

Dignitaries with Bhagavan at the public function organised by the Chennai Citizens Conclave on 21st January 2007 in Nehru Indoor Stadium to express their gratitude to Bhagavan for providing drinking water to the people of Chennai.



GOD IS THE FUNDAMENTAL BASIS OF ALL CREATION

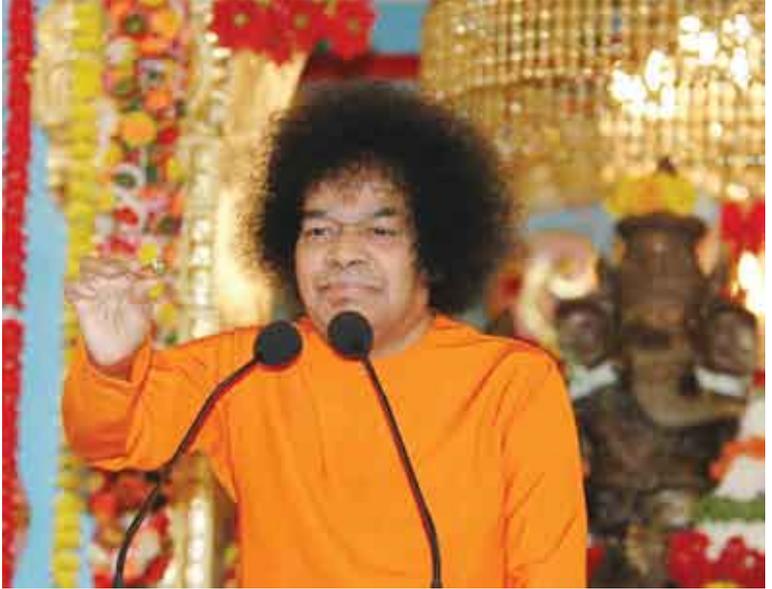
*The creation emerges from truth and merges into truth,
Is there a place in the cosmos where truth does not exist?
Visualise this pure and unsullied truth.*

(Telugu Poem)

TRUTH IS ALL-pervading. It is present everywhere. Wherever we see, truth is present there. In fact, all our Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan (vision, touch and conversation) are suffused with truth only!

Eradicate Violence by Developing Love

Truth has no form. Whatever we see is truth! (Swami materialised a ring and held it in His hand, showing it to all) This is truth. From where has it come? It has come from truth and it will merge in truth. (The ring disappeared from Swami's hand before the eyes of the entire gathering) *Sarvam Khalvidam Brahma* (verily all this is Brahman). Truth is the manifestation of Brahman. Truth is one; not two. But one has to make a lot of effort to realise truth. Truth is not limited merely to our speech. It has many forms. Similarly, Brahman assumes infinite number of forms. Yet, Brahman is one only. That is the reason why it is said, *Brahma Sathyam Jagan-mithya* (Brahman alone is real, the world is a mistaken perception). Everything



else is the reflection of Brahman, nothing else. Truth is one, yet it is called by different names and assumes many different forms. Everything in this universe is born out of truth. Dharma (righteousness) has emerged out of Sathya (truth). *Sathyannasti Paro Dharma* (There is no Dharma greater than adherence to truth). When truth and righteousness unite, peace is the result. From peace comes love. This love envelopes one and all. There is no place in this world where love is not present. Similarly, there is no place in this world where truth is not

present. Thus, from truth and righteousness emerges peace and from peace, love; and from love emerges bliss. Where love takes roots, hatred is rooted out from there. It is at such a place that non-violence grows. Hence, if you want non-violence to prevail in the world today, you should develop love more and more. If only there is love, all will become one. The Bhagavadgita says, *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). The import of this declaration is: "All are My Amsa (part). You are not different from Me. You are My own reflections! You are Me and I am you." Names and forms may be different but the Atma present in everyone is the same. Each body bears a different name. These names are given for the purpose of identification; they do not signify your true Self. It is the same Atma that is present in all. Hence, love that Atma. This, in fact, amounts to loving yourself.

Love assumes different names and forms in the world. The love between a husband and his wife is termed as Anuraga. Similarly, the love of a mother towards her children is referred to as Vatsalya. One's feelings determine the form of love! However, the love that permeates all individuals is only one. With the expansion of love, all can be united. Then, there will be no scope at all for differences. There will be no duality. Where there is no duality, there all are one! *A man with dual mind is half blind.* We are not blind. We have two eyes; together, they see one object only. Similarly, we should see unity everywhere. When we promote the feeling of Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of Man, all differences, unrest, agitation and fighting will disappear from the world. All are the children of one father, God! We have to foster such noble feelings today.

To protect the poor, provide succour to them by giving food, shelter and water and thereby make them happy is My duty. Whenever a hungry person stood in front of our house, I used to provide food to him even foregoing My share of food. For those who were in need of clothes, I used to give away My own clothes. Thus, I have been helping every needy person since My childhood. My motto then as now is: Help Ever, Hurt Never. In this manner, I practised helping others since My childhood. Even now I am sending My students to every street and every house in the villages to distribute food and clothes to the villagers.

Only then will humanity become one. How do you refer to yourself? You say, "I am a human being." Who is a Manava (human being)? Is Manava a person full of Kama (desire) and Krodha (anger)? No, no. Such a person cannot be called Manava. Manava is one who leads his life without observing any differences whatsoever. In fact, we should not entertain any differences at all. We are all the embodiments of one Atma; the children of one father, verily! The names and forms appear to be different. We should not develop differences on the basis of these names and forms. Wherever we go, we must remain united. Is it not a fact that the hand is one, though the fingers are different from each another?

Jewels are many but gold is one.

Cows are many but milk is one.



*Beings are many but breath is one.
Castes are many but humanity is one.*
(Telugu Poem)

The Same Atma is Present in all

We have taken birth as human beings. Every individual is endowed with certain powers. Though the powers of individuals are different, the Atma in all of them is one only. You see many electric bulbs shining here. Though the bulbs are of different wattage, the current flowing in them is only one. I feel happy to manifest this principle of oneness. But I have received lakhs of letters recently urging Me to restrain Myself from drawing out the Linga from My body. The Linga will be in liquid form in the bloodstream. For it to solidify, a lot of energy is required. To bring the Linga out also calls for great physical strength. Moreover, each Linga has much weight. A lot of energy is required to draw out those Lingas. Doctors are also advising against it. The devotees prayed, "Swami! You are making the Linga emerge out of Your body to make man realise the truth of divinity. Let those who have faith in Your Divinity live with faith; have no concern with those who have no faith. But do not strain Your physical body under any circumstances. Your body is very important for us. We come here because of Your physical presence. It will cause us great anxiety if You make Your physical body weak in this manner. Therefore, please conserve Your energy. Do not use it just to make the people happy or to satisfy them." God by His Will can do anything. He can change earth into sky and sky into earth. It is very easy for Him. But, of what use is it? What will happen to the Sadhakas (spiritual aspirants) in such a situation? This body is already 81 years old. This will last for



All are brothers and sisters. It is only when you conduct yourself in such a manner that you will earn a good name for our university. We are not taking even a paisa from our students, not even the examination fee. Students from different parts of the country and even abroad come here, pursue their education and go back with high academic degrees. We are spending a lot of money on providing research degrees like Ph.D. also. If all the students develop such exemplary character as the students of Sri Sathya Sai University, our country will earn a great name.



a few more years. I have to maintain this body to provide joy to all of you in several ways. Very soon, I will provide you infinite bliss. For those who experience happiness to see My physical body, the body is important and necessary. Hence, it is My duty to take good care of My body.

Devotion occupies a very important place in the culture of Bharat. People call it a country of Hindu culture. The five letters in the word 'Hindu' signify Panchabhutas (five elements), Pancha Pranas (five life-breaths) and Pancha Koshas (five life-sheaths). Then, what is the inner meaning of this word Hindu? The letter 'H' stands for humility, 'I' for individuality; 'N' for nationality; 'D' for divinity and 'U' for unity. It is only when you attain unity, you can achieve divinity. Similarly, it is only when you develop divinity, you can achieve peace and happiness. We have to safeguard the national feeling. We have to develop



faith in the unity of the nation. If we lose the national feeling, it amounts to losing our very existence. What is it that protects nationality? It is the individuality which protects nationality and ultimately humanity.

We have to set a certain limit to everything in this world. Only then will we have peace. God is present wherever you see. Srishti (creation) emerges from truth and merges into truth. Srishti reflects the principle of Samashti (society) which signifies equality. Do not think that God is somewhere far away in a corner. You are all embodiments of God! You should firmly imprint this feeling on your heart. In fact, this truth is being witnessed by every human being directly. Close your eyes and reflect on the question: "Who am I?" What do you see on closing your eyes? Nothing. But you hear one question constantly ringing in your ears: "Who am I? Who am I?" Then you will realise, "I am not this form." All these names and forms are transient, they are not permanent.

