



Sevalaya strengthens partnership with IITM Pravartak & OpenMentor MoU renewal continues to benefit 1150+ rural children



Exchange of MoU Renewal between Sevalaya, IITM Pravartak, and OpenMentor
From L to R: Dr S Sivasubramanian, Global Convener, Vidya Shakti, G Veeraraghavan, COO, IITM Pravartak Technologies Foundation, Dr M J Shankar Raman, CEO, IITM Pravartak Technologies Foundation, P Nagarajan, Managing Trustee, OpenMentor Trust, Project Director, Vidya Shakti, N Navin Kumar, AVP, Donor Relations, Sevalaya, Sevalaya Murali, and M T Anandan, Head, Applied Learning

Sevalaya signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IITM Pravartak Technologies Foundation and OpenMentor Trust on 14 Apr 2026 at the Indian Institute of Madras, Chennai.

The collaboration will set up Rural Interaction Centres to improve education and skill development for underprivileged children, which at Sevalaya function like After School Study Centres where children come together to learn, interact, and build skills.

The MoU was signed by N Navin Kumar,

AVP, Donor Relations, Sevalaya, Dr M J Shankar Raman, CEO, IITM Pravartak and P Nagarajan, Managing Trustee, OpenMentor Trust.

Out of 50 tuition centres, 37 tuition centres in Tamil Nadu and 10 in Karnataka function under this model as Sevalaya's After School Study Centres, and the programme has now been renewed.

As part of this initiative, the Vidya Shakti programme offers live online classes in Science, Mathematics, and English for students from Stds VI to VIII, with plans

to expand up to Std XII.

The initiative provides free, technology-enabled education through digital classrooms, supported by a structured curriculum and trained instructors, thereby promoting sustainable learning and livelihood opportunities for underprivileged communities, including tribal students across three states. Sevalaya has been collaborating with IITM Pravartak since 2024.



Signing of MoU - From L to R: Srinath Vaidyanathan, Senior Project Lead, Project Vidya Shakti, Open Mentor Trust, N Navin Kumar and M T Anandan

Bhumi pooja

Bhumi pooja for the construction of a Community College at Gudalur, The Nilgiris district, was held on 9 Apr 2026 in the presence of Sevalaya Murali, K V Ganesh, Member, Executive Committee, Sevalaya, and S Dhanasekar, Proprietor, Kaviya Enterprises. Sridharan Mahadevan, a donor from the USA, has sponsored this project. The centre will provide tailoring skill development for 30+ rural women in batches.



T Jayachitra, Krishnankaranai centre



M Devipriya, Thiruneermalai centre

Sevalaya's tuition instructors were honoured with medals during the 2nd edition of the Vidya Shakti Awards.



BorgWarner's ₹1.16 crore rural development in Kancheepuram



From L to R: Moses Palmer, VP, Project, Sevalaya, N Navin Kumar, AVP, Donor Relations, Sevalaya, Vinothkumar, Supply chain manager, BorgWarner, L Sathish, Assistant Manager, HR, BorgWarner, Gnanadinakaran Neil, AVP, Project, Sevalaya, P Swatheeswaran, Proprietor, RL Consortium, Purusothaman, Local Representative and D Selvan Suthakar, AVP, Donor Relations, Sevalaya.

BorgWarner Cooling Systems India Private Limited partnered with Sevalaya to restore a polluted 1 lakh sq. ft. pond at Kannanthangal village in Sriperumbudur and to develop infrastructure in Mambakkam village, Kancheepuram.

Infrastructure support was provided at Mambakkam village to the Panchayat Union Middle School and the ICDS building at a cost of ₹16 lakhs. Tin sheet roofing was installed over the school assembly area, and paver blocks were laid. The ICDS centre was equipped with roofing, mesh fencing, and a gate to ensure the safety of the children.

At an event held on 31 Mar 2026, CSR Committee members from BorgWarner inaugurated the restored pond and infrastructure projects in the presence of village representatives and Sevalaya staff.

