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Editor **G.L. ANAND**
Assistant Editor **P. RAJESH**

E-mail: subscriptions@sssbpt.org
editor@sssbpt.org
For Audio Visual / Book Orders:
orders@sssbpt.org
ISD Code : 0091
STD Code : 08555
Telephone : 287375
Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust Telefax
: 287390

General enquiry : 287164

Sri Sathya Sai University -
Administrative Office : 287191 /
287239

Sri Sathya Sai Higher
Secondary School : 289289
Sri Sathya Sai

Primary School : 287237
SSSIHMS, Prasanthigram,
Puttaparthi : 287388

SSSIHMS, Whitefield,
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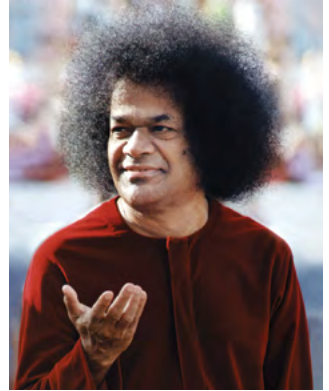
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*"As man is always immersed in worldly life,
worldly Vasanas (tendencies) and worries,
it is not possible for him to understand the
teachings relating to the transcendental
principle when they are conveyed directly
to him. Man's life is centred around
Pravritti (worldliness) whereas God's acts
are related to Nivritti (spirituality). To
understand the principle of Nivritti, man
should transform himself and take to the path
which leads him to Nivritti."*



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Christmas 2014

**The sacred festival of Christmas will be celebrated
at Prasanthi Nilayam on 25th December 2014.**



AMRITA DHARA

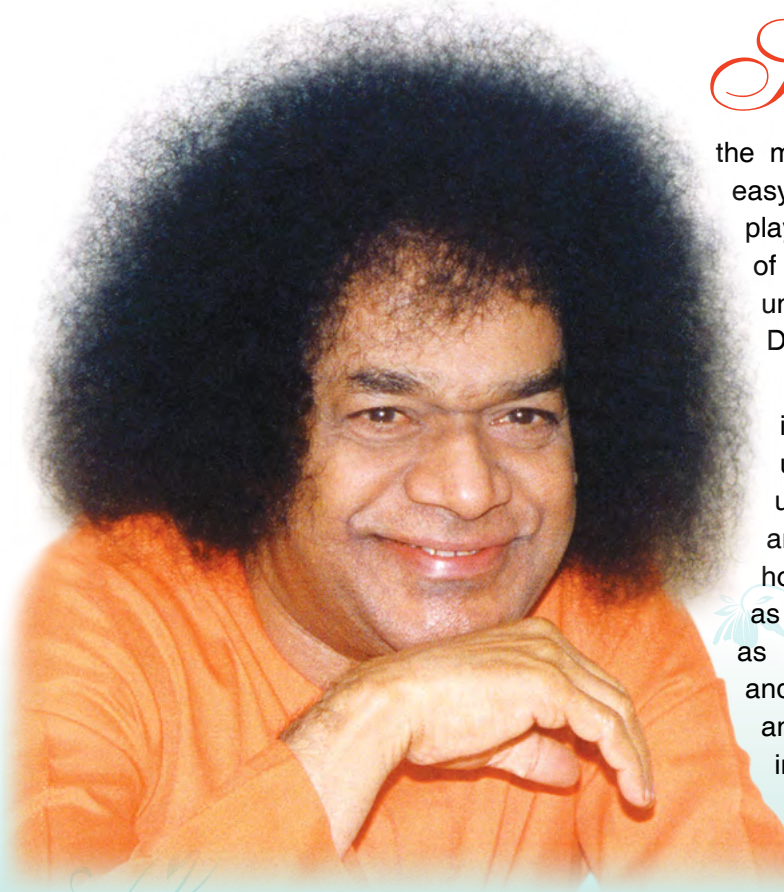
BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:
4TH SEPTEMBER 1996: PART 1

LOVE FOR GOD IS THE ONLY REAL WEALTH

Sweeter than sugar, tastier than curd, sweeter indeed than honey are the Names of Rama and Krishna. Constant repetition of these sweet Names gives one the taste of divine nectar itself. Therefore, one should contemplate on the Names of Rama and Krishna incessantly.

