



129th Chellamma–Bharathi wedding anniversary celebrated

Kadayam, the birthplace of Chellamma, was also home to Mahakavi Bharathiyar for a few years.

Since 2019, Sevalaya has been commemorating the wedding anniversary of the iconic couple every year. To honour and preserve their legacy, Sevalaya has renovated the Kadayam Branch Library, installed a statue of the Chellamma–Bharathi couple, established a Learning Centre in their name, and adorned the Keezhakadayam railway station with murals depicting their life and contributions.

Day 1: Inaugural celebrations (26 Jun)

On the inaugural day, Chief Guests, teacher Anitha Shifa Lilly and Professor Dr Kavitha paid floral tributes to the Bharathi–Chellamma statue. Meenakshi Sundaram, Librarian - Kadayam Branch Library, and Sethuramalingam, Head - Bharathi Readers' Circle, delivered special addresses. Mahakavi Bharathi's great-grandson, Arjun Bharathi, along with Sundar (son of Chellamma's younger brother) and his wife Vijayalakshmi, also



participated in the event.

The speakers highlighted Chellamma's unwavering support for Bharathi, her role in preserving his literary works, Bharathi's compassion for all living beings, and the influence of Sister Nivedita on his views on women's liberation. They also expressed their happiness at celebrating the occasion alongside Bharathi's descendants.

Day 2: Grand Procession (27 Jun)

The second day began with a procession featuring a decorated palanquin carrying portraits of Chellamma and Bharathi. The procession was flagged off by Arjun Bharathi (Bharathi's great-grandson) and Sundar (son of Chellamma's brother).

Senior executives from BNY - Arvind Guruprasad and Vidya Durai, along with students from Chathiram School and members of the public, participated in large numbers as it passed through the streets of Kadayam.

During the evening session, Chief Guests P Mary, Tenkasi District Library Officer, and writer R Harihara Gopal from Salem addressed the gathering, highlighting the couple's life of harmony, sacrifice, social reform, and Chellamma's unwavering support for Bharathi.

The event concluded with a dance performance by students from Tirunelveli Sivalaya Natya School.



Mahakavi Bharathi's great-grandson, Arjun Bharathi, garlanding the Bharathi–Chellamma statue.



Dance students from Sevalaya Kalanilayam receiving participation certificates from the guests.



Sevalaya Murali and school students carrying the Chellamma–Bharathi palanquin during the procession.

Day 3: Awards & Cultural Programme (28 Jun)

The concluding ceremony was attended by Chief Guests Arjun Bharathi, Sundar and N Kanakasabapathy, Advocate and President, Tenkasi Thiruvalluvar Kazhagam.

Sheikh Muhammad Khan, Secretary

- Kadayam Merchants' Association, and Meenakshi Sundaram, Librarian - Kadayam Branch Library, also addressed the gathering. The speakers highlighted Chellamma's strength and sacrifice, Bharathiyar's ideals, and appreciated Sevalaya's service to underprivileged communities.

To mark the occasion, state-level speech, essay writing and drawing competitions attracted around 3,000 school and college students from 11 districts of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Trophies and certificates were presented

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to 140 winners, who also showcased their talents. Students of Sevalaya Kalanilayam presented cultural performances.

The celebrations were attended by K S Kalyani Sivagaminathan, a Sevalaya supporter and retired headmaster, President - Kadayam Merchants' Association, prominent local figures including Somasundaram and Gopal, members of the public, Bharathi admirers and students.

Highlights in Pictures:



BNY sponsors R S Nallaperumal memorial centre

The newly constructed 'Educational Master' R S Nallaperumal Memorial Centre at Ravanasmudram, Tenkasi district, was inaugurated on 27 Jun 2026 by Arvind Guruprasad, Senior Executive (Risk and Compliance) - BNY, who graced the event as the Chief Guest.