Kumaresan, Finance Manager, representing BorgWarner, shared that he has known Sevalaya for over 20 years as a native of Thiruninravur. He appreciated Sevalaya's grassroots work and its role in community development.

This is the fourth pond project that BorgWarner has partnered on with Sevalaya.



Kannanthangal Pond was restored at a cost of ₹1.05 crore, increasing its water holding capacity from 23 million to 32.95 million litres, thereby benefiting 13,000 villagers. Solar streetlights were installed around the perimeter.



From L to R: Gnanadinakaran Neil, AVP, Project, Moses Palmer, VP, Project, S Kumaresan, Manager Finance, BorgWarner, L Sathish, Assistant Manager, HR, BorgWarner, Sevalaya Murali, E Venkatesan, President, Mambakkam Panchayat, N Navin Kumar, AVP Donor Relations, D Selvan Suthakar, AVP, Donor Relations and P Swatheeswaran, Proprietor, RL Consortium at the ICDS building.

2,625th birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira celebrated



Mahavir Jayanti was celebrated on 28 Mar 2026 at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre.

Sri Ajayji Jain, Manager, Apollo Tyres, was the Chief Guest. Sri Mukeshji Tholiya Jain, President, Sri Khandelwal Digambar Jain Samaj, Chennai, Sri Sunilji Kala Jain, Secretary, Sri Bharathvarsh Digambar Jain Maha Sabha, Chennai and Vidur Maheswari, Founder and Director, Chai Waale, attended as Guests of Honour.

In his address, Ajayji Jain explained that

the occasion marked the 2,625th birth anniversary of Lord Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism. He shared that Mahavira, born as Vardhamana into a royal family, renounced worldly life in pursuit of true bliss and became a spiritual leader dedicated to service. He highlighted key teachings such as "Forgiveness is the ornament of the brave," "Live and let live," and "Self-control is true strength."

Vidur Maheswari expressed his happiness

in visiting Sevalaya and conveyed his best wishes to the students.

Sri Sunilji Kala Jain appreciated Sevalaya's work and acknowledged the efforts of Founder V Muralidharan. He also thanked M Amarchand Jain, Member, Executive Committee, Sevalaya for the invitation.

Uthiramerur, Kancheepuram

R Gowdham Chand Jain, Proprietor, Sri Balaji Jewellers, M Aravind Kumar Jain, Proprietor, SM Automobile Showroom and D Smitha Deepak Jain, Proprietor, Vardhaman Jewellers were the Chief Guests at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College.



Volunteers from the UK in service



Evie and Martha, Project Trust Volunteers from UK, sharing a warm moment with Dhanalakshmi, Volunteer

Two young volunteers from the United Kingdom, Martha and Evie, are on a meaningful six-month volunteering journey at Sevalaya. Supported by Project Trust-UK, they are teaching children and supporting Sevalaya's activities especially at the organic farm and gaushala at

Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre. At Sevalaya, volunteers can contribute based on their interests, skills, and availability. Opportunities are available across the Admin Office, schools, After-School Study Centres, children's homes, old age homes, hospitals, medical centres, mobile medical vans, community colleges, libraries, gaushalas, organic farms, model villages, and various project locations.

Project Trust is a UK-based educational charity that prepares and sends young people overseas for long-term volunteering placements. Sevalaya and Project Trust share a longstanding association of 15 years, during which several young volunteers from the UK have served at Sevalaya, contributing to classrooms, campus life, and community initiatives.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, international travel restrictions led to a temporary pause in volunteer visits. After this break, the current year marks the

revival of the partnership. Both volunteers chose India as their destination, drawn by its rich culture and the opportunity to contribute to underprivileged communities. They shared that each morning begins with feeding the cows, followed by work at the organic farm, where they assist in removing weeds, preparing the soil, and watering crops grown without chemical fertilisers. Adjusting to a new country has come with its own challenges. The climate, food, and language were initially unfamiliar, but both volunteers have embraced the experience with openness. They have also begun learning basic Tamil phrases to better connect with students and staff. Anupriya L N, Head, Volunteering, Sevalaya, expressed happiness at the revival of the partnership after the pandemic and noted that the association with Project Trust has always been mutually enriching.



