



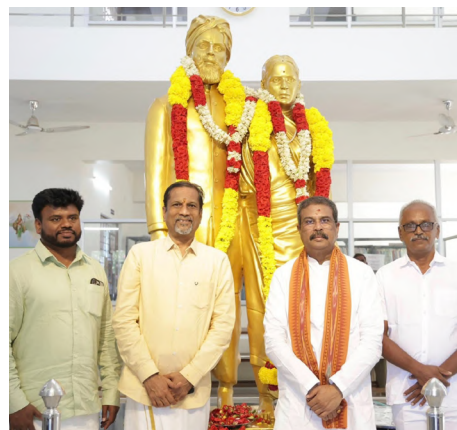
Union Education Minister honours Chellamma - Bharathi



Sevalaya's Chellamma Bharathi Learning Centre in Kadayam, Tenkasi, became a vibrant hub of cultural and educational activity this September, with visits from distinguished guests and historic commemorations.

On 20 Sep 2025, Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Education Minister, visited the Centre and paid homage to the Chellamma - Bharathi couple by garlanding their statue. During his visit, Sankili Boothathan, Project Coordinator, Sevalaya's Ravanasmudram centre, presented him with Sevalaya's 37th Annual Report and a memento.

Sridhar Vembu, Founder and Chief Scientist of Zoho Corporation, also visited the Centre.



Dharmendra Pradhan in front of the Chellamma Bharathi statue.

From L to R: Ananthan Ayyasamy, Sridhar Vembu, Sankili Boothathan at Chellamma Bharathi Learning Centre, Kadayam

Bharathi Gandhi Vivekananda day celebrations

Kadayam, Tenkasi



Kadayam holds a special place in history as the birthplace of Chellamma, Bharathiyar's wife, where Bharathiyar spent two years of his life during 1918-1919, before moving on to the then Madras where he died in 1921.

To preserve this legacy, Sevalaya has renovated the Kadayam Branch Library and installed life-size statues of Bharathiyar and Chellamma on the premises.

11 September is significant in the lives of the Three inspirers of Sevalaya - Bharathiyar's remembrance day, the day Gandhi coined the term "Satyagraha," and the day Swami Vivekananda

delivered his historic Chicago address. Sevalaya honours their legacy annually by conducting state level competitions for school/ college students on the lives and works of the Trinity.

On 10 Sep 2025, students of the *Kalanilayam* presented a classical dance programme, followed by a music performance by *Krishna Saki* Narmadha Padmanabhan and troupe from Ravanasmudram.

On 11 Sep 2025, students learning Yoga at the *Kalanilayam* displayed their talents by performing various *asanas*.

Chief Guests included Arjun Bharathi (great grandson of Bharathiyar),

writer *Sorsudar Serai* Balakrishnan, Kadarkarai Matthavilaasa Angatham, and Meenakshi Sundaram, Librarian, Kadayam Branch Library. In his address, Arjun Bharathi thanked Sevalaya for the opportunity provided to him to visit the native village of his great grandmother. He also spoke about Bharathiyar's works in English, which are not very well-known as his poems. Balakrishnan lauded Sevalaya for realising Bharathi's vision of education and stressed Gandhi and Vivekananda's contemporary relevance.

Kadarkarai spoke about Bharathiyar's influence on a British visitor and noted how his devotion and patriotism reached the masses. Ahead of the event, nearly 2,300 students from 143 schools and 25 colleges across 17 districts competed in various competitions conducted by Sevalaya, including oratorical, poetry recitation, essay writing, drawing and quiz. The winners received prizes at the hands of the Chief Guests. V Muralidharan, Founder and Managing Trustee, Sevalaya, outlined Sevalaya's

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

work and announced an educational tour on 7 Dec for the students of *Kalanilayam* to historical sites like Ettayapuram, Ottapidaram and Panchalankurichi connected with lives of great freedom fighters. A Sethuramalingam, Head of Kadayam Library Readers' Circle, and K S Kalyani Sivagaminathan, Retired Head Master and an ardent supporter of Sevalaya, also joined the celebrations.



Arjun Bharathi, great-grandson of Bharathiyar, garlanding the statue of Mahakavi Bharathiyar.