In his address, Arvind Guruprasad highlighted BNY's long-standing support for Sevalaya's social welfare initiatives and said the memorial centre would contribute to the region's social progress. He also encouraged students to dream big, remain curious and work hard to achieve their goals, drawing inspiration from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam.

Speaking on the occasion, Ganesan,



Arvind Guruprasad and Sevalaya Murali inaugurating the R S Nallaperumal Memorial Centre.

a relative of Nallaperumal, thanked Sevalaya for establishing the memorial centre in Ravanasmudram, Nallaperumal's birthplace, thereby

preserving his legacy. Ameer Khan (a friend of Nallaperumal and a former Councillor) and Neelakandan

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(a prominent figure from Ravanasamudram) also paid tribute to Nallaperumal and appreciated Sevalaya's efforts.

Established on the site of Nallaperumal's



ancestral home, which he had donated to Sevalaya, the ₹1.63 crore centre was funded by BNY. It offers free tailoring and computer training for economically disadvantaged women and youth, free after-school classes for students, free



medical services for villagers, and classes in *Bharatanatyam*, Yoga and Carnatic music for children. Vidya Durai, Director, Philanthropy & Community Impact Corporate affairs, BNY attended the event.

Komatsu inaugurates Free study centres for tribals

50+ students will benefit at Sitteri Hills, Dharmapuri

Komatsu India Private Limited, as part of its CSR programme, has sponsored two After-School Study Centres for tribal children in Sitteri Post, Pappireddipatti Block, Dharmapuri district. The two centres in Mannur and Pereri villages were inaugurated on 12 Jun 2026.

Sevalaya is the implementation partner of the project worth ₹12.5 lakhs, which also includes 2 centres in B R Hills district, Karnataka.

S K Nadiga, Senior Manager, HR & GA, T Vasudevan, Manager - F & A and D Rajaganeshan, Assistant Manager, HR & GA from Komatsu India graced the occasion as Chief Guests.

Addressing the students, the Chief Guests encouraged them to study well, make use of the opportunity provided through the centres, and work hard towards a bright future. They expressed confidence in the students' potential and motivated them to develop skills that would help them succeed in life. Snacks, school bags and notebooks were distributed to the students.

Komatsu India already sponsors two other centres in Arasanatham and



Officials from Komatsu India and Sevalaya with students in front of the newly inaugurated Study Centre at Pereri Village, Dharmapuri.

Kalasapadi villages in the same area, with a total of 8 centres across Dharmapuri and B R Hills, Karnataka.

Earlier, Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee, explained that the centres are run in collaboration with IIT Madras' Vidya Shakti initiative and provide after-school academic support to tribal and underprivileged students through smart learning facilities and online classes.

Sevalaya currently operates 50 After-

School Free Study Centres across Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka, supporting the educational needs of children in rural and tribal communities.



Panruti village gets RO plant sponsored by Komatsu



Komatsu India Private Limited sponsored the construction of a Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant at Panruti village in Sriperumbudur Block, Kancheepuram district. Sevalaya was the implementation partner.

The RO Plant was inaugurated on 2 Jun 2026 by J Selvakumar, Senior Assistant

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General Manager, Human Resources & General Affairs and J Hari Krishnan, Senior Assistant General Manager, Manufacturing, Komatsu India Private Limited. Arjunan, President, Panruti Panchayat, and Sevalaya staff members also participated in the event.

Built at a cost of ₹8.17 lakhs, the 1,000 litres per hour (LPH) RO Plant will provide safe drinking water to around 3,500 villagers from Panruti and Kandigai villages. The operation and maintenance of the plant will be managed by the Panruti Panchayat. A nominal charge of ₹5 for 20 litres will be collected from villagers to support the maintenance and long-term sustainability of the facility.

Addressing the gathering, J Selvakumar emphasised the importance of water conservation and the need to protect natural resources to ensure access to clean water for future generations. J Hari Krishnan highlighted Komatsu India's commitment to community development through its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, appreciated Sevalaya for effectively implementing the project, and encouraged villagers to use the facility responsibly.

