



Two daughters of Sevalaya begin married life



Shalini, married to S Rajkumar on 30 Aug 2026 at Murugan Temple, Parasanapalli, Ambur (Tirupathur).



Jayathi got married to M Murali, on 17 Sep 2026 at Sri Pachayamman Aalayam, Semboondi, Chengalpattu District.

For a child growing up at Sevalaya, the journey is not just about education. It is about growing with care, gaining confidence, becoming independent and, one day, beginning a new life of her own.

Two such journeys reached beautiful milestones this year.

Shalini, who joined Sevalaya's Children's Home as a child, grew up with the Sevalaya family and studied at Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School. With the support of Sevalaya's donors, she pursued higher education and later worked as an Office Assistant.

Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee and Bhuvaneshwari Muralidharan, Co-Founder and Honorary Correspondent, Sevalaya, joined the celebrations and blessed the couple. Around 50 members of the Sevalaya family, including staff, children and Old Age Home residents who had spent many years with Shalini, attended the wedding.

For those who had watched her grow from a child, seeing her begin this new chapter was an emotional and memorable moment. Donors also came forward with jewellery, household essentials and other gifts to help the couple begin their married life with

happiness and confidence.

Jayanthi joined Sevalaya in May 2017, having come from another Children's Home. She continued her education at Sevalaya and successfully completed Std X.

She then pursued a Computer Course at Sevalaya's Community College, gaining computer skills and confidence for her future. She also supported kitchen activities and contributed to the daily care and well-being of the elderly residents.

The occasion marked another meaningful milestone in her journey from a child in care to an independent young woman beginning a family of her own.



Over the years, several children who grew up in Sevalaya have begun their married lives with the support and blessings of donors and well-wishers. Mahalakshmi, Selvi, Srinivasan, Abirami, Sowmiya and Pugazharasi are among them.

Each wedding is more than a celebration. It is a reminder of a journey that began in childhood, was shaped by education, care and opportunities, and has now opened the door to a new chapter.

Sevalaya gives destitute children security, restores their confidence and helps them meet their aspirations of growth and a wholesome life.



Fortess inaugurates digital lab for 190 tribal students in Karnataka



From L to R: Sevalaya Murali, Veerabhadraswamy, Swamiji Brahmachari Ranjan Maharaj, S Sampathkumar Sundaresan, Nagesh, R Vijaya, V Veena and Kavitha.

Fortess, in collaboration with Sevalaya, inaugurated a new Digital Lab at Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra, Karnataka, on 4 Aug 2026.

Vivekananda Girijana Kalyana Kendra is a tribal school serving students from Std III to Std IX. Through this initiative, a total of 190 students will benefit from digital education and technology-based learning.

The newly established Digital Lab will provide students with training in MS Office and Basic AI. These sessions will help students develop essential

computer skills, improve their digital literacy, and gain basic knowledge of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence.

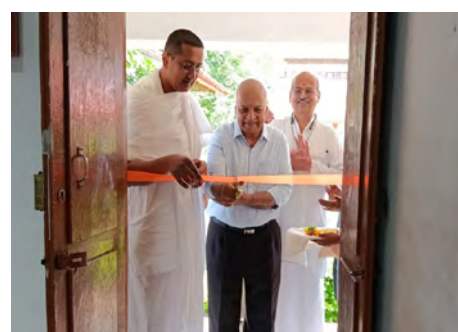
The inauguration ceremony was graced by S Sampathkumar, Member, Fortess, and Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee, as the Chief Guests. R Vijaya, HM, Sevalaya, also participated in the event.

The school's Correspondent, Swamiji Brahmachari Ranjan Maharaj, Sundaresan, Headmaster and the

Assistant Headmasters (AHMs) were also present during the inauguration ceremony.

The Digital Lab will provide students with valuable opportunities to enhance their computer knowledge and digital skills, supporting their academic development and preparing them for a technology-driven future.

Sundaresan, Headmaster of the school, expressed his gratitude to Fortess and Sevalaya for their support in bringing digital education opportunities to the students.



