



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 3 **Sevalaya's News Letter - April 2008** Serve 1 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

The 'big bonanza' election year budget is out. Our finance minister has tried to satisfy all sections. The big news is that Rs 60,000 crores of farmers' loan is written off. No doubt, we see many news items that poor farmers, unable to bear their poverty are committing suicide. They definitely need support. Also the fund allocation for defence expenses have crossed Rs 1,00,000 crores, for the first time.

The allocation for education is around 30,000 crores. This is just 50% of the written off loans and one third of the defence expense. Government has its own priorities. But we feel that education should be the number one priority of any Government. It is not just farmers, but many people in many walks of life, commit suicide, may be because of poverty or for any other reason. But the basic flaw is that education has not equipped them to face life when confronted with difficult situations. Are we doing enough to inculcate such skills to our next generation? Are any resources allotted to do research in this field and come out with new ideas, new solutions? If farmers are unable to make profit, and repay their loans, are we doing enough research in the field of agriculture to see that farming becomes a profitable venture? Are we spending more on agricultural education and research, as still we claim that we are predominantly an agricultural country?

Wars start only in the minds of the people first. This later escalates into full fledged conflicts. Arms and ammunitions have to be used and many lives are lost. This is the land of Mahatma Gandhi and the entire world keeps talking about his philosophy of non-violence. If enough resources are allotted to spread the doctrine of non-violence, if we can think of

'Ahimsa education', may be wars can be reduced. As per Gandhiji's wish, we should have been a country without an army! The entire 1,00,000 crores would then have been available for constructive and creative work. But in today's situation, this may look impossible. The point we are trying to make is that we are willing to spend three times more on war than on education.

There are many improvements required at basic levels in many village schools, to improve the quality of education, access to education and many other aspects. Lots of funds will be required for this. If we don't correct this root cause, we can keep waiving off loans year after year, which will make good political sense in an election year, but will do very little to build a self respecting nation.

Thanks & Regards
Murali



Mrs. Bhuvaneshwari Muralidharan, Hony. Correspondent and Mr. V.Muralidharan, Founder & Managing Trustee of Sevalaya receiving the Satguru Gnanananda Award 2008 for "Families in Social Service" at the hands of Swami Nityanandagiri of Tapovanam.



Easter Celebrations

Events

On 02/03/2008 Mr. J.Murali Krishnan conducted a Career Guidance Programme for 10th standard students. About 70 students participated.

08/03/2008 - "International Women's Day" was celebrated in Sevalaya's Mahakavi Bharathiyar Hr. Sec. School when the children presented a thematic cultural programme on the need to educate Girl Child and the need for equal rights and opportunities for women.

Easter was celebrated on 22/03/2008. Mr. D.Samuel Chelladurai (In-charge DEO, Thiruvallur) was the Chief Guest on this occasion. He spoke about Christ's resurrection for the welfare of mankind. On earth man should rise above his lowly nature and attain heights of immortality. He also said that truth always triumphs. In spite of the cruel crucifixion, Christ's divinity was revealed. So too, lies and dishonest allegations always come to an inglorious end and the truth cannot be trampled upon. Mr. P.Subramani, Sub- Inspector, Vengal Police Station also participated in the function. He distributed the prizes to the winners of the debate conducted by the Social Science club.



Farewell function to 12th standard students



Easter Celebrations - Special Guest - Mr. P. Subramani, Sub-Inspector, Vengal Police Station.

On 26/03/2008 a Career Guidance Programme for 12th standard students was conducted by Mr. J.Murali Krishnan. Nearly 90 students participated.

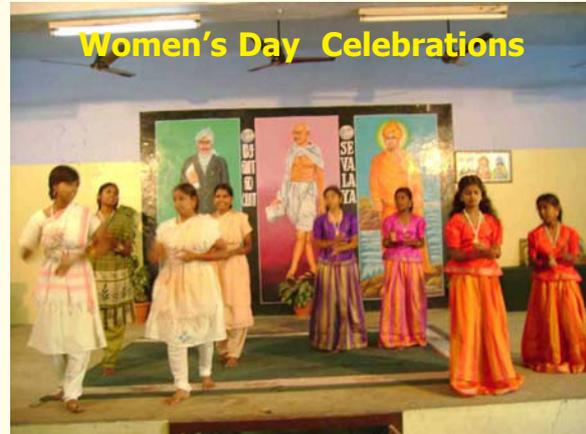
A Farewell function was organized for the outgoing 12th standard students on 26/03/2008.

External Events

Mrs. Bhuvaneswari Muralidharan, Hony. Correspondent and Mr. V.Muralidharan, Founder & Managing Trustee of Sevalaya were the recipients of Satguru Gnanananda Award 2008 for "Families in Social Service" awarded by Manava Seva Dharma Samvardhini Trust, at the hands of Swami Nityanandagiri of Tapovanam. The Award function was held at Shanmukhananda Chandrashekara Saraswathi Hall, Mumbai on 08/03/2008. The function was presided over by Dr. (Mrs) Indu Shahani, Sheriff of Mumbai.

Mr. V.Muralidharan, an alumnus of P.S. High School (North) at Mylapore, Chennai was the Chief Guest for The Annual Day Function of the school held on 20/03/2008.

Mr. V.Muralidharan, was the chief guest for



Women's Day Celebrations