Evie actively clearing weeds in the banana plantation.



Martha guiding students and teaching English in an interactive way.



Watch their experience :
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1294545715896431>

Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ



Easter was celebrated on 4 Apr 2026 at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre. Fr Ansel Antony, Correspondent - St Claret Matriculation School, and S Antony Alwin, Proprietor - Mary Stores, Pakkam, was the Chief Guests.

In his address, Fr Ansel Antony expressed his happiness at visiting the campus and emphasised that love and unity go beyond religion. He said that all human beings are equal and highlighted the influence of leaders such as

Mahakavi Bharathiyar, Mahatma Gandhi, and Swami Vivekananda on Sevalaya's Founder.

He spoke about the fearless life of Jesus Christ, his compassion for the poor, and how his teachings inspired Gandhiji. He also shared that Swami Vivekananda admired Jesus deeply and believed in sincere pursuit of one's goals. He encouraged students not to waste time, to make use of their talents, and to strive for success.



Birth of Lord Rama celebrated

Kasuva, Tiruvallur



Rama Navami was celebrated on 26 Mar 2026 at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre.

Swami Pradeepanand, Coordinator of the Chennai branch of Divya Jyoti Jagrati Sansthan, attended as Chief Guest.

In his address, he explained that Rama Navami is not just the celebration of Lord Rama's birth but a reminder to discover the inner light within ourselves. He said that just as Lord Rama defeated Ravana, we must overcome our own negative thoughts through spiritual wisdom.

He emphasised the importance of truth, discipline, and righteousness, and spoke about the role of a Guru in guiding individuals from ignorance to knowledge.

He added that a true Ram Rajya begins with inner transformation, ego-less living, and treating everyone with love and equality.

Under the guidance of S Kavitha, Teacher, students collectively chanted the Maha Mantra, creating a devotional atmosphere.

Uthiramerur, Kancheepuram

A Mukuntarajan, Senior Manager, Visa Insurance Broking Pvt. Kancheepuram was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College.



Ambattur, Chennai

Gayathri Chandrasekar, Program Director, Wipro Technologies, was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College.



MGR University students conduct interactive activities



Sixty second-year Psychology students from MGR University, Chennai, conducted an activity session on 28 Mar 2026 at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre.

The session included icebreakers, discussions on psychology and career

opportunities, and a role play on exam anxiety and peer support.

Activities such as the Human Knot helped students develop teamwork, communication, trust, and problem-solving skills. In the Positive Affirmation Circle, students shared encouraging words with each other, promoting self-confidence and empathy.

Basketball, throwball, and tug of war were also conducted. Volunteers distributed smile badges and pens, and prizes were given to winners. 112 students of Std VIII participated.

Spiritual visit to sivan temple

75 students from Sevalaya's Kasuva centre visited Pakkam sivan temple on 30 Mar 2026 for *pradhosam poojai*. Students witnessed the *pooja*, listened to *Thiruvasagam*, and learned about the significance of *Pradosham* and the stories associated with it.

The visit provided a spiritual and cultural learning experience for the students.



BNY takes 139 students to Museum



139 students of Std XI from Sevalaya's Kasuva centre visited the India Seashell Museum on 9 Apr 2026.

Guided by 19 volunteers from BNY, the students explored rare and exotic shell collections and learned about various marine species, gaining insights into ocean biodiversity. They also visited Tiger Cave as part of the trip.

BNY sponsored transportation, snacks, and lunch for the students, making the visit a memorable and enriching experience.

BU Soft Tech's new space inaugurated



Sevalaya Murali and Bhuvaneshwari Muralidharan, Honorary Correspondent, Sevalaya, jointly inaugurating BU Soft Tech's new office at Perungudi, Chennai, on 25 Mar 2026 in presence of BU Soft Tech employees.

