

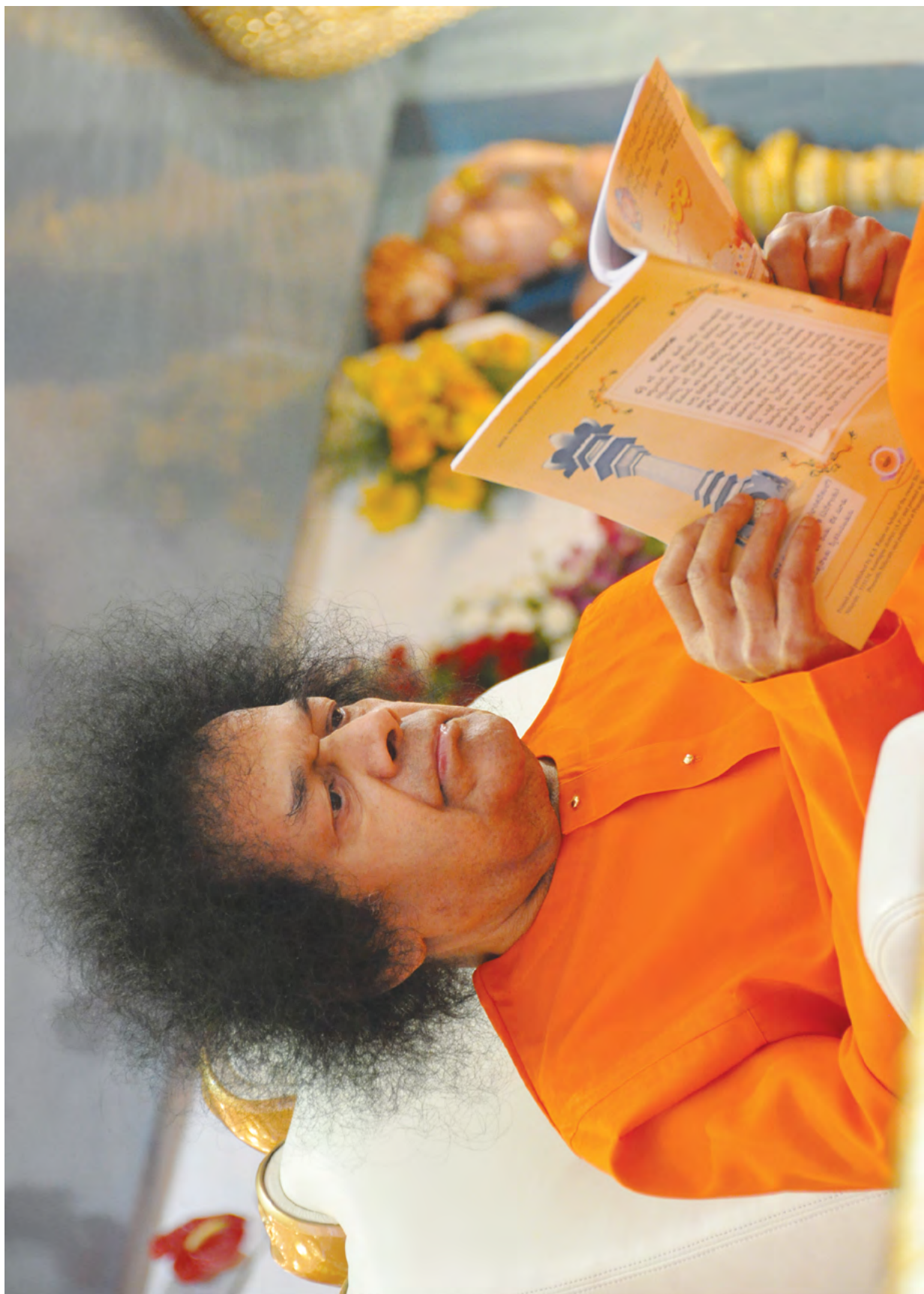


# Sanathana Sarathi

FEBRUARY 2018







# Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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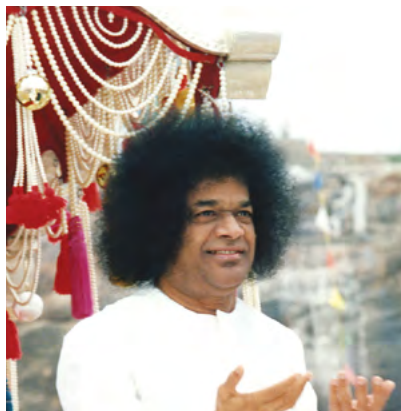
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"One who has no faith in God is blind indeed. On the other hand, even a blind man can recognise the existence of the world. Students today are acquiring only bookish knowledge. As the bookish knowledge is increasing, the practical knowledge is decreasing."

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AVATAR VANI

# UNDERSTAND THE REALITY OF SORROW AND HAPPINESS

HEART IS THE CENTRE OF VIRTUES

**T**HE WORLD IS FULL OF FEAR AND differences. There are different castes, different religions, different political affiliations, etc. Wherever you see, you find various kinds of differences. There are differences in thoughts, words and deeds. Birth itself depends on the principle of differences. You will find differences even in twins. What is the secret?

## **Happiness and Sorrow are Interrelated**

The dualities of Nature such as good and bad, shadow and light, profit and loss, etc., are interrelated. Many intellectuals question as to why God has given sorrows and difficulties, pointing at differences in Nature. But they should know that human life has no value if there are no differences. Humanness assumes value in the light of differences only. Light has value because of darkness. Happiness has no value when there is no sorrow. Happiness and sorrow are inseparably enmeshed. Happiness does not find its

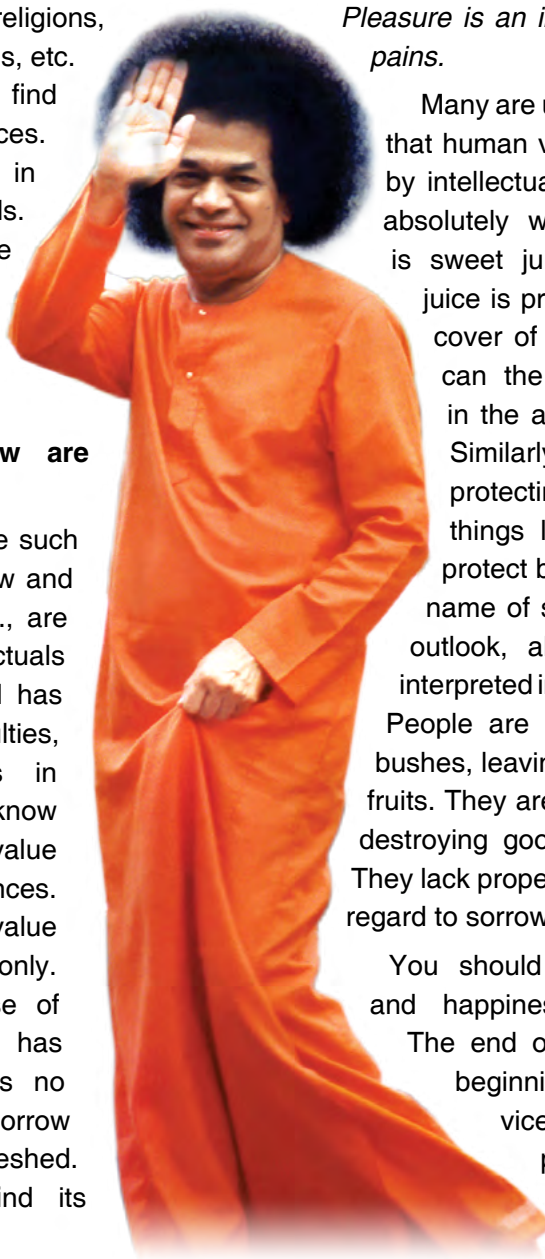
distinction in the absence of sorrow. Sorrow cannot be felt in the absence of happiness.

*Pleasure is an interval between two pains.*

Many are under the impression that human values are sustained by intellectual faculty. This is an absolutely wrong notion. There is sweet juice in a fruit. This juice is protected by the outer cover of the bitter skin. How can the juice be protected in the absence of the skin? Similarly, bad is indirectly protecting the good. Also, things like thorns serve to protect beautiful trees. In the name of science and modern outlook, all things are being interpreted in the negative sense. People are in search of thorny bushes, leaving the trees of sweet fruits. They are protecting bad and destroying good things of Nature. They lack proper understanding with regard to sorrow and happiness.

You should know that sorrow and happiness are interlinked.

The end of sorrow marks the beginning of happiness and vice versa. In technical parlance, when you put the switch off,





the light is gone. The darkness has not come from some other place. In reality, darkness and light are not different or separate from each other. Absence of light is darkness and absence of darkness is light. When one is present, the other is absent (not seen). During the daytime, you cannot see the stars. Does it mean that there are no stars in the sky during the daytime? No. You are not seeing the stars because of the brightness of the sun; and you see the sun's brightness because of its closeness to the planet earth. But a blind man cannot see even the brightness of the sun. Similarly, lack of discrimination makes a man blind to his true reality.

Here is a small story. There was a lame man who could not walk. He happened to meet a blind man. As the blind man had healthy legs and the lame man, good eyesight, they thought they could help each other; and so they became friends. They started moving together. The blind man would carry the lame man on his shoulders and the lame man would direct the blind man while moving from place to place. One day, they reached a place where there was a big field of cucumbers. Having seen the cucumbers, the lame man told the blind man, "This place has plenty of cucumbers. Let us go and eat some cucumbers as we are hungry". The blind man sought to know whether there was any fence around the field. The lame man replied in the negative. The blind man again asked whether there was any watchman present. The lame man said that no one was found watching the field. The blind man then said, "These cucumbers must be bitter and useless because no one would leave a good crop unprotected". See, the blind man had the good sense of discrimination and reasoning even though he was visually handicapped.