(Telugu Poem)

KRISHNA IS NOT DIFFERENT FROM HIS TEACHINGS



*S*ARVAM KHALVIDAM
Brahma (verily all this is Brahman). Everything is the manifestation of Divinity. It is easy to criticise the Leelas (divine play) and the supreme powers of Avatars, but it is difficult to understand the principle of their Divinity.

God who is all-pervasive is present both in truth and untruth, righteousness and unrighteousness and good and bad. Such being the case, how can you decide something as good and some other thing as bad, something as divine and something as not? Since ancient times, man has been investigating into the principle of Divinity and propagating it to the entire world. Based

on his own experiences, he has been demonstrating that the Divine has a particular form with some attributes.

Divinity Shines in Everyone

The entire world is governed by three principles of creation, sustenance and dissolution. One may belong to any country or faith, one cannot deny this truth, be he a scientist or a philosopher. However, these three principles can only teach you the principle of Divinity; they cannot grant you the vision of Divinity. They are only pointers to the existence of Divinity. When you see from a distance, you say polestar is on the top of a particular tree. But in reality, polestar is not located on the top of the tree. The tree is just an indicator to the position of the polestar which is millions of miles away. Likewise, the Vedas, Sastras, Itihasas and Puranas (scriptures, epics and mythological texts) are only pointers to the existence of Divinity but they cannot give the direct experience of divine principle.

When you see a dense forest, a mighty mountain, a flowing river, your heart is filled with bliss. All these demonstrate the mighty power of God. The stars shine in the sky, the planets revolve in their respective orbits, the sun gives light and the wind blows – all these are indicators of Divinity. When you recognise the nature of the spark of fire, you will know the nature of fire. When you know the nature of a drop of water, you will know the nature of the entire Ganga. Likewise, when you understand even a fraction of the principle of Nature, you will understand the infinite Divinity. That is why the Upanishads have declared

in this context, *Anoraneeyan Mahato Maheeyan* (Brahman is subtler than the subtlest and vaster than the vastest). Man essentially is the embodiment of all-powerful divinity. It is divinity that shines brilliantly in everyone. But man is not able to understand his innate divinity because of his body attachment. You should consider everything as divine in this world and conduct Sathyanveshana (search for truth). What is meant by Sathyanveshana? Where does truth exist? Where is the need to search for truth which is everywhere? However, there is something called Nijamu (fact) which is different from truth. For example, we say, the sun rises in the east and sets in the west everyday. Here you have to conduct Sathyanveshana, whether it is a fact or the truth.

When you go by your daily experience, it is a fact the sun rises in the east and sets in the west everyday. But when you investigate deeply, you will know that it is not the truth. The sun is stationary and does not move. It is because the earth rotates on its axis that you see the sunrise and sunset everyday. This is termed Sathyanveshana. The sun does not move; it is we on earth who move, and as a result of which we experience the phenomenon of sunrise and sunset. In the same manner, you should make efforts to search for divinity in man. In what way can we know the divinity innate in man? It is in this context that the Upanishads exhort, “Know thyself”.

Pure Human Heart is the Abode of God

When someone asks you, who are you, what answer can you give? If you say, you



belong to such and such country, such and such community and you are the son of so and so, does it amount to knowing yourself? This is not the correct answer. Knowing yourself amounts to realising your true Self which is beyond the body, the mind, the intellect, the Chitta (mind-stuff) and the Ahamkara (ego). It is in this reference that the Vedanta teaches the principle of Neti, Neti (not this, not this). The body, the mind, the intellect, the mind-stuff and the senses, all these are mere instruments. You are the divinity which is beyond all these. It is divinity which is responsible for their functioning. However, when you start conducting such enquiry into truth, you may have to face many difficulties, troubles and ordeals.

When the demons and gods churned the ocean of milk, the first thing to emerge from the process of churning was deadly poison. It was only after this that the precious treasures like Kamadhenu (wish-fulfilling cow), Airavat (celestial elephant) and the goddess of wealth, Lakshmi manifested one after the other. The divine ambrosia also emerged only after the emergence of poison. Likewise, when you churn your heart which is like Ksheer Sagar (ocean of milk) using Jnana (wisdom) as churning rod, initially you may have to face difficulties, but when you continue the process with determination, precious qualities like compassion, forbearance, empathy and love will manifest from it. Human heart is pure like Ksheer Sagar. But today it has become impure because of the presence of the sea monsters like

You cannot leave your body and go somewhere else. You need not give up your worldly duties and responsibilities. You may continue to perform all your duties living in society but never leave God. There is no point in having any amount of wealth if you lack love for God in your heart. Your true wealth and property is God's love and God's love alone. What is the use of man's existence in this world if he does not become the recipient of God's love?