Swamiji Brahmachari Ranjan Maharaj and S Sampathkumar jointly inaugurating the digital lab.

Ambassadors of the Russian language in the world



The Russian House, Chennai, conducted the "Ambassadors of the Russian Language in the World" International Volunteer Programme, initiated by the Pushkin State Russian Language Institute, Moscow.

As part of the programme, 100 Sevalaya students from Stds IX and XI interacted with Russian volunteers.

Alexander Dodonov, Director, Russian House, Chennai, and Vice Consul of the Russian Federation in South India, was

the Chief Guest. Malathy Udhay, Librarian at the institution, was the Programme Coordinator.

Tatiana Vashchenko, Deputy Head of the Expert and Analytical Centre and Head of the Department for Support of Partnership Programmes and Projects, Pushkin Institute, served as the Programme Coordinator.

International Programme Volunteers Adelina Litvinenko, Mikhail Duyunov, Polina Dorozhkina and Gleb Koksun

conducted interactive sessions introducing students to Russian language, culture and literature through simple Russian expressions, oral drills, traditional music, dance, painting and cultural activities. Students learnt Russian greetings and basic sentences, explored Matryoshka dolls, traditional songs, musical instruments, winter footwear and hats, and participated in a Matryoshka colouring activity.

The students had a opportunities to play traditional Russian musical instruments, and demonstrations of simple Russian dance steps.



Maalai Murasu Editor-in-Chief releases Sevalaya documentary



Thambi Thamizharasan, Editor-in-Chief, Maalai Murasu TV, addressing the gathering during the screening of Sevalaya's 38-year journey film.

A documentary commemorating Sevalaya's 38-year journey of service was released on 25 Aug 2026 at Arkay Convention Centre, Mylapore, Chennai.

Thambi Thamizharasan, Editor-in-Chief, Maalai Murasu TV, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and released the film.

Speaking on the occasion, Thambi Thamizharasan described Sevalaya as a "Temple of Service" and highlighted how the ideals of Bharathi, Gandhi and Vivekananda are reflected in Sevalaya's work. He emphasised the importance of recognising and responding to the needs and suffering of others, referring

to the universal humanism reflected in the Sangam literature phrase "Yaadhum Oore". He also quoted a Thirukkural verse on working for the upliftment of others.

The documentary captures Sevalaya's 38-year journey since 1988, when it began by providing education to five children rescued from brick kilns in Tiruvallur district. It showcases Sevalaya's work in education, healthcare, care for destitute children and elders, rural development, skill development, organic farming, environmental protection and animal welfare, contributing to improving the lives of nearly 20,00,000 people across seven states in India.

Sandeep Sai, Director of the film, thanked Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee, and Thomas T Abraham, Executive Committee Member, Sevalaya, for their support. He also interacted with beneficiaries, witnessed the real impact Sevalaya is creating in their lives.

Sevalaya's supporters, well-wishers, trustees and Executive Committee members attended the event.



Watch Sevalaya's 38 Year Journey:

<https://youtu.be/yKA5JKIDnEQ?si=hnQe99uFiK0bFn7W>

Krishna Jayanthi and Teachers' Day celebrations



Krishna Jayanthi and Teachers' Day were celebrated at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre on 5 Sep 2026.

Rohit Kumar, Branch Manager, Indian Bank, Thiruninravur Branch, was the Chief Guest, along with Sevalaya well-wisher Vijay Iyer.

Rohit Kumar highlighted the importance

of education, humanity, good values and character, encouraging students to respect their teachers and work towards their goals.

Vijay Iyer spoke about the role of teachers in kindling curiosity and interest among students, and encouraged them to learn from their teachers and progress in life.

Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee, spoke about celebrating festivals as an opportunity for students to learn about life and culture.

He highlighted the journey of Dr S Radhakrishnan, the importance of learning languages, Sevalaya's Gokulam initiative, and remembered freedom fighter V O Chidambaram Pillai.