The body is given to you to bear difficulties. Welcome sorrows and difficulties. You cannot realise the value of happiness without experiencing sorrows and difficulties. *Pleasure is an interval between two pains.* In fact, we derive happiness out of pain only. Even difficulties are only for a short period; they do not last long. You must experience a little difficulty if you want to have more happiness. Purandaradasa sang thus:

Oh Rama! Who gave the wonderful colours to the feathers of the peacock? Who gave the red beak to the green parrot? Who planted the tree on the mountain top and watered it? Who provides food to sustain the tadpole in the crevices of a rock? God is the fundamental basis of all creation.

(Kannada Poem)



***Follow the glorious Indian culture.
Indian culture is very sacred. Our ancestors led a happy life experiencing the sacredness of this great culture. It is hoped that after some time, the people of other countries will also realise the greatness of this culture and adopt it. We, however, need not wait till such time. Let us take to the noble path right now. God protects all in many ways. He knows everything. When God Himself is in us and with us, we need not fear anything.***



"Divinity is the direct witness of humanity. Oh God! May You protect all! May You, being the indweller of all living beings, save them! You are omnipresent as Divine Atma. Atma protects Atma, none else. Oh God! May You grant the awareness to realise this truth to all!"

We should develop faith in the Atma Tattwa (principle of the Self). Atma has no name and form. Yet, if you develop faith in the Atma Tattwa, it will give you full protection. In fact, Atma is God Himself!

Sarvatah Panipadam Tat Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah Sruthimalloke Sarvamavruithya Tishthati (with hands, feet, eyes, head, mouth and ears pervading everything, He permeates the entire universe). Atma Tattwa that is immanent in all living beings is true and eternal. The Atma cannot be divided. Just as the same current flows through all bulbs, the same Atma is present in all. If the electric wire is cut at one place, all the bulbs cease to shine. Just as the current does not observe any difference between

one bulb and the other, the Atma has no differences.

Realise the Sacredness of Indian Culture

Dear Students!

Today wrong use of science is creating many problems. Cows are being fed with tripe in America, with the expectation that they will yield more milk. But those cows suffer from many diseases. Those who drink their milk are also exposed to these diseases. Many changes are being brought about in several countries with the result that the people there are leading an artificial life. It is only the Bharatiyas who are leading a natural life. You should not resort to artificial ways, otherwise everything in your life will become artificial. For example, you might have observed a lot of changes of late in the vegetables we consume. The people of India are primarily vegetarian; so they consume a lot of leafy vegetables. Leafy vegetables provide great strength to the body. But today these are being grown with polluted water of the drainage system with the result that all the vegetables and green leafy vegetables have become polluted. Many people in India like Vankaya (brinjal) curry very much. There is a poem which extols the taste of this curry thus:

Matchless is the taste of the curry of Vankaya

Matchless is the face of virtuous Sita



When truth and righteousness unite, peace is the result. From peace comes love. This love envelopes one and all. There is no place in this world where love is not present. Similarly, there is no place in this world where truth is not present. Thus, from truth and righteousness emerges peace and from peace, love; and from love emerges bliss. Where love takes roots, hatred is rooted out from there. It is at such a place that non-violence grows. Hence, if you want non-violence to prevail in the world today, you should develop love more and more. If only there is love, all will become one.

like a blossomed Pankaja (lotus)

Unmatched is the compassion of Lord Sankara

Unequaled indeed is the valour of the victor of the king of Lanka. (Telugu Poem)

But today brinjals are no longer like those extolled in this poem. They have become totally polluted. Because of this increasing pollution, man's thoughts have also become polluted.



Dear Students! You are acquiring high education. You should not pollute your mind by reading bad books. Follow the glorious Indian culture. Indian culture is very sacred. Our ancestors led a happy life experiencing the sacredness of this great culture. It is hoped that after some time, the people of other countries will also realise the greatness of this culture and adopt it. We, however, need not wait till such time. Let us take to the noble path right now. God protects all in many ways. He knows everything. When God Himself is in us and with us, we need not fear anything.

To Help the Needy is My Duty

During My childhood, I used to organise meetings in villages. In these villages, I used to come forward to help the poor people, particularly the people of low castes. When I was moving about in the villages wearing a knicker and half sleeves shirt, many people would stop Me, bring a Dhoti and make Me wear it. I wrote some songs targeting the evil ways of rich people and taught these to poor people of low castes. Here is one such song:

*We toil in the fields day and night
ploughing, sowing and harvesting;
You sit in the cozy comfort of your
mansions
eating, drinking and making merry;
You don't even get down and enquire our
welfare,
Toil is ours and all comforts, yours;
Is it proper?* (Telugu Song)

The rich people objected to their singing and asked them, "Who are you to tell us?" In reply, they used to sing another song composed by Me:

*The earth is God's gift, not the property of
the rich,
If you attack us with your might, God is
there for us;*

*Great souls there are, charged with the
feeling of brotherhood,
Awake! Awake! Rise up from the slumber
of Maya.* (Telugu Song)

When I taught the poor and downtrodden in this way, the rich would come and attack Me. Even the elder brother of this body used to reprimand Me, saying, "Why do You take part in public activities? Don't go out. Sit quietly in the house and study Your lessons. Do not stir out of the house." So saying, he used to lock Me up in a room at home. All My companions would come to our house and call Me, "Raju! Raju! Raju!" Poor souls! They were so much attached to Me. I used to give them courage, saying, "My dear ones! Have patience for some time. I shall surely come out and fulfil your aspirations. I belong to you." Thus, I have been helping the poor since then to date. To protect the poor, provide succour to them by giving food, shelter and water and thereby make them happy is My duty. Whenever a hungry person stood in front of our house, I used to provide food to him even foregoing My share of food. For those who were in need of clothes, I used to give away My own clothes. Thus, I have been helping every needy person since My childhood. My motto then as now is: *Help Ever, Hurt Never*. In this manner, I practised helping others since My childhood. Even now I am sending My students to every street and every house in the villages to distribute food and clothes to the villagers.

Many people pay only lip service to the poor, but they do not really help them. *Manasyekam Vachasyekam, Karmanyekam Mahatmanam; Manasyanyath Vachasyanyath, Karmanyanyath Duratmanam* (Those whose thoughts, words and deeds are in perfect harmony are noble ones; those who lack harmony of these are wicked). I



have been protecting, fostering, counselling and making the people tread the right path since My early days till today. I never did any harm to anyone. I have never shown anger or hatred towards anyone. However, driven by jealousy due to My name and fame, some people are fabricating false stories about Me and publishing them in newspapers. They are making false propaganda against Me. Whatever such people may say or do, I am not bothered. I am not afraid of anybody. I am truth, truth, truth. I am bound only by truth. The name of this body is Sathyam (Truth). I will never leave the path of truth. I am always ready to teach a lesson to those who are indulging in such false propaganda. The time has come to take appropriate measures. However, they are not entirely to be blamed. They are doing false propaganda for the sake of money. But they should try to realise their mistake.

There has never been even an iota of Dosha (impurity) in Me at any time. Hence, all of you should follow Sai. You can achieve anything in this world by following the path of truth. Constantly contemplate on God and tread the path of truth. (At this point, Swami asked the students whether He was causing any inconvenience to them by giving a long Discourse. The students replied in one voice, "No, Swami!")

It has never been My intention to cause any harm to anyone. Such thoughts do not come anywhere near Me. Whatever I do is for your good, not for Me. Even the food that I eat and the water I drink is for you only. In fact, everything I do is for your sake. The lives of those who realise this truth will be sanctified. Do not pay attention to everything that others say. Ears are not given to man

to listen to unnecessary things. Keep away from those who indulge in evil talk.

I was deeply pained to know that people in some areas of East and West Godavari districts were drinking polluted water. I arranged for the supply of pure drinking water at a cost of nearly one hundred crore rupees. Nearby in the lowlands, the Godavari flows but the people in upland areas had not even a drop of water to drink. Hence, I arranged for lifting of the Godavari water to the upland areas through pipes and made them blissful. They are all very happy now. I intend to visit these people shortly. They were extremely happy to hear this news. They said, "Swami! We never imagined that You will shower such abundant grace on us. Your love and compassion are unparalleled. We are extremely happy and grateful to know that You are visiting us." They are cleaning all the roads en route and making all arrangements for My visit. Ramakrishna and Kondal Rao, who executed the project, will accompany Me. Thus, we should help others and do good to all to the extent possible. If you thus lead your life, everything will turn out to be good for you as well and you will also be happy.

Exemplary Devotion of Overseas Devotees

Dear students! Even if you come across your enemy, offer your salutations to him and say lovingly, "Oh brother!" Then he will also wish you in the same way with love. All are brothers and sisters. It is only when you conduct yourself in such a manner that you will earn a good name for our university. We are not taking even a paisa from our students, not even the examination fee. Students from different parts of the country and even abroad come here, pursue their education and go back



with high academic degrees. We are spending a lot of money on providing research degrees like Ph.D. also. If all the students develop such exemplary character as the students of Sri Sathya Sai University, our country will earn a great name. We have received a good report about our former students who are pursuing their vocations in America. It said, "Swami! Quite a sizeable number of Your students are in America. They are all holding high posts. Wherever they stay, they are spreading joy all around." Some time ago, our former students came to Prasanthi Nilayam by a specially chartered plane. They, along with their families, formed a group of 250 people in all. They experienced great bliss during their stay at Prasanthi Nilayam. While leaving, they expressed their gratitude, saying, "Swami! We never imagined even in our dreams that You will shower so much grace on us."