Kasuva, Tiruvallur



Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre, Tiruvallur, also celebrated BGV Day on 16 Sep 2025. R Sundar, Founder, and Usha Sundar, Co-Founder of Hi5 Youth Foundation, were the Chief Guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Usha Sundar encouraged students to face both success and defeat with determination, stressing the importance of dedication in every task. "As students, you should do every task with dedication. Play well, earn laurels and wish you all the very best," she said. R Sundar praised Sevalaya for honouring the great leaders Bharathi, Gandhi, and Vivekananda, and reminded students that by following their teachings,

they could achieve great heights. He also urged them to identify their talents, and pursue them with consistency.

The Kasuva celebration featured cultural programmes, aerobics by students trained by Hi5 Youth Foundation, and interactions with the Chief Guests. Winners of inter-school competitions at La Chatelaine Junior college were felicitated. The monthly manuscript magazine *Vidiyal*, prepared by Sevalaya students under the guidance of teachers, was also released on the occasion.

Hi5 Youth Foundation, Mumbai, supports basketball coaching and gear for 260+ Sevalaya students.

Thus, across both Kadayam and Kasuva centres, Sevalaya's September events honoured the legacy of these visionaries, while inspiring thousands of students through competitions, cultural activities, and interactions with distinguished leaders.

1,200 girls receive menstrual hygiene kits from Amrutanjan



Sevalaya, in partnership with Amrutanjan Healthcare Pvt. Ltd., conducted menstrual hygiene awareness sessions for 1,200 adolescent girls across schools in Tiruvallur district.

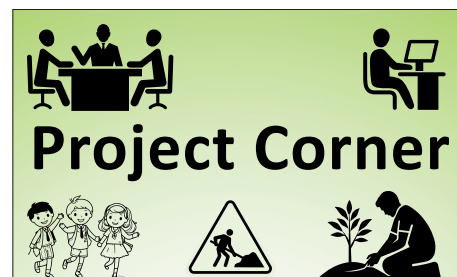
Led by Dr Priyanka from Sevalaya's Health Department, the sessions focused on menstrual health, hygiene practices, and self-care, promoting confidence and empowerment among students.

Sessions were held at:

- Govt. Higher Secondary School, Melakondaiyur - 21 Aug 2025
- Dasar Higher Secondary School, Thiruninravur - 25 Aug 2025

- Govt. Higher Secondary School, Karlapakkam - 26 Aug 2025
- Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School - 30 Aug & 2 Sep 2025
- Govt. Higher Secondary School, Vadamadurai - 4 Sep 2025

Each participant received a hygiene kit and nutrition pack, including a pouch, sanitary pads, soap, towel, wipes, biodegradable covers, cloth bag, and a health pack with groundnut bars.



Since 2023, JK Tyre & Industries Ltd., in partnership with Sevalaya, has transformed rural communities in Kancheepuram through:

- RO water plants in 6 villages
- Child Learning Centres in 6 villages
- Pond rejuvenation at Vellarai & Mettukolathur
- Free medical camps providing quality healthcare to 1,000+ villagers in 7+ villages

See Impact:

youtube.com/watch?v=_1XWc7a1qMo&vl=en-US

Fortess supports digital literacy at Thillaiyadi Govt school

342 students gain access to computers and robotics classes



P R Krishnan inaugurating the Digital Literacy Programme. In the picture: Venkatraman Ravi, Dr K Kesavasamy, and Sevalaya Murali.

A new Digital Literacy Programme sponsored by Fortess, an association of ex-TCS employees, was launched at Thillaiyadi Thiyagi Valliammai Government Higher Secondary School, Mayiladuthurai, on 1 Sep 2025, benefiting 342 students. The inauguration was

graced by Chief Guests P R Krishnan, Secretary, Fortess and Former EVP, TCS, Venkatraman Ravi, Member, Executive Council, Fortess and CEO, Capricorn Consulting Centre and Dr K Kesavasamy, Former Software Scientist, ISRO, Former Education Leader, TCS, and Member, BOG, IEEE Education Society.

Funded by Fortess at a cost of ₹5.34 lakh, a computer lab with 10 computers, software, and seating has been set up. Sevalaya will coordinate the programme, with qualified staff conducting weekly classes in basic computer applications, and robotics, for students from Std VI to IX. Similar digital literacy initiatives are already being run by Sevalaya in schools in Kancheepuram and Sirkazhi.

