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LOVE ALL, SERVE ALL

NOVEMBER 2026

SGX invests in future

Education support for 273 girls and skill development for 200 youth and women

SGX sponsored Sevalaya's girl child education and Community College programmes as part of its CSR initiatives.

The initiatives were launched by Kathryn Sloane, Executive Managing Director, Commercial, APAC, Middle East & Africa, and Mohan Sarangan, Managing Director, India, SGX on 29 Sep 2026 at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre.

The education sponsorship initiative will support the education and supply of books and 2 sets of uniforms each to 273 girl children studying from Stds IX to XII. The Community College initiative will provide skill development training and employment opportunities to 200 youth and women through computer and Tally courses.

Addressing the students, Kathryn Sloane said, "We are very happy to be part of Sevalaya's journey and to support its work." Mohan Sarangan said that SGX's contribution was a small part of the larger work being carried out by Sevalaya Murali. Referring to the Thirukkural verse, "*Eendra pozhuthin peridhuvakkum thanmaganai saanron ena ketta thaai*", (A mother will be immensely happy to know about her child's achievements, more than at the time she gave birth to the child), he encouraged the students to study well and build a good future.



Mohan Sarangan and Kathryn Sloane with students sponsored for education and skill development programme.

The September 2026 issue of the monthly manuscript magazine '*Vidiyal*', prepared by Sevalaya students with the guidance of their teachers, was released on the occasion.

106th award – Legacy Leaders



Sevalaya Murali receiving the Legacy Leaders Award from renowned podcaster Jay Thadeshwar.

Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee, was honoured with the Legacy Leaders Award on 23 Oct 2026 at Hotel Grand Hyatt, Mumbai. Presented by the Arvind Mafatlal Group in association with Network18, the award recognised his sustained contributions to societal development and commitment to serving underserved communities. Ten legacy leaders were honoured from among 260 nominations nationwide.

Sevalaya Murali received the award from Jay Thadeshwar, renowned podcaster. Other distinguished guests included Leander Paes, former Indian tennis player, and Tukaram Mundhe, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Maharashtra.

Priyavrata Mafatlal, Managing Director and CEO of Mafatlal Industries, spoke about the initiative to honour legacy leaders whose sustained efforts create a lasting impact on society.



Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam invited Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee of Sevalaya, as the Chief Guest for its Teachers' Day and Bharathiyar Day celebrations held at Alwarpet on 5 Sep 2026. In his address, he highlighted Dr S Radhakrishnan's journey from a teacher to the President of India and remembered the patriotic sacrifices of V O Chidambaram Pillai.

Watch Sevalaya Murali's full speech:
https://youtu.be/vEbkCS3Vddk?si=EB-jj1Zhf9F78myQ

IISc AA honours Sevalaya Murali

Sevalaya Murali, Founder and Managing Trustee and an IISc alumnus, was honoured with the Distinguished Alumnus Award at a felicitation programme organised by the IISc Alumni Association (IISc AA), Chennai Chapter, on 30 Oct 2026 at IIT Madras.

Prof V Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, and Prof Ravindran, Head, Wadhwani School of Data Science & AI, were also felicitated.

Prof Pandurangan, retired faculty member of IIT Madras and distinguished IISc alumnus, was the Chief Guest. Dr Pramila Manohar, General Secretary, IISc AA (2026–28), joined online and congratulated the three awardees, highlighting the association's journey since its establishment in 1975.

Prof Pandurangan appreciated the awardees' contributions and recalled their academic and professional journeys. He particularly acknowledged Muralidharan's commitment to serving underserved communities through Sevalaya.

In his acceptance address, Muralidharan thanked IISc and recalled how, as a student, he taught children in Srirampura near the campus, organised social initiatives and took them to the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum.



Prof Pandurangan presenting the Distinguished Alumnus Award to Sevalaya Murali at IIT Madras.

