



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 2 **Sevalaya's News Letter - February 2008** Serve11 Price-Re. 1

**Dear Friends,**

How much of learning can happen only within a class room? If we depend totally upon education within the four walls, black board and books, we will end up only creating book worms. We need to take the children out to various places and give them an opportunity to see for themselves what is going on around them. But all this will cost money. Many rich schools can even take children abroad – I know of many schools in Chennai which arrange trips to Singapore and Malaysia etc., but the parents have to pay the bill.

What about children in places like Sevalaya? Even to spend money for books and note books, they will not be able to spare money, which is the reason why Sevalaya is giving everything free to 1000 students. When that is the reality, can these children also go out and see places as part of their education? Looks like a distant dream.

But when we have friends, supporters and well-wishers everything is possible. In this academic year alone Sevalaya children have gone to places like Thiruvananthapuram, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Pune. There were also one day trips like the one organized by the Rajasthan association, who took our children to Kishkintha, a fun park. In each city Sevalaya has a friends group and they took care of all expenses. Children were invited to their houses and very good lunch and dinner were provided. In every city, Tamil speaking volunteers

were selected as guides to the children and they were taken around all the important and historic places. The history behind each location was well explained and the class room history learning is no match to this.

Many children enjoyed the long train journey. Some of them have got onto a long distance train for the first time in their life! The children say that these days will be their unforgettable days, through out their life time. Along with learning they also had lot of fun, visiting fun parks, water amusement parks, hill stations, gardens and parks – entry fee to each would have been very high, and thanks to our friends in each city, this was made possible for our children.

We also take our children to near by post office, bank, hospital, some select government offices, with prior permission. In all such trips the staff of those establishments, were very happy to receive the children and explain what is going on in that place. Thus the children get a very good first hand understanding of how a bank functions, how a post office functions etc.

Yes, poor and destitute children also have a right to go around the world!

Thanks & Regards

**Murali**





**Awareness among the students about Human Rights**

### Events

With a view to creating awareness among the students about Human Rights, a meeting was organised on 05/01/2008. Mr. P.Ezhilarasu, Tamilnadu State Patron, Human Rights Organisation and Mr. K.Murali Chief Organiser of the Human Rights Organisation were the Chief Guests and addressed the students.

**Vivekananda Day** was celebrated at Sevalaya on 12/01/2008. Ms. Grija Ragavan (Editor, Ladies Special, Chennai), **Mr. S.Dhanasekar (Asst. Elementary Education Officer, Ikkadu)** and **Mr. E.Ganesh Babu (Additional Asst. Elementary Educational Officer, Ikkadu)** were the Chief Guests.

Prizes were distributed to the toppers in the State Level Open Book Examination on the life of Swami Vivekananda conducted by Sevalaya in which 650 students from 35 schools all over Tamilnadu participated.

**Pongal**, the harvest festival of Tamilnadu was celebrated for 3 days in the traditional way at Sevalaya. The first day of the celebrations Bogi, was on 14/01/2008. A mini marathon race stressing on "Smokeless Bogi" was organised. 200 Students from 13 schools participated. **The Mini Marathon was flagged off by Mr. R.S.Rajarajan, Advocate & Councillor, Thiruvallur. Mrs. Dhatchayini**



**Mini marathon race stressing on "Smokeless Bogi"**



**Prize Distribution of State Level Vivekananda Examination**

**Duraikkannu, President of Puliur Panchayat, Mr. Ramadoss, Past President of Kasuva and Mr. Sambasivam, Proprietor of N R S Chambers, Kasuva participated in the celebrations.**

On 15/01/2008, Pongal was celebrated. A brick oven was constructed in the open ground and Pongal, a sweet dish made of newly harvested rice, milk and Jaggery was cooked in new earthen pots and was offered to Sun God. Mr. Venkatesa Mudaliyar, landlord in Puliur was the special Guest and lighted the oven offering Prayers to Sun God.

The Third Day is celebrated as **Mattu Pongal** in Rural Tamilnadu. It is actually a Thanksgiving Day for the Friends of the Farmer-the cow and the ox. Traditionally, Jallikkattu – where a buffalo will be tamed by the youngsters – will be organised. But every year Sevalaya organises Volley Ball tournament for the village youth. This year 16 teams from 10 villages participated. Johnson Volley Ball team from Thiruninravur were the winners and Velliur team were the runners up. **Mrs. Amsa Raja (Panchayat President, Pakkam)** and **Mr. G.Raveendran (Ex. Panchayat President, Palavedu)** were the special guests.

The 59<sup>th</sup> Republic Day was celebrated on 26/01/2008. Mr. P.Ezhilarasu (Tamil Nadu state



**Pongal Celebrations**