During the event, Dr Kesavasamy encouraged students to concentrate on

all subjects, highlighting the importance of Physics and Computer Science. Venkatraman Ravi motivated students to aspire for IIT admissions, while P R Krishnan emphasised discipline, education, and hard work.

V Muralidharan, Founder and Managing Trustee, Sevalaya, M Gopalakrishnan, HeadMaster, M Thamarai Nankai, Assistant Headmistress, participated in the event.



Global Wood Chevron volunteers at Kasuva centre



24 Wood Chevron volunteers from the USA, Colombia, and Australia visited Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre for a team-building programme on 8 Sep 2025. The volunteers participated in farming, wall painting, and paper bag-making activities.

Divided into three groups, they prepared 300 nursery bags by sowing tomato and brinjal seeds for Sevalaya's organic farm. In the paper bag activity, 43 bags were made, filled with biscuits from Sevalaya's bakery, which were taken by the volunteers. They also painted classroom walls in the primary school.

As part of their outreach, the group



distributed 25 sewing machines to women who had completed the tailoring course at Sevalaya's Gayathri Memorial Vocational Training Centre in Pattinapakkam. This centre's vocational courses are supported by Wood India Engineering & Projects Private Limited.

Wood India continues to partner with Sevalaya in initiatives focused on skill development, health and hygiene, and elder welfare, fostering meaningful impact in the communities they serve.

Watch the day of impact:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/17ApnpFz8j/>



972 villagers benefit from Wood India free health camps



From 1 to 29 Aug 2025, Sevalaya conducted a series of medical outreach camps in Kasuva and surrounding villages of Tiruvallur district. These camps were organised to provide healthcare access to remote and underserved communities where medical services are often limited.

The camps included general health check-ups, diagnoses and treatment of common ailments, preventive healthcare education, and free distribution of essential medicines. Over the course of the initiative, more than 972 villagers benefited.

The mobile medical van and camps were sponsored by Wood India Engineering & Projects Private Limited.

Teachers Day celebration at Kasuva

Kasuva, Tiruvallur



Teachers' Day was celebrated at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre, Tiruvallur, on 5 Sep 2025.

Swami Apavarganandaji Maharaj, Editor, Sri Ramakrishna Vijayam, Chennai, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. He inaugurated the programme by garlanding the portraits of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and Swami Vivekananda and lighting the *Kuthuvilakku*.

Swami Apavarganandaji said, "Teaching is a sacred profession. Teachers' Day should be celebrated every day," and congratulated Sevalaya teachers for their dedication. He made a presentation on the state of education in India, highlighting rote learning, the need for inventive thinking, the ideals of Swami Vivekananda, qualities of good teachers, types of students from *Nanool*, and the importance of moral education alongside academics. He emphasised that the backbone of India is spirituality, character,

and ancient culture, urging teachers to contribute to social progress.

The Chief Guest also visited Sevalaya's gaushala. Volunteers Vijayasree Raman and Ramana Bhaktavachalam participated, leading bhajans and a meditation session with students and teachers. N Annapurna, Trustee, Sevalaya, also joined the celebration.



Uthiramerur, Kancheepuram



M Hari, Branch Manager and V Syam, Deputy Branch Manager from State Bank of India were the Chief Guests at Teachers Day celebrations at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College.

Students enjoy Sun TV's Top Cooku with Dupe Cooku



25 residents from Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre, were invited to participate in the popular Sun TV comedy-based cooking show Top Cooku with Dupe Cooku, produced by Media Masons on 20 Aug 2025.

The students had a memorable time interacting with celebrities including Chef Venkatesh Bhat, Sivaangi Krishnakumar, Playback Singer, Monisha Blessy, Actress & Playback Singer, VJ Nikki, and other anchors. The highlights of the day were they enjoyed delicious meals and fun interactions with the Chitti robot.



Vinayagar Chaturthi Celebrated at Sevalaya

Kasuva, Tiruvallur



Vinayagar Chaturthi, was celebrated with great devotion at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre, on 9 Sep 2025.