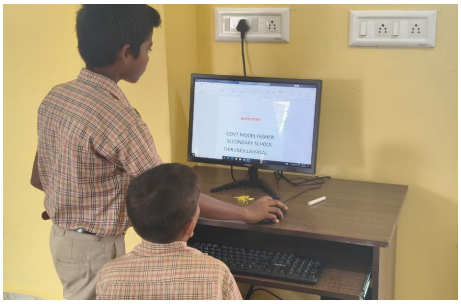
He also highlighted Sevalaya's role as the South India implementation partner for Anaivarukkum IIT (IIT for All), a nationwide initiative championed by Prof Kamakoti. In partnership with IIT Madras Pravartak, Sevalaya reaches tribal and underprivileged children from Stds V to X through over 50 centres across Tamil Nadu, Keralam and Karnataka.

He added that Sevalaya now runs a tuition centre in Srirampura, the same locality where he began his social initiatives as an IISc student.



Prof Pandurangan, Sevalaya Murali, Prof V Kamakoti and Prof Ravindran, with the three awardees holding their Distinguished Alumnus Awards.

Digital literacy for 250+ students in Sirkali



A Digital Literacy Programme was inaugurated at Government Model Higher Secondary School, Thirumullaivasal, Sirkali, Mayiladuthurai district, on 30 Oct 2026. Sponsored by J R Charitable Trust, the programme is implemented by Sevalaya.

S Suresh, Headmaster of the school, was the Chief Guest. The programme was attended by PTA President Seran, school alumni Durga and G V N Ganesh, Assistant Headmaster T Rajendiran, Assistant Headmistress Senthamaraiselvi and Rekha Perumal, Head, Systems and Communication, Sevalaya.

With an investment of ₹2.36 lakh, the programme will provide basic computer, software and Artificial Intelligence (AI) skills to over 250 students from Stds VI to VIII, most of whom belong to the fishermen community. A computer laboratory has been set up at the school and a dedicated teacher appointed by Sevalaya will conduct the classes.

Suresh shared how he learned about Sevalaya through its Digital Literacy Programme at S M Hindu Higher Secondary School, Sirkali, and took the initiative to bring the programme to his school. He encouraged students to make good use of the opportunity and thanked Sevalaya for its support.

Rekha Perumal spoke about Sevalaya's work in education, skill development and community welfare. She highlighted that Sevalaya has been implementing Digital Literacy Programmes since 2022 and currently operates 12 centres, helping rural and underprivileged students gain essential digital skills. She assured the school of Sevalaya's continued support.



Rekha Perumal presenting a memento to Seran, PTA President. From L to R: G V N Ganesh, S Suresh, Seran and Rekha Perumal.

R. Stahl invests ₹32 Lakh in RO and solar lighting



Villagers accessing safe drinking water from the installed RO plant at Valanthanchery, Kancheepuram, during the inauguration ceremony.

R. Stahl Pvt. Ltd. sponsored a Reverse Osmosis (RO) water purification plant and 50 solar street lights at Valathanchery Village, Thathanur Panchayat, Kancheepuram District, as part of its CSR initiative.

The facilities were inaugurated on 30 Sep 2026 by Tobias Popp, Executive Board Member, R. Stahl AG, Germany, and B Ramakrishnan, Managing Director, R. Stahl Pvt. Ltd., India. The ₹32 lakh project includes a 500-litre-per-hour RO plant and 50 solar street lights. These facilities will benefit residents of Beemanthangal, Padicheri and Valathanchery villages by providing safe drinking water and better street lighting. Sevalaya was the implementation partner. R. Stahl officials, Sevalaya representatives and local villagers attended the inauguration.

Tobias Popp expressed happiness about the positive impact of CSR initiatives on rural communities and his interest in supporting more community development projects.

B Ramakrishnan highlighted R. Stahl's continued support for community welfare, including the Kasuva Community Centre and an X-ray machine for Gudalur Hospital.

He stressed the importance of basic needs such as water, food and clothing and encouraged villagers to use and maintain the new facilities responsibly.



Haworth India volunteers at Annual sports day

1,800 students participate; Bharathi house emerges as champion



Haworth India team presenting the Overall Championship trophy to Bharathi House for outstanding performance across sports events.