Kama, Krodha, Moha, Lobha, Mada, Matsarya (desire, anger, delusion, greed, pride and jealousy) in it. Human heart is the repository of sacred qualities and hence is compared to the ocean of milk. That is why Saint Thyagaraja sang, "Ksheera Sagara Sayana Nannelu" (Oh the One reclining on the ocean of milk, please look after me). God is described as the one reclining on the ocean of milk. It means that He dwells in the pure heart of man. That is His true abode.

Atma is the Source of Bliss

On receiving complaints from Gopikas that Krishna was stealing butter from their houses, mother Yashoda chided Him, saying, "Don't we have food at home? Don't we have butter and milk at home? Why do You steal butter from Gopikas' houses"? On some other day, a Gopika came and complained to her that Krishna



was eating mud. Then Mother Yashoda caught little Krishna by His ear and said, "Does the butter made by me not taste good to You? Why do You eat mud outside"? Then Krishna smilingly replied, "Mother, am I a child, am I hungry or am I mad? Why will I eat mud"? The words of God are full of mystery and have deep inner meaning. By His reply, child Krishna conveyed to His mother in an indirect manner that He was not a child but God Himself. God always teaches in an indirect manner. As man is always immersed in worldly life, worldly Vasanas (tendencies) and worries, it is not possible for him to understand the teachings relating to the transcendental principle when they are conveyed directly to him. Man's life is centred around Pravritti (worldliness) whereas God's acts are related to Nivritti (spirituality). To understand the principle of Nivritti, man should transform himself and take to the path which leads him to Nivritti. He should know how to conduct himself in accordance with the time, place and circumstances. Adi Sankara said:

Yoga Ratova, Bhoga Ratova,

Sanga Ratova, Sanga Viheena.

Yasya Brahmani Ramate Chittam,

Nandati, Nandati, Nanditi Yeva.

(Sanskrit Verse)

(He whose mind is fixed in Brahman is always in bliss, whether he is engaged in yoga (spirituality) or Bhoga (worldly pleasures) or he is in solitude or company.)

Can the yogis attain divinity just because they lead a very simple and austere life? Can the Bhogis attain divinity

just because they enjoy all pleasures and comforts? One can attain divine bliss only when one offers everything to God and develops firm faith that God dwells in his heart. One cannot derive bliss either from people or from material possessions or from worldly endeavours. Atma is the only source of bliss. Man by very nature is a seeker of bliss, a repository of bliss and the very embodiment of bliss. Then what is the reason for his misery? His body attachment is the main cause for this.

You cannot leave your body and go somewhere else. You need not give up your worldly duties and responsibilities. You may continue to perform all your duties living in society but never leave God. There is no point in having any amount of wealth if you lack love for God in your heart. Your true wealth and property is God's love and God's love alone. What is the use of man's existence in this world if he does not become the recipient of God's love? Worldly love is temporary like passing clouds. It comes in a moment and goes in the next moment. God's love alone is permanent and it confers permanent bliss. You should make yourself deserving of such divine love. The Gopikas, the Gopals and all the people of Repalle became recipients of such divine love. But many people criticised the divine Leelas of Krishna due to their perverted thinking.

Krishna lived in Repalle only up to the age of seven years. It is meaningless to say that such a small child of seven years indulged in acts which were against the norms of society. After going to



Mathura at the age of seven, He never returned to Repalle. Unable to understand the sacredness of divine acts, people attribute their own feelings to God and become distant from Him due to their misunderstanding. *Yad Bhavam Tad Bhavati* (as are the feelings, so is the result). First of all, you should recognise what is true divinity. The Chaitanya (consciousness) present in everyone is true divinity. You should understand the nature of this consciousness. There are so many people sitting in this hall. There are people here, this denotes 'being'. It is the light that makes us aware of their presence. Existence is denoted by Sat, awareness is denoted by Chit. When Sat and Chit come together, what results is Ananda (bliss). Therefore, Sat, Chit, Ananda denote our true nature. They are all within us. *Antarbahischa Tatsarvam Vyapya Narayana Sthita* (That all-pervasive God is present within and without). The same divinity is present inside and outside. When you understand this truth, you will experience bliss. People think they know the nature of divinity, but actually they do not know anything. What is the reason? The reason is that they have no experience of divinity.