I intend to undertake a world tour shortly. Many devotees are coming here from Africa and Russia. The devotion of the Russians is indescribable. Among the devotees who come here, the number of Russians is very large. They

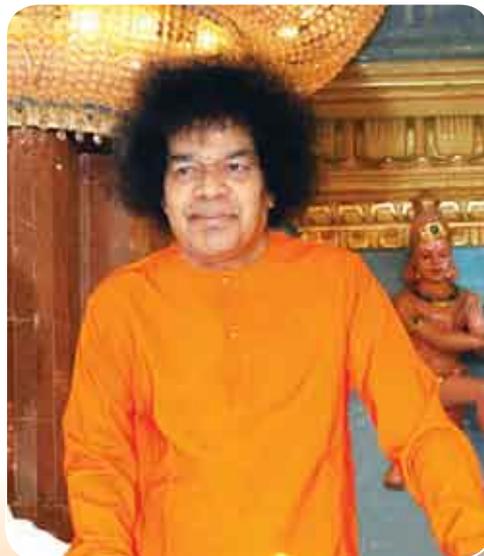
experience great bliss here. (Pointing towards the Russian devotees) Look! Those devotees with raised hands are all Russian. They are all imbued with great devotion. (Pointing towards the Russian devotees again...) You are not Russian, you belong to us! I love you all.

Dear students! There are several countries in the world like Russia, America, Germany, Japan, Italy, France, etc. Though the countries are different, the people living in all these countries belong to us only. They helped a lot in the construction of the indoor stadium at Prasanthi Nilayam. They worked hard day and night. They love Swami intensely. They consider Swami as their life-breath. Wherever I go, they follow Me; they even run after My car. They came to Chennai also when I went there. Unmindful of great difficulties and expense, they come here for Swami's sake. You have to learn a lot from their devotion to Swami.

– From Bhagavan's Sivarathri Message in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on the evening of 16th February 2007.

My activities and movements will never be altered, whoever may pass whatever opinion on them. I shall not modify My plans for Dharmasthapana (the establishment of righteousness), My Discourses or My movements. I have stuck to this determination for many years and I am engaged in the task for which I have come: that is, to inculcate faith in the path of Prasanthi (the highest spiritual peace). I shall not stop nor retract a step.

– Baba





Buddhist monks chanting sacred Mantras in Sai Kulwant Hall on the eve of Chinese New Year.

CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

MORE THAN 3,000 DEVOTEES from Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh came to Prasanthi Nilayam on three days' pilgrimage from 10th to 12th February 2007 and received the divine benedictions of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. They also presented a music and cultural programme on this occasion to the delight of all present. Bhagavan blessed them with a nectarine Discourse.

On the morning of 11th February 2007, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.15 a.m. As soon as Bhagavan was seated on the dais, the Adilabad devotees started their programme of devotional music. Their music groups, both ladies and gents,

then enthralled the audience with captivating devotional songs for nearly one hour. A wave of bliss ran through the Hall when Bhagavan materialised three gold chains one after the other for two singers and the music composer.

ADILABAD DEVOTEES' PILGRIMAGE

After this excellent music programme, Bhagavan gave His nectarine Discourse exhorting all to adhere to the path of truth and righteousness. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue.) Bhagavan's Discourse was followed by full-throated chanting of Vedic hymns by all students spreading divine vibrations in the entire milieu. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.05 a.m.



In the afternoon, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 4.30 p.m. and showered the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the devotees in the Hall. What followed Bhagavan's Darshan was a display of rich variety of tribal and folk art forms presented by various groups of Adilabad devotees. The groups came before the dais one after the other, presented a specimen of their art form and offered salutations to Bhagavan. Bhagavan sat through the entire pageantry and blessed them all.

Sai Hi Jivan: A Short Play

After this, a short play entitled "Sai Hi Jivan" (Sai is Life) was presented by the Sai Youth of Adilabad. It depicted an episode relating to New Year Day celebration by a group of college youth and showcased how the teachings of Bhagavan were bringing about transformation



The play presented by the Sai Youth of Adilabad depicted how the teachings of Bhagavan were transforming the lives of the youth.

in the lives of the youth, who were taking to the path of selfless service instead of spending their time in eating, drinking, gossiping and merry making. The play brought the main teachings of Bhagavan alive, viz., Help Ever Hurt Never, Love All Serve All, Unity of Faiths, Value of Namasmarana, Hands that Serve are Holier than Lips that Pray, etc., through dialogues and acting of the youth. At

the end of the play, Bhagavan blessed the youth and posed for photographs with them. The cultural and music programme of Adilabad devotees came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.40 p.m.

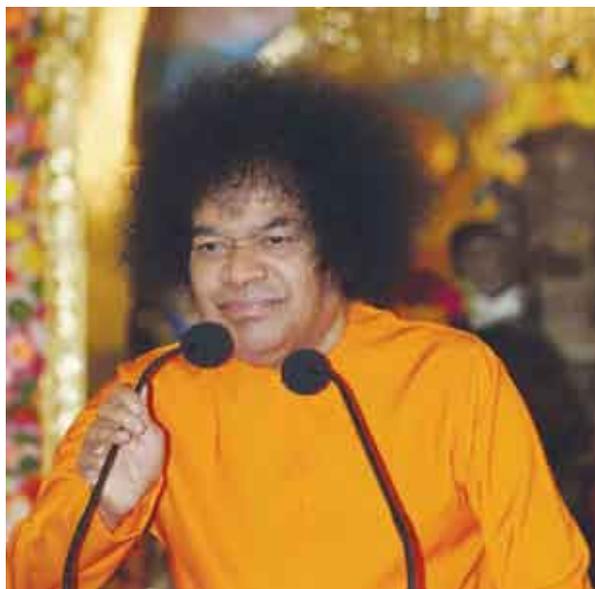
BLISSFUL SIVARATHRI AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

A mammoth gathering of devotees from all parts of India and overseas countries basked in the bliss of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan on the auspicious occasion of Sivarathri which was celebrated in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan at Prasanthi Nilayam on 16th February 2007. Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the celebrations, was beautifully bedecked for this sacred function.

On the morning of 16th February 2007, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.00 a.m. amidst chanting of Vedic hymns by the students present in the Hall. Soon after His arrival, Bhagavan blessed and cut the cakes placed in the verandah by overseas devotees and students and lighted candles on them. After this, Bhagavan came to the dais and occupied His seat. While the students chanted Rudram and Sivopasana Mantras (verses in praise of Siva), Bhagavan showered the bliss of Darshan on the huge gathering of devotees from the dais. At 8.30 a.m., the students of Sri Sathya Sai University commenced their musical presentation which included Stotras (sacred chants) like Bilvastotram, Sivashtakam, Sai Siva Stotram, etc., and thrilling solo Carnatic classical and light devotional songs, filling the entire milieu with sacred vibrations. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.20 a.m. after this most elevating devotional presentation.



On the afternoon of 16th February, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 4.15 p.m. and showered the bliss of His Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall which was filled to its capacity by the devotees yearning for His Darshan on this auspicious evening. The programme began with recitation of Telugu poems by Sri A.V.S. Raju, an ardent devotee of Bhagavan. Sri Ajit Popat of the U.K. thereafter made a brief speech summarising the teachings of Bhagavan in seven steps, and exhorting the devotees to put them into practice for their



The mammoth gathering of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall was blessed by Bhagavan with His Sivarathri Message.

redemption. Bhagavan then gave His Divine Sivarathri Message (full text given elsewhere) which concluded at 6.50 p.m. Immediately, after this, night-long Sivarathri Bhajans started, led alternately by boys and girls students of Sri Sathya Sai University which the entire congregation followed in chorus with deep devotion.

This most elevating and thrilling night-long Bhajan continued thereafter filling

the hearts of devotees with divine bliss. Groups of singers from Ashram and hospital staff, as well as groups of devotees from many parts of India and overseas countries took their turns to lead Bhajans throughout the night of 16th February 2007.

On the morning of 17th February 2007, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.00 a.m. and blessed the devotees with His Divine Darshan and a nectarine Discourse. Before Bhagavan's Discourse, Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor, Sri Sathya Sai University addressed the gathering. Dr. Venkataraman referred to Bhagavan's recent visit to Chennai and said that Bhagavan not only gave His love in the form of water to the people of Chennai, but also united and transformed all by His love which flowed everywhere. Making a special mention about the role of youth in the Divine Mission of Bhagavan, the distinguished speaker observed that only youth could save the world from chaos by following the path shown by Bhagavan. After this, Bhagavan blessed the devotees with His second Sivarathri Discourse exhorting one and all to get rid of ego and attachment which were the worst enemies of man. Bhagavan observed that one did not become great merely by reading books; it was the good conduct which made a man great. Bhajans continued for a few minutes after Bhagavan concluded His Discourse. Sivarathri celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.40 a.m. Special Sivarathri Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Chinese New Year was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam in an environment filled with love and piety on 24th February 2007. More than 1,100 Chinese



devotees came from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia to celebrate this most important festival of Chinese calendar in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The theme of this event was Filial Piety – the cornerstone of Chinese civilisation and progress.