Speaking on the occasion, Arjunan, President, Panruti Panchayat, appreciated Komatsu India's continued support for the village. He noted that the company had earlier sponsored the construction of a community hall at a cost of ₹1.25

crores and provided a generator, tables and chairs for community use. He also appreciated Sevalaya's support and requested consideration for a sewage treatment plant as a future community development initiative.



J Hari Krishnan and J Selvakumar from Komatsu India inaugurating the RO Plant at Panruti Village.

2,200 students Back to School



Grand celebrations were held on 4 Jun 2026 at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre to mark the reopening of the school for the 2026–27 academic year.

More than 2,200 students were welcomed back to school with sweets and gifts.

Teachers received the students with a traditional *Aarthi*. Children joining LKG for the first time were warmly welcomed with toys, making their first day at school a memorable experience.

The students were encouraged to begin the new academic year with enthusiasm

and dedication. Educational kits, including school bags, stationery and books, were distributed to support their learning journey.

The celebrations created a joyful atmosphere as students, teachers and staff came together to welcome the new academic year.



Real-World medical exposure



22 Community College students from Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre, pursuing the Lab Technician Assistant trade, visited Privaram Cancer Hospital, an initiative of Kalpavriksham Trust, to gain hands-on exposure to patient care and diagnostic procedures.

The students also learned about cancer

symptoms, prevention, and treatment. Participation certificates were distributed to all the students.

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BNY-supported robotics exhibition showcases innovation

A Robotics Exhibition showcasing the creativity and technical skills of Sevalaya students was inaugurated on 4 Jun 2026 at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Srinath Venkatesan, Director, Data Management and Manager, Quantitative Analysis, BNY, and Swapna George, Director, Alternatives Investor Solutions, BNY. Dr Vidya Durai, Director, Philanthropy



*Srinath Venkatesan delivering his address from the dais
From L to R: Sevalaya Murali, Thiru Narayanan, Swapna George and
Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan*

and Community Impact, BNY and Thiru Narayanan, Sevalaya donor, also participated.

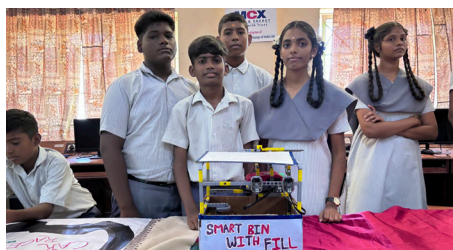
The guests interacted with students and viewed innovative projects including a Smart Home, Voting Machine, Smart Farming System, Smart Cleaning Robot, 3D Printer, and Drone. BNY currently provides financial assistance for robotics training to 350 Sevalaya students.

Certificates and prizes were presented to students who excelled in robotics classes.

The guests appreciated the students' innovation, creativity and dedication, and encouraged them to continue exploring technology and learning opportunities.

Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee, highlighted the impact of BNY's support in advancing robotics education.

He noted that BNY's assistance had enabled Sevalaya students to participate and achieve success in international robotics competitions.



Sevalaya expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Guru Krupa Foundation, USA, SGK, Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital, Andritz, Haworth, FirstRand, BNY, BorgWarner, Bhavitha Foundation and individual donors for sponsoring educational kits for 2,200 underprivileged children.

Sevalaya staff attend 'Winners' Way' development programme

Sevalaya organised a training programme titled 'Winners Way' at Hotel Palmgrove, Nungambakkam.

Vikas Perla, Happyness Coach - The Happyness Formula, led the session. The half a day session was conducted every Friday from 24 Apr 2026 to 22 May 2026.

The session was attended by over 30 senior staff members of Sevalaya from various locations. Sevalaya Murali and Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan, Co-Founder and Honorary Correspondent, also participated.