## Recognise your Immanent Divinity

Along with education, one should develop the quality of Viveka (discrimination). Bookish knowledge is useless without Viveka. There was once a foolish man who was attracted by a rabbit in a bush. He was able to catch it after a long chase. Holding one of its legs, he counted the other legs – one, two, three. He then said in surprise that the rabbit had only three legs! His friend, who was watching this amusingly, said, "Look here! You must count also the leg you are holding". And he tapped the leg he was holding in order to convince the foolish man. Similarly, people forget the Divinity that is present within their own selves and indulge in foolish acts.

Education and health are considered important in life. So, man needs both education and health. The head stands for education and the heart, for health. The head deals with mundane matters Pravritti (worldliness). Livelihood, food, job, business, etc., are all connected to head only. Therefore, all these activities of head are known as Pravritti. Qualities such as love, forbearance, compassion, kindness, etc., pertain to the heart. Heart is the centre of virtues. If head is Pravritti, heart is Nivritti (spirituality). Even Pravritti is sustained by Nivritti.

One who has no faith in God is blind indeed. On the other hand, even a blind man can recognise the existence of the world. Students today are acquiring only bookish knowledge. As the bookish knowledge is increasing, the practical knowledge is decreasing. They sit before a world map, draw a line between Argentina and Australia, and say they have seen these places. What kind of experience can they derive out of this type of knowledge? Real experience comes

when they actually travel to these places. Without practice, bookish knowledge has little worth. Coordination between what we see and what we hear is real education.

The Upanishads say that differences and variations are inherent in Nature. Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavadgita, *Anityam Asukham Lokam Imam Prapya Bhajasva Maam* (as the world is temporary and full of misery, contemplate on Me constantly).

A person who spends all the 24 hours in an air-conditioned room will not know its

vary from machine to machine. Bulbs have different colours and different wattages. In one room, a bulb of lesser wattage is used, and in the other, a brighter bulb is used. But their voltage is the same. There is the same Divinity in the Ajnani (ignorant person), Sujnani (a person of spiritual knowledge) and the Prajnani (a person of divine wisdom). They are like three bulbs of different wattages, having the same voltage of Divinity. Change in mental levels is not real progress. Real progress involves change of heart. This is what is known as Nivritti. One has to use heart while applying discrimination. On one side, you have the



value. He will appreciate the value of the air-conditioner only when he goes out in the hot sun. So, hot sun teaches the value of coolness. Value of the heater is realised in a hill station. Current is common to the air conditioner and the heater. Machines are many, but current is the same. Capacities

*There is complete unity in human body. For example, if the leg is hurt, the eye weeps. Similarly, when the body is in trouble, the spiritual heart is also agitated. While the physical heart is located in a particular place, the spiritual heart is present all over in the body. The doctors can operate and perform heart transplant. But spiritual heart is all-pervasive like the Atma. The Purusha (Atma) dwells in the Pura (town) of the body.*

mind and on the other, the heart. Mind is a mad monkey; body is a water bubble. Do not follow the body. Do not follow the mind as you do not know when and how it will jump like a monkey. Looking at a fruit on the other tree, the monkey tries to reach it, leaving the one in the hand. Man today is similarly leaping

*continued on page 18...*



## *Effulgence of Divine Glory*

# BLISSFUL EXPERIENCES OF TRAVELLING WITH SWAMI

*I* REMEMBER A JOURNEY TO the Nilgiris from Bangalore (now Bengaluru). There was a specialist in sylviculture in the car with Baba. I was slyly urged to raise a controversy and I started the topic of the sandal tree. When I was a Producer of Radio programmes at



Bengaluru, I once had to vet a script on that tree. The author, an expert on the subject, had declared that the tree has to be propagated as a parasite. Since I had to throw the gauntlet, I laid down the proposition, “The sandalwood tree starts life as a parasite”, and challenged him to refute it. Of course, this fact was news to him and he argued loud and long, attempting to overpower me. I suggested that the matter be referred to an independent tribunal, the Professor of Botany at the University of Madras, who had specialised in the spike disease that infects the tree. “How much do you wager?” he asked me. I mentioned a hundred rupees. Baba was watching us entering prohibited areas. When the Forest Officer retorted, “You will have to pay it all in one lump”, He intervened on behalf of good manners and gentility and directed our attention to the western sky, which had become red in the face. Often, the topic for debate would be some mythological story, or Upanishadic parable, or perhaps, an aphorism from the Vedantic texts. Everything depended on the performers available in the car. What was desired was a delightful duel, ending in a burst of hearty appreciation and a ‘Bangaru’ from Bhagavan.

Once Baba observed a mother trudging along, a baby on her hip, a heavy basket on her head. The next day was Deepavali, the Festival of Lights, when new clothes are a must. Baba had the car stopped. In reply to our questions, she told us she had



heard of Sai Baba, that a few people she knew had gone on pilgrimage to Puttaparthi, and that she too had taken a vow to make the journey and have Darshan of the Baba. Baba blessed both mother and child and gave her money for new clothes, declaring, "Your vow is fulfilled. I am Sai Baba". She fell at Baba's feet again and again, stood staring at the car as it sped along, wondering whether it was all a dream.

Baba knows, kilometres ahead, that a blind person or a handicapped beggar is asking for alms from passing cars. He equips Himself with a fiver or tenner, minutes earlier and wants the car to be pulled up right in front of the outstretched palm. Realising that the eyeless cannot know the value of the bit of paper placed in their hands, He takes care to tell them, "Here! It is a five rupee note. Hold it firm". Every gesture of His is a lesson for those, who watch or witness.

When the mood is on and love overflows, Baba might 'create' candies or cookies for companions in the car. When once Baba was returning from Hyderabad to Puttaparthi, He found only savouries in the tins the host had provided for being gifted by Him during the long journey. He had the car stopped by the side of a heap of road-metal. He asked me to pick up a rock and bring it to Him. I selected a big lump, but He threw it away! He wanted a bigger one and a flat one. Such a one was placed in His hands. He returned it to me, the very next moment. But, it had become a flat piece of candy of the same size, shape and weight.

"The other one would have been too hard to break into bits," He said, while directing me to give a slice each to everyone.

The car ride from Trichinopoly (now Tiruchirappalli) to Palamaner gave me a memorable chance to realise another facet of His love. We had to reach Bengaluru, but instead of the shorter and better road via Salem, Baba decided via Palamaner. The purpose was to avoid about a dozen 'receptions' on the way, arranged without permission by certain pompous individuals. We had to spend about an hour midway, on account of a wheel that was mysteriously dislodged! The Forest Rest House at Palamaner was surprised, when Baba's car pulled up at about 10 p.m. Baba sent one of us to procure dinner from a hotel and luckily, he returned with plenty of it, though it was long past closing time. The Rest House had nothing for all of us to rest on—beds, blankets, cots, etc. And the night air was biting cold. Baba, too, shared the unavailable. We were able to persuade Him to use a shawl, which the engineer-devotee was parading around his torso, at Tiruchirappalli. Sleep stole into our eyes in the silence. When I awoke at dawn from my bare reed-mat, I found the shawl keeping me warm from head to foot. Baba, the Mother, had tip-toed, during my sleep and gently spread it over me. Baba found me in tears. How else could I express my good fortune and my gratitude at the lesson He taught us?

– Excerpted from "Loving God" by Sri N. Kasturi.

*You and the universe are one; you and the Absolute are one; you and the Eternal are one. You are not the individual, the particular, the temporary. Feel this. Know this. Act in conformity with this.*

– Baba



# VISION OF THE DIVINE

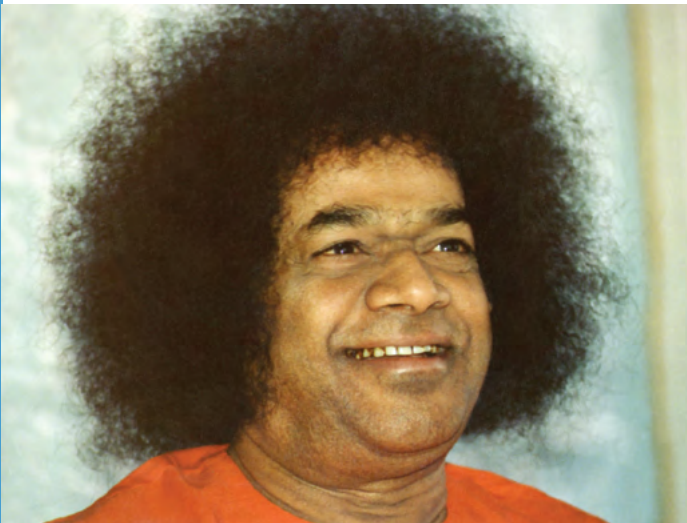
Vinod Kumar Passi

**I**N 1971, I WAS TWENTY YEARS old student in New Delhi aspiring to become a Chartered Accountant. One day in August, I went to visit a friend, and at his house I met a very senior officer of the Indian Airlines (now Air India). He was a spiritual person with strong intuition,

his prediction that I would renounce worldly life and live in an Ashram was unimaginable to me.