On this occasion, the entire Prasanthi Nilayam bore a festive look with various types of decorations and big banners announcing the auspicious event and the theme of the celebrations. Fabulous decorations were done in Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the celebrations, with Chinese lanterns, colourful buntings and decorative lights. A beautiful altar was set up in traditional Chinese style on the dais with an idol of Buddha in its centre.

Chanting of Mantras by Buddhist Monks

Chinese New Year celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam had an auspicious and sacred start on the afternoon of 23rd February 2007 with chanting of sacred Buddhist Mantras by 36 Buddhist monks from four major sects of Tibetan Buddhism, viz., Nyingmapa, Kagyupa, Sakyapa and Gelukpa. The programme began at 4.00 p.m. after the arrival of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Sai Kulwant Hall. Two children, a boy and a girl, introduced each of the four heads of the Tibetan sects who came forward and presented Tibetan Katas (colourful silk scarves) to Bhagavan as traditional Chinese offering for the successful chanting of the Mantras. The Tibetan masters also made other traditional offerings to Bhagavan which included Dharma Chakra (wheel symbolising transformation), Amitayu Tanka (painting of a deity who bestows long life), Stupa (replica of a religious monument symbolising enlightened mind) and

Mandala (a three-dimensional geometrical representation of the universe).

After these offerings to Bhagavan, the monks commenced the chanting of the sacred Mantra, “Om Mani Padme Hum”, the most common Mantra in Tibet which is supposed to contain the essence of the 84,000 teachings of Lord Buddha, and is believed to generate



Buddhist monks chanting sacred Mantras, generating positive feelings for the uplift of the world.

love, compassion and positive feelings for the uplift of the world. Next, the monks chanted “Samantabhadra” Mantra which is supposed to be most effective for the good of all beings and is therefore considered as “King of Prayers.” After this, the monks chanted a special Mantra composed by the 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje which is dedicated to Bhagavan.

Thereafter, the monks chanted Gayatri Mantra 21 times. As is the Buddhist practice, all merits accrued from the chanting of the sacred Mantras were dedicated to the health and happiness of all sentient beings. At the end of Mantra chanting, Captain Ong of Singapore addressed the gathering and elaborated on the significance of Mantra chanting. The programme concluded with Bhajans. Bhagavan blessed all the monks in the end and posed for



photographs with them. He also materialised a gold chain with a pendant of Lord Buddha for Captain Ong who organised this programme.

Bhagavan Inaugurates Chinese New Year Celebrations

On the morning of 24th February, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.20 a.m. in a grand procession led by five lion dancers who danced their way into the Hall to the beat of a drum. Behind the lion dance group were eight dressed up ancient Chinese emperors, followed by a group of Chinese children who were chanting the traditional Chinese 'Di Zhi Gui' (verses which lay down the code of conduct for children and students).

On reaching the dais, Bhagavan lighted the candles on the altar to inaugurate the programme at 8.30 a.m. The programme began with Vedic chants by six Chinese EHV children from Malaysia. This was followed by a welcome address by Sri Billy Fong, Organising Chairman of the celebrations and President of the Sathya Sai Baba Central Council of Malaysia. Expressing gratitude to Bhagavan for permitting the celebration of Chinese New Year in His Divine Presence, Sri Billy Fong dwelt on the similarities between Indian and Chinese cultures and beliefs. But the most striking feature of this commonality, he said, was the emphasis on filial piety. While the Indian cultural tradition declared that one should revere one's mother and father as God, the Chinese culture emphasised 'Xiao' or filial piety as the paramount virtue every human being should possess, added the distinguished speaker. After this speech, five Chinese couples, one each from Malaysia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore and Taiwan made traditional Chinese offerings to Bhagavan. This was followed by presentation

of a commemorative booklet on filial piety to Bhagavan. Thereafter, 27 boys and girls from Malaysia recited traditional Chinese 'Di Zhi Gui' along with its English rendition to the delight of one and all.

The last item of the morning programme was a musical presentation by the adults choir comprising 113 members, both ladies and gents, from Malaysia who melodiously sang a medley of Chinese Bhajans and traditional



More than 1,100 Chinese devotees came to Prasanthi Nilayam to celebrate Chinese New Year in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan.

Chinese New Year songs to the tune of sweet music. After a brief Bhajan session led by the students of Sri Sathya Sai University, the morning programme concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.00 a.m.

My Parents, My Treasure: A Drama

In the afternoon, a drama entitled "My Parents, My Treasure" was presented which vividly captured the dilemma of a modern busy man faced with a conflict between demands of modern lifestyle and ancient traditional values. The drama presented the story of a widower with four children, Kim Leng, who wanted to send his old father to an old age home because he could not find time to look after

Continued on page 119 ...

LOVE UNITES ALL

Embodiments of Love – Young Men and Women!

IT IS VERY MUCH NECESSARY FOR man to recognise the significance of human values in his life. Due to lack

of human values, man today is leading a life unworthy of a human being.

Practice of Human Values is Essential for World Peace

A man has two types of qualities – internal and external. Evil qualities like Kama (desire), Krodha (anger), Lobha (greed), Moha (delusion), Mada (pride) and Matsarya (jealousy) are external, while values like Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness), Santhi (peace), Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence) are internal. Forsaking his eternal and true internal qualities, man today is hankering after all that is worldly and transient. Man should instead internalise his vision and develop Atma Bhava (vision of the Self).



Develop a pure and steady consciousness. In fact, all our Sadhanas (spiritual practices) are meant to attain Chittha Shuddhi (purity of consciousness). The evil qualities of desire, anger, greed, delusion, pride and jealousy come from outside; these are not our innate qualities. Our innate qualities are Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness), Santhi (peace), Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence). We have to nurture them.

It is enough if man has only Sathya. Then Dharma will come to him on its own. Where there are truth and righteousness, there will be peace. When we have peace, love will flow within us. Then there will be no room for violence in us. Today wherever you see, you find violence, suffering and sorrow. Man should therefore put in his best efforts to develop his innate human

qualities. Truth is eternal and indestructible. It is neither born nor does it die. Truth is only one. It is the same for all. You cannot say that there is one truth for a particular individual and another for others. Truth is universal – it applies equally to all human beings. You must cultivate such universal truth. *Sathyam Bruyath, Priyam Bruyath, Na Bruyath Sathyamapriyam* (speak truth, speak pleasantly and do not speak unpalatable truth). That is real humanness. When you adhere to truth, you will tread the right path. What you feel in your heart, you should speak with your tongue. What you speak with your tongue, you should put into action.

Man should broaden his heart. He should not limit his love to his wife and children alone. *Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti* (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names). Truth is only one; there is no second truth. Truth is, in fact, the other name of Brahman who is omnipresent. Therefore, first and foremost, develop truth in your heart and establish it firmly. When you plant truth in your heart, offshoots of Dharma will issue from it. With the growth of Dharma, you will attain peace. When you have peace, your love will become broad and universal. Then the differences of mine and thine will disappear and love will reign supreme everywhere. As a result, violence will disappear from the face of the earth. Then there will be no scope for fighting and quarrels.

Light of Love Illumines the Universe

Anger, desire, greed, delusion, pride and jealousy are not the natural qualities of a human being. These have to be controlled. Keep them firmly under check. You sing many songs. It is only when you sing them in proper *Sruthi* (rhythm), they will be pleasant to listen. Similarly, your desires must



Where there is love, evil qualities cannot enter there. It is enough if you have only the quality of love. If you share love with others, it will not deplete. In fact, the more you share it with others, the more it will grow. All the people of this world are the children of God. He is their father. Hence, all of them have equal right on His property. All should share this divine property of love. You may forget anything in this world, but never forget God.



have a limit. If you wish to marry, okay, you may do so. Later, if you wish to have children, you may have them also. But you should bring them up in a proper way, so that they follow Godward path and redeem their life. There are certain rules and regulations for the proper conduct of life of a human being. He should not behave like animals, birds or beasts. He should control his behaviour. This is the most important value for a human being. Man is the repository of enormous power. This power has to be put to proper use.

Human values are not visible to the naked eye. What is the form of truth? Who has seen it? It has no form. It emerges from our heart. What is Dharma (righteousness)? Dharma is to follow the teachings of our heart. Where is Santhi (peace)? Is it outside? No; outside you find only Asanthi (restlessness). In spite of possessing all types of wealth, man wants peace and peace alone. You ask any millionaire. His reply will be, "I have money, houses and all kinds of wealth; I have everything, but no peace." Peace



therefore is not to be obtained from the world outside. It has to flow from within. Where there is peace, there will be love. Love sheds its light on one and all; it illumines the entire universe. When you strengthen love, there will be no scope for hatred at all. Hatred is born out of the feeling of separateness. On the other hand, if you develop the feeling of oneness, how can there be hatred between one another?