P Nageswaran, (Retd.), Air Force, L Ratan Chand Sharma, Proprietor, Venkateswara Jewellers, and *Dharumai Adheena Pulavar* M K Prabhakara Murthy were the Chief Guests.

L Ratan Chand Sharma recalled his 30-year association with Sevalaya and encouraged students to serve others selflessly. He narrated a story of Lord Vinayagar to emphasise the importance of beginning all endeavours with his blessings and extended festive greetings.

P Nageswaran also conveyed his wishes to the students.

M K Prabhakara Murthy, recalling his teaching career, urged students to stay focused, work hard, and serve society. He praised Sevalaya's mission, prayed for its continued growth, and shared a story about Vinayagar to inspire the students.

L Ratan Chand Sharma sponsored prasad items worth ₹7,000, which were distributed to all students.

Uthiramerur, Kancheepuram



R Saraswathi, HR & Admin Manager, HIM Industrial Engineering Ltd., was the Chief Guest at the Vinayagar Chaturthi celebrations at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Uthiramerur.

BNY takes kids to Birla Planetarium



69 students of Std IV from Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre, enjoyed an outing to the Birla Planetarium, Chennai, organised by 32 BNY volunteers on 13 Sep 2025. The children had a fun-filled learning experience, exploring the wonders

of space and astronomy. They were especially excited by the 3D planetarium show, which gave them a thrilling journey through the solar system. BNY sponsored food and transportation, making the day joyful for the young learners.



Tamil Nadu Govt. medical camp at Thanjavur



The Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu, through its Mobile Medical Unit initiative,

conducted a medical camp at Sevalaya's Gandhi Ashram Krishnan Memorial Free Old Age Home in Thanjavur on 21 Aug 2025. A team comprising one doctor and three nurses performed general health checkups, including blood sugar and blood pressure tests, for 17 senior citizens.

Free medicines for one month were also distributed. The team announced that monthly medical camps will now be held regularly at Sevalaya's Thanjavur centre.

Multi-specialty health camp at Kasuva



Sevalaya, in collaboration with ACS Medical College & Hospital, organised a two-day health screening camp on 21–22 Aug 2025 at the Kasuva Centre to provide quality healthcare to underserved communities.

During the camp, 600 children were screened for developmental delays and health issues in the paediatrics segment. In orthopaedics and ENT, 64 senior citizens, including residents of the Old Age Home, received care for joint pain and hearing concerns.

Occupational therapy assessments were conducted for 20 individuals, supporting independence and well-being, especially for children with special needs. The camp also benefitted surrounding communities in Kasuva, Tiruvallur, with all services offered free of cost to ensure access to healthcare for the underprivileged.

Anna University's NSS students visit Kasuva



65 NSS students from Anna University, CEG campus volunteered at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre on 24 Aug 2025.

They interacted with 700 students and organised a drawing event and sports activities for them. They also interacted with 30 senior citizens and entertained them by singing.

700 seedballs created



On 2 Sep 2025, Sevalaya organised a seedball-making activity for Avighna Systems employees in Chennai as part of their CSR initiative.

50 staff members participated and created 700 seedballs. The activity was coordinated by S C Suresh, Project Coordinator, Sevalaya.

Financial literacy workshop



130 students, including alumni from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community Colleges at Kasuva and Ambattur, attended the Regional Investor Seminar for Awareness (RISA) at the Kasuva Centre on 30 Aug 2025.

Organised by SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) to promote financial literacy, the session was led by A Ashwin Umayorubahan, Deputy Manager, ISC – NSE, Chennai. He introduced students to capital market fundamentals, including stocks, shares, NSE & BSE, mutual funds, SIPs, and IPOs, emphasising that the stock market is a regulated system, not gambling.

Students also received practical guidance on starting investments, from opening bank/demat/trading accounts to using platforms like Zerodha and Groww.

Building Better Healthcare - Aakash S M

Aakash, from Chennai, is the son of S Munirathinam, Division Manager at Ashok Leyland, and M Sumathi, a homemaker. He completed his schooling at Vellammal School.

At a time when many of his peers chose engineering, Aakash decided to pursue allied sciences, determined to make a difference in healthcare. His vision is to ensure 100% efficiency in healthcare processes. This decision led him to pursue his undergraduate degree in Physician Assistant at Apollo Institute of Allied Science and Hospital Management.