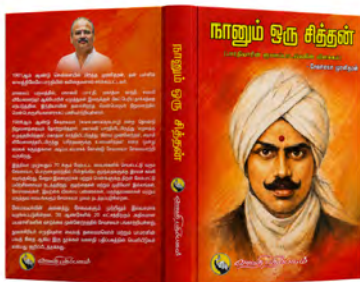
R Vijaya, Head, Education, Sevalaya, highlighted the festive participation of 300 Montessori children dressed as Krishna and Radha and encouraged students to learn from the guidance of their teachers.

The celebration also included cultural performances by students and recognition of Sevalaya employees completing their work anniversaries.

'Naanum Oru Siththan' by Sevalaya Murali released

'Naanum Oru Siththan' (I am Also a Saint), authored by Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee and published by Vanathi Pathippagam, was released on 13 Sep 2026 at Anna Centenary Library, Chennai.

The book presents the spiritual thoughts in Mahakavi Bharathiyar's poems in simple Tamil, connecting them with everyday life.



Interested to read:
"Naanum Oru Siththan" book can be purchased from Vanathi Pathippagam
Tel no: 044-2434 2810

Rajkumar Bharathi, great-grandson of Mahakavi Bharathiyar, formally released the book. Dr Tiruppur Krishnan, Editor, Amudasurabhi, 'Marabin Maindhan' Muthiah, Publisher and Editor, Namadhu Nambikkai, N Avudaiyappan, Editor, Namadhu Chettinadu and Dr T R Ramanathan, Publisher, Vanathi Pathippagam, participated as special guests.

Arjun Bharathi and Niranjan Bharathi, is descendants of Bharathiyar, Sundar, nephew of Chellamma Bharathi, and Ramanan, Editor of Kalki, also graced the occasion.



From L to R: N Avudaiyappan, 'Marabin Maindhan' Muthiah, Rajkumar Bharathi, Dr Tiruppur Krishnan, Sevalaya Murali and Dr T R Ramanathan releasing Naanum Oru Siththan, a book authored by Sevalaya Murali.

Rajkumar Bharathi appreciated Sevalaya Murali's involvement with Bharathiyar and his approach of explaining Bharathiyar's spiritual poems through relatable examples and everyday experiences.

Dr Tiruppur Krishnan highlighted the book's presentation and its exploration of Bharathiyar's spiritual thought, devotional poetry and messages of religious harmony, including his poems on Jesus and Allah.

'Marabin Maindhan' Muthiah spoke about Bharathiyar's spiritual thinking and his idea of a Siddhar as one who performs actions without ego, drawing examples from Bharathiyar's writings and Vivekananda's life.

Bharathiyar's vision of freedom was shared by N Avudaiyappan, who also appreciated the book's focus on his spiritual thoughts. He also highlighted Sevalaya's use of 'Achamillai' as a prayer song to inspire children and elders.

Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee, explained that the thoughts in the book he has authored so far were inspired by Bharathiyar, Gandhi and Vivekananda and that his wife Bhuvana compiled and developed the book using recorded videos of his talks. He thanked the special guests and members of the Bharathiyar family for participating. G Ramanathan, Trustee, Sevalaya, felicitated the special guests. Around 150 people, including Tamil literary enthusiasts, Bharathiyar admirers, Sevalaya's governing team members and members of the public, participated in the event.



Children from Kapaleeswaram Paadasalai singing Bharathiyar songs.

Tata Electronics plants 217 saplings



On the occasion of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, Tata Electronics, in collaboration with

Sevalaya, organised a tree plantation programme at Cheneri Kuppam,

Chengalpattu District, on 16 September 2026.

As part of the initiative, 52 Tata Electronics employees and the Sevalaya team participated and planted 217 saplings. The programme also raised awareness about the importance of trees in maintaining ecological balance, improving air quality and reducing carbon emissions.

Tata Electronics was the CSR Partner and Sevalaya was the Implementation Partner.