Oh Bangaru (nuggets of gold)! None of you should have bad qualities like jealousy, hatred, desire and anger. Develop love. *Love is God, God is love. "Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram..."* (recite the Name of Rama with your heart full of love). Love is God's greatest gift to man. The value of any material object in this world can be assessed; but none can assess the value of love. Hence, develop love! Not only that, share your love with others. When you lead your life sharing love with each other, evil qualities like hatred, jealousy, ego, etc., cannot come anywhere near you. You know a substance called "Lakshman Rekha". When you draw a line with it on the floor, no insect can enter the house. Similarly, where there is love, evil qualities cannot enter there. It is enough if you have only the quality of love. If you share love with others, it will not deplete. In fact, the more you share it with others, the more it will grow. All the people of this world are the children of God. He is their father. Hence, all of them have equal right on His property. All should share this divine property of love. You may forget anything in this world, but never forget God. Everything in this world is transient; it comes and goes. But love is not like that; it comes and grows. Develop love for God. Constantly do Namasmara with absolute faith in God. We talk about so many things everyday. Can't we utter



First and foremost, develop truth in your heart and establish it firmly. When you plant truth in your heart, offshoots of Dharma will issue from it. With the growth of Dharma, you will attain peace. When you have peace, your love will become broad and universal. Then the differences of mine and thine will disappear and love will reign supreme everywhere. As a result, violence will disappear from the face of the earth.



sacred names like Rama and Krishna? Surely, we can. Once you chant these divine names, all your sorrows and difficulties will vanish. Man has several types of worries:

To be born is a worry, to be on the earth is a worry; world is a cause of worry and death too; entire childhood is a worry and so is the old age; life is a worry, failure is a worry; all actions and difficulties cause worry; even happiness too is a mysterious worry. Devotion to Swami alone will put an end to all your worries. Oh people! Develop such devotion and love.

(Telugu Poem)

Purity of Consciousness is the Core of all Spiritual Practices

Develop love for God to get rid of your worries. This is the divine cure for all your worries. Chanting the name of God can bring all types of worries to an end. Where is God? Wherever you see, God is there. The Panchabhutas (five elements of earth, water, fire, air and ether) are the manifestations of divinity. The body is like a water



bubble. The mind is like a mad monkey. Do not follow the body. Do not follow the mind. Follow the conscience. Develop a pure and steady consciousness. In fact, all our Sadhanas (spiritual practices) are meant to attain Chitta Shuddhi (mental purity). The evil qualities of desire, anger, greed, delusion, pride and jealousy come from outside; these are not our innate qualities. Our innate qualities are Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness), Santhi (peace), Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence). We have to nurture them.

Today wherever you see, you find violence. People indulge in all types of violence for the sake of money. *Money comes and goes, but morality comes and grows!* Many kings in the past accumulated enormous wealth. Could any one of them take even a paisa with him? No! At the time of his death, Alexander called his ministers and told them to wrap his body after his death in a white cloth keeping his hands out of the bier with palms upturned, and carry the funeral procession in all the streets of the capital city. His objective was to convey the message to the people that man may acquire any amount of money and conquer any number of kingdoms, but in the end he has to leave the world empty-handed. All the wealth that we acquire can give us only temporary satisfaction. True and eternal bliss lies only in love. It is not enough if you spend your time with love when you are here at Prasanthi Nilayam. Those blissful moments should be cherished forever. You should continue to live in love, wherever you are. Irrespective of the country in which you live, whether it is U.S.A., U.K., Japan or Germany, love has no change. It is only your body which is bound by the limitation of space, but love is universal.

It is all-pervading. It signifies unity. You should therefore develop love. Love even those who bear animosity towards you. If you come across such a person, offer your salutations to him and say, "Hello brother! How are you?" Then, he will also respond, saying "Brother! How are you?" All are brothers and sisters. God is the father of all. As the Bhagavadgita declares, the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of God. All are an aspect of Divinity. You are not different from Me. All are one. You should develop faith in such oneness. Where is God? He is present in every human being. He is the indweller of the heart of man. Develop the feeling, "Whatever I do is an offering to God, the indweller of my heart." Have firm faith that whatever happens is for your good only. You are aware that a person suffering from malaria fever will be administered the bitter mixture of quinine. It is only when the bitter mixture is consumed that the fever will subside. Similarly, realise the truth that the sorrows and difficulties you undergo are for your own good. God is present in one and all. You need not go anywhere to search Him. If you look within your heart and share your love with others, you can easily visualise God. All are bound by the bond of love. All are united in love. Hence, wherever you go, be united. Especially, the youth can achieve a lot if they are united. Prayer, chanting the divine name and love for God are three Sadhanas we have to undertake. When you lead your life based on these three Sadhanas, you can achieve anything.

The other day, I went to Chennai. Before I went there, many people there did not believe in God. But they were transformed after I went there. Karunanidhi said that he had given his heart to Swami.



Oh God, I offer the heart which You have given me. What else can I offer at Your Lotus Feet? I pray to You to accept it.

(Telugu Poem)

God is not separate from you. You are not separate from God. You and God are one. You should always think, "God is present in my heart. I am verily God." Names and forms are different; but God is one and only one. Different forms of God like Rama, Krishna, etc., are those imagined by artistes like Ravi Varma. In fact, God has no particular form. The Muslims pray to Allah. Allah has no form. There is no

one higher than Allah. He is supreme. God has no name and form. But He assumes the form you constantly contemplate upon. *Yad Bhavam Tad Bhavati* (as is the feeling, so is the result). We visualise God in a particular form as per our own thoughts and feelings. Develop the feeling, "God is in me, with me and is guiding me," and lead a happy life.

– **From Bhagavan's Discourse at Prasanthi Nilayam on 11th February 2007 on the occasion of the Parthi Yatra (pilgrimage to Puttaparthi) of Adilabad devotees.**

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him due to his responsibilities at home and office. The emotion-filled dialogues between the old man and his grandson interspersed with presentations of epic tales and folklore of Chinese culture ultimately melted the heart of Kim Leng who realised the value of filial piety. Simple realistic story of the drama, powerful dialogues, excellent acting of the cast, appropriate costumes, noble theme



The drama, "My Parents, My Treasure" enacted by Chinese devotees conveyed the message of respect and care for parents.



Chinese youth presenting dragon dance in Sai Kulwant Hall on 24th February 2007.

and perfect direction created a lasting impact on the viewers. After the drama, Bhagavan blessed the cast and posed for photographs with them.

A spectacular dragon dance performed by the Indonesian youth presented the grand finale of the Chinese New Year celebrations, which concluded at 6.00 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

Cultivate good habits of thought and action in order to make that end genuinely auspicious. Attaining such an end is the unmistakable sign of having won the grace of God.

– *Baba*

NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

NEPAL

THE MAJESTIC COUNTRY OF Nepal lies at the foothills of Mount Kailash. Nestled between India and China, this country has over 25,000 Sai devotees. On 30th December 2006, a grand celebration was held in the city of Biratnagar



Silver jubilee of the oldest Sai Centre in Nepal was celebrated on 30th December 2006. The Prime Minister of Nepal, Sri G.P. Koirala, presided over the function.

to commemorate the silver jubilee of the oldest Sai Centre in Nepal. The event was presided over by the Prime Minister of Nepal, Sri G.P. Koirala. The Prime Minister is an ardent devotee of Swami and despite an acute illness, he attended the event and fully participated in its activities. He recounted how during his last visit to Prasanthi Nilayam he had instructed his photographer to be alert and take any pictures of Swami interacting with him during the visit. When Swami called him for an interview, the photographer was ready with his camera. Upon entering the interview room, our Beloved Swami smiled and gave the photographer a handful of Vibhuti. The camera man was now holding the camera in one hand

and a fistful of Vibhuti in the other rendering him unable to take any pictures. Swami then materialised a wrist watch and instructed the Prime Minister to perform every act at the right time. The Prime Minister said that the glory of Bhagavan was indescribable. He also said that without spirituality, politics was useless. He urged all the devotees to spread Swami's message to every nook and corner of the country. Sri Amar Karki, the Central Coordinator of the Sathya Sai Organisation of Nepal, spoke on the mission of the Kali Yuga Avatar. During the celebrations, food and clothing were distributed to 118 needy children.

Nepal has about 7,500 Sai Youth. Every year, a Youth Leadership Development Conference is conducted in each of the five administrative regions within the country. Most Sai Youth participate in this event. In addition, the youth organise computer training classes for the underprivileged, home economics classes for women and take active part in medical camps, blood donation and Narayana Seva. The youth also conduct annual national competitions in public speaking, essay writing, poem composition and painting, all of which are based on spiritual themes.

SIERRA LEONE

The coastal country of Sierra Leone, located in Northwest Africa, is experiencing peace after several years of disharmony and civil war. The Yoni chiefdom is a neglected cluster of 64 villages without adequate water, food and sanitation. From 17th December 2006 to 2nd January 2007, the Sathya





Narayana Seva at Yonibana, Sierra Leone.

Sai Organisation provided the much-needed medical services and food to the people, especially the children affected by the civil war.

