.

He has been extending such support during the board exam period for many years now. He also gave a motivational talk to the students on facing the exams fearlessly and shared tips for securing good marks.



The vision of a wise man

P Thangavel Swamy hails from a family of agriculturists. He also built a strong educational record, including an M.Sc in Physics and an M.Phil in Energy & Environment Natural Resources. He Worked as a professor in various esteemed institutions in Tamil Nadu, including V O C College in Thoothukudi, Loyola College in Chennai, and Ayyanadar Janakiammal College in Sivakasi, before retiring from Government Arts College in Sivagangai.

Alongside him, his wife Premala contributed to the educational landscape as a professor at St. Justice Training College for Women in Madurai.

Their children are carrying on the tradition of learning and helping others.

His daughter Dr Kayal Suburam works as a Family Physician, and his son T Kumar is



an Associate Professor at XIM University in Bhubaneswar.

He came to know about Sevalaya 10 years ago at his relative's wedding. Already, he was very eager to donate to an NGO. His relative suggested Sevalaya. Initially, he donated ₹1 lakh. Later, seeing the Sevalaya reports showing many

donors contributing, gave him the idea of donating some of his land to Sevalaya, with age catching up. On 27th February 2024, he donated his 5,226 sq.ft plot of land in his native village Melaseithalai, Thoothukudi District, to Sevalaya.

Swamys envisions his contribution to make women employable and enabling students to learn the basics of computer science. He also wants to bring discipline among the children. In sync, Sevalaya proposes to establish a community college offering tailoring, basic computer science courses, and a tuition centre, besides organising summer camps for children.



Credit: Sankili Boothathan

Dedicated Volunteer's Journey

Aadhya Anand Saranath a student of 1st year BA, LLB in BITS Law school, Mumbai volunteered at Sevalaya in the month of January 2024.

She visited Sevalaya campus in Kasuva in the month of November to understand the activities of Sevalaya which she says impressed her a lot. She felt really happy to see the discipline of the children during meals and the happy faces welcoming the donors.

She was then placed in Systems & Communication team and HR in the administrative office in Alwarpet and in the Donor relations team in Mylapore.

She helped in preparing posters and contents for social media for systems and communication team and in HR



department she prepared greetings messages for staff celebrating their birthdays/ wedding anniversaries.

She was quite amazed to see that an NGO has systems that are followed in corporates. She likes the Friday Sarvadharmha prayer across all the

centres and appreciates the staff for the consistency and the organisational values.

Aadhya wants to support Sevalaya in every way she can. She helped to organise a stall in the gated community which she lives. She is also still in contact with the communication team to support Sevalaya with various posts in social media.

Post her schooling in Pon Vidhyashram, she was keen to serve the society. Hence her choice of Law.

Her father Anand Saranath, an ex TCSer, is a regular donor of Sevalaya.

Her dream is to do a management degree after her law and run an all women's organisation and serve the society as much as she can.

Sevalaya received an appreciation letter from the BITS Law school for continuously monitoring and guiding their students and they were keen to send more students in the future.

Interviewed by: L N Anupriya

Women's Day celebrations across the locations

Kasuva



Stellantis India & Asia Pacific celebrated Women's Day at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre on 4th March 2024 as part of their "Inspire Inclusion Week". Daniel Gonzalez, Bhilasha Dhaka, Baskaran Rajendran and Mausam Joshi CDP from Leadership team of India and Asia Pacific were the Chief Guests.

Earlier, Stellantis India conducted drawing, essay writing and speech competitions on topics such as, "Inspiring women of your choice" and "Woman Professional of your choice".

60 students participated in the competitions and the Chief Guests gave prizes to the winners. The students performed cultural events.



Holistic Coach and Yoga Therapist, Yogasharan V S Prakash conducted a yoga session for rural girls and women on the occasion of International Women's Day at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre on 8th March 2024.

Around 100 girl students and staff from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School and Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, along with women from neighbouring villages participated in the session.



Pattinapakkam



Women's day was celebrated at Sevalaya's Gayathri Memorial Vocational Training centre, Pattinapakkam on 9th March 2024. Varshitha Cholaprakash, Entrepreneur - Founder & Creative Head, Vamas and Mudra Stamps was the Chief Guest at the event.

Gudalur



D Uma, Senior Revenue Inspector, Ooty, was the Chief Guest at the Women's day celebrations held at Sevalaya Samaritan's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Gudalur on 9th March 2024.

Ambattur

Arunmozhi Villalan, Trainer, Author and Poet, was the Chief Guest for the Women's Day celebrations held at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Ambattur on 8th March 2024.

Uthiramerur

M Preethipa, Branch Manager, Indian Overseas Bank, Uthiramerur was the Chief Guest for the International Women's Day celebrations held at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Uthiramerur on 8th March 2024. 30 students participated.