BGV day at Kadayam

3,258 students join the competitions across India

Kadayam, Tenkasi



Sevalaya celebrated Bharathi-Gandhi-Vivekananda Day (BGV Day) on 10 and 11 Sep 2026 at the Chellamma Bharathi Learning Centre, Kadayam Branch Library, South Ratha Street, Kadayam, Tenkasi, with arts, yoga, literary programmes and student competitions.

Sevalaya observes 11 September every year as BGV Day, commemorating Mahakavi Bharathiyar, Mahatma Gandhi and Swami Vivekananda, whose ideals inspired the founding of Sevalaya. The day marks Bharathiyar's remembrance day, the day Mahatma Gandhi coined the term Satyagraha in South Africa in 1906, and the day Swami Vivekananda delivered his historic speech at the World Parliament of Religions, Chicago, in 1893.

Kadayam has a special connection with Bharathiyar as the birthplace of his wife Chellamma and the place where Bharathiyar lived towards the end of his life. Sevalaya has installed a life-size statue of the Bharathi-Chellamma couple at the Kadayam Branch Library



From L to R: Dr S Sivasankar, K Mohan Bharathi, R Sundar, Swami Vimurthanandaji Maharaj, Sevalaya Murali and M Meenakshi Sundaram

and established the Chellamma Bharathi Learning Centre there.

Day 1 – 10 Sep

The celebrations began with floral tributes to the Bharathi-Chellamma couple and portraits of Bharathiyar, Mahatma Gandhi and Swami Vivekananda.

Swami Vimurthanandaji Maharaj of Sri Ramakrishna Math, Thanjavur, K Mohan, President, Gandhi Study Centre, Chennai, Varuni Mohan and Dr S Sivasankar, Head of the Tamil Department, Tiruvalluvar College, Papanasam, delivered special addresses. K Mohan spoke about the circumstances in South Africa that led to the birth of Satyagraha under Mahatma Gandhi's leadership on 11 Sep 1906 and screened relevant clippings from Richard Attenborough's Gandhi. Dr S Sivasankar spoke about Bharathiyar's scientific temper and its reflection in his poems.

Swami Vimurthanandaji Maharaj spoke about Swami Vivekananda's role in awakening national pride, his influence on leaders of India's freedom struggle, and the significance of his historic Chicago speech.

The programme also featured cultural performances and yoga demonstrations by students of Chellamma Bharathi Kalanilayam.

Day 2 – 11 September

The second day featured special guests T S R Venkata Ramana, Secretary, Chathiram Chellamma Bharathi Girls Higher Secondary School, Kadayam, and R Sundar, nephew of Chellamma.

A Sheikh Muhammad Khan, Secretary, Kadayam Traders Association, M Meenakshi Sundaram, Best Librarian, Librarian – Kadayam Branch Library and A Sethuramalingam, Head, Bharathi Readers' Circle, Kadayam Branch Library, also participated.

The speakers highlighted the social justice principles, courage, national spirit and service-oriented ideals of Bharathiyar, Gandhi and Vivekananda, and encouraged students to learn from their lives and contribute to society. R Sundar also spoke about Bharathiyar's connection with Chellamma and the significance of the programme being held in Kadayam.

As part of the BGV Day celebrations, State and National-level competitions were conducted for school and college students. A total of 3,258 students from 233 schools and 66 colleges participated. 291 prizes were presented to the winners. State-level winners received shields and appreciation certificates, while National-level winners received cash prizes and appreciation certificates.

The National-level winners also presented their winning speeches at the event. Students of the Chellamma Bharathi Learning Centre presented dance performances and yoga demonstrations. The two-day celebrations brought together students, teachers, local residents and admirers of Bharathiyar to remember the ideals and contributions of Bharathiyar, Gandhi and Vivekananda.



T S R Venkata Ramana garlanding the Chellamma Bharathi statue. In picture K Ramalakshmi and Sevalaya Murali.

Celebrating the birthday of Lord Ganesha

Kasuva, Tiruvallur



Vinayagar Chaturthi was celebrated on 15 Sep 2026.