Participants engaged in a series of LOVE ALL SERVE ALL



interactive activities, beginning with energy-building exercises and team interactions. This was followed by a group activity exploring participants' dreams and qualities. A subsequent discussion

emphasised the importance of self-belief and a "Yes I Can" mindset as the path to achieving one's goals. The session also introduced the "Happyness Tree" model linking belief, attitude, behaviour and results. The programme concluded with an exercise on how clarity reinforces confidence and leads to a solution-oriented Approach.

The programme, scheduled over four half-day sessions in May, is aimed at aligning personal aspirations with organisational direction to achieve sustainable performance.

International Yoga day celebrated

Kasuva, Tiruvallur



International Day of Yoga was celebrated on 21 Jun 2026 at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre, Tiruvallur.

Yogasharan V S Prakash, Holistic Coach and Yoga Therapist from Atma Niranjana Yoga Vidyalaya, was the Chief Guest.

He conducted an engaging yoga

session for over 250 students, elders and staff from Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Community College and Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa Old Age Home.

Participants from Sevalaya's centres in Thanjavur, Dharmapuri, Ravanamudram

and Zamin Endathur also joined the programme online.

During his address, he explained the origin and importance of Yoga, stating that the word "Yoga" comes from the Sanskrit root word "Yuj," which means "to unite." He highlighted the physical, mental and spiritual benefits of Yoga and demonstrated various asanas while explaining their benefits through an interactive session.



Ambattur, Chennai



Uthiramerur, Kancheepuram



Zamin Endathur, Chengalpattu



S Shashi Rekha, Yoga Trainer & Therapist from Yoga for Wellness Centre, KK Nagar, Chennai, was the Chief Guest for the International Yoga Day celebration at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College.

15 students participated in the session and learned various yoga practices including *Asanas*, *Pranayama*, Meditation, *Kayakalpa* exercises, spinal cord strengthening exercises, *Bitilasana* (Cow Pose), *Balasana* (Child's Pose), *Vajrasana*, and stretching and flexibility exercises. The session also covered *Nadi Shuddhi Pranayama*, breathing techniques, relaxation techniques, and meditation practices.



S Ranjani Sampath, Kancheepuram District Coordinator and B Gajapathy, Uthiramerur Taluk Coordinator, Heartfulness Institute were the Chief Guests at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College. They had sponsored food for the senior citizens at Zamin Endathur.

30 students participated in the Yoga Day session and learned about the benefits of various yoga practices. They were taught different yoga postures, with special emphasis on exercises designed to improve heart health and overall well-being.



A Banu Prakash, Founder, Prana Flow Yogashala, Chengalpattu was the Chief Guest at Sevalaya's Janaki Ammal Vijayaraghavachariar Memorial Senior Citizens' Home.

He explained the importance of yoga and its benefits for better breathing and reduced knee pain. 15+ senior citizens practiced simple yoga exercises.

Learning Through Living - Sagnik Banerjee



Sagnik Banerjee joined Sevalaya through the Rural Living and Learning Experience (RLLE) programme of XIM University. What began as a field immersion exercise became a journey of observation, reflection, and understanding rural life from the ground up. Here, he shares his experience.

1. What was your childhood, background, and family support like?

I was born in Jharkhand and grew up in different towns across India due to my father's transferable job. Moving frequently helped me adapt to new environments, understand diverse communities, and develop a curiosity about people and systems.

I am currently pursuing an MBA in Rural Management at XIM University, Bhubaneswar. I come from a supportive family that has always encouraged learning, curiosity, and social awareness. Their support played an important role in my decision to pursue Rural Management and participate in experiences like RLLE.

2. How did you come to know about Sevalaya?

I came to know about Sevalaya through the Rural Living and Learning Experience (RLLE) programme at XIM University. As part of this field immersion, students are placed in rural communities and grassroots organisations across the country. My group was assigned to Sevalaya, Kasuva, where we spent 45 days living, learning, and engaging with the community.

