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# LOVE ALL, SERVE ALL

MARCH 2026

## Best Old Age Home Award for Sevalaya



R Sadheesh, IAS, District Collector of Dharmapuri, presents the Best Old Age Home Award to S Kanchana, Head of Homes and Value Education, Sevalaya.

Sevalaya's V T Shanthi Memorial Free Senior Citizens Home, Dharmapuri, received the Best Old Age Home Award on the 77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day, 26 Jan 2026.

The appreciation certificate was presented by R Sadheesh, IAS, District Collector of Dharmapuri, to S Kanchana, Head of Homes and Value Education, Sevalaya. Sudhakar, Centre Incharge, Dharmapuri, along with the senior citizens, also attended the function.

Opened in 2021 through a donation from V Manoharan in memory of his wife, the home accommodates 20 destitute elders.



## Page Pierre inaugurates ₹1.25 crores projects



Prof Daniel Oyon cuts the ribbon, joined by Page Pierre and family members, to inaugurate the projects completed at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre

Page Pierre Foundation, Switzerland, inaugurated several projects at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre on 11 Feb 2026, completed with their financial support.

Page Pierre and Professor Daniel Oyon were the Chief Guests, joined by friends and family.

The foundation has been supporting Sevalaya's infrastructure for 17 years. In 2025, their contribution of ₹1.25 Crores funded painting of the boys' and girls' homes and dining hall, construction of a compound wall, a mobile solar plant in Kasuva, enhancements to Sevalaya's

Internal ERP system, and reconstruction of the hospital and compound wall at Gudalur. The Chief Guests inaugurated these projects.

Addressing students, Page Pierre encouraged them to seize the opportunities at Sevalaya and learn from its environment. The guests shared that each visit leaves them with fond memories of the smiling children.

Sevalaya students performed a colourful cultural programme, and the guests presented certificates to staff members who recently completed Internal Audit training. They also gifted a custom-made giant Toblerone chocolate bar to the students.

G Ramanathan, Trustee of Sevalaya, highlighted that Page Pierre's support goes beyond financial aid, offering valuable ideas and guidance that strengthen Sevalaya's growth each year.

# Fortess opens new study centre in Sirkali



On 2 Feb 2026, Sevalaya and Fortess inaugurated a new After-School Study Centre at S M Hindu Higher Secondary School, Sirkali in Mayiladuthurai district. Sponsored by Fortess and run by Sevalaya, the centre is equipped with a smartboard and will provide STEM education under the IIT Madras Pravartak *Kalvi Sakthi* syllabus to nearly 30 students from Std VI to IX.

P R Krishnan, Secretary, Fortess and

Former EVP, TCS, along with his family members and K Subramanian, Former Head, Delivery Excellence, TCS, inaugurated the centre. S Muralidharan, Headmaster of the school, Sevalaya Murali, 50 students, teachers, and Sevalaya staff also participated.

Speaking on the occasion, P R Krishnan said, "IIT for All", an initiative by IIT Madras Director V Kamakoti, aims to ensure IIT-level education reaches

everyone, not just children from cities and affluent families. The guests interacted with the students, encouraged them to work hard, and motivated them to become future leaders.

Sevalaya operates 45 After-School Study Centres across Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka, bringing technology-enabled education in Maths, Science, and English to underprivileged children in government and government-aided schools.



# Fortess honours digital literacy achievers

On 2 Feb 2026, Sevalaya and Fortess celebrated the Digital Literacy Programme at Thyagi Valliammai Government Higher Secondary School, Thillaiyadi. Fortess sponsors the programme, which is run by Sevalaya.

P R Krishnan, Secretary, Fortess and Former EVP, TCS, along with his family members Savitha Krishnan and Thangam Venkatesan, and K Subramanian, Former Head, Delivery Excellence, TCS, were the Chief Guests. M Gopalakrishnan, Headmaster, nearly 250 students from Std VI to IX, teachers, Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee of Sevalaya, and staff members participated.