The World is an Illusion

Once upon a time a person not able to support his family, left his house without informing anybody. After earning money by doing some odd jobs for some time, he decided to return home. At the time of leaving his house, he had a son who was

very much attached to him. After his father left the house, the child died as he was unable to bear the pangs of separation from his father. As the father was returning home, all of a sudden, there was a heavy downpour with lightning and thunder and it also became dark. He thought it was not safe to travel in such a situation. He took shelter in a choultry in a nearby village for the night. As soon as he fell asleep, he had a dream. He saw that he had become a king served by many servants, and he was seated on a golden throne. He also dreamt that he had six sons dressed in princely costumes. He saw that he had a royal bed on which he could recline without any worries whatsoever. Meanwhile, his dream was broken by a loud thunder. He at once got up and looked around. He thought, alas, what happened to the royal bed? Till now I was a king; where has my throne gone now? What happened to all my servants who were attending on me? And where have my six children gone?

Now he was in a state of despair as he realised that it was all a mere dream. Next morning, he got up and returned home. Seeing her husband, his wife started crying bitterly. On the one hand, she was happy to see her husband return home, but on the other hand, she was grief-stricken at the loss of their only son. When he asked his wife where their son was, she told him that he had died. On hearing this, he was shocked and stood there like a rock without showing any emotion. Then his wife asked him the reason why he was not showing any signs of sorrow on the death of their



son whom he was so much attached to. Then he replied, "Oh foolish woman! Last night while sleeping in the choultry I had a dream in which I was a king served by a number of servants and I was reclining on a royal bed. I had six sons dressed as

clouds". He realised that this world was just an illusion.

How to Experience True Happiness?

In order to experience true happiness, three things are necessary for man. First

One can attain divine bliss only when one offers everything to God and develops firm faith that God dwells in his heart. One cannot derive bliss either from people or from material possessions or from worldly endeavours. Atma is the only source of bliss. Man by very nature is a seeker of bliss, a repository of bliss and the very embodiment of bliss. Then what is the reason for his misery? His body attachment is the main cause for this.



princes. But now I have lost those six sons. Whom should I cry for now? Should I cry at the loss of those six sons or should I cry at the loss of our one son? They were my sons in the dream and he was my son in the waking state. There is no dream in the waking state and there is no waking state in the dream, but I am present in both. Therefore, I am the only reality, and everything else is mere illusion. I am omnipresent, all other things are passing

and foremost, he should know what he is supposed to know. Secondly, he should give up what he is supposed to give up and finally he should reach where he has to reach. Only then can he experience true happiness.

... to be continued

Note: Please see Part 2 of this Discourse in the next issue.



CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

A HUGE GATHERING OF devotees thronged Prasanthi Nilayam to take part in 89th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and to pay their respectful homage to Him. As beautifully decorated and brilliantly shining Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the celebrations, was full to its seams, thousands of devotees were accommodated in Poornachandra Auditorium where a huge screen was installed for live watching of the proceedings conducted in Sai Kulwant Hall. Beautiful illuminations at night on Sai Kulwant Hall, Yajur Mandir and adjoining buildings and temples were eye-catching. There were special floral decorations on the Samadhi of Bhagavan with flowers of many colours. Besides a large variety of music and cultural programmes by Indian and overseas devotees, the celebrations included the handing over ceremony of the second phase of Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Supply Project by Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust to the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Global Akhanda Bhajan held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 8th and 9th

November 2014 was the precursor of these joyous celebrations.

GLOBAL AKHANDA BHAJAN

Akhanda Bhajan for 24 hours held every year simultaneously in thousands of Sai Centres in India and nearly 120



Akhanda Bhajan at Prasanthi Nilayam.

countries of the world is one of the most significant spiritual events in which millions of people of all faiths and nationalities take part without any differences of caste, creed and language, thus uniting mankind in its spiritual quest.

Like previous years, Akhanda Bhajan at Prasanthi Nilayam was held this year also with great devotion and sacredness. The programme in Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the Akhanda Bhajan, started on 8th November 2014 with Veda chanting at 4.30 p.m. At 5.00 p.m., an illuminating talk on the significance of Namasmarana



was delivered by Sri Anil Kumar, an ardent devotee of Bhagavan and translator of His Discourses. Embellishing his talk with Telugu poems of Swami, the learned speaker described Prasanthi Nilayam as the spiritual hub of the world which radiates peace, spirituality and divinity all over the globe by sacred activities like Akhanda Bhajan.