## **My First Experience of Witnessing Swami's Leela**

Barely a month after I met this person, I came to know of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in September 1971. I had taken preparatory holidays and gone to Udaipur to live with my sister. I wanted to be at a quiet place that would be conducive for my CA exam preparation. While I was in Udaipur, I met one of my brother-in-law's friends who was a staunch devotee of Shirdi Sai Baba and Sathya Sai Baba. During his visits to Puttaparthi, Swami told him in many interviews the dates on which he had visited Shirdi. My brother-in-law was an atheist, having no faith in God. In fact, he used to make fun of his friend.



capable of accurately reading lines on the palms and soles of people and used to tell them about their future. When he saw my right palm and right sole, he told me that I would not be able to lead a worldly life and would have to live like a renunciant in an Ashram. However, he also said that I would get married around the age of 30 and have two children. He predicted several other things about my future, most of which seemed incredible to me. I was preparing for my CA final exam during that time and he said I would never fail (the pass rate was 5%). At that time, I had no faith in God and

One day, while his friend was doing his Puja, he wept and told Swami that he did not like my brother-in-law's criticism of Swami. As he was weeping before Swami's photos, he suddenly noticed that one photo was fully covered with Vibhuti and another with Kumkum. Next day, he came running to my brother-in-law and told us to come and see what was happening in his house. We went there and saw this phenomenon of Vibhuti and Kumkum falling from Swami's photos. We also listened to Swami's Discourse and Bhajans in a LP record and were attracted to know more about Him. This friend of my

brother-in-law gave us several books on the life and teachings of Swami. I started reading them and lost interest in my studies. I came back to Delhi as a changed person after staying in Udaipur for two months. I brought a large-sized photo of Swami and started worshipping Him regularly. My parents were surprised as to how their son who had no faith in God until now, started praying to Him. I went to a Sai Centre in Delhi and began doing Seva as a volunteer and started attending Bhajans. With all this transformation within me, I had not been able to carry out much preparation for the CA final examination that was scheduled in November. I was sure that I would not be able to pass it. Just after two papers, there was a strike by students and for the first time, exam was cancelled in Delhi!

In March 1972, Swami was due to visit Delhi. We were very enthusiastic and started making preparations for His visit. There was great joy when Swami came and lakhs of people had His Darshan. I was fortunate to be there amongst the 30 youngsters who were working as Seva Dal members and were given badges personally by Swami. Thus, the first Seva Dal of Delhi was formed. He called us in a small room and gave a Discourse. There was one point which struck me very deeply. He said that we all wanted to accumulate wealth and build properties so that we could live happily in old age. But if we did selfless Seva, He will give us pension in old age. Thus, He assured us that we should not worry about wealth and properties.

I appeared in the CA final exam in May 1972 and passed both groups in my first attempt by His grace. However, my father passed away a few days before the results

were declared in July 1972. From July 1972 to November 1977, I visited Puttaparthi many times and had several experiences which I will write about separately.

### **A Profound Spiritual Experience**

One day in late December 1977, I lost awareness of the outside world. My whole body was filled with light, and I could only see lights of different colours before my eyes. Bhajans kept ringing in my ears. I could not sleep for many days. Whenever I was served food, I could not take beyond one or two morsels and I did not feel hungry. Although it was very cold in December when I used to take bath early in the morning, I never felt the water to be cold. For a few days, I saw so much light that I preferred to sit in a dark room. To distract me from this situation, my brothers and sisters used to take me to the cinema. As soon as I entered the cinema hall, I could not stay there for more than few minutes as I could not bear to see the light. I had lost interest in doing any work. At that time, I was working as an Accounts Officer in a paper company. The Managing Director of that company was a spiritual person and he allowed me to sit in the office even if I did not do any work. I used to be busy cleaning and making shrines. One of the store room of our house was dumped with all useless items. I cleaned the whole room and converted it into a beautiful shrine, keeping very big photos of Swami.

I developed intense feelings of renunciation and felt that the worldly life was not meant for me. I spent all my savings on God's work and godly things. Once I entered a temple in Connaught Place, New Delhi in which it was written: if you offer ten rupees, God will take care of your entire life. I checked my pockets and found that I had only one ten-rupee note which I offered at



the shrine there. Later on, I realised that I had no money for bus fare to go home from there. I happily walked to my home which was about five kilometres away. My mother and younger brother who were dependent on me were worried as to how they would survive if I did not work and get monthly salary.

### Seva Work at Puttaparthi

This situation continued and I did not feel like doing any worldly duties during the first two months of 1978. The desire for renouncing worldly life was very strong. As my sisters, brothers and brother-in-law became worried about the state of my mind, they took me to an exorcist. That exorcist made several attempts to overpower me, but did not succeed. I was also taken to allopathic doctors who thought I was mentally ill and gave me medicines, but nothing changed. In March 1978, Swami visited Delhi. At that time I was working as a Seva Dal member in the Sai Organisation of Delhi. One day, when lunch was being served to the devotees in a house visited by Swami, He suddenly came near me and looked strongly into my eyes. From then onwards, I became “normal” and resumed my worldly duties. I returned to the same paper company who were happy to have me back. This experience of mine had completely transformed my life and I had no aim to accumulate wealth.

I had a strong feeling that I should go abroad to spread Swami’s message. So, I went and met one of my friends who was a travel agent and asked him as to where was my passport. He told me that I had never applied for a passport and as soon as I apply for it, he would help me in getting it. It was only three years later in April 1980 that I went to Bahrain and started a Sai Centre

there along with some of my friends, who were Chartered Accountants (CA).

From April 1980 to October 1984, I worked in Bahrain. Thereafter in November 1984, Swami asked me to come to Puttaparthi and work here. I had received the letter from the Registrar, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) in September 1984 to come and join the Institute. I had little savings which I brought from Bahrain and told Swami that I would not take any remuneration until I have money. On many occasions, the Vice Chancellor and others asked me to take some salary which I declined. Since then I have been working here in various institutions for almost 33 years without taking any salary or remuneration.

In April 1982, Swami had come to Delhi and blessed our marriage. Swami has blessed me with two children and He said I have to look after them. I had limited desires and my wife and children cooperated with me in living a simple life with limited means. Once Swami gave me some money to take my children for a holiday, I refused instantly to take anything from Him and told Him that whenever I needed, I would ask Him. He reprimanded me that whenever God gives anything, one should not refuse. He told me that He had given me this body and I was able to do work only through the body given by Him.

I had come to Prasanthi Nilayam with a desire to serve at His Lotus Feet and at no time desired to seek any remuneration or position of authority. I pray to Bhagavan that I continue to serve at His Lotus Feet till my last breath.

– The author is Executive Officer, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam.





# A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF SWAMI'S GRACE

Kuppam Vijayamma

**G**RACE IS THE BENEVOLENT GIFT of God, bestowed on man to enjoy peace and harmony in life. Belief and trust in the Lord brings His grace in abundance, at the time He chooses. Grace has immaculate immense powers that can bring about mind-boggling wonders. All those worthy of His grace, due to their virtue and goodness, receive it and are elevated to the state of supreme joy. Those with genuine devotion, those who strive for the insight of Self-realisation, experience ultimate grace, from the source of eternal joy. Single-minded devotion is the key that unlocks the grace of God in the easiest manner. God always insists on selflessly serving others, for within selfless service is the seed of love for Him. Totally surrendering to the Lord, one gets drenched in the sweetness and the tremendous power of grace that is beyond description. Those who have completely surrendered can be fully assured of the Supreme Master's perennial protection, as He takes total control and ensures safety, by relieving the afflicted from burdens. Once in His control, unnecessary thoughts and worries in every nook and corner of the mind are scorched. To earn this grace, that is perennially showered, is totally in one's own hands. When you struggle and wriggle with sincere hard work, strive hard with heart and soul, grace automatically

descends on you and plunges you in the ocean of joy and ecstasy.

**Instant Transformation of my Father**

God, the sole proprietor of this mighty force and source, the main powerhouse, lovingly distributes His grace to every nook and corner – to the deserved Sadhakas who pray and aspire ceaselessly for knowledge



of the Self. It instils encouragement and strength in the needy. It resists temptations and transforms humanity – which is truly the fruit of grace. No atom can move without His grace. Grace bestows on one and all



everything and anything. God's abundant grace is the only answer and solution for all the problems in life.

Here I would like to write about my father, the late Sri Radhakrishna. He never entertained Gurus, Sadhus, Sannyasis and self-styled spiritual leaders. Instead, he preferred to serve directly society and the needy. When such a person accepted to visit Puttaparthi with the whole family, it was our first surprise. Though he knew that Swami was only nineteen years old at that time, back in 1945, and that He claimed that He is an Avatar, yet he agreed to meet Him. This was the second surprise. But father sternly put one condition: to stay in Puttaparthi for a maximum of three days only. The very first Darshan of Swami, without any interview, without any speeches or discussions, without any promises or miracles, father surrendered to Swami! On the third day, in Puttaparthi, when Swami asked my father about his stay, without any hesitation he left the decision to Swami. This was the biggest surprise!

Thus, all of us comfortably stayed there for the next three months, at one stretch. This happened only due to Swami's grace. Swami had gracefully pocketed him at the very first sight; otherwise, for a person like my father to accept the young nineteen-year-old Swami, without any questions, was just unimaginable. Besides my father, Swami had pocketed all of us with His grace only. In spite of all the adverse propaganda thrown at us throughout our journey, with heaps of criticism, still none of that worked on us. In fact, we did not have an iota of doubt in our minds. Some people may mark us as foolish for our hasty and immediate decision, but we are happy, to this day, to bask under His immense grace, without a single break, since 1945.

## Swami Performs my Marriage

Let me share an unbelievable and incomprehensible incident at human level. Years before my marriage itself, Swami, with all love and grace, assured that He only will perform my marriage, on the date selected by Him – and my life partner also will be selected by Him only. As promised by Swami, when the time came, everything took place according to His Divine Will. This is totally inexplicable by any number of words or verses.

The bridegroom named Sri Hem Chand hailed from Madras (Chennai), and his father and my father were familiar with each other. This decent family was already pocketed by Swami as His devotees. Swami fixed the wedding date as 22nd February 1948, and the venue was to be my native place Kuppam, a remote village with hardly any facilities. As it would be the first wedding in the family, all expected the wedding to be performed with pomp and splendour. My father and the bridegroom's father were popular figures, heads of many institutions, boards, well educated, and respected by one and all. But our family was in deep financial crisis, and this sudden development of marriage made us shiver.