Speaking at the event, Krishnan shared, "I saw a computer for the first time only



after joining TCS. Today I am happy to see rural students like you completing the six-month course and becoming well-versed in computers." Subramanian congratulated the students who won prizes in the Digital Literacy Day competitions.

Prizes and certificates were distributed to all students who completed the course and to 33 competition winners.

Sevalaya also conducts Digital Literacy Programmes in Chennai, Sirkali, and Kancheepuram.

Sevalaya Murali spoke about Thyagi Valliammai's role in Satyagraha under Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa and highlighted Sevalaya's women's health medical centre in Thillaiyadi, run in her honour.

# Free medical camp for 245 tribal students

Sevalaya Nilgiris organised a medical camp at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Avasiya Vidyalaya (NSCBAV) in Vattakolly and Kozhukkully, The Nilgiris, on 19 and 21 Feb 2026.

A total of 245 tribal students (120 boys and 125 girls) received free general health check-ups and medical consultations.

The camp addressed common health

issues such as myalgia, upper respiratory infections (URI), allergic rhinitis, skin lesions, anaemia, sinusitis, injuries, stye, and acute abdomen. Free medicines were distributed.

This mobile medical camp was sponsored by DTCC (The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation) as part of its ongoing support for community healthcare initiatives in remote areas.



# TN Govt's election awareness drive at Sevalaya



The Tamil Nadu Government conducted an election awareness programme under the SVEEP (Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation) initiative at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre on 17 Feb 2026.

Prathap Murugan, IAS, District Collector and District Election Officer, Tiruvallur, presided over the programme. He encouraged senior citizens to vote in the upcoming Assembly elections, assured

assistance for electoral roll enrolment, informed that volunteers would help in form filling, and stated that doorstep voting would be arranged for residents above 85 years of age.

The Collector administered the voter pledge, demonstrated on how to use the voting machine, interacted with the elders, and honoured them with shawls and flower crowns. 21 Community

College students and approximately 150 elderly residents from Sri Sai Home, Swagatham Foundation, Sushila Home, Home Sweet Home, Kavasa Foundation and Sevalaya's Old Age Homes took part in the programme.

V Jayakumar, Additional Collector and Project Officer - DRDA, Tiruvallur, Vanitha, District Social Welfare Officer, and the Tahsildar participated in the event.



# AGS Health plants 1,000 saplings at Vellore



As part of its CSR initiatives, AGS Health sponsored the planting of 1,000 saplings at the Genesis Students Centre in Sennoor, Katpadi, Vellore district. The tree plantation drive took place on 18 Feb 2026, with Sevalaya as the implementation partner.

San Jayaraj, Professor (Retd.) and Trustee of Genesis Students Centre, inaugurated the event. Various local activists and Sevalaya staff members participated in the drive. Speaking on the occasion, San Jayaraj thanked Sevalaya for implementing the project and shared that the green space created will benefit

students and visitors.

Moses Palmer, VP, Projects, Sevalaya, highlighted Sevalaya's services to society and stressed the importance of such initiatives for environmental betterment. Activists and local community members participated with great enthusiasm.



# SASTRA students with Elders



As part of their service club "KS Uphar," 12 students from SASTRA Deemed to be University, Thanjavur, visited Sevalaya's Gandhi Ashram Krishnan Memorial Free Old Age Home in Thanjavur on 1 Feb 2026. The students interacted with the residents and donated provisions.

# Std XII & X hall ticket pooja

Sevalaya organised a Hall Ticket Pooja for 164 Std XII and 143 Std X students from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva Centre, on 19 Feb 2026. The pooja was held at the temple, invoking the blessings of Lord Thazhuvu Kolundeeshwarar and His consort Goddess Balambigai, Lord Hanuman, and Bhadrachala Ramar. This annual prayer aims to give students confidence, peace of mind, and emotional support before their exams. Dr AV Senthil, Wealth Architect and long-time donor of Sevalaya, was the Chief Guest. He, along with R Vijaya, Head of Education, Sevalaya, prayed for the students to achieve excellent marks. Similarly, 141 Std X students received blessings at the same temple on 28 Feb 2026.