Sevalaya Murali spoke about the inspirations behind Sevalaya, highlighting the teachings of Mahakavi Bharathiyar, Mahatma Gandhi, and Swami Vivekananda.

Bhuvaneshwari Muralidharan shared

her journey with Sevalaya and spoke about her inspiration from Bharathiyar, especially his verse *வீழ்வென்ற நனைந்தாயோ? (Vizhven endru nenaithayo)*". She also quoted lines reflecting the struggles and purpose of human life,

encouraging everyone to reflect on their actions and live meaningfully.

Swami Venkat, CEO, Ramkumar Kolpurath, CTO, and C Karthik, COO of BU Soft Tech, were present on the occasion.

BU Soft Tech specialises in providing innovative software products, technology services, and AI solutions to global clients, helping optimise business operations and drive digital transformation.



Tata Electronics - Mental wellbeing session

Tata Electronics volunteers conducted engaging sessions at Sevalaya's centres on mental wellbeing on 21 Apr 2026.

At Sevalaya's Janaki Ammal Vijayaraghavachariar Memorial Senior

Uthiramerur, Kancheepuram



Citizens Home, Zamin Endathur, 16 volunteers engaged with elders through singing, dancing, and friendly discussions, creating joyful moments and personal connections.

At Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Uthiramerur, 10 volunteers conducted a mental wellbeing session for 52 students.

The session was led by V Radhika, HR, Tata Electronics, who spoke about managing stress, understanding emotions, and building confidence through simple and relatable examples. 52 students participated.

The session helped students feel more relaxed, confident, and positive.

Feedback from Volunteers: It was a great day and a great event! Thanks a lot!

Zamin Endathur, Chengalpattu



Mathematics workshop



Three teachers from Sevalaya, along with 60 teachers from other schools, attended the *Guru Devo Bhava* Mathematics Workshop.

Sadagopan Rajesh, Director, Aryabhata Institute of Mathematical Sciences, and Govindaraj Upadhyaya, CA and Math Enthusiast, were the faculty members for the session.

The workshop focused on enhancing conceptual clarity and promoting 360-degree learning. Key topics included assessment strategies, types of assessment, preparation of Maths calendars, and framing creative questions.

The session also encouraged out-of-the-box thinking through topics such as dynamic geometry, number series, puzzles, and the beauty of special numbers.



Experience that Matters - Anupam



Anupam volunteered at Sevalaya through the Rural Living and Learning Experience programme. What started as an academic experience became a meaningful journey that shaped his views on life and service. Here, he shares his experience.

1. Where were you brought up?

I was born and brought up in Ernakulam, Kerala, where I completed my schooling and undergraduate studies. At the age of 23, I moved to Odisha to pursue my MBA in Rural Management at XIM University.

2. Your background and family support

I come from a loving and grounded family. My father runs a business, my mother is a homemaker, my brother works in Chennai, and my grandmother lives with us. They have always been my strength, shaping my confidence and values.

3. How did you come to know about Sevalaya?

I came to know about Sevalaya through my college. What started as an academic

requirement became a personal and memorable experience, allowing me to live within the community.

4. What were you engaged in at Sevalaya?

I was involved in various activities, but spending time with the elders at the old age home was the most special part. Sitting with them, listening to their stories, and simply being present became the most meaningful moments of my days. Even small conversations and their smiles stayed with me.

5. How was your overall experience at Sevalaya?

My experience was truly life-changing. Those 45 days were among the most meaningful in my life. Sevalaya helped me become calmer, kinder, and more grateful. It is a place where compassion is genuinely lived every day.

6. Key learnings from Sevalaya

I learned that making a positive impact

does not require big actions, but small acts of kindness, patience, and care - lessons no classroom could teach. Sevalaya also changed my understanding of success, showing me that it lies in the lives we touch and the kindness we leave behind.