S Eshwar, Branch Manager, LIC, Tiruvallur Branch, was the Chief Guest. A special pooja was performed for Lord Vinayagar, followed by *prasadam* distribution. Addressing the students, Eshwar shared his life journey and encouraged them to move forward without fear. He highlighted the importance of being proactive, working together and continuous learning, drawing from the book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. He also emphasised that true education goes beyond earning degrees and includes being socially responsible. K Padma, Member, Executive Committee, Sevalaya, participated.

Ambattur, Chennai



Chief Guest: S Murali, Head of Department In-Charge - Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, AMK Technological Polytechnic College.

Thanjavur



Chief Guest: Dr M Chandra and Dr T Sugasini, Lecturers of Department of Social Work, Government Arts and Science College for Women, Orathanadu.

Dharmapuri



Chief Guest: M Yoganantham, Teacher, Panchayat Union Middle School, Pachinampatti and R Saraswathi, Teacher, Government Higher Secondary School, Krishnapuram.

Zamin Endathur, Chengalpattu



Chief Guest: B Kanthan, Manager, Marutham Farms, Nettrampakkam.

Tailoring & Aari work centres in Thoothukudi and Tenkasi



U Nagarajan inaugurating the Puthiyamputtur Centre. From L to R: C Rajeswari, Tailoring Instructor, Chinniah Suri, Deputy Head, Applied Learning, and U Nagarajan.

Sevalaya is creating skill development opportunities for rural women through Tailoring and Aari Work Training Centres at Puthiyamputtur, Melseithalai and Ravanasamudram.

The Tailoring Training Programme at the Puthiyamputtur Centre, Thoothukudi, was inaugurated on 7 Sep 2026 by U Nagarajan, Project Director, Mahalir

Thittam, Thoothukudi, along with Murugan, Assistant Project Officer (APO).

The programme currently has 60 participants. Women from surrounding rural areas are undergoing training to develop practical skills and improve their livelihood opportunities.

The Melseithalai Centre also provides

Tailoring and Aari Work training, while Aari Work training has been initiated at the Ravanasamudram Centre, Tenkasi. On 9 Sep 2026, Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee, visited the Melseithalai and Puthiyamputtur Centres, reviewed the training and interacted with the trainees and trainers. He encouraged the trainees to make effective use of their skills and explore sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The Tailoring and Aari Work Training Programmes are sponsored by the Parimi Family Foundation.

Free Training | Enrol Now
9884568426 / 7010431737



The Joy of Giving

Born in Poyyundarkottai village, Konur Nadu, Thanjavur, N Thiruselvan grew up in an agricultural family. His father, Nagarajan, and mother, Banumathi, are farmers. He studied in a Government School and later completed his ITI.

He has been working as a JCB driver in Singapore for 15 years.

Thiruselvan's journey in community service began when they donated food for their son Thuvaragan's second birthday. Seeing this, many of their friends started donating for their family functions too.

Along with a small group of friends, he started supporting people who needed food and basic essentials.

What began with around 10 members gradually grew into a larger group of 70+ well-wishers. The group includes people living in Malaysia, Canada and other countries. The group uses WhatsApp to identify needs, coordinate support



and keep members updated. They are a group, "Manamugarthu Dharmam Sei" Singapore *Nanbarkal kuzhu*, through which people contribute towards various service activities.

Since 2023, the group has been supporting Sevalaya, particularly by sponsoring food for elders. Their support helps ensure that the residents receive at least one meal as part of their contribution to Sevalaya's service.

Their support extends beyond Sevalaya's Thanjavur Centre. In Thanjavur, Kallakurichi, Thiruppur, Thiruvavur, Chennai and other locations, they identify people in need through friends and local contacts and provide support during floods, education, emergencies and other difficult situations.

They have also supported families with basic essentials and assistance in building homes in Thanjavur, Pudukkottai and Thiruvavur. Education is another important area of their support. They

have sponsored the education of three children from Thanjavur and Thiruvavur. One of the women secured 6th rank and later completed her education and secured a job, which brought great happiness to the group.