Swami, our Saviour, always stood by our side, at all times, with ready solutions to our endless problems. We surrendered at His Lotus Feet, and did not know how to express our plight. Swami blessed us profusely. With a confirmative strong voice, He said that everything will be taken care of by Him, and that the marriage will be performed in a grand manner. Swami had assured this many years back, and this was being confirmed by Him once again. We came back to our village with enormous vigour,



mighty courage, and colossal confidence – without an iota of doubt.

The list of guests, relatives, friends, officials, etc., was huge. So, to arrange a big hall and accommodation was out of question in the remote village of Kuppam. It was something unbelievable as to how this problem was solved, and the solution came unexpectedly, right to our house. The Zamindar, the biggest landlord at Kuppam, informed my father that their whole family was going abroad for three months. When my father told about my marriage, he immediately offered his whole palace, by name, Thimma Jamma Palace – for any number of days. The palace offered was so big that we could accommodate three times more than the list of people we had. The palace had enough rooms, halls, and all the comforts – including fantastic furniture and fittings. We thanked Swami for arranging the Zamindar's overseas trip and his allotting the whole palace to us. Numerous problems were solved – sitting right at home.

Manpower came from many quarters, without even asking for it, as my father was respected by all. Within no time, the palace was shining with petromax lights, as there was no current, and the flower decorations were brilliant. Multicoloured festoons were hanging all over; garlands decorated all the windows and doors. Everything looked glamorous. All was ready, well before time.

Swami arrived from Puttaparthi by car on 21st February, with all His bewitching smiles, blooming like a lotus. He was received with devotion and love. With due respect and honour, we followed Him to the second floor of the palace. The groom's party had all the arrangements on the third floor. We occupied the first floor, and all the marriage ceremonies were to be held on the

ground floor. Everyone was happy with the arrangements and the decor.

The podium for the couple was decorated with arches of flowers, and the designs were radiating and emitting the fragrance of flowers. On the auspicious 22nd day selected by Swami for the marriage, the main hall was jam-packed with people from all over. Swami arrived with a few devotees, and He looked like a bright moon surrounded by stars. Sai Maa sat on a decorated chair next to the podium, towards my side. He guided the priests in chanting the Mantras, and when the auspicious moment arrived, He materialised the Mangal Sutra (freshly soaked yellow turmeric thread with a circular gold pendant) by waving His right hand in circular motion. Swami asked the bridegroom to tie it around my neck with three knots. As this was in progress, Swami showered yellow rice on our heads continuously for quite some time; the yellow rice simply multiplied and fell through His right hand. Chanting of the Mantras and sweet notes of musical instruments were in full blare. The joyous shouts of the people and the loud applause from all sides echoed and electrified the hall. We felt that all the gods and godheads had also arrived with Swami to bless the occasion and also to have His Darshan. No wonder, with such divinity all around, the whole assembly was thrilled beyond imagination.

The attractions for the crowd were to see the marriage, to see the palace from inside and to have Swami's Darshan. Everyone praised the arrangements, and some were unable to talk, as their tummies were full of sumptuous food. Swami had insisted that He would take care of the evening reception. A big sofa was nicely decorated with flowers for Swami, and the fragrance of jasmine





flowers spread all over the big hall. A velvet carpet, decked with flowers, was ready for the newly-wedded couple. Swami entered the hall, followed by the newly-wedded couple. Everyone paid their respects to Swami, with folded hands. To everyone's surprise, Swami, so sweetly, forced the couple to occupy the sofa meant for Him. We were so perplexed, we just stared at Him, with eyes wide open. Swami let out one more surprise, "How can I sing, sitting on the sofa"? Swami forced us to sit on the sofa, and we had to obey His command. Swami sat cross-legged on the carpet, and, for the next three hours, it was only Swami and Swami alone who performed – no instruments and no co-singers. Classical songs drenched one and all with such sweetness that they forgot themselves and lost count of time. All were swept away in the ocean of bliss. After the session, there remained Swami and Swami only. People went after Swami in such a crazy manner, as if they had lost their consciousness. Swami lovingly pacified the crowd and went upstairs. We were having a moonlight dinner in the garden, and Swami watched us from above, happily, like a mother watching her children. As if not aware of anything, Swami praised my father for the wonderful arrangements.

Swami showered so much grace on our family, it just swept us intact, through devastating floods of problems; and we still remained safe, without even a scratch. The next day, Swami teased both of us, "Do not forget Me". He asked us to come to Parthi, then left by car – after profusely blessing all those present. Though we were floating in the ocean of joy, it was equally important to settle the accounts.

## **An Amazing Act of Swami's Grace**

Father was totally stultified at the wonderful arrangements and food. But he was being continuously pricked by the comments from close relatives and friends for wasting so much money. Some went to the extent of asking him if he had anything left for the remaining six children. Many knew about our tight financial position, and questioned my father on how he could afford to raise a big loan. Poor father did not know how to pay for the huge expenses. Unable to face the embarrassment, he disappeared somewhere.

My brother Krishna Kumar and the manager had closed-door discussions with the groups of people who had helped in the marriage arrangements. First was the group of groceries suppliers, followed by cooks, servants, florists, decorators, milkmen, light men, wood suppliers, etc. Everyone thought that there would be a lot of arguments in settling their bills, and fights were inevitable. To our surprise, everything went off calmly. My brother came out, blinking like a dazed person and went in search of my father. When we asked the manager about the payments, he stared at us blankly, and went away. After some time, my father and brother confronted us with a big smile, and with tears, informed us that everything was settled, but they did not explain anything more.

The next step was rather mundane, as my father asked us to pack and leave for Parthi as soon as possible. When we bowed to Swami's Lotus Feet, washing them with our tears of joy, Swami calmly patted us, as if nothing had happened. How silently Swami had conferred His abundant grace is beyond words, beyond imagination. His grace is always spontaneous, ceaseless,



and a golden boon to devotees. It was only after 58 years, when my brother showed the proof copy of his book “Bala Sai Leelamrutham”, that we came to know what had actually happened when they sat down to settle the bills! Full account of this event can be seen in my brother’s book “The Divine Games of Bala Sai”.

When the groceries supplier informed that he had supplied groceries only once, with the advance amount that was paid to him, they were dumbfounded. From where did all the additional supplies come? The grocer left without asking for any additional payment. Then the cooks informed that, to their utter surprise, when the food was being served batch after batch, they began to fear that the first supply of groceries would vanish in no time. When more than expected people started coming, they decided to inform father, but the groceries just kept coming out of the gunny bags. Flower baskets kept coming through the villagers, and also the number of helpers kept swelling, so the florist left without demanding any more money. Many other suppliers and helpers informed us that they had received their money, though my brother and the manager had not paid any amount to them at all. Father had a small budget set aside for the marriage. At the end of such a grand marriage, with unlimited delicious food, and grand arrangements, father still had a big chunk of money in his purse! He had not borrowed a pie from either relatives or friends, nor had he taken a big loan. Is not such a boon as this by the glorious grace of our Lord Sai? Till this day, we do not know in which form He had paid money to the many suppliers and helpers. So, we should consider those recipients also as the most fortunate ones, to have received

payment from the Lord of the universe. Everyone, in some way or the other, was recipient of His immense grace, without any exception. It is necessary to jot down such great incidents that will be treasured events to be remembered, not only for family and friends, but also for sharing with the whole world how personal God’s love is for each human being, for all are His children, His heirs to divinity.

Swami showered such enormous grace on our family and gave us the golden opportunity to witness many such incidents, many miracles, many Leelas, besides songs, stories, interviews – and most of all – the closeness we had with Him as a family.

Our Lord of Grace, coming all the way to our village Kuppam, staying with us and performing the marriage so gracefully, is something spectacular, stupendous, and most supreme for our family. Amazingly, Swami extended that unique ‘marriage’ grace for my grandchildren and their parents, as well! Beyond adoration and admiration, He played His role, displaying immeasurable integrity and honour, conferring His innate loving kindness on each and every one of us – and He fulfilled His promise in every possible way par excellence to drench all in overwhelming joy. This is the most meritorious gift, to be cherished for ever and ever – for ages and ages. With heartfelt thanks and deep gratitude, we prostrate at His holy feet, with total devotion, dedication and trust. I humbly surrender this personal account at the Lotus Feet of our grand and gracious Lord of Grace!

– **Smt. Kuppam Vijayamma is the author of the famous book “Anyatha Saranam Nasti” and many other books on Bhagavan Baba.**



From our Archives

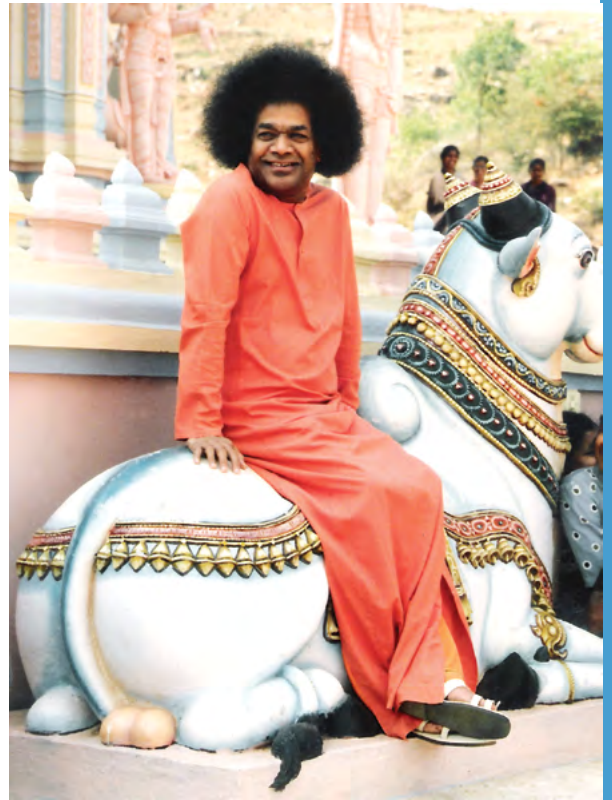
# MAN LIVES TO KNOW GOD

THYAGA IS REAL YOGA

**M**AN IS, IN TRUTH, THE ATMA, which is beyond the bounds of his mind. The Atma has neither beginning nor end. The mind, the senses and the body undergo decline or development every moment and finally disintegrate and die. Man places faith in the instruments of exploration and experience that are superficial and so, he deprives himself of the supreme Ananda, inherent in the Atma. Like the sun hidden by the clouds, embers covered by ash, the retina overlaid by cataract, the sheet of water veiled by moss, the consciousness of man is coated thick with likes and dislikes. How then can the splendour of the Atma shine through?