Zamin Endathur

Dr E Bhagya Lakshmi, Executive Director, Shri Maruthi Multi Speciality Hospital, was the Chief Guest for the Women's Day celebrations held at Sevalaya's Gayathri Narayanan Memorial Community College and Sevalaya's Janaki Ammal Vijayaraghavachariar Memorial Senior Citizens Home, Chengapattu on 8th March 2024.

Thanjavur



International Women's Day was celebrated at Sevalaya's Gandhi Ashram Krishnan Memorial Old Age Home at Thanjavur on 8th March 2024.

Nivetha Hamsavardhan, from Baruch Business Solutions, graced the event as Chief Guest, lauding Sevalaya's 36 years of service to the underprivileged.

She pledged ongoing support and made a generous donation. Sevalaya Murali shared the organisation's journey, highlighting efforts to educate and empower girls, showcasing the transformative impact of education. Anusuya, a resident, added melody to the celebration with a heartfelt song.

Sindhu, HR, Manager, Thangapandian, Facility Manager and Syed Ajmal, Finance Manager from Baruch Business Solutions participated in the celebrations.

Ravanasamudram



A Najeemal, District Child Protection Officer, Tenkasi, was the Chief Guest for the Women's Day celebrations held at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Ravanasamudram, Tenkasi on 8th March 2024.

Mahadev Desai - (7)

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

The pilgrimage has commenced...

Mahadev travelled with his wife Durga from Bombay to Godhra to be with Gandhiji at a political conference he was to attend. They arrived at Godhra a couple of days ahead of the conference with a view to spending some serious time with Gandhiji.

Gandhiji was abundantly happy to know that Mahadev and Durga had come prepared to be of full time service to his mission. However he advised them to be with him for some time, and of course, they could leave him anytime if they found it not suitable to work with him. But the couple had come with a firm determination to dedicate the rest of their lives to Gandhiji's mission. Mahadev had noted in his diary a verse of Rabindranath Tagore which ran thus:

"Our pilgrimage has commenced
Captain!

Come wind, come storm,

Return, we will not!"

Durgaben devoted to a mission

It would be unjust to script the biography of Mahadev, without devoting at least a short chapter on his devoted wife Durgaben. Kasturba's role in Gandhiji's life is well known, but it is doubtful whether Durgaben's devotion

and service have been adequately recognised.

During his Satyagraha movement at Champaran, Gandhiji had seen for the first time, the terrible poverty, ignorance, filth and superstition prevalent in Indian villages. For Gandhiji, Satyagraha was incomplete without constructive action. He decided to start some educational, health and sanitation programme in some villages with a view to rendering some service to the people. Mahadev and Durga were to be initiated into this work.

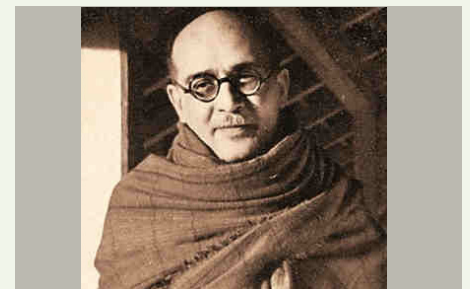
Narahari who had joined Gandhiji's work at Sabarmati was also drawn to Champaran, along with his wife Maniben. Mahadev and Narahari led austere life at Champaran giving warmth to each other. But Narahari couple were taken back to Sabarmati. The result was that Narahari and Maniben could stay together for many years of their lives. In the case of Mahadev, he was always on the move with Gandhiji, while Durga had to lead a lonely life. She had also to take up all the constructive work at Champaran almost alone.

Durga, who had studied upto Gujarati Standard Sixth, quickly took up the teachers' work. Her interest in reading had tremendously developed. Mahadev often came to Champaran from wherever he was with Gandhiji. Very often Bapu

also had to come to Champaran. On those occasions Mahadev would naturally accompany Gandhiji. They were occasions for rejoicing for Durga. Mahadev would give all the attention he could give to Durga, as he had always felt guilty of having kept Durga separated from himself. Gandhiji would give them ample opportunity to be together without any interference.

The curriculum of the school Gandhiji started mainly included children's personal cleanliness, bathing them, washing their hair, cutting their nails, cleaning the villages, talking about the villagers' social and economic conditions, and reading to them from Ramayana and other religious literature. While there were quite few medicines dispensed, the most important medicine that the party gave to the people that worked well was the love and affection showered on them.

To be continued...



Paint and brush in volunteers' hands are transforming the paediatric ward at Thiruvallur Government Hospital.

Half the walls remain, awaiting colourful creativity, and paints worth ₹50,000



How would you gift joy to the children of the ward? With paint, or by painting?

sevalaya.org

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