Their service also reaches differently abled persons, senior citizens and children. They have supported an old age home in Kumbakonam and a school in Ramanathapuram that serves around 150 children.

For the past three years, the group has been providing Deepavali clothes to differently abled persons. They have also supported sports activities for differently abled persons by sponsoring prizes in places including Madurai and Thiruvavur. They are planning to extend similar support to Sevalaya students as well.

Its group aim:

"Let us do what we can, and continue our service to those in need."



DTCC visits Sevalaya Nilgiris



DTCC officials sponsoring sports and play equipment, including volleyballs, rackets, carrom boards and other items for the students.

Senior executives from DTCC visited Sevalaya's Nilgiris Mahatma Gandhi Medical Centre, Gudalur, on 29 Aug 2026. The DTCC team included Praveen,

Executive Director, Dhanasekar, Mithun and Chandar, Directors and Sainath, Associate Director. They visited the Medical Centre, interacted with

the medical team and monitored the construction of the new Skill Development Centre.

The team also visited the Free General Medical Camp at Koundakolly Village, the After-School Study Centre and the Tribal Residential School in Gudalur.

Follow our page for more updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/sevalayanilgiris/>



Sevalaya students winning across multiple sports



Sevalaya students have showcased exceptional talent, teamwork and determination across Basketball, Volleyball, Beach Volleyball, Chess and Handball, securing top positions and advancing to higher-level competitions.

Basketball – Zonal Champions

Thiruvallur Zonal Level Basketball Tournament

All six winning teams qualified for the District-Level Basketball Tournament.

Date: 25 Jul 2026

Participation: 7 Schools | 250+ Students

- Under-14 Boys & Girls – Winners
- Under-17 Boys & Girls – Winners
- Under-19 Boys & Girls – Winners

Hi 5 Youth Foundation, Mumbai, provides free basketball coaching and sports gear.

- Under-19 Girls – Zonal Winners

- Under-14 Boys – Zonal Winners

Both teams qualified for the District-Level Championship.

Beach Volleyball – District-Level Qualification

Tiruvallur Zonal Level Beach Volleyball Tournament

Date: 12 Aug 2026

Participation: 7 Schools | 75 Students

- Under-19 Girls – Winners

The Under-19 Girls team qualified for the District Level.

- K Prasanya – Std IX – Qualified for State Level

- Under-19 Boys – II Place

F Sabeer Ahamath – Std XI – Qualified for State Level

Handball – Zonal & State-Level Success

Tiruvallur Block Zonal Level Handball Tournament

Date: 16 Jul 2026

Participation: 26 Schools | Around 250 Students

- Under-17 Boys – Winners

- Under-19 Girls – Winners

Both teams qualified for the District-Level Handball Tournament.

Leo Muthu Trophy Inter-School State-Level Handball Tournament

Venue: Sai Ram Engineering College, Tambaram

Participation: 36 Schools | 540 Students

Sevalaya secured 4th Place

Cash Prize: ₹3,000

Seetharaman Narayanan, USA, sponsors sports activities at Sevalaya.

Volleyball – Zonal Champions

Tiruvallur Zonal Level Volleyball Championship

Date: 8 Aug 2026

Participation: 7 Schools | 250+ Students



Chess – State-Level Qualification

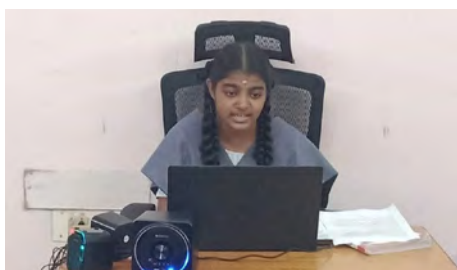
BDS & RDS Thiruvallur District-Level Chess Championship

Participation: 35 Schools | 334 Students

- Under-17 Girls – III Place



Students participate in 7th Annual *Kamban Vizha*



Muscat Thirukkural Pasarai organised its 7th Annual *Kamban Vizha* virtually on 19 and 20 Sep 2026.