A medical camp organised by the Sathya Sai Organisation was inaugurated on 26th December 2006 by Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone. The President was to fly to Mecca for the Haj on the day of the camp inauguration. Despite his busy schedule and his focus on the journey, he asked to be driven to Yonibana



The Sathya Sai Organisation of Sierra Leone distributed 4,000 medically treated Sai Nets besides organising a medical camp and distributing food provisions at Yonibana to needy people.

where he officially inaugurated the medical camp in the midst of a gathering of Ministers, Senior Civil Servants, Paramount Chiefs, Sub Chiefs, elders, the sick and onlookers from many chiefdoms.

The people of Yonibana received 4,000 medically treated mosquito nets transcribed with Bhagavan's words "Love All, Serve All." The Sathya Sai Organisation provided dental care, medical care and optometry to over 5,800 patients during the same period with referrals to the Choitram Hospital in the capital city of Freetown. The medical team brought with them about 600 kg of medicines and equipment, providing quality care that the villagers could have not afforded or have ever witnessed. This was accompanied by the distribution of 450 bags, each containing 50 kg of rice for the inhabitants. In addition, a special meal was cooked for 1,650 children.

The President, in his address once again thanked the Sathya Sai Organisation for its continued assistance in the task of reconstructing the country after a ten-year civil war. He later visited the clinics and received eye treatment for himself. This selfless work received a letter of gratitude and appreciation from Jacob Kanu, the Executive Chairman of the Alphasorie Trust of Sierra Leone. The most heartfelt prayer of gratitude for Swami's work came from the thousands of recipients of medical services who said, "Now we have seen God."

KAZAKHSTAN

The independent country of Kazakhstan, located in Central Asia, northwest of China, was a member of the former Soviet Union. The 3rd National Conference of the Sathya Sai Organisation of Kazakhstan was held in



The third National Conference of the Sathya Sai Organisation of Kazakhstan was held in its capital Astana from 30th September to 2nd October 2006.

the capital city of Astana from 30th September 2006 to 2nd October 2006. The event was attended by 74 participants from 10 cities in Kazakhstan and one from Kyrgyzstan. The guests of honour were Steen Piculell, the Zonal Chairman of Zone 8 of the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organisation, renowned singer Dana Gillespie and Central Coordinator for Kazakhstan, Valery Voshinin. The conference hall, located in a park, was beautifully decorated and a banner was mounted in the park with the words “Your Life is My Message – Sri Sathya Sai Baba.” The walls of the hall were adorned with several paintings by children depicting the work undertaken by the Sathya Sai Organisation of Kazakhstan. Steen Piculell spoke at the conference welcoming the participants and praised the country of Kazakhstan for their secularism as evidenced by the work of the Sathya Sai Organisation and the recent symposium on religions of the world. The next speaker was Valery Voshinin who reminded everyone of the magnanimity of the Avatar and how, by His grace, SSSEHV is taking roots in the Russian speaking world. Finally, Dana Gillespie spoke of her experiences with Bhagavan and how they had radically changed her life. The talks were followed by a one-hour

question and answer session and meetings with reports from several national Sai coordinators. A musical concert followed the speeches and meetings. Nationally acclaimed musicians Marat Omarov and Daulat Kerei performed to everyone’s joy and this was topped by an exhilarating performance by Dana Gillespie for three hours.

CANADA

The transition of young Sai devotees from the Sai Spiritual Education Programme to the Youth Programme has been in focus over the last few years. Canadian youth have become increasingly involved in the Sathya Sai



Teen Youth Facilitators Workshop was organised in Toronto, Canada on 21st October 2006 which deliberated on the goals and objectives of the Teen Youth Programme.

Organisation as office bearers at the Centre and National levels. In order to facilitate this transition, the Teen Youth Programme was developed with a detailed curriculum and teacher training programme. The curriculum is based on practical knowledge of Sai literature required by Teen Youth to successfully participate in the Youth Programmes. Syllabus topics include Swami – His Love, Life and Work, Goal Setting, Phases



of Life, Being a Balanced Youth, the Nine Point Code of Conduct, Ceiling on Desires, Relationship with Parents, Study Skills, Sai Leadership, Service and Becoming a Dynamic Youth. The implementation of this programme has begun in several Sai Centres across the country and was reinforced by the recent Teen Youth Facilitators' Conference for Eastern Canada held in Toronto on 21st October 2006. A total of 21 youth facilitators representing Sai Centres with an active youth programme attended the one-day workshop. The workshop outlined the goals, objectives and activities of the Teen Youth Programme. All participants were given a handbook with detailed lesson plans. The feedback from Organisation office bearers, youth and parents has been positive and appreciative of the curriculum and method of delivery. Following the conference, nationwide two-day workshops on each topic in the curriculum have begun and will continue into 2007.

MALAYSIA

Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Malaysia is a recipient of the NSTP-PwC National



Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Malaysia received the runners-up award for its humanitarian services from the Prime Minister of Malaysia in a function held at Kuala Lumpur on 5th December 2006.

award for being one of the most committed organisations, dedicating themselves to selfless service of the poor and needy. The Sai Organisation received the runners-up award from the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, at a ceremony held on 5th December 2006 at Kuala Lumpur. The award is sponsored by The New Straits Times Press, the oldest English daily newspaper of Malaysia and Price-Waterhouse Coopers, an internationally renowned accounting firm. In the award citation, the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Malaysia was recognised for promoting human values across religious and social borders, for providing selfless service to the poor, sick and needy and for their work in fostering inter-racial and inter-religious harmony amongst younger generation.

COLOMBIA

Bogota is the capital city of Colombia located at the foothills of the North Andes Mountains. The Sathya Sai Organisation has been conducting several medical camps in the past and in February 2006 a permanent medical clinic was inaugurated at the Institute for Human Values building where SSSEHV training classes take place. Seven Sai doctors conduct four clinics every weekday free of charge. From the inauguration until 31st December 2006, 1,567 patients were seen and 31 Sai devotees were trained for First Aid delivery. Operating concurrently with the medical clinic in the same building, the Institute of Human Values has trained 255 teachers in SSSEHV and these teachers have incorporated SSSEHV into the regular school curriculum in the country.

U. S. A.

Since 2001, young adults of the South Seattle Sai Baba Centre, and the Seattle



Seattle Centre members pack bulk food items at Food Lifeline's warehouse for distribution to needy families.

Eastside Sai Baba Centre, have teamed up to work on a Saturday every three months to pack bulk food items at the Food Lifeline's warehouse. This food is distributed to local food



Clothes being distributed during a day of Narayana Seva at Ashland.

banks and shelters where they are provided to families in need. In the last volunteer session in November 2006, approximately 20 people, including young adults repackaged several thousand meals for families in the greater Puget Sound Area.

As part of Bhagavan's 80th Birthday celebrations, the Ashland Clothing Bank was launched in October 2005 in Northern California. On 15th December 2006, about 45 large boxes of good quality clothes were donated by the devotees of Sai Centres in the region. The bank was set up at the premises of a food bank and so recipients could avail themselves of both food and clothing. Clothes were distributed to about 100 indigent families during a day of Narayana Seva.

– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

B H A R A T

Andhra Pradesh: East Godavari district started five newly-built Sri Sathya Sai Seva Centres at Rajahmundry, Atreyapuram, Peddapuram, Kirlampudi and Peddapadu towns. On this occasion, Sri Sathya Sai Vratas and Narayana Seva programmes were carried out, besides giving 24 Amruta Kalasams (food provisions), three tricycles and two sewing machines to the selected needy persons at Atreyapuram.

Srikakulam district conducted a training camp for government school teachers on Sri Sathya Sai Education at Amadalavalasa from 19th to 21st January 2007. The faculty of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Education, Mumbai took classes. 160 government teachers and 40 Bal Vikas Gurus attended the training. This district distributed Saris to 86 poor women at Hiramandalam town, dug one drinking water well at Bhaskar Nagar and gave financial assistance of five thousand rupees each to three families for performing marriages in

Kattulakaviti village. The district organised a big Seva camp on Ratha Saptami Day (24th night to 25th night) at Sri Suryanarayana Swamy Temple, Arasavelli and provided Narayana Seva to 7,800 pilgrims, cleaned the temple premises hour to hour, maintained queues for Darshan and provided accommodation to 1,200 pilgrims.

Ranga Reddy district conducted a Study Circle Awareness Programme at Vikarabad on 21st January 2007, observed Anti-leprosy Day at Shantinagar Leprosy Colony of Pedda Ameerpet village on 28th January 2007 and performed the marriage of a leper girl giving all necessary traditional items like gold Mangal Sutra, clothes, etc.

Assam, Manipur and N.E. States: Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 81st Birthday was celebrated at Guwahati Sai Centre during the month of November 2006. The auspicious events started from 11th November when Global Akhanda Bhajan for 24 hours was held at Guwahati Sai Centre in the presence of a large number of devotees, followed by a visit to



Sai devotees visited the Leprosy Home at Boko on 14th November 2006 and distributed articles of daily need to the inmates.

the Leprosy Home at Boko, a place 65 km away from Guwahati Sai Centre on 14th November. It was initiated mainly by Mahila devotees of Panbazar unit of Guwahati Samithi

assisted by youth Seva Dal members. Besides meeting the inmates with smiles and greetings with Sai Ram, food provisions were distributed along with woollen clothes, blankets, etc., with love.

