



# LOVE ALL SERVE ALL

**Love 6**

**Sevalaya's News Letter - January 2012 Serve 10 Price-Re.1**

**Dear Friends,**

Colonel John Pennycuick was an English engineer. He was posted in south Tamil Nadu, during the British India time. Tamil Nadu has been having water crisis from that time onwards. When he was posted in India, he wanted to take some effective corrective action to this water problem.

He studied the situation of south Tamil Nadu and decided that if he can reverse the course of a river flowing west, the area south of Madurai will be able to get water. He worked out a detailed blue print for the project and submitted it to the Government, with a detailed budget. As the water had to flow through a hill, the budget was quite high. Initially the Government was hesitant to spend this money.

Pennycuick came up with a suggestion that he will get the local workforce to contribute labour and by that he can reduce the overall cost. The Government agreed after lot of follow-up and finally the project work started. But the local workforce lacked commitment and often stopped work as they had to attend to many local festivals! I wonder how we can have so many festivals, when we had a water problem! So the cost went beyond the budget and the British Government cancelled the project, when it was half-way through.

Pennycuick was very upset as the project was his baby. He then went back to his home town and spoke to his wife. He explained to her how the project will help south Tamil Nadu and how he is duty bound to complete this work. Finally his wife donated all her jewellery for the expense of the project!

Pennycuick returned to India with his own money now and with that, completed the project successfully! The west flowing river was made to flow eastwards and south Tamil Nadu, got the much required water at last! Thus in 1895, the "Mullai periyar dam" was constructed by a British engineer, with his own money!

Today, after a century, there is tension between Tamilnadu and Kerala. There is disagreement about the safety of the dam, level of water that can be maintained etc. The border between these two states looks like international border and there is violence on both sides. Tamils living in Kerala are attacked, and Malayalees living in Tamil Nadu are also attacked. There are "paper tiger" political parties and politicians, who have their own short term goals for fanning the passion on both sides, poisoning the minds of common people. Electoral victory seems to be the only goal for such politicians and they don't care for the water problem, friendly relation between two states, national integration etc., - all such things take a back seat! Both the southern states are peace loving and it is highly disturbing that such violence is happening when it is peak season for Lord Iyyapa devotees from all over the world to travel to Sabarimala in Kerala.

State Governments, central Government, supreme court etc are not able to sort out this problem yet.

Should Pennycuick come back to resolve this problem? Or should he go back to his wife and ask her for suggestions to bring peace between Tamils and Malayalees?

Do we deserve Independence?

Thanks & Regards

**Murali**



**Honble Ministers Mr.C.Ve Shanmugam and  
Mr.B.V.Ramana at the Annual day Celebrations**



## Administration & Public Relations

On 15/12/2011, Mr. V. Muralidharan was the chief guest and inaugurated Puthiya Thalaimurai free tuition center at Pazhaverkaadu village in Thiruvallur district

Sevalaya was invited to the community empathy outreach fair by Infosys, Chennai on 07/12/2011 and 08/12/2011. The Community empathy sabbatical at Infosys aimed to encourage its employees to work on community development initiatives which benefit the community at large. Ms.Diana Lenin and Mr. Kamalakannan from Sevalaya interacted with Infosys employees who were interested in exploring options for participating in the activities of Sevalaya.

Ms. Aarthi of GiveIndia and 12 associates from Cognizant Technology Solutions who had donated to Sevalaya through GiveIndia visited Sevalaya on 03/12/2011. After a brief orientation about the activities of Sevalaya they went around the campus and interacted with the children and senior citizens. They played cricket and throw ball with the children.

### Wedding Bells.....

Mr. Gokul and Ms. Bargavi celebrated their wedding on 16/12/2011 at Vadapalani, All the gifts received in their marriage were donated to Sevalaya.

## Bharathi Team

### Competitions, Events outside Sevalaya.....

400 students from sixth standard to ninth standard participated in the competitions like drawing, singing etc conducted by "ILAM PIRAI" Charitable Trust on 03/12/2011.

On 10/12/2011, Mr. P.Narayanamoorthi along with 20 students of IX and XI std visited the Poondi forest at Thiruvallur. This programme was arranged by Forest Extension Centre.

Sangeetha from 5<sup>th</sup> standard participated in 'Gita chanting' competition finals at Chinmaya Vidyalaya school at Annanagar, Chennai on 04/12/2011

25 children participated in Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan match at Sevvapet on 18/12/2011 and won prizes.

Prabhu of XI Std and Vijay of IX Std participated in the Environmental camp at Rajasthan organized by TERI as a part of its EduXchange programme from 08/12/2011 to 18/12/2011.



Sevalaya participated in the competitions conducted by Vasishtar Academy, Erode & won several prizes. P.Dilipkumar of XI std was declared district winner in poetry.

### Events

Sevalaya's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Day was celebrated on 09/12/2011. Mr. C. Ve. Shanmugam, Hon'ble minister for School Education and Mr. B.V.Ramana, Hon'ble minister for Environment were the chief guests on the occasion. Sevalaya's 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual report was released on the occasion by the Hon'ble Minister for School Education. Mr.R.Manimaran, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Chief educational Officer, Thiruvallur and other officials from the District Education Department participated in the function.

Bharathiyar Day was celebrated at Sevalaya on 10/12/2011. Mr. Rajendran, RI Thiruvallur was the chief guest on the occasion. Prizes were distributed to the toppers in the State Level open book examination on Bharathiyar conducted by Sevalaya .

Mr. V. Rao from Help Foundation visited Sevalaya campus 17/12/2011 and interacted with the children sponsored by the Foundation.

Maths Genius Sri. Srinivasa Ramanujan's 125<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary celebrations were held on 24/12/2011. Mr.Kannan. P. Srinivasan (Chairman P.K. Srinivasan Math Education & Research Trust) the chief guest of the function enthralled the audience with a brief yet beautifully chronicled life history of Sri Ramanujan & distributed prizes to the toppers of the Ramanujan Maths talent test - an inter district contest for students of Chennai & Thiruvallur Districts conducted every year by Sevalaya.

Christmas & New Year was celebrated at Sevalaya on 27/12/2011. Dr. Poovai Jagan Murthy (Ex member of Legislative Assembly) was the chief guest on this occasion. Pastor Charles Benny delivered the Christmas message & Mr. D'Cruz and friends entertained the children with a cultural programme. The children were delighted to see the Santa Claus dancing to the jingle bells and distributing sweets and cakes to them.

### NSS Camps

The National Service Scheme (NSS) students from New College, Chennai visited Sevalaya as a part of their NSS program and were involved in various activities like cleaning the Sevalaya Campus etc. They conducted a medical camp at Puliyur village in Thiruvallur District.