Sevalaya also organises evening classes and seeks sponsors for refreshments at ₹4,500 per day for 450 students:

[sevalaya.org/donate](https://sevalaya.org/donate)

# Exploring aviation careers



A career guidance and motivational session on aviation was held at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre on 14 Feb 2026, attended by 336 students of Std IX and XI. Dr T R Sudha, Founder of Vasanthan Library, and K S Muthukrishnan, Former Assistant Director, DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) and Former Investigator, AAIB (Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau) addressed the students. Dr Sudha shared her educational journey and work experience, emphasising the importance of reading newspapers daily and how to crack the UPSC exam in a single attempt. K S Muthukrishnan, with 15 years of experience in the Civil Aviation industry and one of India's few aviation

investigators, explained how aircraft work, spoke about the invention of the airplane, and guided students on how to become a pilot, aviation investigator, or air traffic controller, the importance of Physics and Mathematics, the high cost of pilot training (over ₹50 lakhs), and the opportunity for free pilot training through the NDA by clearing the entrance exam with strong Physics and Math skills. The session was interactive, with students actively asking questions and clarifying doubts about aviation careers.



# Alumnus joins BSF

Sevalaya alumnus A Devaraj from the 2020 batch has joined the Border Security Force (BSF) - a proud moment for Sevalaya.

Devaraj was the school topper in 2017-18, scoring 475 out of 500 in Std X. He is also a handball player and represented the University of Madras at the university level in 2023.



# Kottu Murasu outreach



Sevalaya organized street plays in two villages in Tiruvallur District during Feb 2026 under its *Kottu Murasu* initiative.

On 5 Feb, nine student volunteers from Madras Christian College (MCC), the Madras School of Social Work (MSSW), and Loyola College performed at Guruvoyal village, using skits and dialogues to educate over 100 villagers about the importance of vocational training and the opportunities available at Sevalaya.

This was followed by a second performance on 19 Feb at Koduvalli village, where the same group of volunteers reached more than 50 residents with a play focused on the importance of ethical voting, responsible citizenship, and the dangers of misinformation.

Both events utilized traditional folk art forms like *Parai* and *Oyilattam* to deliver their messages effectively, adding a festive and engaging element to the community awareness drives.

# Trip to Mahabalipuram

16 students from Child Care Institutions (CCIs) in Chennai district participated in a one-day educational and recreational trip to Mahabalipuram on 1 Feb 2026.

The students explored heritage landmarks such as the Shore Temple, Arjuna's Penance, the Five Rathas, Cave Temples, and the Lighthouse, gaining exposure to Pallava-era history and rock-cut architecture. The visit also encouraged peer bonding, teamwork, and emotional well-being through travel, beach activities, and group games.

The trip was organised by AFEC (A Future For Every Child), and coordinated by Sevalaya. AFEC sponsored food and transportation for the students.



# Sevalaya Alumni organise 77<sup>th</sup> Republic day celebrations



The Chief Guests inaugurate the annual blood donation camp organised by Sevalaya Alumni Association 'Aalam Vizhuthugal,' benefiting thousands since 2012, with around 75 participants donating blood.

Sevalaya alumni organised the 77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day celebrations at its Kasuva Centre. The annual blood donation camp and a farewell programme for Std XII students also took place.

A V Ragunath, a US-based philanthropist and Trustee of Nerur Sadasiva Brammendra Trust, Karur, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, along with D Surya, Sevalaya alumnus and Typist at the Secretariat, Government of Tamil Nadu. As the Chief Guest unfurled the national flag, everyone paid their respects to the flag. School students and alumni presented engaging cultural performances.