Sevalaya conducted its Annual Sports Day on 11 Sep 2026 at the Kasuva Centre, with around 1,800 students participating in sports competitions held from 17 to 30 Aug 2026 for students from LKG to Std XI.

On 10 Sept 2026, 30 Haworth India volunteers visited Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre and coordinated the final sports competitions, encouraged the students and sponsored the certificates and medals.

The events included fun games for LKG, Mini Adults Race and 30-metre Race for Stds I and II, and 50-metre Race, Mini Adults Race and 4 × 25-metre Relay for Stds III to V. Students of Stds VI to IX and XI competed in 100-metre and 200-metre races, Long Jump, Shot Put and 4 × 400-metre Relay. Physical Education teachers also conducted volleyball, basketball and chess competitions.

After the preliminary rounds, around 1,200 students qualified for the finals, with the top three performers in each category selected.

Haworth India officials K Rajeswaran, Senior Manager, Operations, Yuvaprakash, Human Resources, and Ganesh SS, Senior Manager, Quality, were the Chief Guests.

They encouraged students to balance academics and sports, respect elders, practise honesty and dedication, use mobile phones for learning, and stay focused on their studies and future goals.

Students competed under Bharathi, Gandhi and Vivekananda Houses, demonstrating teamwork and sportsmanship.

Individual awards recognised their talent and achievements, while all six house captains received special prizes for their leadership. Bharathi House emerged as the Overall Champion based on points earned across events.

Sevalaya Founders' “Friend-Raising” Trip to the USA

In Sep-Oct 2026, for the first time in Sevalaya's history, the founders, V Muralidharan and Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan, visited the USA at the invitation of the Sevalaya USA team for a “friend-raising” trip. The objective was to connect with the Indian diaspora, meet existing Sevalaya supporters and build new friendships. The entire trip was organised by Sevalaya USA.

The visit covered California, Texas and Chicago, with community gatherings, alumni meetings, university interactions and cultural events.
The founders began their engagements the morning after arriving in California by participating in Sevathon, an event organised by the Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) in California, which brought together around 25 Indian NGOs. Sevathon encourages participants to take part in a charity run and donate to an NGO of their choice. Sevalaya USA participated in the event with a stall showcasing Sevalaya's work. The founders interacted with representatives of other NGOs, donors and supporters who visited the stall, including Mani, owner of Shastha Foods. Sevalaya USA donors and volunteers also took part in the event.



Sevalaya Murali paying tribute by garlanding the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Gandhi Memorial Plaza in Texas, USA, along with Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan.

That evening, the founders attended a meeting of the IISc Alumni Association of North America, where members congratulated V Muralidharan on



Sevalaya Murali and Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan in front of the statue of Swami Vivekananda at the Swami Vivekananda Spiritual Center in Chicago, USA.

receiving the IISc Distinguished Alumnus Award. This was followed by a dinner gathering of around 20 of Muralidharan's classmates from the IISc batch of 1981–84. The founders shared Sevalaya's journey, achievements and impact in rural India.

Sevalaya USA also organised a gala gathering that witnessed an overwhelming response, with 120 supporters and well-wishers attending. Both founders addressed the gathering, sharing Sevalaya's work, achievements and ongoing initiatives. The event provided an opportunity to reconnect with existing supporters and welcome new friends. The founders also held various individual meetings with well-wishers and discussed possible project collaborations.

In Southern California, the founders were hosted by Murali Iyengar and visited three universities: the University of California, Irvine; the University of California, Los Angeles; and the University of California, San Diego.

The founders also participated in the AFEC Board Meeting and attended the AFEC Annual Gala, both held in California, where they shared Sevalaya's activities and interacted with members.

They met members of RISHI (Rural India Social and Health Improvement), a student group founded by 80-year-old Prof Srivatsan, comprising students of Indian origin pursuing medical studies at the three universities. The members shared details of their activities and projects in India, while the founders introduced Sevalaya's work and its impact. Discussions also explored possibilities for joint initiatives.