7. Free time at Sevalaya

My free time was peaceful, often spent in nature or with the elders. I also learned from Anupriya ma'am and Murali sir, whose humility and dedication were inspiring.

8. Your personal interests

I enjoy sports like football, cricket, and basketball. I also have interests in reading, writing, photography, and exploring different cuisines.

Even today, I miss those 45 days - the people, the values, and the sense of peace and I sincerely hope to return soon," he signs off.

Inspiring young minds - Devipriya M



Devipriya Mani, a committed and passionate tuition instructor at Sevalaya's Tuition Centre in Thiruneermalai, is known for her balanced approach, being strict when needed and caring at heart. She was born to Mani, a farmer, and Usha, a homemaker, and grew up with

four elder sisters and one younger sister in Chennai.

She completed her schooling across various government institutions and went on to pursue B Com and M Com at SDNB Vaishnav College for Women,

Chennai. She later completed her MBA in Financial Services Management from Anna University.

Under the *Naam Mudhalvan* scheme, she trained students in FinTech subjects across reputed institutions such as Patrician College of Arts and Science, Valliammal College for Women, St Joseph's College of Arts and Science, and Tagore College of Arts and Science.

She came to know about Sevalaya during her studies and later understood its mission of providing free education to deserving students.

Inspired by this, she joined Sevalaya as a tuition instructor on 1 Mar 2025.

Continued on page 7

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She currently teaches 21 students from Std V to IX, primarily from rural and economically challenged backgrounds, and fondly refers to them as “my children.”

With the support of IITM Pravartak Technologies Foundation, students are exposed to innovative learning methods in subjects - English, Maths, and Science in their local language, helping bridge the gap towards higher education opportunities.

Her structured teaching approach includes regular homework, handwriting practice, and daily video exercises in Tamil and English to improve communication skills. She ensures concepts are simple and approachable, creating a comfortable learning environment.

Her impact is clearly visible, students who previously struggled to pass are now scoring significantly higher, with an improvement of over 60% in academic performance. She proudly shares that

no student has dropped out of her tuition classes and remains committed to supporting rural students who truly need guidance.

She shares, “I love listening to music and enjoy writing in my diary.” She aspires to pursue a career in teaching.

CC students placed at RuralShores



20 students studying basic computer courses at Sevalaya’s Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College, Uthiramerur, visited

RuralShores Business Services Private Limited on 3 Apr 2026 for an industrial visit. Yogesh Kumar, HR Representative,

provided an overview of the work environment and explained part-time job opportunities.

Four students were selected through on-the-spot interviews, making the visit highly beneficial for their career exposure. The trade courses are sponsored by Guru Krupa Foundation.

RuralShores Business Services Private Limited is a BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) and digital operations company that provides IT/ITeS services, voice/non-voice support, and AI-enabled data services.

Eid Mubarak celebrations

Kasuva, Tiruvallur



a balance between academics and sports for overall well-being.

On the occasion, Amit Basha, Vice President, Merchants Association, Pakkam, distributed sweets to the students.

Dharmapuri

Ramzan was celebrated on 23 Mar 2026 at Sevalaya’s Kasuva centre.

M K Shahul Hameed, Head Coach, ICF South Colony Basketball Team, former Tamil Nadu basketball player, and a member of the Tamil Nadu Rugby Association, was the Chief Guest.

Hazarath M Imran, Masjid e Aqsa, Valluvar Nagar, Dharmapuri, Dr Sathesh Kumar Raja, President & Founder, MY Dharmapuri NGO and A Syed Jaffer, Organizer, MY Dharmapuri NGO were the Chief Guests at Sevalaya’s VT Shanthi Memorial Senior Citizens’ Home.

In his address, he spoke about his long association with Sevalaya and explained the significance of Ramadan fasting. He highlighted that fasting helps develop empathy for the poor, purifies the body and mind, and instills discipline, compassion, and self-control.