Veda chanting was resumed after Sri Anil Kumar's talk. Exactly at 6.00 p.m. Akhanda Bhajan was started by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning which devotees followed in chorus with deep devotion. Led by the students of Swami's various educational institutions, groups of Ashram staff and overseas devotees, the Akhanda Bhajan continued throughout the night and the following day, saturating the entire milieu with divine vibrations. It concluded with Arati at 6.00 p.m. on 9th November after the video screening of two Bhajans "Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin" and "Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram" sung by Bhagavan. At the conclusion of the Bhajan, Prasadam of tamarind rice and sweet rice was distributed to all.

AN IMPRESSIVE VIOLIN RECITAL

A 15 years old child prodigy Sai Rakshit from Chennai presented a feast of Carnatic classical music with verve on 17th November 2014, making an excellent commencement of 89th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Prasanthi Nilayam. Getting off to

a lively start with a composition dedicated to Lord Ganesh at 5.00 p.m., the child maestro delighted and mesmerised the devotees with a fine recital of classical compositions in various Ragas (tunes) and concluded his concert with the famous Bhajan "Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram". At the conclusion of the concert, the musician was honoured with a shawl, and the artistes who provided him instrumental support were felicitated. After a brief session of Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam, the programme came to a close with Arati at 6.10 p.m.

RATHOTSAVAM AND SITA RAMA KALYANAM

As part of Bhagavan's 89th Birthday celebrations, Rathotsavam (chariot festival) and Sita Rama Kalyanam (celestial marriage of Sita and Rama) were performed with deep devotional



Sita Rama Kalyanam in Sai Kulwant Hall.

fervour at Prasanthi Nilayam on 18th November 2014. The programme began at 7.00 a.m. with worship of the idols of Sita, Rama, Lakshmana and Hanuman as also the idol of Lord Krishna by priests in Bhajan Mandir. After the worship, the idols were brought out and installed on a raised platform in the performing area of Sai Kulwant Hall. Celestial marriage of Sita and Rama was thereafter performed which included worship of the idols, exchange of garlands and offering of Mangal Sutra (sacred thread worn around the neck by married women) to Sita and related rituals as per the tradition amidst chanting of Veda Mantras and auspicious notes of music. A Yajna was also performed as part of the rituals and offering of Poornahuti (final oblations) in the Yajna Kunda (sacrificial pit) at 9.20 a.m. marked the completion of this sacred celestial marriage for the welfare of the world.

As the Bhajans started in the hall, the idols were taken out in a procession led by musicians and Veda chanting and



Chariot procession in Puttaparthi village.

Bhajan singing groups of students. On the arrival of the procession at Gopuram Gate, the idol of Lord Krishna was installed on a beautifully decorated chariot. After breaking coconuts and offering Arati to the idols, this grand procession slowly moved towards Pedda Venkama Raju Kalyana Mandapam in Puttaparthi village. A large number of residents of Puttaparthi witnessed the procession and offered worship to the idols all along the way. After the arrival of the procession at Kalyana Mandapam amidst joyous scenes, the procession started its return journey with idols of Sita, Rama, Lakshmana and Hanuman. Bhajans in Sai Kulwant Hall ended at 10.00 a.m. which marked the end of the morning celebrations.

A LIVELY DEVOTIONAL MUSIC CONCERT

A soul-stirring devotional music concert by well-known singer Ms. Kajal Chandiramani of Ahmedabad comprised the evening programme which began at 4.30 p.m. with Veda chanting. Beginning her concert at 5.00 p.m. with a composition dedicated to Lord Ganesh, the musician enthralled the devotees for nearly one hour with her lively rendition of devotional songs which included "Mere Sai Teri Moorat Rahe Mana Mein" (Sai's Form is in my mind), "Jai Jai Sai Sri Sathya Sai" (hail Sathya Sai), "Om Namah Sivaya" (salutations to Lord Siva). She concluded her concert with the famous Qawali "Dama Dam Mast Kalandar". At the conclusion of the concert, the singer and the accompanying artistes

were felicitated. Bhajans followed next which concluded with the Bhajan “Rama Rama Rama Sita” sung by Bhagavan. Arati at 6.15 p.m. marked the conclusion of the evening programme.

LADIES DAY

Started by Bhagavan in 1995, Ladies Day is celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam every year to revere, extol and glorify womanhood. Like previous years, all the programmes beginning with morning Suprabhatam, Veda Parayanam, etc., held at Prasanthi Nilayam on Ladies Day, 19th November 2014, were conducted by ladies.