He then completed his Master's in Public Health at SRM University of Science and Technology, followed by a fellowship in Operational Research Public Health, which provided in-depth knowledge of operations and health systems.



During his post-graduation, Aakash interned with ICMR as a Public Health Consultant, contributing to tuberculosis projects across India with a focus on active case finding in high-risk populations.

His professional journey began at Pallium India, where he served as Research Coordinator and Ethics Committee Secretary in the Research and Innovation Department. There, he conducted and presented palliative care research at national and international platforms, including seminars in Trivandrum, Australia, and the USA.

In June 2024, Aakash joined Sevalaya as Health Manager, managing healthcare interventions, CSR health projects, and ensuring quality standards in patient care.

His dedication and impact soon earned him a promotion to Head of the Health Department.

In this leadership role, he oversees strategic direction, planning, and implementation of healthcare programs, leads cross-functional teams, builds partnerships with government and medical institutions, and drives data-informed decision-making to improve health outcomes. Looking ahead, he envisions integrating AYUSH and other alternative approaches alongside modern medicine to build a more holistic healthcare model.

Outside of work, Aakash enjoys traveling to natural destinations and reading books.

Movie outing with Rotary Club



On 24 Aug 2025, as part of Magnum Carnival Season 7, the Rotary Club of Madras Magnum, Chennai, organised a fun-filled movie outing for the residents of Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre.

The children watched the popular film *Varisu* at Sivasakthi Cinemas, Padi. A total of 64 residents enjoyed the movie along with a delicious breakfast and lunch provided by the club. Each child also received gifts, making the day a truly memorable one.

TCS volunteers with elders



On 24 Aug 2025, 20 volunteers from Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Chennai, engaged with elderly residents of old age homes in Kasuva, Dharmapuri, Zamin Endathur, and Thanjavur. The volunteers connected via phone calls to check on the seniors' health, well-being, and daily experiences. Volunteers connect regularly each week.

Inspiration from Swami Vivekananda



Sevalaya Murali inspired college students at the inauguration of Ramakrishna Math, Thanjavur, on 29 Aug 2025, by sharing how Swami Vivekananda influenced his life. A quote that deeply moved him

was: "So long as even a single dog in my country is without food, my whole religion will be to feed it." — Swami Vivekananda.

Murali explained how he drew inspiration from three great leaders: Swami Vivekananda (feeding the hungry), Mahakavi Bharathiyar (educating the poor), and Mahatma Gandhi (village development), which became the foundation of Sevalaya. He encouraged students to read the works of these leaders and find ways to contribute to society.

CM Trophy 2025: students gear up for District level



The CM Trophy Basketball Tournament was held on 26–27 Aug 2025 at ICF Silver Jubilee Court, Villivakkam.

Sevalaya's girls' team, comprising 12 players, secured III place, with each player receiving ₹1,000, while the boys' team finished IV.

Three Sevalaya students were selected to represent the Tiruvallur District Team in the State CM Trophy 2025: P Mahalakshmi of Std X, S Dharshini of

Std XII, and B Bagath of Std XII.

A total of 24 boys' teams and 16 girls' teams from Tiruvallur participated in the competition. The tournament continued from 1-3 Sep 2025 at Tamil Nadu Special Police 5th Battalion, Vaishnavi Nagar, Avadi, with 23 boys' teams and 14 girls' teams participating across Tiruvallur District.

Sevalaya's school boys' and girls' teams, each comprising 16 players, secured the

runner-up positions, with each player receiving ₹2,000.

Eight Sevalaya students were selected to represent the Tiruvallur District Team in the State CM Trophy 2025: girls - V Vasanthi of Std XII, N Sundari of Std XII, S Swetha of Std X, Vanmathi of Std XI: boys - R Anand of Std XII, G Rahul of Std IX, B Shankar of Std IX, and R Vignesh of Std X. Seetharaman Narayanan, USA, sponsors all sports activities at Sevalaya.

Hi5 Youth Foundation sponsors basketball coaching and sports gear for underprivileged children at Sevalaya.