Addressing the students, the Chief Guest, A V Ragunath, said, "You should start

your day with a prayer. It was heartening to hear the 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Vande Mataram' slogans today. We wish everyone a happy and prosperous life to live such a life, we need education and knowledge. Thiruvalluvar says 'Arivudaiyaar Ellaam Udaiyaar.' If you gain knowledge, you will gain everything in life. To succeed in life, as students, you also need to read Bharathiyar's poetry. He says 'Enniya Mudithal Vendum, Nallave Ennal Vendum.' Every one of you should aim to become a great person by reading the works of Bharathiyar, Thiruvalluvar, and Swami Vivekananda," he concluded.

Alumnus Surya, in his speech, said, "I express my gratitude to Sevalaya for giving me this opportunity to be the

guest here today. I am standing here today as a successful person because of Sevalaya and my higher education sponsor LatentView Analytics."

He addressed the students and said, "We all tend to make some mistakes when we go for our higher studies. To avoid such mistakes, you should first decide the field in which you want to build your career. Once you fix your goal, it will be easy for you to work towards it. Our school organises various career guidance sessions - do attend these sessions, which will help decide the right career path for you."

Earlier, Sevalaya Murali, in his speech, wished everyone a Happy Republic Day and highlighted various activities of Sevalaya. He also shared that Sevalaya has received 103 awards so far and that, in the past month, Sevalaya has been felicitated in various forums in Bengaluru, Kumbakonam, Chennai, Tiruvallur, and Dharmapuri. He concluded by saying that Sevalaya has spread to 60 centres in South India and continues to serve various beneficiaries.

The celebrations and all the arrangements for the event were done by the alumni students. The best class award was given to Std X-E. Alumni students Vaishnavi, Abinesh, Udayakumar, and Priyanka presented the event.

A farewell event for the 164 students completing Std XII this year also took place. Alumni students presented a pen and a card containing an inspirational quote to the students. Sevalaya Murali, Bhuvaneshwari Muralidharan, Honorary Correspondent, N Annapurna, Trustee, R Vijaya, Head, Education and alumnus Surya interacted with the students and wished them all success in their future. Students shared their fond memories of Sevalaya during the event.

## National Flag unfurled at Sevalaya centres

Pattinapakkam, Chennai



Srinivasan Ramasamy, Vice President of Aspire Systems, was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya's 77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day celebrations on 26 Jan 2026 at Pattinapakkam, Chennai. He unfurled the national flag, followed by the flag salute and distribution of sweets.

Children of Sevalaya staff and students of the Gayathri Memorial Vocational Training Centre presented cultural performances. Srinivasan Ramasamy praised Sevalaya staff for their dedication and spoke about Tamil Nadu freedom fighters like Veerapandiya Kattabomman, Mahakavi Bharathiyar, and Tiruppur Kumaran. He also highlighted three Tamil Nadu personalities: Alladi Krishnaswamy, N Gopalswami, and T T Krishnamachari - who were part of the seven-member committee that drafted the Indian Constitution. He urged citizens to perform their duties to the nation, however small or big.

Earlier, Thomas T Abraham, Executive Committee Member, Sevalaya, spoke on India's progress in poverty eradication and education, recalling the sacrifices of freedom fighters at the Cellular Jail in the Andamans. K Padma, Executive Committee Member, also participated in the event.



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### Thanjavur



Lion MM Suneha, President, Lion S Vijayamalini, Secretary and Lion M Balakumaran, Treasurer from Thanjavur Maharaja Lions Club were the Chief Guests at Sevalaya's Gandhi Ashram Krishnan Memorial Free Senior Citizens' Home.

### Uthiramerur, Kancheepuram



K Jaishankar, HR & Admin Manager, Kanchi Mines Pvt. Ltd., Karanimandapam, was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College.

### Zamin Endathur, Chengalpattu



Lion Banu R Sekar, President, Varthagar Sangam, Proprietor, Sri Banu Stores, Madhuranthagam, was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya's Janaki Ammal Vijayaraghavachariar Memorial Senior Citizens' Home.