Three students from Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre - T Rashwanth, B Krithika and R Soundariya, participated in the programme.

Each student spoke for eight minutes through the online platform, focusing on the invocatory verses from the *Kishkindha Kanda*, *Sundara Kanda* and *Yuddha Kanda* of the *Kamba Ramayanam*. *Ilakkiyamegam* N Srinivasan oversaw the students' oratory presentations.

One year of yoga for elders - TCS CSR



The virtual Yoga and wellness programme for Sevalaya's senior citizens has successfully completed one year. The programme reaches around 100+ elders staying at Sevalaya's Old Age Homes across Tamil Nadu.

Conducted every Tuesday and Thursday through Google Meet, the programme has completed 80+ sessions. The sessions include simple breathing exercises, prayer, meditation, positive affirmations, gratitude, healing practices and

awareness of the five elements and five senses.

The programme is guided by Harikrishnan, Project Manager, TCS, with the support of the TCS Yoga Council, TCS CSR and Sevalaya staff. The sessions have helped the elders spend time in reflection, develop positive thoughts and maintain emotional wellbeing. Sevalaya thanks TCS HR, the TCS Yoga Council, volunteers and all the participants for their continued support. The programme will continue in the near future, bringing more opportunities for wellness and positivity to the elders.

Mahadev Desai - 37

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

Gandhiji shifted to Segaoon village, later known as Sevagram. There was no post office in the village. So, it was decided that Mahadev would stay at Maganwadi, Wardha, would go to Segaoon daily with the morning post and return in the evening with the outgoing post, handling the rest of the work here during the day. Bapu was going to settle down in the village, so Mahadev asked Durgabai and son Narayan to come and stay at Wardha after vacating Sabarmati.

Actually, the bliss of Mahadev's life as a householder started at Maganwadi, thirty-two years after his marriage. In Bombay and Ahmedabad, Mahadev did have occasional satisfaction, but this was almost the first opportunity of joy when curious Babla's (Narayan) questions came almost non-stop. Mahadev was experiencing for the first time the value of married life and the happy consciousness of responsibility. Durgaben's empty abode was filled with joy.

Then there was the question of Narayan's education. It was decided to admit him to Navabharat Vidyalaya.

Jamnalal had a say in the management of the school. S W Ariyanayakam, who had recently come from Shanthi Niketan, had taken over as the Acting Principal.

But after attending the school for a few days, Narayan had a lot to complain about the school. He gave his final verdict: "I am not going to study in such a school." Mahadev did not admonish him, but said that while the decision would be his, it would be advisable to take Bapu's advice. Narayan scribbled a letter to Bapu describing in detail all the vices of the Vidyalaya he had seen in one day. He concluded by saying that he was not going to study in such a Vidyalaya.

Bapu's reply was, "Bravo!" Gandhiji informed that it was their, Bapu's and Mahadev's, responsibility to give proper education to Narayan. Gandhiji's idea was that Narayan would join in their work and that was his education. Gandhiji also took Narayan, along with Mahadev, to Madras for a function at Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, where they stayed for about five days. There was a new factor. Narayan had no examination or fixed course of studies. Mahadev left it

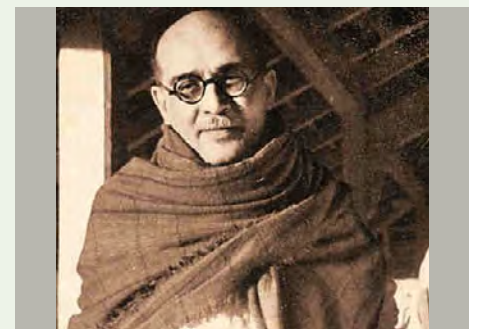
to Narayan to decide what he wanted to learn.

This was somewhat the Indian concept of training.

Narayan took up the work of typing Mahadev's articles. Thus, the weekly articles at Harijan came within the range of studies of Narayan.

Mahadev's hour of spinning was Narayan's study time. It was his one-hour school. There was also an opportunity to learn many things from Gandhiji's visitors.

To be continued —



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