The Texas leg of the visit covered Frisco, Austin and Houston. The founders met members of the Indian community and shared Sevalaya's activities and achievements. Children presented cultural programmes, including songs, debates and dances. A video showcasing Sevalaya's work was screened, followed by a highly interactive question-and-answer session.

On Gandhi Jayanthi Day (2 Oct), the founders visited the Gandhi Centre in Frisco and garlanded the statue of Mahatma Gandhi.

In Chicago, the founders visited the Art Institute of Chicago and Fullerton Hall, associated with Swami Vivekananda's historic address at the World's Parliament of Religions on 11 September 1893. The hall retains its original structure, though it has since been renovated. Open to visitors for 15 minutes once every two hours, it gave the founders an opportunity to see the historic venue where Vivekananda delivered his celebrated address. The visit was particularly meaningful, almost like a pilgrimage, given the place's significance in India's spiritual history. The founders also interacted with members of the Indian community in Chicago.

The visit helped the founders reconnect with existing supporters and make many new friends across the USA.



Staff attend self-development camp at Ramakrishna Math



The Village Development Centre of Sri Ramakrishna Math, Thanjavur, organised a two-day self-development camp on 24 and 25 Oct 2026.

47 Sevalaya staff along with Sevalaya's founders, V Muralidharan and Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan, participated. The camp included spiritual talks, yoga, meditation and group discussions.

The camp began with a dip in the River Kaveri, followed by readings from the works of Swami Vivekananda by Sevalaya staff members. Lavanya, a devotee of Ramakrishna Math, presented a musical programme.

A group discussion on rural development brought together department heads and staff members.
Swami Vimurthananda, Head of Ramakrishna Math, Thanjavur, spoke about Swami Vivekananda's teachings and highlighted five important management skills: managing people, money, materials, emotions and the mind.

He also encouraged participants to view competition as an opportunity to grow. Dr Manimaran, Tamil Pandit at Saraswathi Mahal Library, Thanjavur, spoke on "Water Management in Ancient Tamil Society".

The day also included a yoga session led by Bhanu Niveditha, a volunteer at Ramakrishna Math.

On the second day, *Velaanmai Semmal* Ko Sithar, a natural health practitioner, spoke on "We Are the Children of the Universe", highlighting healthy eating, mental well-being and the responsible use of natural resources. This was followed by devotional songs by Meenakshi Amma. Swami Vimurthananda emphasised the importance of self-confidence, gaining the trust of others and faith in God.

He encouraged participants to take responsibility for their work and help others. *Sevarathinam* Dr Murali encouraged staff members to face challenges and manage stress. Photographs of Swami Vivekananda were distributed to participants.







Teams win big at District-level basketball



Sevalaya's boys' and girls' basketball teams secured top positions at the Tiruvallur District-Level Basketball Tournament, with participation from 20 schools and around 800 students on 6 Oct 2026.

Boys:
*** Under-14 – Winners**

*** Under-17 – Runners-up**

*** Under-19 – Winners**

Girls:
*** Under-14 – Winners**

*** Under-17 – IIIrd Place**

*** Under-19 – Runners-up**

Hi 5 Youth Foundation, Mumbai provides free professional basketball coaching, sports gear, and equipment for over 260 students





UK Volunteers Share Their Sevalaya Experience



Volunteering is an important part of Sevalaya, with volunteers from across the globe participating in various activities. Three volunteers from the UK, Leila Wood, Caroline Brodie and Moira Comde, share their experiences at Sevalaya.

The volunteers are part of Project Trust UK, a charity that provides young people with overseas volunteering opportunities, encouraging cultural exchange, personal growth and a deeper understanding of communities around the world. Through this initiative, the volunteers gain valuable experiences while contributing to the communities they serve.

Moira Combe

Moira Combe is from the south of France. Her father is Scottish, and her mother is Spanish. She has two brothers and is the middle child in her family. She attended secondary school in Scotland and is considering a career as an air hostess, though it is not yet confirmed.

She feels honoured to be at Sevalaya and appreciates the support available on campus.

“There is always someone to support us on the Sevalaya campus,” she shared.

Project Trust selected her for the “Your Educate Children” project.