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## Bootcamp for 18+ students



A Future for Every Child (AFEC) organised a two-day boot camp for children from different care homes at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre on 27 and 28 Dec 2025. AFEC is a US-based non-profit that supports youth transitioning out of care homes after the age of 18 by equipping them with essential life skills and guidance for independent living.

The boot camp focused on building life skills and self-confidence. Sessions like *Discover Yourself* helped participants understand their strengths, gain confidence, and interact better with others. A Personal Finance Management session by AV Senthil, Wealth Architect

and a long-time donor of Sevalaya, covered topics such as saving money, banking, UPI safety, credit card awareness, responsible spending, and government schemes including life insurance.

Participants also learned the importance of mentors and peer support through video sessions. Gita Gopal, President and Co-Founder of AFEC, and Madan Gopal, Co-Founder, Secretary & Treasurer, participated online and shared their thoughts. Handmade gifts prepared by an AFEC alumna were given to all participants.

## Tiruvallur Collector honours Bhagath



M Prathap, IAS, District Collector of Tiruvallur, honoured Bhagath of Std XII, who won the silver medal in the CM Trophy Basketball competition, during the 77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day celebrations.

Earlier, Bhagath donated his prize money of ₹50,000 from the match to Sevalaya. The Hi 5 Youth Foundation, Mumbai, sponsors basketball gear and coaching for over 260 Sevalaya students.

## Second edition of *Paamaranin Bhagavad Geethai* released



From L to R: Bhuvanewari Muralidharan, Sevalaya Murali and M Murali.

M Murali, Managing Director, Sri Krishna Sweets, released the Second Edition of *Paamaranin Bhagavad Geethai* authored by Sevalaya Murali at a function held at Arkay Convention Centre, Mylapore on 14 Feb 2026. The Tamil spiritual book draws inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's *The Bhagavad Gita* – According to Gandhi, Mahakavi Bharathiyar's Tamil translation, and the teachings and speeches of Swami Vivekananda, offering a layman's perspective of the Gita through everyday life incidents.

*Kalaimamani Isaikkavi Ramanan*, renowned poet, orator, actor, and Brand Ambassador of Sevalaya participated.

**Get Your Copy of the Second Edition :**

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# Inspired to Serve



Two good schools, the academic influence at home, and grandparents who devoted quality time added up to give Karthikeyan Ravikumar “a great childhood,” divided between Chennai’s Triplicane and Thiruvannamiyur. His father, S H Ravikumar, served as an Assistant Engineer with BSNL, while his mother, Rani, was an Economics teacher. Growing up in a disciplined and value-driven household laid a strong foundation for his personal and professional life. The values of discipline, education, and compassion taught by his grandparents continue to inspire him, something he speaks about with great pride.

Karthikeyan completed his schooling at St Bede’s Anglo Indian School and SBOA Matriculation School, Chennai. He pursued Chemical Engineering at St Joseph’s College of Engineering, followed by a Master’s degree in Environmental Engineering from Clarkson

University, New York. This journey helped him stand independently and confidently in his career.

Karthikeyan began his career in 2008 as a Business Analyst at Frost & Sullivan, Chennai, and later worked with the Archean Group of Companies. In 2014, he joined Capgemini as a Senior Consultant, eventually moving on to Cognizant as a Manager. In 2022, he transitioned to Hexalytics, where he currently serves as a Manager in the UAE.

Karthikeyan acknowledges the deep influence of his close friend Ashok Babel, whom he met during his master’s programme. He deeply admires Ashok’s selfless nature - giving without expecting anything in return, even to the point of being exploited, and even when aware of it.