The programme in the morning began at 8.00 o’ clock with chanting of Vedic hymns by the students of Anantapur Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. This was followed by a

significance of this important day as part of 89th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan.

The first speaker was Dr. Snehalata Deshmukh, former Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai. Praising the discipline in the sacred precincts of Prasanthi Nilayam, the distinguished speaker said that dedication, devotion and discipline were the most potent means of success in life. This, she said, was the practical experience of her own life. Smt. Madhuri Naganand, Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Easwaramma Women’s Welfare Trust was the next speaker who gave details of the welfare activities of the Trust for less-privileged women in the areas of health, sanitation and skill development to make their lives better. Education of women, she said, was important for advancement of society since a woman not only gave birth to a child, she also nourished, taught and built his or her character. The last speaker was Prof. Madhu Kapani, Director, Anantapur Campus of the Institute. Referring to the high status accorded to women in Indian culture, the learned speaker observed that status of women was the index of progress of a society. Lauding the sterling qualities of love and sacrifice of Mother Easwaramma, Prof. Kapani stated that a woman performed multiple roles in family and she was equal to God in the process of creation.

Bhagavan’s Divine Discourse was played next on the public address system, and was followed by Bhajans and Arati.



A scintillating performance of Anantapur Campus brass band.

scintillating performance of the brass band of this campus. After this, three speakers addressed the gathering dwelling on the



A Captivating Vocal Music Concert

The last item of the programme was a thrilling vocal music presentation by the noted singer Smt. Richa Sharma of Mumbai who mesmerised the audience with her melodious and power-packed rendition of many popular numbers which included "Sanzo Ki Mala Pe Rakha Loon Mein Tera Naam" (I install Your Name on the rhythm of my breath), "Allah Hu Allah Hu", "Moula Mere Moula", "To Se Naina Milay Ke" (looking at You with love). Her rendition also included a sweet Bhajan "Giridhara Baal Shyam Gopal" (Krishna who lifted the mountain). At the conclusion of the concert, the singer was honoured with a shawl and the musicians who provided instrumental and vocal support to her were felicitated.

Lord Sai, Yuga Yuga Avatar: A Drama

The students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School then performed the drama "Lord Sai, Yuga Yuga Avatar" (Lord Sai, the Avatar of aeons) which highlighted the teachings of

Bhagavan on devotion, egolessness and surrender through stories from scriptures. Excellent acting of the students, perfect choreography, glittering costumes and make-up made the drama all the more charming. The drama was followed by Bhajans which concluded with the Bhajan "Bhava Bhaya Harana Vandita Charana" (His Lotus Feet remove the fear of the ocean of worldliness) sung by Bhagavan. Arati at 7.30 p.m. marked the conclusion of the glorious celebration of Ladies Day.

PROGRAMME BY OVERSEAS DEVOTEES

The programme on 20th November 2014 began at 4.50 p.m. with a talk by Sri Neville Fredricks, Chairman, Zone 3 (covering Australia and other countries) of Sathya Sai International Organisation. Introducing the speaker, Dr. Jack Feely, Co-chairman, Sathya Sai International Disaster Relief Committee, recounted how during his travels in many parts of the world he experienced that service to needy people gave joy not only to them but to the Sai volunteers also who engaged themselves in the selfless service of the people affected by natural calamities.

In his talk, Sri Fredricks referred to Bhagavan as the incarnation of love who gave the message that the best way to serve God was to serve man. Bhagavan, he said, not only gave this immortal message to man, but also set up the Sai Organisation through



A scene from the drama "Lord Sai, Yuga Yuga Avatar".

which one could serve mankind. Sathya Sai International Organisation, he added, was providing service to underprivileged people of all faiths and nationalities in 126 countries through nearly 2,000 service centres.

What followed next was a cultural presentation by International Sathya Sai Youth, who sang beautiful songs and gave a detailed account of the service activities being performed by the International

from Chennai was the main item of the programme on 20th November 2014. Beginning his concert at 5.00 p.m., the musician mesmerised the devotees in jam-packed Sai Kulwant Hall for nearly one hour with masterly rendition of classical and popular compositions which included "Vaishnava Jana To Tene Kahiye" (one who knows the pain of others is truly a noble man), "Krishna Nee Begane Baro" (Oh Krishna! Please come soon) and the



Cultural presentation by International Sathya Sai Youth.