Shakti Swaroopini Day was observed on 19th November by the ladies. The ladies under the guidance of the Mahila Vibhag (women's wing) of the Samithi organised an exhibition stall for sale of garments, children's wear, etc., made by the ladies at the Sai Centre with the aim of providing financial security to economically weaker and less-privileged sections amongst women. This effort is to be continued towards making the women self-reliant. The ladies visited hospitals and distributed fruits amongst the indoor patients. They also visited a Children's Home where health check-up was conducted by the accompanying doctors, and medicines were given free of cost.

To have a uniform pattern and standard of Veda chanting, a series of training camps were arranged in Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. The programme was conducted for three days from 26th to 28th December 2006 at Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar School, Golaghat in Assam followed by one-day programme on 29th December 2006 at Dimapur, Nagaland with subsequent programme at Imphal from 31st December 2006 to 2nd January 2007 and then from 4th to 12th January 2007 at Kanglatombi, Senapati district of Manipur. The schedule was completed at Guwahati in Assam from 15th to 17th January 2007. A happy augury of the programmes was the presence of Bal Vikas students and youth who resolved to learn Veda chanting in proper tune and spirit and to chant it as spiritual exercise for the purification of the whole atmosphere.



Delhi: The Sai Organisation of Delhi has so far organised blood grouping camps in 25 areas of Delhi, covering over 30,000 persons with door-to-door activity and interaction with nearly 1,50,000 persons in these areas.

Burari village service project in the north district of Delhi has nearly 1,700 rural Bal Vikas students. The Sai Organisation distributed



Distribution of sweaters at Burari Seva Centre.

school sweaters to economically weaker students of these rural Bal Vikas centres as part of Bhagavan's 81st Birthday celebrations. Sai Youth at Burari took out a Palki Seva (palanquin procession) on 23rd November 2006 and Mahila (women) members of the youth cleaned the streets of the village in the morning before the procession went through the village streets. On 3rd December 2006, 100 economically weaker children were given sweaters at the Burari Seva Centre. Free blankets were also distributed to parents of these children.

On 2nd December 2006, more than 400 students of a Municipal Corporation School in East Delhi were provided with free eye and dental check-up followed by issue of free spectacles to needy students. The students were also checked for colour

blindness. Eleven other such camps have been organised so far by the East Delhi district. This district has got permission to conduct these free eye and dental camps in 400 Municipal Corporation schools. Similar permission is expected to be given to schools in north and south districts of Delhi.

Sri Sathya Sai Tailoring School run at Holambi Khurd in North Delhi has trained its first batch of 30 ladies. On Christmas day, 25th December 2006, three top grade holders in the class were given free sewing machines by the Sai Organisation. The second qualifying batch will receive the sewing machines in March 2007. The objective of the programme is to train rural women to empower them financially and provide self-employment opportunities.

Jammu and Kashmir: Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Jammu and Kashmir organised free veterinary camps in villages Kail-Sunal, Kartholi, Jatwal, Jakate and Budsoo during November and December 2006.



Animals being treated at the veterinary camp in Budsoo village (district Jammu) organised by the Sai Organisation of Jammu and Kashmir, which provided this facility for the treatment of nearly 2,850 animals in five such camps.

Nearly 2,850 animals of different categories were provided free treatment in these camps. The animals were dosed with



broad spectrum anthelmintics for the control of mixed worm infestation. The facility was provided at the doorstep of the villagers.

The people of the villages appreciated the role of the Sai Organisation and desired that such free camps should be organised at frequent intervals for the benefit of poor people.

Kerala: Sai Youth have started three new programmes for taking care of elders, for helping weak students in studies before examinations and for establishing Sri Sathya Sai Farms. They are also concentrating on ongoing programmes like distribution of rice to needy, adoption of schools and taking care of children who are not healthy.

Kasaragod district has initiated a new project. Eleven Panchayats of the district are affected by endosulphan. People are extremely poor and are not in a position to afford prolonged treatment. Sai Organisation



Sai Organisation of Kerala organising service activities in tribal areas of Kasaragod district to help the tribals.

has adopted all these families for treatment. The patients who could not even move their bodies are recovering fast with Bhagavan's grace.

Malappuram district has started

another much needed project. In some places, people are committing suicide due to poverty. The district organisation with the help of Panchayats identified needy houses. Three Panchayats helped the Sai Organisation to identify 25 such houses for timely help.

To carry out Bhagavan's Birthday command of taking God's message to every street, Mahila Vibhag (ladies wing) has decided to celebrate 2007 as the year of Satsang (community singing). Satsang at every nook and corner of the State is started by them. This is mainly arranged for those who are not in the Sai Organisation now.

"Sai Neethi" (lawyers forum) has started legal awareness programmes. As this unit is approved by the High Court of Kerala for this work, two Panchayats in Kannur district have completed this programme with the help of "Sai Neethi".

In Kasaragod district, Seva (service) activities were organised for tribal people.

In Kannur district, Seva Dal members undertook various Seva activities during the State-level youth festival. Twenty-five thousand students participated in this function.

Orissa: State-level teachers training for selected teachers numbering 133 from 18 Sri Sathya Sai Schools was conducted in an atmosphere of love and devotion at the auditorium of the Institute of Engineers, Bhubaneswar, Orissa from 5th January to 7th January 2007. Resource persons drawn from all over India conducted this training.

On this occasion, an exhibition based on Bhagavan's master plan for education, highlighting His teachings on education in human values and educare was



organised.

A devotees meet was arranged on the evening of 6th January and a cultural programme was presented comprising group songs, an Odissi dance and a drama on Integrated Approach for Value Education.

The three-day training was conducted in an environment of love by the infinite grace of Bhagavan, and participant teachers were immensely benefited by it.

Thirty-first State Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Orissa was conducted at Bargarh from 19th January to 21st January 2007 in which 1,302 selected office bearers took part.

The theme of the conference was "Experiencing Divinity", which is the result of one's spiritual transformation through Sadhana. This aspect of the transformation was given importance in different talks, discussions and workshops. A symposium in the evening general session on 20th January 2007 on this theme pinpointed the process of transformation and its apex experience, God realisation. This was attended by 4,000 devotees.

The vision, the progress and action plans



Delegates participating in Bhajans in the inaugural session of the Conference.

for the transformation process were highlighted in the deliberations, symposium and workshops. The talks dwelt on experiencing divinity through the path of Karma, Bhakti and Jnana (action, devotion and knowledge) as envisaged in the activities of the organisation, concept of holistic health, e-media technology and youth activities, including Bal Vikas and Mahila Vibhag activities. Value-based cultural programmes of Bal Vikas children divinely enlivened each evening.

An exhibition was inaugurated on 19th



A view of the exhibition held during the conference on "Experiencing Divinity" at Bargarh, Orissa.

January 2007 which highlighted the spiritual significance of all the activities of the organisation, life and message of Bhagavan Baba and achievements of the Sai Organisation under the three wings of education, spirituality and service.

Rajasthan: Youth awareness camps on Indian culture and spirituality were organised at Jodhpur and Jaipur in October 2006 for three days each. Basic principles of Indian culture and spirituality were explained in these camps and practical training in Bhajans and Veda chanting was arranged for the participants. Sai Youth also presented role plays and Bhajans

during these camps.

Jaipur Samithi Youth and students of Sri Sathya Sai College for Women, Jaipur organised an exhibition on Education in Human Values from 8th November 2006 to 11th November 2006 in college premises. The students and staff of Sri Sathya Sai College saw the exhibition. Visiting UGC team also came to see this exhibition and appreciated it.

A unique experiment was conducted by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Bhilwara by combining five aspects of spiritual awakening in a weeklong programme from 9th to 15th January 2007. The programme comprised the recitation of the Bhagavata, a Bhajan Yatra (Nagar Sankirtan) by 500 Sai devotees in main markets of Bhilwara city, a colourful exhibition



A unique experiment was conducted by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Bhilwara by combining five aspects of spiritual awakening in a weeklong programme from 9th to 15th January 2007.

on Indian culture, spirituality and educare, Sai literature bookstall and free distribution of Sai literature and a Sadhana camp for Sai devotees in the morning and evening along with service activities during daytime.

The whole programme was organised at a central public place in a huge Shamiana (tent) with an audience ranging from 3,000 to 6,000 on all the seven days. The exhibition was observed by 3,000 students from 25 schools and a good number of people

from the audience. More than 100 people expressed their willingness to have Darshan of Bhagavan and participate in Rajasthan State Prasanthi Seva in July 2007.