Through Sevalaya, Karthikeyan found a meaningful way to repay the huge debt

he owed his grandparents by supporting elder care. “The care I couldn’t give my grandparents, I want to give to other elders. Support for Sevalaya is not a one-off. It is a joint decision my wife Tamil Selvi and I took. We wanted it to be part of our practice, our lifestyle,” explains this long-time donor and well-wisher of Sevalaya. Their 15-year-old daughter, Harshitha, already understands the impact of their support for Sevalaya. He actively follows Sevalaya’s initiatives through social media and LinkedIn and appreciates the organisation’s prompt communication and transparency with donors. He looks forward to visiting Sevalaya in person later this year. In his personal time, Karthikeyan enjoys long walks and listening to music by T M Soundararajan, P B Srinivas, and A R Rahman. Elder care apart, he is deeply committed to girls’ education, believing it to be key to building a stronger and more equitable society.

## Sevalaya's Daughter becomes a Mother



On 20 Feb 2026, Sevalaya Murali and Bhuvanewari Muralidharan, Honorary Correspondent of Sevalaya, attended the naming ceremony of the baby girl of Sevalaya’s daughter Mahalakshmi.

The baby was born on 12 January, the birthday of Swami Vivekananda, and hence was named Niveditha (Disciple of Swami Vivekananda) by Sevalaya Murali.

Mahalakshmi was admitted to Sevalaya at the age of six by her distant relatives after she lost her parents at a young age.

Today, she is a mother, beginning a new chapter in her life.

She completed her Higher Secondary education at Sevalaya, and the organisation supported her in pursuing a Diploma in Nursing at Gandhigram Rural Institute.

Earlier, Sevalaya also conducted the wedding of Mahalakshmi and P Raja in a traditional ceremony at Sevalaya’s Kasuva Centre.

## NCC officers’ visit



Two NCC officers visited Sevalaya’s Kasuva Centre on 10 Jan 2026 and interacted with students of Std VII and VIII, explaining the benefits of NCC and how it helps in building discipline, leadership, and overall personality development. They appreciated the school’s well-maintained infrastructure, disciplined environment, and readiness to support NCC activities, noting that the facilities were better organised than those in many colleges.

# 164<sup>th</sup> Vivekananda Jayanthi celebrations



Sevalaya celebrated Vivekananda Jayanthi at its Kasuva Centre near Thiruninravur, Tiruvallur, on 22 Jan 2026, marking the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj, Adhyaksha of Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai, was the Chief Guest. He encouraged students to work hard, be confident, and persevere, saying that each person has unlimited potential. "Even if you fail ten times, try again the eleventh time. With effort and confidence, you can achieve great success," he said.

Dr Narmada Inbaraj, a Sevalaya alumna and doctor, shared how Swami

Vivekananda's words, "You become what you think," inspired her to achieve her goals. She reminded students to aspire to return in the future as leaders or donors, just as they receive prizes today.

As part of the celebrations, 1,713 students from 11 districts participated in speech, quiz, and drawing competitions conducted on the occasion. The Chief Guest presented prizes to the 24 winners and congratulated them.

S Divyadarshini, a Std IX student of Sevalaya, presented a portrait of Swami Vivekananda drawn by her as a memento to Swami Satyajnananandaji Maharaj.

Thanjavur

Shrimath Swami Swarupananda Magaraj, President, Sri Ramakrishna Ashram, Ammanpet was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya's Gandhi Ashram Krishnan Memorial Free Senior Citizens' Home.



Uthiramerur, Kancheepuram

Swami Sarvasahananda, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission, Malliankaranai, was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College.



# Chellamma Bharathi birth anniversary



Sevalaya observed the 136<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Chellamma Bharathi, wife of Mahakavi Bharathiyar, on 3 Jan 2026 at Sevalaya's Chellamma Bharathi Learning Centre in Kadayam, Tenkasi.

K S Kalyani Sivagaminathan, retired Headmaster and a supporter of Sevalaya, was the Chief Guest. Nalnoolakar M Meenakshi Sundaram, Librarian, Branch Library, Kadayam, Sethuramalingam, Head of the Kadayam Bharathi Readers' Circle; members of the Readers' Circle, Sevalaya students, and local residents participated in the programme.

The guests paid floral tribute by garlanding the statue of the Chellamma-Bharathi couple.