Sathya Sai Organisation through meaningful commentary accompanied by video presentation of these service activities in various parts of the world. The participants in the programme were felicitated at the end of the presentation. Bhajans that followed concluded with the Bhajan "Om Sivaya Om Sivaya" sung by Bhagavan. Arati at 6.45 p.m. marked the conclusion of the day's programme.

AN ABSORBING FLUTE RECITAL

An absorbing flute recital by the noted musician Sri Shashank Subramanyam

Bhajan "Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram". At the conclusion of the concert, the musician was honoured with a shawl, and his accompanying artistes were felicitated. Bhajans followed next which concluded with the Bhajan sung by Bhagavan "Chitta Chora Yashoda Ke Baal" (the son of Yashoda steals the hearts of devotees).

BHAGAVAN'S 89TH BIRTHDAY FUNCTION

The programme on the morning of 23rd November 2014 started at 8 o'clock with Veda chanting in brilliantly lit and aesthetically decorated Sai Kulwant Hall where a beautiful silver chair with a silver umbrella was placed for Bhagavan on the right side of His Samadhi. After 20 minutes of sonorous Vedic chants, there was a thrilling band display by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam and Anantapur Campus



brass bands, Nadaswaram and Panchavadyam groups of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus. After this, the students offered their musical homage to Bhagavan singing devotional songs which included “Sai Baba Daya Sindhu” (Sai is the ocean of compassion), “Sai Hamara Jivan Aadhar” (Sai is the basis of our life), Sai Mata Biddalam Andaram” (we are all the children of Mother Sai).

Handing over of Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Project

The ceremony of handing over of the second phase of Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Project by Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust to the Government of Andhra Pradesh followed next. Welcoming the Chief Guest, Sri N. Chinna Rajappa, Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister of Andhra Pradesh and other dignitaries on this occasion, Sri V. Srinivasan, Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust stated that this phase of the project entailing a cost of about 80 crores would benefit more than 2,50,000 inhabitants of 128 villages of Kothacheruvu, Bukkapatnam and Puttaparthi Mandals.

Sri K. Chakravarthi and Sri R.J. Rathnakar, Trustees, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust then officially handed over the water project to the Deputy Chief Minister who announced its acceptance by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. A video clipping of the project was simultaneously shown on the screens set



Sri N. Chinna Rajappa, Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh pressing the button to inaugurate the second phase of Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Project.

up in the hall. Speaking on this occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister appreciated the initiative of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust for supplying drinking water to needy villagers and announced that the Andhra Pradesh Government planned to develop Puttaparthi as a tourism-cum-pilgrim centre. The officers who were instrumental in the successful completion of this project were thereafter felicitated.

Talk by the Governor of Karnataka

The Annual Report of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust for the year 2013-14 was then released by the Governor of Karnataka, Sri Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala. Speaking on this occasion, the Governor referred to the Drinking Water Supply Project started by Bhagavan for needy people of Andhra Pradesh and exhorted one and all to serve the underprivileged masses taking inspiration from the noble example





Sri Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala, Governor of Karnataka, addressing the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall.

of Bhagavan. A true devotee of Bhagavan, he said, should obey His command and put His teachings into practice in his life.

Bhagavan's Divine Discourse played on the public address system followed next which devotees in the fully jam-packed hall listened with rapt attention. In His Discourse, Bhagavan said that man should develop love and transform the entire world with the power of his love because there was no power greater than love. It was the love of Bhagavan, He said, which attracted thousands of people from all parts of the world to Prasanthi Nilayam. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan "Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram". Bhagavan's Discourse was followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam to the entire

assembly of devotees. Meanwhile, groups of Ashram staff, students and overseas devotees offered cakes at the Samadhi of Bhagavan. The morning programme came to an end with Arati at 11.00 a.m.

Grand Chariot Procession

The evening programme in Sai Kulwant Hall was preceded by a grand chariot procession, which started at 4.15 p.m. from the Ganesh Temple, went around Yajur Mandir and Poornachandra Auditorium on the route of Nagar Sankirtan and culminated in Sai Kulwant Hall. The golden chariot with a beautiful photograph of Bhagavan was led by Veda



Chariot procession as part of Bhagavan's 89th Birthday function.

chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students and followed by a large number of devotees. On the arrival of the chariot in Sai Kulwant Hall at 5.00 p.m. Arati was offered to it which marked the conclusion of the chariot procession. Meanwhile, a beautifully decorated silver Jhoola (swing)



was installed in front of the Samadhi of Bhagavan for the Jhoola Mahotsava.