## The Well-guarded Treasure

The body of man is a receptacle designed to keep safe a precious treasure. Legends announce that cobras guard hidden treasures. The name of the cobra that prevents access to the priceless treasure hidden in man is Aham – the fascination for oneself and for one's belongings. In order to reach and recover the Ananda treasure, man has first to destroy the snake of Aham (egotism). The river is a part, a portion of the sea; it earns fulfilment when it returns to the sea and merges in its source. Fishes are of water. They live in water and die when deprived of water. The baby is a part of the mother. It cannot survive apart from the mother. The branch is a part of the tree.



Cut it off the tree, it gets dry and dies. Man is an Amsa (a part) of God. He too cannot survive without God. He lives because of the urge to know God, his source. In the Bhagavadgita, the Lord declares (15-7) that "all living beings are My Amsa (part). I am in them as the Eternal Atma", He indicates.

Man lives for a high purpose, not for submitting as the beast does to every demand of instinct and impulse. He has to install himself as the master, not crawl as a slave. He has the right to proclaim





Sivoham (I am Siva), I am Achyuta (I am the undiminishable fullness), I am Ananda. As soon as he becomes aware of his reality, the chains that bind him, iron as well as gold, fall off and he attains Moksha (liberation).

Turn your minds towards the Divine. Repetition of the Name of the Lord has been prescribed as a spiritual discipline to turn your mind away from the things of the world.

If you devote the whole of this Sivarathri night to thoughts about the Lord, your minds will be transformed, even if you are not able to reach the highest state of “Overmind”. Ever bearing in mind the triple characteristics of the Divine – Sathyam, Jnanam, Anantam, Brahma – strive to achieve the supreme goal of man.

– **Excerpted from Bhagavan’s Sivarathri Discourses.**

*...continued from page 6*

outwards, leaving the immanent fruit of God’s love. The tree has shadow underneath. It is foolishness to climb up the shadow of the tree to get its fruit. The fruit can be obtained only when the tree is climbed. You must understand the reality of the present and try to broaden your heart. This does not imply the physical heart. If the physical heart is enlarged, you become a patient. It is the spiritual heart that is important.

### **Worldly Attachments are the Cause of Man’s Sufferings**

There is complete unity in human body. For example, if the leg is hurt, the eye weeps. Similarly, when the body is in trouble, the spiritual heart is also agitated. While the physical heart is located in a particular place, the spiritual heart is present all over in the body. The doctors can operate and perform heart transplant. But spiritual heart is all-pervasive like the Atma. The Purusha (Atma) dwells in the Pura (town) of the body. The Upanishads say, *Eko Vasi Sarva Bhutantaratma* (the One is present as the soul in all beings).

All bodies are temporary like bulbs. You do not know when the bulb will get fused. But the Atma is eternal and omnipresent

like the current. It has no differences of nations, castes, religions, communities or genders. You hear often people saying, “I am drowned in this Samsara (worldly life). I have become its slave and am undergoing trials and tribulations”. But the question is, is the Samsara holding you or you are holding the Samsara by your worldly attachments? The nature of the mind is like that of a monkey. The tribal people have a technique of catching monkeys. They keep some peanuts in a pot of narrow mouth. Attracted by the peanuts, the monkey puts its hand into the pot and holds the peanuts in its fist. As the monkey tries to bring its hand out, its fist gets stuck in the narrow mouth of the pot. The monkey thinks that someone else is holding its hand from inside the pot. Man is similarly entangled in troubles because of his worldly attachments.

There is no coherence between the words and actions of people today. They have adopted an artificial way of life. Follow your spiritual heart. That is the real master. *Follow the Master, face the devil, fight to the end and finish the game.* Real happiness lies in union with God.

– **Bhagavan’s Divine Discourse in Sai Sruthi, Kodaikanal on 22nd April 1992.**



# NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

*S* SATHYA SAI INTERNATIONAL Organisation (SSIO) volunteers from Trinidad and Tobago, led by members of the Pasea Sathya Sai Centre, worked tirelessly to provide relief to the residents of Dominica island, which was hard hit by



*Relief material for people affected by Hurricane Maria in Dominica island, Trinidad and Tobago.*

Hurricane Maria in September 2017. On 1st October 2017, more than 500 volunteers packed 5,000 boxes of food provisions and items of daily use for the affected people. On 8th October, 91 pallets containing food and 140 pallets containing galvanised roof sheeting, generators, plywood, bulk food, lanterns, tarpaulins, clothing, cups, hand lotions, buckets, brooms, razor blades, 2,900 cases of water and 200 mattresses were shipped to Dominica on a vessel privately chartered by the Pasea Centre. On 10th October, 22 volunteers unloaded the ship, transferred 1,000 boxes onto five trucks, and left at 7.00 o'clock the following morning for distribution in the hardest hit villages.

## RUSSIA

A group of 162 SSIO volunteers from five countries provided medical and other services in the Sverdlovsk region of Russia in early August 2017. A 64-member medical team, including 25 doctors representing 14 specialities, along with 17 interpreters, served more than 3,800 patients from seven villages. Volunteers also distributed three wheelchairs and more than 900 pairs of eyeglasses. A construction team cheerfully repaired two schools in the city, at the Palace of Culture and Leisure and the regional polyclinic. In addition, they embarked on reconstruction of the Palace Square and the development of a park adjacent to the Palace of Culture and Leisure. Educators held classes for more than 130 children, over five days. The education team organised 25



*Creative workshops for children in Russia.*

creative workshops, eight seminars for the public, and 26 consultations in psychology.

## ITALY

On 21st September 2017, several Italian volunteers participated in the 30th Anniversary of the Peace Run in Rome, to





*Peace Run in Rome, Italy.*

promote peace as an inner awareness and not simply as an opposite or antidote to war. The SSIO of Italy organised this annual event to raise public awareness about the importance of inner peace. About 7,000 thematic drawings by children all over the world were also exhibited at the Coliseum in Rome.

## SRI LANKA

Sri Sathya Sai Suva Sevana Cancer Hospice was opened on 6th July 2002 to serve needy and forsaken cancer patients. Since its inception, more than 450 terminal cancer patients have received loving and compassionate care at this facility, staffed by a supervising physician, three doctors and seventeen staff members. Sathya Sai volunteers attend to the hospice residents



*Service to terminal cancer patients, Sri Lanka.*

regularly, serving home-cooked meals, conducting Bhajans and recounting their loving experiences with Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

– Sathya Sai International Organisation

## BHARAT

**Himachal Pradesh:** By the Divine grace of Bhagavan Baba, a 92-hour Akhanda Bhajan was organised at Anand Vilas, Shimla from 6.00 p.m. on 1st October till 2.00 p.m. on 5th October 2017. This sacred tradition was started in the year 1998 on Swami's 78th Birthday for 78 hours. It is continuing with increase of one hour every year and shall continue with increase of one hour in the following years. All the hills around Anand Vilas echoed with the vibrations of spirituality. Devotees from all parts of Himachal Pradesh came to participate in it with all devotion and commitment travelling long distances of tough hilly terrains.

**Kerala:** The Sai Organisation of Palakkad district has adopted the village Karinnalapallam under Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme, wherein all the village development programmes are being implemented with Swami's grace. Five Bal Vikas Centres, Employment and Skill Development Training Centre for youth and a Sathya Sai Community Centre have been set up in the village. With the objective to help the students who are weak in studies, a daily tuition centre has been established. Weekly Narayana Seva / Bhajan / Satsang have been started. Fifty villagers are learning Veda regularly and as part of preventive care in health, checking of blood pressure and diagnosis of other diseases has commenced across all houses. A monthly cultural meeting of villagers and a skill development programme for school students have also commenced. A house was constructed with an investment of ₹ 3.50 lakhs and the same was donated to a needy family in the village. Regular youth camps are being organised for the benefit of the youth and many villagers have started visiting Prasanthi Nilayam for Prasanthi Seva.



# CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

## PREMA BANDHAM MEET 2018



LARGE NUMBER OF ALUMNI of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music, Sri Sathya Sai Primary School and Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning came to Prasanthi Nilayam on New Year 2018 to offer their reverence and gratitude to their Divine Sadguru, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The alumni celebrated their Annual Prema Bandham Meet for three days, on 30th and 31st December 2017 and 1st January 2018 and presented music and cultural programmes on all the three days.

### Sai Swar Sandhya: A Devotional Music Presentation

The alumni of Music College were the first to present a bouquet of melodies entitled “Sai Swar Sandhya” comprising



*Devotional music presentation “Sai Swar Sandhya” by the alumni of Music College.*

Hindustani and Prasanthi evergreen devotional songs. Beginning with a song in prayer of Lord Ganesh “Vighna Vinashaka Lambodara”, they saturated the entire

milieu with devotional fervour with soulful songs which included “Aao Sab Milkar Gayen Sathyam Sivam Sundaram”, “O Nesthama Priyamaina Bandhama” (O my beloved friend and my eternal companion). Bhajan continued after this and concluded with Arati.