Moira enjoys playing sports with the children after school at 5 p.m. She also enjoys music festivals and painting.

She feels that family values are similar in Indian and Scottish cultures. Community, family values, and tea and coffee time are important parts of everyday life.

Through their volunteering experience, the three volunteers have opportunities to interact with the girls, participate in activities, and learn about Indian culture and community life.





Caroline Brodie

Caroline Brodie was born in Beijing, China. Her father is Scottish and her mother is French. She hopes to study paramedical science next year at Glasgow Caledonian University. She enjoys being active and kickboxing, and aspires to become a firefighter.

This is her first visit to India. She enjoys the cultural functions, dances, traditional dresses, and the friendliness of the people.

“Helping in the bakery was fun,” she said, recalling the experience of making Coconut Crunch.

Caroline is impressed by the girls' English-speaking skills. She also enjoys eating with her hands, finding the food more flavourful. Chapathi with side dishes and payasam are among the foods she loves.

The volunteers were included in the wedding celebration of Shalini, daughter of Sevalaya. “They made us feel included in the marriage,” she shared. (Sevalaya’s daughter Shalini’s marriage)

While recalling her volunteering experiences in the UK, she shared that she had helped check blood pressure and keep people safe at night through the Street Assist Foundation in the UK.

Leila Wood:

Leila Wood is from the UK and plans to study theology and philosophy at the University of Exeter. Her father is English and runs an engineering consultancy called Whitby Wood, and her mother is from New Zealand and worked as a child psychotherapist.

She started volunteering at Sevalaya on 7 Sep and has spent roughly a month here. Her activities included teaching English, helping with gardening, and teaching crafts (currently paper quilling).

“The welcome from the children was warm,” she shared, appreciating the opportunity to interact with the girls.

She also enjoyed participating in art and craft activities with them. For Leila, culture and community are very important, which she felt while being at Sevalaya.



Gandhi Jayanthi and International day of older persons celebration

Kasuva, Tiruvallur



S Kavitha, IAS, District Collector, Tiruvallur and S Vanitha, District Social Welfare Officer, cutting and distributing cakes to senior citizens.

Sevalaya, in association with the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department, Tiruvallur District, celebrated the International Day of Older Persons at its Kasuva Centre on 9 Oct 2026.

S Kavitha, IAS, District Collector, Tiruvallur, was the Chief Guest, along with Vanitha, District Social Welfare Officer, and department staff members.

The Collector interacted with the elders and Sevalaya children and highlighted the importance of respecting and caring for senior citizens and supporting their physical, medical and mental well-being.

She felicitated 48 elders from various Old Age Homes in Tiruvallur and distributed gift hampers containing tiffin boxes, towels and snacks.

Dharmapuri

Chief Guests: D Jaya Priya, Founder of Jayam Yoga Trust, and Desi Dharmalingam, retired teacher.
Chief Guest: Dr R Sugunalatha, District President, TTCA, Dharmapuri, and Founder of Maha Kids Park International Play School



Zamin Endathur, Chengalpattu

Chief Guest: M Rajesh Pandi Duran, Managing Director, Rajesh Pandi Duran Agency, Indian Oil Corporation Petrol Bunk



Thanjavur

Chief Guest: J Joyal Prabhakaran, District Youth Welfare Officer, Thanjavur, along with other officials, participated in the event under MY Bharat (Mera Yuva Bharat), a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.



Support Sevalaya Elders:

https://sevalaya.org/homes/

#Old-Age-Homes

39 Community college students placed in jobs



Community College students and school students displaying their course completion certificates and prizes awarded to students who secured the highest marks in the BGV examinations.

A graduation ceremony for Community College students and Gandhi Jayanthi celebrations were held at Sevalaya's Kasuva centre on 5 Oct 2026.

S Mathavan, Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation, and R Logeeswari, District Skill Officer, Tiruvallur, were the Chief Guests on the occasion. The guests garlanded the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi and paid their respects.

The Chief Guests presented certificates to 43 underprivileged students who successfully completed training in Laboratory Assistant and Nursing Assistant courses at Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Community College in Kasuva. The training programmes were supported by a leading corporate organisation. Notably, 39 students who completed the training have secured employment through Sevalaya in various hospitals and laboratories.