*Kadayam is the birthplace of Chellamma Bharathi. Her date of birth as 3 Jan 1890 was recently confirmed by Niranjan Bharathi, the great-great-grandson of Mahakavi Bharathiyar, based on an old document discovered at his home.*



# Motivational session



K G Guna Sekaran, Corporate Trainer and Technical Expert (Lift and Escalator), conducted a motivational session at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre on 13 Feb 2026.

The session focused on:

- Importance of English communication skills
- Effective use of search engines for learning
- Avoiding time spent on reels and digital distractions
- Learning new skills for personal growth
- Developing extracurricular interests alongside academics

160 students of Std XI and 35 Community College students participated.

## Motivation session for students by ISKCON Yoga & Life skills session



Jaya Gopinatha Das, General Manager of ISKCON North Chennai, conducted a motivational session at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre on 29 Jan 2026. He encouraged students not to fear exams and explained that success comes from small daily efforts, clear goals, and self-belief without comparison. He reminded them that exam results do not define their worth and advised them to do their best and leave the rest to God, drawing examples from the Ramayanam and Bhagavad Gita. He also spoke about the importance

of prayer, chanting, and meditation for better focus and peace of mind. At the end there was an interesting Question and Answer Session. 290 students from Std X and XII participated.



Lakshmi Moni, Instructor at Atma Yoga, conducted a yoga and life skills session for 60 students of Std XI at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre on 31 Jan 2026. Over three days, students learned *pranayama*, simple mudras, and yoga practices that helped them relax, focus, and engage actively. The session also emphasised life skills such as responsibility, self-discipline, a positive attitude, and active learning. Students found the session very useful and shared that it motivated them to practise yoga regularly.

## Students and staff outing



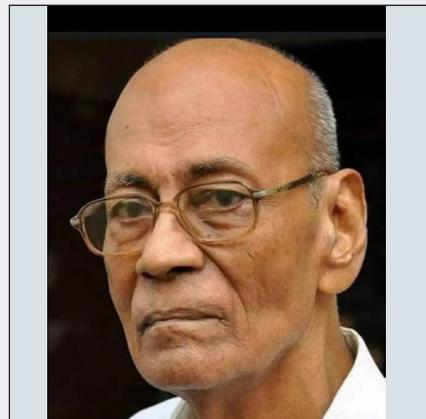
Sevalaya Nilgiris organised an outing for staff and students from its tuition centres in The Nilgiris district on 7 and 8 Feb 2026.

Students and staff from the Sevalaya Nilgiris Hospital and centres in Kundankolly, Kookal, Kuvamoola, Kottamedu, Theppakadu, Kundhalady, Kallichal, and Bennai participated.

The group visited Needle Rock, Shooting Spots, Horticulture Garden, Pine Forest, and Naduvattam Sub-Jail. A total of 197 students and 38 staff members joined the trip. Food and transport were arranged.

The tuition centres are sponsored by corporates as follows: BNY supports Kottamedu, Bennai, Kookal, Kallichal, and Kundhalady centres, while Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital supports Kuvamoola, Kottamedu, and Theppakadu centres.

## Educationist S S Rajagopalan remembered



Sevalaya's well-wisher and long-term donor, S S Rajagopalan, eminent educationist, passed away on 3 Feb 2026, leaving behind a remarkable legacy in education. He was closely associated with Sevalaya, conducting sessions for teachers and delivering an insightful speech on the Right to Education Act on 10 Dec 2011, inspiring educators to view education as a fundamental right rather than a privilege. He was a key committee member in formulating the *Samacheer Kalvi* (Tamil Nadu Uniform System of School Education) and a strong advocate of equitable, common schooling and mother-tongue instruction, ensuring quality education

for all children. A prayer meeting in his memory was held at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre on 14 Feb 2026, where Dr Balaji Sampath, Founder and CEO of Aid India, S Thenpandian, Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Tiruvallur, and Prasanna Gandhi, Founder-Director of Aram Porul Foundation, recalled his immense contributions to public education, teacher training, and compassionate schooling. He was remembered as a simple, courageous, and dedicated educationist who worked tirelessly for students' welfare. Staff, trustees, students, and well-wishers paid homage, offered floral tributes to his portrait, and shared memories. May his soul attain *sadgati*.