### Mataram Pitaram Pujiyeth: A Drama

As part of Prema Bandham Meet, the alumni of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School presented a thematic drama entitled “Mataram Pitaram Pujiyeth” (worship your mother and father) on 31st December 2017. Dedicating the programme to their parents who took them to Swami, the alumni expressed their love and gratitude to Swami for His loving guidance and unbounded grace on them during their student days in Sri Sathya Sai Primary School. With the scenes of primary school on the LED screen in the background, the alumni fondly reminisced the old times of their student days in the school, remembering it as the golden period of their life as Sai students.

### New Year Programme

The programme on 1st January 2018, the New Year Day, began at 8.20 a.m. with a grand display of band music by the university band of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Welcoming the New Year with joyous instrumental music, the band group presented in all eleven musical numbers. This was followed by recitation of Sri Sathya Sai Ashtottara Shata Namavali (chanting of 108 Names of Sai). The entire Sai Kulwant Hall reverberated with the

Divine Name when the entire assembly of devotees and students recited it in unison.

An alumnus of the Institute Sri Venkataramani Suresh thereafter addressed the gathering. Expressing his gratitude to Swami for guiding and transforming the students, the distinguished speaker observed that Swami's proximity was the greatest good fortune of His students. Exhorting the students to develop implicit surrender, he said that the goal of all Sai students is Swami, Swami and only Swami. Bhajan followed next and concluded with Arati.

The programme in the evening began with the entry of the palanquin procession, wherein the alumni marched to Sai Kulwant with a beautiful photo of Bhagavan in a decorated palanquin and offered their salutations to Bhagavan. The alumni thereafter made an excellent musical offering in the form of band music. Playing some of the popular Bhajans which included "Hara Hara Sankar Sambho Sadasiva", "Humko Tumse Pyar Kitna", "Murali Krishna Mukunda Krishna", they preceded each recitation with narration of their intimate interactions with Bhagavan.

The last item of the programme was a drama entitled "The Ideal Brothers"

presented by the alumni of the Institute. Based on the story of the Ramayana, the drama picturised the intimate bond of love between Rama and His three brothers through selected episodes from the Ramayana to highlight that all the brothers of Rama conducted themselves in ideal manner with deep love and reverence for Rama. Bhajans followed this and concluded with Arati to mark the conclusion of the Prema Bandham programme.

### NATIONAL CONVENTION OF BAL VIKAS AND ALUMNI MEET

The 5th National Convention of Bal Vikas Group 3 students and 10th Bal Vikas Alumni Meet was organised at Prasanthi Nilayam by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation on 6th and 7th January 2018. Nearly 3,000 participants which included students, alumni and Gurus came to attend this important event.

The programme on 6th January 2018 began at 8.00 a.m. with Veda chanting by Bal Vikas students of Sikkim which was followed by a welcome song by the Bal Vikas alumni from the State of Odisha to invoke the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Baba.

Thereafter, Sri N. Ramani, National Vice President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, addressed the gathering. Referring to Bal Vikas as an open university for the children of all countries, faiths and races, Sri Ramani observed that Bal Vikas education ensured highest quality of life for all those who joined it. After his talk, Sri Ramani released a CD of devotional songs prepared by the Sai Organisation of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. A folk dance of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to the tune of the popular song "Jai Jai Jai



*The drama "The Ideal Brothers" highlighted the deep bond of love between Rama and His brothers.*

"Vijayee Bhava" was thereafter presented by the Bal Vikas students (boys) of these two States. The morning session of the Bal Vikas Convention concluded at 9.30 a.m. with Arati after a brief session of Bhajans led by Bal Vikas students.

The evening session of the convention began at 4.30 p.m. with chanting of Vedic hymns by the Bal Vikas students of Tamil Nadu. After this, Smt. Kamala Pandya, National Coordinator (Women), Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation gave an inspiring talk. Referring to Bal Vikas as the greatest legacy which Bhagavan Baba gave to mankind, the distinguished speaker observed that it was journey to perfection and the only hope for the strife-torn world. Two short speeches by Bal Vikas alumni followed this, wherein the speakers shared their experiences of Bal Vikas education and stated how it could bring about transformation in the world through individual transformation. A compendium "Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas: the Only Ray of Hope for Mankind" was then released and awards for excellence in achievement were presented to selected Bal Vikas alumni.

Two musical offerings were made after this. First, Bal Vikas alumni (girls) from the States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh enraptured one and all with devotional songs which included "Om Japo Bhayi Om Japo" (recite Om), "Boliye To Meethi Boli Boliye" (speak always sweet words). After this, Bal Vikas alumni (boys) from Tamil Nadu enthralled the devotees with a couple of instrumental pieces. Bhajan followed next and concluded with Arati.

The programme on 7th January 2018 started at 8.00 a.m. with Veda chanting



*Benediction ceremony of Bal Vikas students.*

offered by the Bal Vikas alumni from the State of Odisha. After this, Convocation Procession of Bal Vikas students led by Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas band entered Sai Kulwant Hall. Recitation of the powerful Mantra "Om Sri Sai Ram" by the entire gathering in Sai Kulwant Hall followed next. Sri Nimish Pandya, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, thereafter addressed the gathering. Referring to the widespread suffering and degradation of mankind in the modern world, Sri Pandya observed that Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas was the only ray of hope for man. The Bal Vikas students, he said, were Bhagavan's chosen messengers of love who were to bring about transformation in the world through love and sacrifice.

Benediction ceremony of Group 3 Bal Vikas students who completed their nine years course of Bal Vikas followed next. The Chief Guest of the function Smt. Madhuri Duggirala, Director, Google Global Campaign Operations, India then delivered the Benediction Address. Narrating some personal experiences of Swami's touch of grace, the distinguished speaker congratulated the graduating Bal Vikas students reminding them that this award of Bal Vikas diploma was a great achievement of their life which provided opportunity to them to serve others and become better persons. After this, selected Bal Vikas alumni were presented awards for their outstanding achievement.





A brief but elevating music session ensued next. First, the Bal Vikas alumni of Tamil Nadu presented a couple of instrumental pieces and after this alumni from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh



*Devotional music presentation by Bal Vikas alumni of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.*

enthralled the audience with rendition of devotional songs which included “Sri Sai Tere Charanon Mein Mera Pranam” (salutation at your Lotus Feet, Sai), “Haath Badhaya Hai Mere Sai Ne” (Sai has extended His Hand). Bhajan led by Bal Vikas students followed next and concluded with Arati.

### SAI TO SAI - A DEVOTIONAL MUSIC PRESENTATION

An exhilarating devotional music presentation was made by Sai Youth of Sikkim on 8th January 2018. Beginning



*Devotional music presentation “Sai to Sai” by Sai Youth of Sikkim.*

their programme entitled “Sai to Sai” with a composition dedicated to Lord Ganesh at 5.00 p.m., the singers and musicians kept the audience spellbound for nearly one hour with their spirited presentation of devotional songs which included “Mere Sai Mein Aaya, Mere Baba Mein Ghar Aaya” (Oh Lord Sai, I have come to your abode), “Bolo Mein Dhundhun Kahan” (tell me where I should search You), “Mayya Teri Jaijaikar” (hail Divine Mother).

### DEVOTIONAL MUSIC PRESENTATION BY STUDENTS FROM JAMMU AND KASHMIR

A soulful devotional music programme was presented on 9th January 2018 by the students of Spring Buds High School, Ompura, Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, comprising a dance number and Kashmiri songs, which included “Ilma Ke Noor Se Koi Mahroom Na Raha Jaye” (may none be deprived of the light of knowledge!) and “Yeh Mat Kaho Khuda Se Meri Mushkilen Badi Hain ... In Mushkilon



*Devotional songs by the students of Spring Buds High School, Jammu and Kashmir.*

Se Kehdo Mera Khuda Bada Hai” (Do not tell God that your difficulties are great, say to the difficulties that God is great). In all, 112 students along with teachers came on an educational tour organised by Sri

Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

Earlier, the programme began with an introductory speech of Sri Maninder Singh, Vice President of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Punjab, who spoke about the Seva activities conducted by the Sai Organisation in Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with the Spring Buds School. Speaking next, Sri Shiv Kumar Sharma, President of the Jammu and Kashmir Sai Organisation, welcomed the students and staff of the school and observed that it was Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Divine Will that brought them to Prasanthi Nilayam. Two students of class 10 of the school, Muskan Latif and Nazir Ahmed, then shared the happy and learning experiences of their educational tour. Addressing the students on this occasion, Sri Nimish Pandya, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, elaborated on Bhagavan's Message of "Love All, Serve All" and said that education should lead the students to the path of love and service and enable them to realise their divine reality which was the goal of human life. Hoping that students would become torchbearers of peace, he extended all help to them.

### 17TH ANNIVERSARY OF SSSIHMS, BENGALURU

A magnificent cultural programme was presented by the doctors and staff members of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences (SSSIHMS), Whitefield (Bengaluru) on 21st January 2018, to celebrate the 17th Anniversary of the hospital. The programme began at 5.00 p.m. with an introductory speech

of the Director of the hospital, Dr. D.C. Sundaresh who outlined the main achievements and new initiatives of the hospital, citing relevant statistics.