KCF sponsors education for 38 children



Students presenting a group photograph of the sponsored children to KCF officials Ruchi, Wen Wen, Carina Herlin and Rufus.

KONE Centennial Foundation (KCF), Finland, contributed ₹5 lakh towards the annual educational expenses of 38 underprivileged children studying at Sevalaya.

KCF representatives Carina Herlin and Wen Wen visited Sevalaya's Kasuva centre on 28 Oct 2026, along with Rufus and Ruchi from KONE's Chennai CSR team.

Carina Herlin expressed happiness at being part of Sevalaya's service journey, while Wen Wen interacted with students about their favourite subjects and teachers. Rufus appreciated Sevalaya's efforts in helping children achieve their dreams, and Ruchi shared her appreciation for the work being done.

The children presented a photograph and handmade paper bouquets to the guests.

Free eye screening for 84 elders



Dr Agarwal's Eye Research Centre Foundation and Lions Club of Madras Padi, Shenoy Nagar, collaborated with Sevalaya to organise a free eye screening camp for elders at Kasuva.

The camp offered vision check ups, cataract screening and general ophthalmology consultations.
84 elders were screened. Nine cataract cases were identified, 16 elders were referred for further evaluation or treatment, and 14 were recommended spectacles.

Uthiramerur students explore cultural heritage



On 29 Sep 2026, 20 students from Sevalaya's Uthiramerur Community College visited the Sagunthala Jagannathan Museum, Kancheepuram, to explore a 400-year-old house, traditional artefacts and cultural heritage. The tailoring, beautician and computer courses are sponsored by Guru Krupa Foundation, USA.



Sevalaya in TN netball team

D Divakar, a Std XII student of Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Higher Secondary School, Kasuva centre has been selected for the Tamil Nadu Netball Team through the State-level Netball Selection held on 30 Sep 2026 at SDAT Stadium, Dharmapuri.
He will represent Tamil Nadu at the National-level Netball Championship in Punjab.



U-14 boys win district volleyball

Sevalaya's Under-14 boys' volleyball team won the Thiruvallur District-Level Volleyball Championship at GRT College, Thiruthani, earning the school's first district-level volleyball title and qualifying for the State-Level Tournament.
Around 500 students from 11 schools competed across the Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 categories.



III prize at dance competition

11 students from Sevalaya participated in singing, speech and dance competitions held at S A Arts and Science College to mark Tamil Development Day on 9 Oct 2026. Sevalaya students secured III prize in the dance competition. Chief Guest, R Parasakthi, News Anchor, Tamil Janam, presented prizes to the winners. 500+ students from 45 schools of Stds IX to XII participated.



Learning through exposure: Volunteers and students visit Sevalaya



Kanthari is an international organisation that empowers social change leaders through leadership training and social entrepreneurship programmes.
As part of their exposure visit, 11 members of Kanthari from Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe and the Republic of the Congo visited Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre on 12 Sep 2026.
The team visited Sevalaya's Education, Old Age Home, Medical Centre, Gaushala, Community College and Organic Farming initiatives, gaining insights into the programmes and activities carried out for the community.
They also interacted with the Sevalaya team and participated in a friendly basketball session with the campus community.



15 students and 1 staff member from the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) visited Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre for an observation visit on 15 Sep 2026.

The visit gave the students an opportunity to explore Sevalaya's diverse initiatives, from education and healthcare to vocational training, elder care, sustainable farming which helped them understand how these services benefit the community.

They observed the facilities and interacted with the beneficiaries across the campus, gaining a better understanding of Sevalaya's community focused approach.



Five physiotherapy students Nivetha, Harshavardhan, Beula Rakshaniya, Nithya and Muhamed Safaaa, from Meenakshi College of Physiotherapy visited Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre on 18 Sep 2026 to provide physiotherapy support to residents of the Old Age Home. From 9 to 17 Sep 2026, the students assessed the physical condition of the residents and identified their individual physiotherapy needs. Based on the assessments, they provided suitable physiotherapy exercises and treatment according to each resident's condition. The programme supported the residents' mobility, physical well-being and comfort, while also giving the students practical experience in providing physiotherapy care to elderly residents.