State handball glory: girls triumph, boys close behind



The 2nd State Level Inter-School Handball Tournament for Boys & Girls took place on 21 Aug 2025 at S A College of Arts and Science, Poonamallee, Chennai.

Out of 21 participating teams, Sevalaya's Girls' team clinched the championship, taking home a ₹3,500 cash prize, while the Boys' team secured the runners-up

position, winning ₹2,500.

The prizes were distributed on 25 Aug 2025 at the college premises. Both teams were trained by S Bhuvanesh Kumar, Physical Education Teacher, Sevalaya.

Students win State-Level BIS Quiz

Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva Centre, shine in the State-Level Online Quiz Competition organised by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on Science and Standards. A total of 2,500 students across Tamil Nadu participated.

Winners from Sevalaya:

- T Rashwanth (Std X) – I Prize, ₹10,000

- K Poojashree (Std X) – II Prize, ₹7,500
- A Subhashini (Std XII) – II Prize, ₹7,000
- S Kaviya – Consolation Prize, ₹2,000

Sevalaya congratulates all the winners and participants for their excellent performance.



ISKCON's Bhagavad Gita session for 115 students



On 30 Aug 2025, 115 Std II students at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre participated in a Bhagavad Gita session conducted by the ISKCON team.

Facilitators Mana Mohini and Rohini began the session with chanting slokas from the 12th Chapter of the Bhagavad Gita, Bhakti Yoga, guiding the students

to recite along. The chapter emphasizes the path of devotion and qualities like kindness, compassion, humility, and selflessness.

Through this interactive session, students learned the importance of practicing kindness in their daily lives.

Mahadev Desai - 25

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

Gandhiji was in England from September to December 1931 to participate in the second Round Table Conference. It was Mahadev's difficult task to fuse Gandhiji's inner attitude with the external activities and to present it to the world clearly. Mahadev emerged in these days as a Secretary taking notes and a journalist keeping the world informed about all the major and minor events. But for Mahadev's loyalty to Gandhiji, his patriotism, his extraordinary skilful activity and intelligence, his captivating nature and pleasant speech, it would not have been possible for Gandhiji, who was facing crooks and cheats to keep his never-failing faith in his heart and to shine with so clear a humility at a critical juncture in history.

In London Gandhiji stayed at the simple Kingsley Hall of London East end, a poor locality on the invitation of Murial Lester, a social worker who served the poor.

Gandhiji hardly slept for three to four hours during those days. Mahadev got

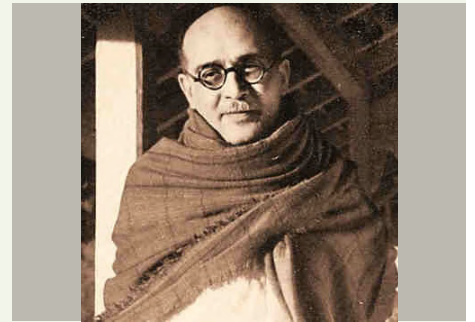
up a little before Gandhiji and slept after he did.

In fact, there was a complaint regarding Mahadev. The land lady who was responsible for the household during Gandhiji's stay was the complainant. "All others are all right, but this Mahadev does not maintain the rules; keeps awake a long time at nights and quite a few other things." Of course, the lady was told that no rule could be applied to Mahadev, as he was all the time with Gandhiji. Moreover, he had to look after many other things. At times, he would have to leave a meal, half-eaten and at times, he would forget to eat. Reluctantly, the lady accepted the indiscipline, but in a few days, she was charmed by Mahadev's nature. "He may not be very regular on time, but how much he looks after Gandhiji! His language has natural politeness and all the time, he is ready to help not only Gandhiji, but everyone. I had not understood him at all."

Gandhiji's visit to King George V was a special one among other visits during

this period. From the point of view of the demand for the constitutional rights for freedom, this visit was merely a formal visit. The visit of a man whom Churchill called 'half-naked fakir' to the King added to the prestige of the Indian people. Gandhiji was accompanied only by Mahadev on this occasion. The newspapers were making all sorts of guesses as to what clothes Gandhiji would wear when he visited the Emperor. But ultimately Gandhiji went in his loin cloth and shawl covering the upper part of his body and Mahadev went with a dhoti, long coat and white Gandhi cap.


To be continued....



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