This was followed by a drama entitled "Thyagenaike Amrutatthwamanasu" (it is only sacrifice that confers immortality) which



*Cultural programme on the 17th Anniversary of SSSIHMS.*

outlined the ideal and free healthcare provided by the hospital and elucidated the principles underlining the functioning of the hospital as laid down by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, some of which are "Love All, Serve All", "Manava Seva is Madhava Seva", "Sacrifice is the Hallmark of a True Doctor". Illustrated by episodes from mythological texts, the drama with multimedia support on the LED screen explained the Divine Mission, Message and Glory of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, who set up the hospital for the service of mankind in 2001. The drama concluded with a video clip of Bhagavan's Discourse, in which He exhorted the doctors and medical staff to treat the patients with love and compassion. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan "Chitta Chora Yashoda Ke Baal" (the son of Yashoda steals the hearts of devotees).

# SRI SATHYA SAI EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ANNUAL SPORTS AND CULTURAL MEET

**T**HE QUALITIES OF COURAGE, confidence, unity and discipline came to the fore when nearly 1,800 students of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions presented a spectacular show of sports and cultural events in beautifully decorated Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium on 11th January 2018. The educational institutions which participated in the Annual Sports and Cultural Meet were: four campuses of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, namely, Prasanthi Nilayam, Brindavan, Anantapur and Muddenahalli, Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Smt. Easwaramma High School and College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences (Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield, Bengaluru). A unique feature of the Annual Sports and Cultural Meet is 100 per cent participation of students and teachers. The unity and cooperation of all participants in the Meet underlines the principle of Sri Sathya Sai Values-based System of Integral Education. The events of the Sports and Cultural Meet were presented in two sessions – morning and evening.

## MORNING SESSION

The morning session of the Annual Sports and Cultural Meet this year commenced at 8 a.m. with Bhagavan Baba's car entering Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium. It was escorted by motorcycle squad, and welcomed by the women's brass band of the Anantapur

Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL). This was followed by an escort by the Slow March Squad, a special contingent that was led by the brass band of the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the university. Following the ceremonial welcome to Bhagavan, the Vice Chancellor, SSSIHL along with senior members of the Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions, offered salutations to Him.

The March Past that followed comprised 1,800 students marching in unison towards



*March Past in Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium.*

the dais at Shanti Vedika, offering their salutations to their Revered Founder Chancellor.

## Prasanthi Nilayam Campus and Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School

The first presentation was by the students of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus, SSSIHL and Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School. They performed four





items each with a magnificent giant Siva idol in the background. The first item was



*Wonderful feats of balancing on wheels by Prasanthi Nilayam students.*

gymnastics which included dive rolls, somersaults and obstacle jumps, all on a trampoline. Giant Wheel, the next item, necessitated supreme poise and confidence. The stunts and formations were performed on a wheel-like structure controlled and manoeuvred by two performers at either end. Soaring almost a hundred feet at its highest end, students walked on the top, somersaulted in the rings at each end. A synchronised act, Meteors, involved students holding a rope with two balls hanging on either side. The item had formations and stunts such as walking on drums and blindfold walking. This then gave way to Aerial Acrobats, vertical jumps and acrobatic feats and synchronised acrobatic movements on the floor. Blazing Rangers, a mass item of various drill movements and synchronised steps, depicted some formations, using red and yellow colours. Then, the Synergy Squad deftly displayed choreographed hip-hop steps, including acrobatic moves and

dynamically changing formations. No Sports Meet is complete without the tried and tested Bike Stunts performance. This event consisted of both display and stunt items. Display items included formations such as crisscross and scissor cross by multiple bikes. The stunt items included ramp jumps, jumps through fire and breaking the glass. Perfect coordination was an essential part of this item to ensure all were injury-free and the item looked flawless to the viewers. The last item was perhaps the most nostalgic. The Life of a Jawan was depicted in this cultural item. Through various simulations of real-life battle situations that these brave Jawans face when they protect our country,



*A patriotic event "Life of a Jawan" by the students of Prasanthi Nilayam campus of the Institute.*

the item elicited the feeling of pride, sacrifice, dedication and values in all spectators.

### **Anantapur Campus**

The women students of Anantapur campus, SSSIHL put up perhaps the classiest of all Sports Meet presentations in several years. Their first item was a display using Penny-farthing bicycles and Half-bikes. These vehicles – a throwback to the bygone nineteenth century – were refreshing to see. Students rode them in perfect files with elegant synchronicity. The items represented the heroic and the indomitable spirit of womanhood. Their next item, Fabric Gymnastics, reiterated Bhagavan Baba's expositions on 'The Triangle of Life – God,





*Anantapur Campus students display their skill and balance on bicycles.*

Man and World'. Students displayed various patterns and formations, using a dual-coloured stretchable fabric that illustrated the trials of the world, subtle qualities of adaptability of women, and the way to direct their lives to Sai in the path of light. Next was a gymnastics performance on an oscillating structure. Breathtaking stunts on the structure exhibited students' determination, flexibility and stability. They formed multiple patterns on and off the structure. To end the morning session with a visually pleasing performance, they presented a dance drill using shimmering wings with beauty, elegance and grace.

### **EVENING SESSION**

The evening session began at 4 p.m. with the welcome of ceremonial procession of Bhagavan Baba entering Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium.

### **Smt. Easwaramma High School**

Smt. Easwaramma High School had the privilege to break first ground with their presentation, Surrender to God, that included an interplay of dances and combat skills depicting the journey of man from the long-lost innocence of peaceful times of earth, when truth and righteousness reigned this earth and peace and love had made a home in every heart and every Radha had her Krishna and beauty and harmony.



*A colourful formation by the students of Smt. Easwaramma High School.*

prevailed. The students showcased this through colourful dances.

The routine took the viewer on a journey to the gradual loss of this peace to the current day times of strife, division and disharmony. The students displayed martial arts to depict it. Eventually, the inner conflict within man led to the ultimate surrender of his will, intellect, emotions and impulses to God in an effort to win back that very peace.

### **Sri Sathya Sai Primary School**

No Sports Meet performance touches the heart more than that of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School. Hundreds of little students display most colourful and adorable set of items. Starting with a dance offering of love to Lord Sai, they displayed gymnastic feats



*A colourful dance Chirpy Birds by Primary School students.*

and a beautiful item Chirpy Birds. As the mirthful tots tweeted in joyful abundance, they were a sight for all the gods to see at Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium. Other items





included Droplets of Pure Love, where these little angels ventured deep into the ocean of love and bliss; the Magnificent Trailers, when the trailers mesmerised all with their mind-blowing feats on wheels; the Message of Lord Sai, when the divine harbingers highlighted the message of the Lord with their hands; Sai Ganas in Ecstatic Worship, a Sai Ganas dance to the cosmic rhythm



*A beautiful dance by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School.*

in prayerful adoration; Sunny Sunbeams, a frolic in joy to the celestial beat, and Feats on the Ladder, a trailblazing balance on ladders performing amazing feats. They ended with beautiful Waves of Love, fanning the flames of divine love in every heart.

### **College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences**

The students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, Whitefield, Bengaluru then performed the



*College of Nursing students display Divine Leelas of Lord Krishna.*

Leelas of Lord Krishna, a dance item that highlighted wonderful events like the birth of Lord Krishna, Kaaliya Mardanam, Peacock dance and Viswarupa.

### **Muddenahalli Campus**

Muddenahalli Campus, SSSIHL presented three items this year. The first was Bhangra, a Punjabi dance that is the best exercise to gain control over the body and also the mind. Full of beats and energy, this electrifying dance included some stunts. The dancers sang the chorus of the song whilst



*Bhangra dance by the students of Muddenahalli Campus.*

dancing around the drum or dhol, which set the unique beat of the dance. Next up was Janbaaz – the gallant stilt adventurers, a performance with stilts and walking poles. Students marched in files in unison with props tied to their feet, played games on stilts, performed yoga postures and skipped around with their feet levitated. They also walked on fiery embers and bravely battled with sticks of fire. The concluding item was the Inspirators, a fine display of a focused, synchronised effort with s-shaped sticks, producing infinite, amazing geometric patterns and optical illusions, resulting in a spectacle of creative beauty.

### **Brindavan Campus**

The students of Brindavan Campus, SSSIHL brought the show home. Brindavan





Campus has always presented creative performances and this year was no different. They presented five items. The first was Zorbonauts, which saw the introduction of the bubble-ball, a high energy, high fun sport showcasing a colourless inflatable capsule over the upper body. Zorbonauts wrestled with other players, played soccer, and performed unique gymnastic stunts. The second item allowed the Brindavan hockey team to showcase their skills with the hockey sticks with a synchronised display of some real match experience. Twilight Swings was a dance item that demonstrated a western style of dance that involved brisk vigorous movements interspersed with slow continuous movements. It was imaginatively integrated with Bhangra, the popular Indian dance. The fading evening light made way for the Illuminati, an enthralling blend of dance moves and human formations wearing LED costumes. The dance styles included freestyle and dance pop genres.

The grand finale of the day was Celestial Rhythms, with students performing a rope

display perched on a high crane. The strokes of courage and love scripted a fitting final offering unto the Lord with prayers to Him to bless one and all to be a perfect note in His Celestial Rhythm.

## CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS

As part of the Sports and Cultural Meet, the students of four campuses of the Institute presented dramas on 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th January 2018.

### Tu Hi Karam Tu Hi Karta: A Drama

The students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam presented a drama entitled “Tu Hi Karam Tu Hi Karta” (You are the action and You are the Doer) on 12th January 2018. Through the story of a sculptor, the drama depicted that even a blind man could recognise the



*A scene from the drama “Tu Hi Karam Tu Hi Karta”.*

Creator, but one blinded by ego would not recognise Him till he realised the truth that God was the only Doer. Noble theme, impressive acting of the cast and perfect choreography made the drama an excellent presentation.