3. What were you engaged in at Sevalaya?

I was involved in research for Sevalaya's proposed five-year expansion plan, focusing on education, infrastructure, and sustainability. I also interacted with students, teachers, staff, elders, and villagers to understand their daily realities. Through observation, data collection, and reflection, I studied issues related to livelihoods, sanitation, water access, mobility, and community development.

4. Key learnings from Sevalaya

Sevalaya taught me the importance of listening before proposing solutions. I learned to observe patterns in everyday life and understand how small routines contribute to resilience and dignity. The experience strengthened my empathy, critical thinking, and research skills. It also showed me that meaningful impact comes through consistency, trust, and genuine engagement with people.

5. Free time at Sevalaya

During my free time, I enjoyed interacting with villagers, observing local markets, and reflecting on my daily experiences. These moments often became opportunities for learning. Simple conversations and observations helped me understand rural life beyond statistics and reports.

6. Your personal interests

Cricket commentary is one of my favourite interests, as it helps me develop quick thinking, communication, and analytical skills. I am also actively involved in theatre, which has enhanced my confidence, empathy, teamwork, and public speaking abilities.

"The 45 days at Sevalaya taught me that development begins with understanding people, their realities, and their aspirations. It was an experience that shaped both my perspective and my personal growth," he signs off.

Forest trails to classrooms:

The Story of Sevalaya Nilgiris' After-School Study Centres

Have you ever wondered what happens when a small village in the hills gets a helping hand to educate its children?

In the Nilgiris district, Sevalaya Nilgiris, with the support of various corporate partners, is transforming the lives of tribal children through its After-School Study Centres in remote villages.

Origin & Concept:

The idea of setting up After-School Study Centres for tribal children emerged when Innocent Divya, IAS, the then District Collector of The Nilgiris, observed that many tribal students were struggling to cope with school lessons. She recognised

the need for additional academic support after school hours to help them continue their education confidently.

The concept gained strong local support from Saravana Kannan, the then Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO). With sponsorship from Dr Agarwal's Eye Foundation, the first centre was established in Kuvamoola, named the Sevalaya's Education Resource Centre in 2022.

The purpose was clear - many children were dropping out of school, parents were unaware of the importance of education, and tribal students often felt

isolated from non-tribal classmates. The centre aimed to bridge these gaps by offering both academic guidance and emotional encouragement.

Growth & Reach:

What began as a single learning space in Kuvamoola has now grown into a network of 8 centres across the Nilgiris, supported by Sevalaya and its corporate CSR partners which are Dr Agarwal's Eye Foundation and BNY.

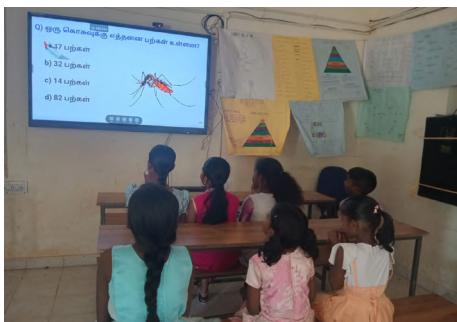
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The centres operate in:

1. Kuvamoola



4. Kundhalady



One inspiring story stands out from the village of Kuvamoola

At the heart of the Kuvamoola centre is K Kumar, a teacher from the same village who understands the lives of the children he teaches. Every morning, he walks through winding forest paths, gathering children and escorting them safely to school. In the evenings, he conducts classes at the centre, patiently helping students with homework, clarifying lessons, and motivating them to dream big.

The centre also admits 20 students who have completed primary education elsewhere, helping them strengthen their academic foundation. Under Kumar's guidance, children who once stayed home now attend school regularly. Parents have started taking pride in their children's achievements.