He also encouraged students to maintain LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Thanjavur



Lion A Mohammed Masud, District President, Lions Club of Thanjavur Kings was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya’s Gandhi Ashram Krishnan Memorial Free Senior Citizens’ Home.

Zamin Endathur, Chengalpattu

N Mohammed Yunus, Proprietor, Madina Stores, Madhuranthagam, was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya’s Janaki Ammal Vijayaraghavachariar Memorial Senior Citizens’ Home.

Mahadev Desai - 32

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

All the Ashramites including Gandhiji, Kasturba and Mahadev Desai were arrested. At the time of the arrest Gandhiji made a statement: "I am not a destroyer of peace; I establish peace."

Mahadev said, "the nation is beset with a disease which is fear. It is my pledge to practice and propagate civil disobedience to counteract fear and attain Swarajya."

The first thing Gandhiji did on arrest was to ask permission for Harijan work.

Mahadev prepared soup from boiled white pumpkin. In the evening they sent the pumpkin to Kasturba. She prepared the soup and sent it to Gandhiji. This was to be the last time Gandhiji was to take soup prepared by Kasturba for a long time to come.

Mahadev was feeling a bit upset as he had been angry with Durgaben for some reason on the previous day. And so, during Gandhiji's nap, he apologised to Durgaben by writing her a letter and thanked God that there was no untoward incident.

Gandhiji and Mahadev Desai were each awarded one year's simple imprisonment. Kasturba and other fifteen women and seventeen men were awarded six months imprisonment each.

As the Government did not allow him to do Harijan work Gandhiji went on a fast.

Kasturba came to meet him on the fifth day of the fast. Here is the description of the meeting in Mahadev's words:

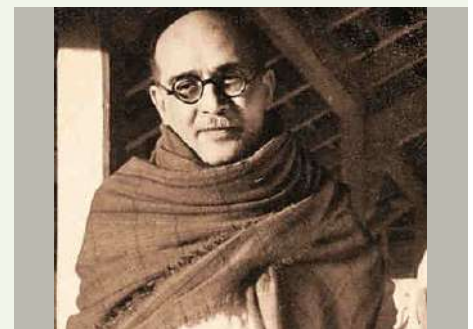
"Ba was the same. She might have oceans of sorrow in her mind, but her face was totally serene and peaceful. She bowed down to him and put her head on his chest. I had tears in my eyes. But she did not have a single tear in her eyes. She said with a smile: 'So, you have started it again! When I was told by the jailor and the Superintendent to come here, I had half a mind to refuse. But I thought it was not proper to refuse and so I did not refuse. The Superintendent said, 'As Gandhi is in the European ward, we do not have orders to keep you with him. I will take you to meet him for fifteen minutes.' I said, 'Then you should not have brought me here. Did I ask you to be taken to him?' 'Bapu was pleased and indicated his approval by nodding his head. Bapu enquired about other women prisoners. Ba gave him the news about everyone. It seemed as if Ba had come and poured new life into Bapu, as if she added new blood, new hope, and new confidence. Who can be defeated when confronted with such courage?"

Bapu was taken to Sassoon Hospital from Yerawada jail and Mahadev was transferred to Belgaum jail. Bapu's health speedily deteriorated in the Sassoon Hospital. His 21 days fast ended on 29 May and his last (that is for the third time) fast began on 16 Aug. Thus, the

last fast began when even 3 months had not elapsed after the previous fast of 21 days. And so, there was a lot of physical suffering this time. Especially on two or three days before the 24th, the physical suffering was acute and troublesome. Gandhiji had given up hope of surviving and gave away his things to the nurses and the ward boys. At this juncture, Gandhiji was released.

When he slightly recovered, he announced publicly that although the Government has released him, he would not directly participate in the Civil Disobedience Movement till the 3RD August 1934, which marked the end of his sentence, and would spend his time mainly in Harijan work. After that he started his historical harijan tour of the whole country for the removal of untouchability and collecting funds for it. The tour began in November 1933 and continued till June 1934.

To be continued....



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