### Drama on the Life of Saint Purandaradasa

On 13th January 2018, the students of Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai



*Celestial Rhythms, display of beautiful formations by the students of Brindavan Campus.*

Institute of Higher learning enthralled the devotees with a magnificent band music display and an uplifting drama on the illustrious life of saint poet Purandaradasa. The drama beautifully portrayed the incident how stupendously wealthy but extremely miserly Srinivas Naik was transformed into



*A scene from the drama on the life of Saint Purandaradasa.*

Saint Purandaradasa by his virtuous wife through Divine dispensation. It also depicted some other incidents of his life. Excellent acting and dances of the students, beautiful sets, appropriate costumes and make-up and realistic portrayal of the life story of this great devotee of Lord Krishna made the drama an impressive presentation.

### **The One Step: A Drama**

On the eve of Makara Sankranti, 14th January 2018, the students of Muddenahalli



*The drama "The One Step" by the students of Muddenahalli Campus of the Institute.*

Campus of the Institute enacted an inspiring drama entitled "The One Step" which showed through the story of a village Sarpanch (headman) that God showers His boundless grace on man when he takes one step towards Him with total surrender, leaving his evil qualities like ego, greed and dishonesty. Down to earth realistic story, powerful dialogue delivery and excellent acting of the students made the drama an excellent presentation.

### **Tripurantakam (a Journey of Transcendence) – A Drama**

This thematic drama presented by the students of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus explored the three experiences of creation, sustenance and dissolution, through the journey of the Self, drawing a parallel with



*A scene from the drama "Tripurantakam".*

the legend of Tripura Dahanam. The journey was portrayed through various layers of existence - the gross, subtle and causal, finally to merge back into the Supreme Divinity.

Depicting the mystical story of the severe penance and subsequent boon won by the three demonic sons of Tarakasura from Brahma, the presentation portrayed how, with the help of Lord Vishnu, Mahadev finally annihilated the Tripura, symbolically signifying man's esoteric journey from 'I' to

Nothingness, redeeming his Self from the three illusory levels of existence, to become one with the Supreme Divine.

### PRIZE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY

The Prize Distribution Ceremony of the Sports and Cultural Meet was held on the auspicious day of Makara Sankranti, 15th January 2018.

The programme commenced at 8.30 a.m. with a grand procession comprising the university brass band, Veda chanting group of students and a flag-bearing squad. This was followed by a talk by Sri B. Sai Surendranath, Postgraduate Teacher, Department of Commerce, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School (SSSHSS) and a long-time devotee of Bhagavan Baba. His talk was aptly titled, “Three S’s – Sai, Students and Sports”. Following a short genesis on the history of the Sports Meet, he narrated how this event was a perfect example of Bhagavan Baba’s unique and divine way of seamlessly integrating values-based education with secular education.

Next, a series of brief talks by students of all four campuses of SSSIHL and Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School brought home the message of Swami for His students. They narrated how the Annual Sports and Cultural Meet had shaped their thinking, perceptions and growth. Their talks resonated the importance and uniqueness of this wonderful event and the powerful inner transformation it brought about in all students.

Following the talks, the Founder Chancellor’s Cups – symbolising the grand effort put in by each institution – were awarded by the Trustees of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust. The respective captains and vice-captains of each Sai institution and campus received them. Trustees of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust and the Vice Chancellor, SSSIHL then awarded the trophies to the individual champions of SSSHSS and each SSSIHL campus under various categories.

This was followed by the Divine Benedictory Discourse of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. He stressed that the main purpose of sports and games was unity, and reminded teachers to be more participative.



*Prize distribution ceremony.*

The teacher’s duty, therefore, was to see the welfare of students so that they develop sacred thoughts and sacred relationships, He said. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, “Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin...” which the entire congregation in Sai Kulwant Hall followed in chorus with great devotion.







**SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING**

(Deemed to be University)

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**Men's Campuses** at: Puttaparthi | Bengaluru | Muddenahalli



**application  
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**28 FEB 2018**

**admissions tests  
& interviews**

**17-30 APR 2018**

**academic year  
begins**

**1 JUN 2018**

## ADMISSIONS ELIGIBILITY

### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- Candidates should have completed 10 + 2 years of schooling and scored a minimum of 55% marks in General English, and a minimum of 60% marks (aggregate) in all subjects combined.

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- At the Bachelor's degree, candidates should have scored a minimum of 50% marks in General English, and a minimum of 60% marks (aggregate) in all subjects combined.

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B.Sc. in Food & Nutritional Sciences\*

### POSTGRADUATE Programmes

M.A. in English Language & Literature  
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\* leading to postgraduate programmes in respective subjects

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B.C.A. | Integrated M.C.A.  
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B.Sc. (Hons.) in Biosciences\* / Chemistry\*  
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## SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Deemed to be University)

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

#### Finance Officer - ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, SSSIHL (Men Applicants Only)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE** 28 February 2018

#### DESCRIPTION & REMUNERATION

The Finance Officer shall be responsible for the budgeting and financial accounting of the University. **Remuneration:** ₹50,000 / per month (consolidated)

#### RESPONSIBILITIES & REQUIREMENTS

- > Manage funds and investments of the University
- > Prepare Annual Budget and present to the University Board of Management
- > Prepare Annual Accounts and present to the University Board of Management
- > Oversee all financial matters pertaining to the university including financial expenditure as per rules

The **major requirements** include:

- > A qualified Chartered Accountant or an equivalent qualification.
- > Minimum of 15 years' experience in the relevant field with a commercial or professional accountancy firm.
- > Experience of Budgeting, Financial Accounting, etc. in autonomous bodies / Universities will be desirable.



#### HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates may send their resume / CV via email to **registrar@sssihl.edu.in** before the closing date of application.

## Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam English Medium School

Alcot Gardens, Rajamahendravaram – 533101, East Godavari

(Affiliated to C.I.S.C.E., New Delhi)

### Admission Notice 2018-2019

Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam English Medium School is a unit of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh. It is a wholly residential boys school following I.C.S.E. syllabus and offering **free education from Class I to Class X**. Admission to class I (Boys, Indian Nationals only) of the school will take place in **June 2018**.

Prospectus and Admission Forms may be obtained from the school from **February 2018** by paying ₹ 100/- either by cash or through Demand Draft drawn from any Nationalised Bank in favour of 'Correspondent, Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam English Medium School', payable at Rajamahendravaram. For obtaining the application by post, please send a Demand Draft and a self-addressed envelope (size 15 cm X 24 cm) with ₹ 15 stamps affixed.

Only students who completed **LKG and UKG in English medium** should apply.

Age limit for admission to **Class I** is between **5 years and 6 years** as on **31st August 2018**.

Mode of selection will be as per norms prescribed by the "RTE Act 2009".

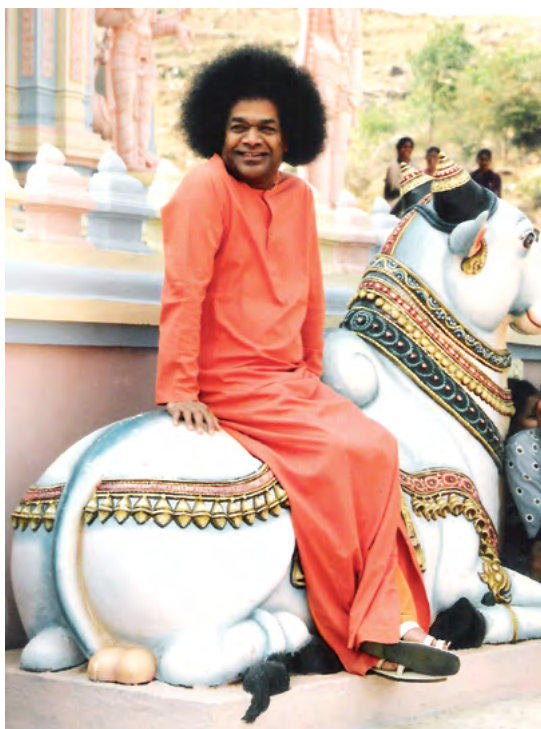
**Important Dates:** Last date for issuing the Application forms: **31st March 2018**. Late date for receiving the filled in Application forms: **On or before 10th April 2018**.

Phone: 0883 2430989

– Correspondent



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On 1st January, 2009, Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust (SSSST) commenced operations with four divisions; the Bhakta Sahayak divisions (one in Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi and another in Brindavan, Bangalore), the Publications division, and the Media division.

### The Publications Division (SSSSTPD) caters to:

- 1) The publication and distribution of spiritual, religious, and educational Sai Literature and the production and distribution of audio and visual multimedia, photographs, calendars, and diaries for the benefit of visiting pilgrims and devotees all over the world. All the literature and publications are based on the teachings, philosophy, message, and values of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.
- 2) The publication and distribution of Bhagawan Baba's monthly spiritual journal - Sanathana Sarathi - in English and Telugu languages. Since 2011, e-version of the magazine is also released simultaneously and is available in the popular Interactive PDF format on [www.sanathanasarathi.org](http://www.sanathanasarathi.org).
- 3) Maintaining a reporting channel [www.theprasanthireporter.org](http://www.theprasanthireporter.org), which covers all the major activities taking place in Prasanthi Nilayam, and publishing an e-newsletter 'Sai Spiritual Showers' - for free distribution.
- 4) Providing library and Reading room for visiting devotees, with a very large collection of books written by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and books on Bhagawan besides various spiritual and religious books.

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*Primary school alumni presenting the drama "Mataram Pitaram Pujyeth".*



*An imposing Siva idol made by the students for the Sports Meet.*



*Students somersaulting and crossing an obstacle of fire during the Sports Meet.*

Date of Publication: 1st February 2018

## *Offer all your Actions to God*

The realisation of God is the goal and destiny of human life. From the moment of birth, suffering pursues man in one form or another throughout life. If in all these ordeals, man has to maintain equanimity and peace, he has to lead a righteous life, with firm faith in God. There is no need to give up the normal duties of a student or a householder. But everything that is done should be done as an offering to God. Thereby, every act becomes sanctified.

*— Baba*

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