2. Bennai



5. Kokkal



7. Koundankolly



Sevalaya's After-School Study Centres in the Nilgiris reach over 200 tribal children, nurturing their learning, confidence, and character. With continued corporate and community support, Sevalaya Nilgiris aims to expand this model to more villages across the district, ensuring that every child, no matter how remote their home, has access to quality education.

3. Kallichal



6. Theppakadu



8. Kottamedu



The tuition centre is very helpful for us. There are many storybooks in both English and Tamil, and the facilities are very good. I really enjoy studying here. They also give us evening snacks. The play materials are very useful too.

– Lalitha

Each centre supports about 25 students, guided by local teachers who understand the community and its needs. In remote forest villages, children often walk long distances to school, and attendance dips during farming seasons as they help their families. Language barriers remain a challenge, with many tribal children struggling to learn Tamil and English.

Despite these hurdles, including wildlife threats, poor transport, and limited electricity - the teachers persevere. They patiently build strong learning foundations for first-generation learners.

Mahadev Desai - 34

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

When Gandhiji was in Wardha, he saw the conditions of villages in Wardha city. His attention was chiefly drawn to the abundance of filth in the villages. He started a regular village cleaning campaign along with his colleagues. In the lanes of a small village Sindi, he saw human excreta lying around. Gandhiji gave buckets and spades to his group and started removing the excreta. Miraben took over this work from Gandhiji. When Mahadev reached there, cleaning of Sindi village was added to his daily routine.

He writes in his letters to Sardar Patel:

Our toilet cleaning work is going on. It is a gigantic task. The people are completely shameless. They do not have any feeling at all. It will not be surprising if within a few days they start believing that we are scavengers.

Mira is leaving Sindi village after conceding defeat. So there will be an emergency there. How can I leave from here under these circumstances? Babu is also not ready to grant me permission.

In Miraben's words:

The inhabitants of this village used the

sides of the roads for easing themselves. I happened to mention this matter to Babu and he immediately said, "It is our duty to teach these people sanitation, and if they won't listen, we should clean up...."

The villages proved deaf. So Babu told me to take a bucket and a shovel and any volunteers and daily go and clean.

For a long period Mahadev had continued the cleaning work at Sindi village as a sacrificial offering. Babla also joined in this work.

Babla asked Gandhiji, "What is the advantage of this work? There is no effect on the villagers. On the contrary, they gave orders to us to clean various places." Babu said, "So! You are already tired! Ask Mahadev, since how long has he been doing this cleaning! There is devotion in his work. You must also cultivate that! The stigma of untouchability is not a small thing! We will have to prayerfully strive for a very long time to remove it."

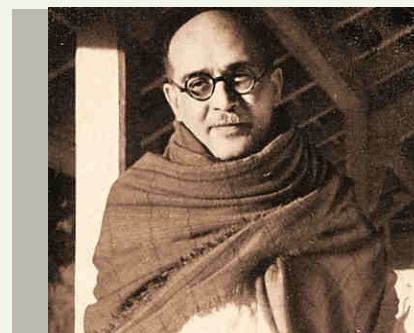
Babu gave a twist to the discussion. "The worker who cleans gets the advantage. Is he not being trained?"

Continuing, he said, "If I am in your place, I will observe carefully. If someone

gets up after easing himself, I will immediately go there. If I see any rottenness in the excreta, I will tell him gently, 'your stomach seems to be upset. You should try a particular remedy' and thus I will try to win him over. "

Not only that. He added "If I could have my say, I would not only thoroughly clean up the roads, but would plant flower plants there, water them daily and create gardens where there are heaps of rubbish. Cleanliness can be an art."

To be continued...



SEVALAYA FOUNDERS' USA OUTREACH VISIT



As part of an outreach visit to the US in September 2026, Murali and Bhuvana will engage with communities and supporters to raise awareness about Sevalaya's work and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Interested in hosting or supporting
an interaction in your city?

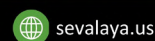
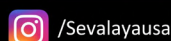
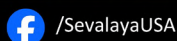
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