



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

Love 3 **Sevalaya's News Letter - November 2008** Serve 8 Price-Re.1

Dear Friends,

This year Diwali in India was a 'less colourful' festival, as many were struggling to accept the losses in the share market. The global economic melt down had its impact on the festive mood of the people. Many known friends in USA and Europe had lost jobs or were worried about losing their jobs. Many in Indian IT sector were also worried about loss of jobs or about the cut in their pay packets. All this added to the gloomy picture and Diwali was not what it was in the previous years.

True to this impact of global economic melt down, Sevalaya also faced problems. Donations were hard to come and it was a big struggle to get all that was required to celebrate Diwali for a big family of 1060 people. It was hard work for all our staff members who worked round the clock for the past two months to mobilize all the support needed and finally we made it – in spite of the problems outside, all the 1000 children got new dresses and the 60 grand pas and grand mas got their saris and dhotis. As usual there were many visitors during the Diwali weekend and they brought some sweets and crackers with them. We thank all the donors, who, in spite of so many uncertainties and upheavals in the market place, still managed to contribute their mite for the benefit of orphan and destitute children and senior citizens.

To keep in line with all the global warming campaign we did during the year, we had told our children that we will reduce on firing crackers this year. So we reduced our expense on crackers. We have also started using the dead wood available around the campus as fuel for at least two days in a week to reduce expenses on the fuel cost. Also we are trying to grow more vegetables in-house, to reduce

purchases. Only more production is going to help us tide over this crisis.

It is understandable that people, when they want to cut down on expenses, will first cut down the donations they give. On the other hand inflation in India has made the cost of living very high, to organizations as well. So our expenses have gone up and income has come down. The 'think tank' in Sevalaya is working on cost reduction and increasing income generation.

We get news from all over the globe that people are losing money and because of that losing heart and some of them are killing themselves. In the final analysis, what is required for all of us is food, shelter and clothing. I am sure that many, who have lost hope, are very much above this level. It is just that we are not able to accept the inevitable change in life style, which monetary loss will bring in. The good old Indian concept of 'Simple living and high thinking' and Gandhiji's principle of 'Voluntary poverty' should guide us.

Thanks & Regards

Murali

**Presentation of outstanding couple award
in the field of Social Service to
Mr. & Mrs. Muralidharan by PR Syndicate.**





Awards

Mr. V.Muralidharan and Mrs. Bhuvaneshwari Muralidharan were among the outstanding couples from various fields honoured by PR Syndicate in a function at the Russian Cultural Academy on 11/10/2008. They were honoured for their contributions in the field of social service, for bringing about a transformation in Kasuva and nearby villages by eradicating child labour and for the ambitious dream and efforts to create a free rural University for the benefit of meritorious poor students.

Club Activities

The English Club conducted training on Spoken English on 16/10/2008.

In the Science Club meet on 15/10/2008 Ms. Vijaya spoke on diseases caused by Tobacco. She also gave a demonstration of experiments on passing mild electric current through plants.

As a part of the Social Science Club activities Mr. Thandapani, Govt. Hr. Sec. Shool, Pandeshwaram visited Sevalaya and spoke to the club members on Relevance of studying History, on 15/10/2008. On 16/10/2008 Mr. P.Narayanamoorthi, explained to the members about the Nuclear Pact between India & USA.

Events

Gandhi Jayanthi was celebrated on 02/10/2008. Mr. M. Muralidharan Chairman & Managing Director Techsol Pvt. Ltd. Delhi and Advisor, Sevalaya in his presidential address applauded Sevalaya for the perseverant way in which they are striving to spread the message of Gandhiji not only among their own students but also among the youth throughout the state. The Chief Guest Mr.G.Ramachandran, IPS, Member of Police Commission in his address expressed his happiness over the yeoman service rendered by Sevalaya for the benefit of the poor and underprivileged. Such service should attract

support from the entire community he said and assured his support for this noble cause. Prizes were distributed on this occasion to the toppers in the state level open book examination on Gandhiji conducted by Sevalaya.

Vidhushini Srimathi Lakshmi Sriraman & Group from Chennai presented a carnatic Music concert as a part of Navarathri Celebrations on 02/10/2008.

The Chief Guest at the Ramzan function held on 04/10/08 at Sevalaya Campus was Mr.Jalaluddin – Joint Secretary, Islamic Foundation Trust, Chennai. He spoke about the important tenets of Islamic religion, the philosophy behind the month long Ramzan fasting, the principles to be followed, its benefits etc. He also pointed out the unity among different religions. He also praised the management for celebrating all festivals ensuring that students were fully aware about the noble aspects of different faiths.

General Managers Mr. Ganesh & Mr. Magesh of Catterpillar company visited Sevalaya with their staff members on 06/10/2008. They interacted with the residents and donated mats, plastic cups, dresses, bed sheets, plastic buckets, bathing and washing soaps, hair oil etc. to the hostel students and Old Age Home residents.

Saraswathi Pooja was celebrated with great jubilation at Sevalaya on 08/10/2008. There was a cultural event with singing of soul-stirring Bharathiyar songs. Mr.A.N.Nagabushana Raju–Thasildar, Thiruvallur was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He mentioned that Sevalaya was celebrating Saraswathi Pooja not on a single day but throughout the year by providing life-coping and character building education to 1000 children free of any charges without discrimination of caste, creed or religion. Mr.Krishnan - Village Administrative Officer participated in the function.

'Pasam' Train Friends from Thiruninravur conducted sports and quiz programmes and distributed prizes, lunch to our hostel students on 19/10/2008.

Diwali, the festival of lights, signifying the triumph of good over evil was celebrated at Sevalaya on 25/10/08. The Chief guests on the occasion were Lion.D.Thulasingam-President, Federation of Tamil Nadu Rice Mill Owners and Paddy Rice Dealers Association, Redhills, Chennai & Mr. R. Mohan, K.G.R.Apparels Export, Ambattur. New Clothes, sweets and crackers were distributed to 1000 underprivileged children and the senior citizens of Sevalaya's Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa Old Age Home. The chief guest Mr.D.Thulasingam expressed