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Love 7 Sevalaya's News Letter - July 2012 Serve 4 Price-Re.1

# **Dear Friends,**

All cities, small towns and even villages are fast growing in India. We don't see much of bicycles or people walking now-a-days and the two wheeler and four wheeler population is growing at a much faster rate than the human population growth rate. Thirty years ago we only white ambassador cars were seen on Indian roads, but today we have all different brands of cars from the entire globe. The crowding of roads, condition of roads, etc are lesser problems compared to utter don't care attitude of even educated drivers to traffic rules.

If a police man is not present, then the traffic signal has no meaning in most of the places. People jump red lights as if there is nothing wrong in driving like that — the same person when he goes outside India, is very careful to follow rules - as if in India we don't have to bother about any rules! If some law abiding citizen stops on red light, the entire row of vehicles behind him start honking like hell and expect him to jump the signal!

The two wheelers try to squeeze themselves in whatever space that is available (In USA we drive on the right, in India we should drive on the left, but drive on whatever is left!) and do all sorts of somersault. We had many cases of bike races in busy roads which ended up in some deaths too. At times the big Government buses also behave like bicycles and indulge in zig-zag driving.

On 27<sup>th</sup> June, a Government bus fell off Anna flyover in

the middle of Chennai city – many are injured and it is very disturbing to see the bus completely damaged lying on the road.

When such accidents happen, generally the public are not interested and they try to find their way and proceed with their business. But this time, there was an auto rickshaw driver, who wanted to help. Mr.Riaz Mohammed, who was driving an auto with passengers, stopped, got off from his vehicle and rushed to help the people trapped inside the bus. He tried to call the ambulance, he tried thrice, but help arrived only after half an hour. So with the help of traffic police who were on duty there, he pulled out people. By the time the ambulance arrived and hopefully the injured will all survive.

He was there on the spot for next two hours. His passengers offered the payment for their trip, but he refused to accept any money as he had not taken them to their final destination. We have mostly seen auto drivers who demand excess fare, but here is one who was ready to forgo his earning, spend his prime earning time in saving others!

He has studied only upto grade 8 and he has been a auto driver for the past 3 years.

What else do we want from education? Riaz's 8<sup>th</sup> grade education, which has taught him that he should help others when required, even if it meant that he will lose his income and time, is equal to many doctorate degrees. Hope some socially minded university will honour him with an honorary doctorate.

Thanks & Regards

## Murali





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## **Public Relations**

Mr. Prembabu, a long time donor and well-wisher of Sevalaya has joined the Trust board. He works for TCS.

Now donors can use a new online option to donate to Sevalaya — this link is made possible by eBay <a href="http://www.ebay.in/sch/i.html?nkw=sevalaya">http://www.ebay.in/sch/i.html?nkw=sevalaya</a>

Mr.V.Muralidharan attended the quarterly district senior citizens protection committee meeting, as an NGO representative working in the field of Senior citizens care. This committee is headed by the District collector and all district officials are members of this committee. Crime against senior citizens and action taken by Government departments and NGOs in taking care of welfare of senior citizens were reviewed by the District collector.

# **Bharathi Team Achievements**

Sevalaya students have done their organization proud be securing 100% pass results in the X std Public examinations. 2 students, L.Dineshkumar & S.Prithviraj stood first with 451 marks out of 500 followed by G.Ajit with 448 marks and V.Pratheeba with 444 marks. 18 out of 90 students who took the exam scored above 400 out of 500 marks.

#### **Events**

World Environment Day was celebrated on 05/06/2012. Sevalaya organized a tree planting in Panchayat Union Middle School Campus, at Ayalur Villae. Several avenue trees were planted. Mr. A. Gopu (Ranger and Publicity Officer) Forest Department, Thiruvallur District, Mrs. Indhumathi forest department with their team and Mr. Shanmugaraj, Head Master, Union Middle School, Ayalur participated in this function.





Sevalaya students presented a small cultural programme highlighting environmental issues in today's fast paced life.

Mrs. P. Selva Kumari, Chief Educational Officer, Thiruvallur and Mr. Mangalanadan (Manager KGR Apparels, Pakkam), were the chief guests at a function organized on 07/06/2012 to distribute free uniforms to nearly 1700 students of Sevalaya. Mrs. P. Selva Kumari congratulated the staff and management for the consistent good results being secured by the rural students coming from economically weaker section of society.

15 volunteers from HCL came to the campus, on 23/06/2012. They took part in planting tree saplings etc.

Senior officials from Scope international visited Sevalaya on 06/06/2012 and 20/06/2012.

### **Training**

Mr. S.Arokiadas conducted a introductory session on "Awareness of breathing to Improve concentration" for the students on 02/06/2012.

10 students participated in the competitions on the theme of Environment protection conducted by EXNORA & KIDZEE on 09/06/2012.

The second session on Breath Awareness by Mr. S.Arokiadas was conducted for the staff on 16/06/2012.

Mrs. Juno Thangakumar, Senior Teacher of Vidya Mandir Higher Secondary School, Mylapore spoke to the staff on The Joy of Teaching on 23/06/2012.