M Narayan, Managing Director, Polyene General Industries Pvt. Ltd. was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College.



A Sivakumar, LD Bank, Dharmapuri, was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya's V T Shanthi Memorial Senior Citizens' Home.



M Mathavi, Event Manager, Ram Health and Beauty Academy, Thirumalaiyappapuram, was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College.

## Mahadev Desai - 30

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

Mahatmaji made a declaration at the final session of the Minorities Committee, at the time of the London talk, that if he was the only person to resist separate electorates, he would resist it with his life.

Gandhiji started his fast unto death on 20 Sep 1932. He had given the matter a lot of consideration and had listened to his "inner voice."

Mahadev felt that the entire movement for the removal of untouchability would last for five to seven years. Gandhiji explained that if the movement became weak, it would last a long time and it would take a lot of effort to achieve the ultimate objective. If it were possible to speed up the progress, he did not have any objection to co-operating with the arrangement of the new constitution and to go ahead.

Gandhiji was more concerned about the ethical aspect of a separate electorate. He was afraid that the introduction of a separate electorate would destroy the 'untouchables,' the 'unknown,' and the 'invisible' people in the far-off corners of the villages. He believed this to be a conspiracy to root out the Hindu social reformers as if they were thorns. The final situation was that the Government had issued orders. There could be a possibility of a change only if the decision was altered by all those concerned in India.

He would not listen to the pleadings of

colleagues to give up the fast. He said, "Nothing will satisfy me till the last vestige of untouchability is gone. I would therefore insist on a statutory declaration that all public places of worship, wells, schools, etc., should be open to the suppressed, precisely on the same terms as the suppressors. If, however, the representatives of the suppressed classes will not consider my idea, they are at liberty to have statutory reservation of seats. I should not fast against it. But you will not expect me to bless such a scheme. If I get the opportunity, I should certainly try to create public opinion among the suppressed against statutory reservation."

In the morning, when there were still some hours before the fast could begin, Mahadev wept bitterly before beginning the reading of the Gita. The only feeling he had was, "Who am I - a cunning rogue and a lustful person - to recite the Gita at the commencement of Gandhi's fast?" The leaders of the country started discussions on the situation created on account of Gandhi's fast.

The leaders had discussions with Ambedkar, mainly on the point of a possible alternative to a separate electorate.

After several rounds of discussions, the only point that remained to be resolved was the issue of people's vote. While other members of the committee wanted the right to vote for the constitution to

be given to the people every five years, Ambedkar insisted on a period of ten years.

Gandhiji said, "This is final. Referendum after five years of my life." Some of Gandhiji's comrades wept.

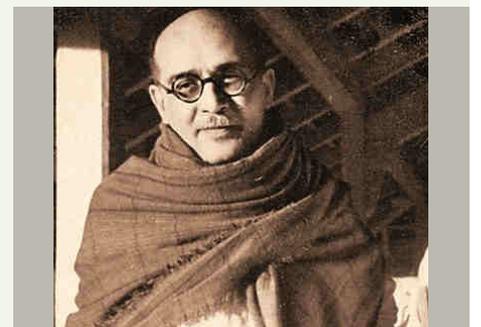
At last, Birla found a way out by saying that the entire practice must automatically be stopped after ten years, during which period both parties may get and find another option. The document was signed. The Government finally ratified the conditions of consent on what became the last day of the fast.

The vow of the fast ended happily and with due ceremony.

Mahatmaji sipped the orange juice handed over by Kasturba. Mahadev sang a favourite song of Gandhiji. Pandit Shyama Shastri recited from the Vedas. Fruits and sweets were distributed.

Thus, a sacrifice of the consecration of a life took place in the jail.

– To be continued.



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