Second-year B.Sc. Nursing students from Panimalar Nursing College visited Sevalaya for an Adult Health Nursing Observation Visit. A total of 100 students and 7 faculty members participated in the visit.

As part of the visit, the students interacted with elderly residents at the Old Age Home and engaged them through dance and music activities. The elders actively enjoyed and appreciated the performances, creating a joyful and interactive atmosphere.

The session gave the students an opportunity to connect with the residents and understand the importance of emotional well-being and social interaction among elderly people.



15 students from Nazareth College of Arts and Science, Chennai, pursuing BSW and MSW, visited Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre for an observation visit on 22 Sep2026.

The visit offered students a closer look at Sevalaya's work in education, healthcare, skill development, elder care and agriculture.

A group of 63 students and 5 faculty members from Sri Venkateshwara Nursing College visited Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre on 21 Sept 2026 for a meaningful engagement programme with the elderly residents. The students conducted an Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Session and spent time with the residents through games, interactive activities and dance, creating a joyful atmosphere. They also brought biscuits and fruits, distributed blankets and presented gifts to the game winners.



Ayudha pooja and Saraswathi pooja festivities

Kasuva, Tiruvallur



Sevalaya celebrated Saraswathi Pooja at its Kasuva Centre on 19 Oct 2026, with J C Suresh Babu, Inspector of Police, Vengal Police Station, Tiruvallur, as the Chief Guest.
Students, parents, elders from Sevalaya's Homes and staff members took part in the celebrations. Addressing the students, Suresh Babu spoke about the importance of education, good behaviour, discipline and personal growth.

After watching a video about Sevalaya's 38 years of service, he appreciated the organisation's contribution to society. Sevalaya students also presented colourful cultural performances.

Uthiramerur

Chief Guest: T Pravin, Team Leader (Motion Graphics), Syncfusion Software Pvt. Ltd.



Dharmapuri

Chief Guests: A Sabari Murugan, Revenue Supervisor, TNEB, S Prema, Teacher, Booganahalli PUPS, and Sathish Kumar Raja of MY Dharmapuri NGO



Thanjavur

Chief Guest: R Parthasarathy, Senior Manager, PLA Maruti Suzuki, Thanjavur



Zamin Endathur

Chief Guests: T Prabu, Branch Manager, S Vani, Deputy Branch Manager and D Bhubaneswar, Personal Loan Manager from ICICI Bank



Elders visit *golus*



Sun TV news reader Rathna Sivaraman invited Sevalaya's children and elders to her home to witness a beautiful Guruvayoor-themed *golu* (A display of dolls). The children and elders experienced the devotional atmosphere of the *golu* celebrations.



Residents from Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre visited the home of long-time donor Nandhini Venkatesh, of the Popular YouTube Channel @NandhiniVibes. The children admired the beautiful *golu* decorations and received stationery kits as gifts, making the celebration special.



Residents of Sevalaya had the opportunity to visit the residence of Balaji Pattappa of Pattappa's Catering Services and admire the beautiful *Navratri golu* decorations.



R Vijaya, Head, Education, Sevalaya, was invited as the Chief Guest for the Anna Nagar Ladies Club's 54th Annual Day celebrations on 12 Sep 2026.

TCS yoga session



Sevalaya, in association with TCS, conducted a yoga session for 360 students of Stds VI, VII and XI at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre on 10 Oct 2026.

The session was led by M Harikrishnan, Senior Manager, Dr O M Murali, HR, CSR, G Vinodkumar, Manager, and N Srihari, Senior Consultant, from TCS.

The session covered the importance of yoga, breathing techniques, eye exercises, physical movements and guided meditation to improve concentration, promote mental peace and support physical fitness.

Online yoga sessions will continue every Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. for students of Stds IV, V, VI, VII and XI.