Tamil Nadu: Ati Rudra Maha Yajna was conducted at Chennai from 20th to 30th January 2007. On the ninth day of the Yajna, i.e., Sunday, 28th January evening, a new healthcare project by Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Tamil Nadu was blessed and inaugurated by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

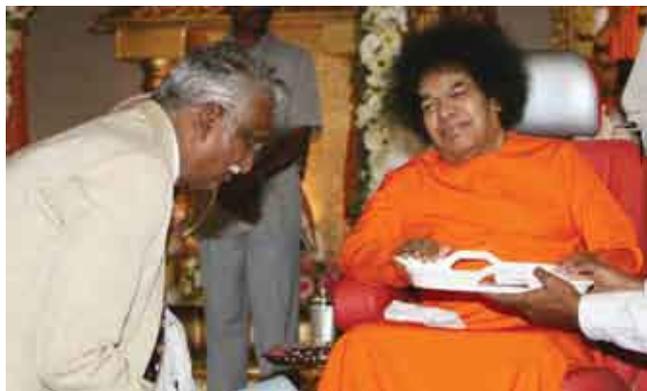
Sixty-three hospitals in Chennai, including diagnostic and imaging centres, have volunteered to provide one bed to start with at each of their hospitals throughout the year, to provide treatment for the poor and needy completely free of cost, irrespective of the ailment or the expenses involved. The imaging and diagnostic centres have come forward to support this scheme by providing free services such as C.T. Scans / MRI, etc. Free treatment at the hospitals offered through this project will include free consultations, investigations, medical and surgical treatment, medicines and follow-up. Radio therapy for cancer patients and genetic counselling and investigations to prevent congenital anomalies were also offered through this scheme. Pulsed magnetic field therapy for arthritis and wound healing (e.g. diabetic foot ulcers) were also made available under this project.

Youth Wing and Seva Dal members of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Tamil Nadu have been conducting a large number of Grama Seva activities which include medical camps organised under the direct supervision of qualified medical practitioners of various specialities. The poor and needy patients who require further treatment are



identified in these medical camps. Such patients will be routed through the Medical Unit of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Tamil Nadu. Seva Dal members and the paramedics attached to the Sai healthcare will then look after these patients both spiritually and psychologically.

Prof. N. Rangabashyam, renowned surgical gastroenterologist, presented the project on behalf of the 63 hospitals before Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba for invoking His Divine blessings for implementation. He said that Sri Sathya Sai Baba had appealed on an earlier



Bhagavan blessed a new healthcare project started by Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Tamil Nadu wherein a large number of hospitals offered one bed free for poor patients in each hospital.

occasion to the doctors to love their patients, love till it hurt, love till nothing was left. He mentioned that these 63 hospitals would be increased to 200 in a couple of months. He also said, he would make efforts to extend this project to the entire length and breadth of Bharat.

“God is Narayana directing us to deliver ideal, faultless therapy to the sick. He alone is the doer, giving life to the patients. We are all His tools to do service and lend a helping hand,” he said.

He mentioned that this was the only

profession where patients literally pledged their lives to the doctors; such trust did not exist in any other profession. He added that diseases did not take holidays, and so also doctors did not retire nor affix MD, MS (retired). He remarked that the people of Chennai were expressing their gratitude to Bhagavan Baba for giving them pure and safe drinking water through the Sai Ganga project, spending about 200 crore rupees, which had certainly brought down the incidence and mortality of water borne diseases like typhoid, cholera, jaundice, etc.

At the end of his speech, each of the participating doctor was presented a kit containing stethoscope, blood pressure apparatus and a copy of the ‘Divine Directions to Doctors by Sri Sathya Sai Baba’, after being blessed by Bhagavan Baba.

Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand: Due to scanty rains in Bundelkhand area for the last five years, farmers of the area who have very small holdings of land, were committing suicide as the loans they took could not be paid due to no yield from the land. Jhansi zone and Banda Samithi

conducted a survey of the nearby villages and found that 9 farmers of Padui village had committed suicide. One more farmer who was going to commit suicide was saved by villagers. The villagers started to help their very poor brothers by keeping fast once a week and provide food thus saved to such poor brothers.

On 13th January 2007, the State Joint Seva Dal Convener, Jhansi Zonal Coordinator, District President, Banda and a team of 16 Seva Dal members spent a full day with farmers of Padui village and their families. The day started with Bhajan. Nearly 100 villagers were



present. Two youth of the village narrated their problems. Villagers were apprised of the Divinity of Bhagavan and His Mission and 18 very poor families were requested to accept one packet each of 28 kg ration consisting of flour, rice, Dhal, jaggery and cooking oil along with one blanket as Prasad from Bhagavan. 21 more women were given 2 ½ kg rice each along with one woollen shawl.

Many long-term measures were planned by the Banda Samithi for future implementation in the village which included monthly medical camp and screening and treatment of TB patients, health and hygiene awareness, helping students in college education, community borewells for irrigation, vocational training classes for girls in the village, and helping the unemployed youth to find suitable jobs. The villagers were very happy to have the grace of Bhagavan, and as a gesture of love some of them came to the railway station to see off the organisation members. Confidence was noticed on their faces after the visit of Seva Dal members. The event was well covered in newspapers.

A service camp was set up by the Sai Organisation at Sri Sathya Sai Marg in the Kumbh Mela area at Allahabad from 11th January 2007 to 3rd February 2007 with the capacity to accommodate about 200 persons, ladies and gents separately. A beautiful altar was set up in the camp. An exhibition on Swami and His Mission as well as Seva work done



A service camp was set up by the Sai Organisation at Sri Sathya Sai Marg in the Kumbh Mela area at Allahabad from 11th January 2007 to 3rd February 2007.

by the Sai Organisation of the two States was also put up. Regular Nagar Sankirtan, Bhajans, film shows on Bhagavan and His Mission were conducted on daily basis. About 200 Seva Dal members provided service regarding traffic control, service at bathing ghats and helping people to find their lost ones.

It has been decided to hold at least one big spiritual activity every month on one particular day throughout the State. During January, Homas (sacrificial rituals), chanting of Sai Gayatri, Gayatri Mantra etc., were conducted on Makar Sankranti day in all the districts at some public place starting at 9 a.m. At some places, the Homa lasted for as long as nine hours. Even people other than Sai devotees joined this sacred activity being done for world peace.

NOTICE

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram needs full time volunteers to work as Interpreters to provide better patient care. We are in need of volunteers who can interpret Telugu / Tamil / Malayalam to English.

Persons who are desirous to offer their services may contact Director, SSSIHMS - PG along with their brief Bio data and latest passport size photograph.

Director

That which Comes with you in the End

A person had three friends. Suddenly, he was required to produce a witness in a court case. So, he thought of taking help from his friends. He went to one of them and said, "Dear friend! I have a court case in which I need a proper witness. Can you



His first friend refused to extend any help, saying, "I do not know anything about court procedures."

come to the court with me to give witness?" His friend replied that he did not know what was meant by giving witness and added, "I do not know anything about court procedures. I am afraid as to what may happen to me if I go with you to the court. Please forgive me, I cannot come to the court."

This person felt somewhat worried and went to his second friend. After explaining the matter, he asked him. "Will you help me?" His friend replied, "Don't think otherwise, I will come to the court. But please excuse me, I cannot stand in the witness box."

After hearing this type of negative replies of two of his friends, this person was put to great anxiety. He then went to his third friend and explained to him the entire matter. His third

friend said, "Dear friend! Do not have any fear. I will surely come to the court with you and do everything needed for your protection." After speaking such encouraging words, his friend sent him away.

In this story, who are the three friends and who is this person? This person, the main character of this story, is in reality man himself. Out of his three friends, the first one symbolises wealth, gold, vehicles, worldly possessions, etc., which are very dear to man. They do not come with us when we depart from this world. The second friend represents the members of our family and other relatives who come with us up to the cremation ground after our death. The third friend stands for the good deeds



Ultimately, his third friend agreed to go with him to the court and extended all help to him. In the same way, man's good deeds are his true friend.

performed by us. Even after our death, they keep our name alive. They also become the basis of our next birth.

Only the actions performed by man remain with him like a pure and changeless substance.

Statement of Ownership and other Particulars of the Newspaper Entitled SANATHANA SARATHI (English) R.No.10774/58

(To be published in the first issue every year after the last day of February)

Form IV (See Rule 8)

1. Place of Publication : Printed at Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Press,
within the compound of Sri Sathya Sai Ashram,
Prasanthi Nilayam.
2. Periodicity of Publication : Monthly
3. Printer's Name : Sri K.S.Rajan
Convener
Sri Sathya Sai Books & Publications Trust
- Whether citizen of India : Yes
Address : West II / C-22
P.O. Prasanthi Nilayam
Dist. Anantapur, A.P., 515 134.
4. Publisher's Name : Sri K.S.Rajan
Convener
Sri Sathya Sai Books & Publications Trust
- Whether citizen of India : Yes
Address : West II / C-22
P.O. Prasanthi Nilayam
Dist. Anantapur, A.P., 515 134.
5. Editor's Name : Sri G.L. Anand
Whether citizen of India : Yes
Address : Round Block V / C-3
P.O. Prasanthi Nilayam
Dist. Anantapur, A.P. 515 134.
6. Names and addresses of : Sri Sathya Sai Books & Publications Trust
individuals who own the
newspaper and partners or
shareholders holding more
than one percent of the
total paid up capital as
on 28-2-2007

I, K.S.Rajan, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my
knowledge and belief.

Date: 1-3-2007

(Sd) **K.S.RAJAN**
(Signature of Publisher)