Dr Rajagopal from USA launches LU app



On 5 Oct 2026, Dr Rajagopal from the USA introduced the Learning Upgrade App for 306 students of Stds VI and VII at Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre.

He explained its key features, focusing on English and Mathematics, and encouraged students to use technology for effective learning.

The Learning Upgrade App makes learning English and Mathematics easy and fun through songs, pictures, animations and interactive activities. Students learn with interest and enthusiasm.

— B E Jyothi, English Teacher, Sevalaya

Fun activities make learning subjects like English and Mathematics exciting with the Learning Upgrade App. I enjoy exploring new lessons and understanding concepts through interactive activities. Learning has become easier and more enjoyable!

— D Kanishka, Std VII

Jain School students bring music, dance and care

50 students and 4 teachers from Smt Chandabai Pagariya Jain Matriculation Higher Secondary School visited Sevalaya's Kasuva Centre and donated essential provisions on 17 Oct 2026. The students interacted with the elders and entertained them with songs and dance performances.



Prize money donated



Sevalaya students participated in INNOVISTA 2026, a national-level talent and innovation carnival organised by St. Joseph's Garden School, Semmancheri, Chennai, featuring 120 teams.

T Rashwanth, U Hashini and P Rohith won first prize and ₹5,000 in the Idea Pitch Competition for their Cloth2Cash Machine, an AI-powered reverse vending machine that converts waste clothes into rewards.

D Suganya, D Prasad and K L Moumitha secured III prize and ₹2,000 in the Project Expo for their Hand Gesture-Controlled Car Using Computer Vision project.

The students donated their total prize money of ₹7,000 to Sevalaya, contributing to its charitable initiatives.

Mahadev Desai - 38

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

Of all the wives of great men, Durgaben, herself a devotee of Gandhiji like her husband Mahadev, was the most unsung one. This we have seen through several of our earlier narrations. Here are a few more.

She carried the burden of the family in poor health and more or less away from Mahadev. In the Ashram, she was considered as one of the elders, and so had to undertake more responsibilities. In spite of all this, her personality developed in a unique manner.

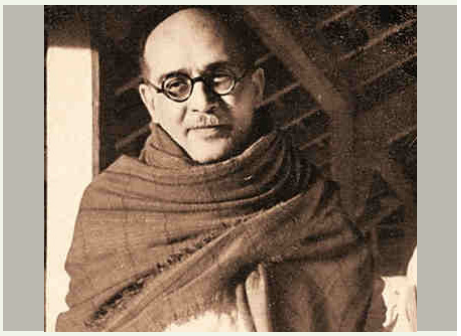
Narahari Parikh described a couple of incidents.

Once Mahadev was returning to the Ashram in a carriage accompanied by Ramdas. They saw a female monkey lying in a precarious condition. They brought her to the ashram and kept her in a vacant quarter. While starting to dress the wounds, it was found that the wound caused on her forehead by the teeth of the dogs was three quarters of an inch deep, and her legs were so severely bitten that she could not move. She was treated with earth padding and with a proper diet. She gathered enough strength to move about inside the room. One day, someone had left the door open, she came out and climbed an adjoining tree. Durgaben was afraid that she might again fall prey to dogs and she followed her. But the monkey jumped from tree to tree and went far away. Durgaben returned home, fully tired, leaving the animal to the mercy of God.

Narahari writes: "Compassion is Durgaben's natural gift. Once a female dog was seen lying in a serious condition between Durgaben's and Kishore Lal's quarters. Durgaben actually kept her in her home and started nursing. The dog was cured. In due course, she gave birth to pups. The pups started spoiling the common verandahs. If anyone struck any one of these pups, Durgaben stopped them saying that she would clean the verandah. Kakasaheb said to Mahadev, "These pups will probably not live long; they will trouble every one and also suffer themselves. Keep one of them if you like, but allow me to kill the others." Durgaben heard this, but said nothing and stood at the door with tears in her eyes. Kakasaheb saw this and walked away in silence. He never again dared to open the topic of killing the pups."

Kedarnathji told Narayan Desai, "Everyone knows Mahadev, but Durgaben's virtues were also no less important."

To be continued…



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