A Soul-stirring Devotional Music Concert and Jhoola Mahotsava

Legendary Carnatic music maestro Dr. M. Balamuralikrishna performed a soul-stirring devotional music concert to offer his musical homage to Bhagavan on His 89th Birthday. Introducing the distinguished musician, Sri G.S.R.C.V. Prasada Rao, Secretary, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust observed that the culture of Bharat was the repository of music and all other arts. The concert of the veteran vocalist got

compositions which included “Mahaneeya Madhuramoorthe” (Oh sweet Lord), “Pibare Rama Rasam” (drink the nectar of Rama’s Name), “Paluke Bangaramayena” (your speech has become so rare like gold). He followed it up with a thrilling Tillana, and brought his concert to a close with his special composition on Bhagavan “Sathyam Sivam Sundaram”. At the conclusion of his concert, the eminent singer was honoured with a shawl and the artistes who provided instrumental and vocal support to him were felicitated. Bhajans continued thereafter and came to a close with the Bhajan “Govinda Krishna Jai” in the golden voice of Bhagavan. Arati at 7.40 p.m. marked the conclusion of this dazzling Jhoola musical spectacle.



Carnatic music maestro Dr. Balamuralikrishna offering his musical homage to Bhagavan.

A CAPTIVATING WESTERN MUSIC CONCERT

Graceful and attractive dances of the students of Sri Sathya Sai School, Thailand reflecting the rich cultural diversity of Thailand was the first item of the programme on

24th November 2014.

This sweet offering of the children was followed by a glittering devotional music presentation by the world-renowned singer Dana Gillespie on the themes of love,

continued on page 21 ...



From our Archives

DIVINISE YOUR LIFE

ACQUIRE GOOD AND SACRED QUALITIES

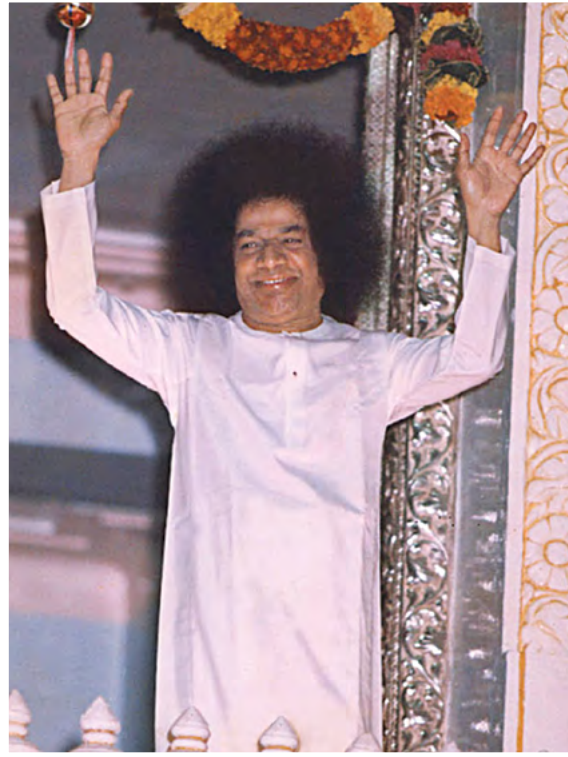
TO START WITH, MAN HAS to recognise what is the goal of life. Seekers in all countries and followers of different religions have enquired into this question of the purpose of life. As a result of these enquiries, different religions arose. Jesus is the founder of the Christian faith.

Transform your Consciousness

When Jesus was born, three kings came from the east to bless the infant in Bethlehem. The first king, seeing the child, declared that he would be a great lover of God. The second one declared that God would immensely love the child. The third one declared that Jesus is God and God is Jesus. What is the inner meaning of these

statements? The first statement implies that all who love God are messengers of God. When God loves a person, he becomes a son of God. When a person gives up the sense of dualism and merges his consciousness in the Divine, he becomes one with the Divine.

While the Lord is ever by the side of man, he is searching for God all over the world. By exploring the external, you can never purify the internal. It is essential to transform the consciousness. You have to rectify your conduct and actions, because everything depends on your actions. Adhering to the righteous path with a pure heart, you have to divinise your life. All spiritual



disciplines have been designed only for this purpose. All the prayers, Japas and Pujas (chanting and worship) that are offered are intended only to purify the heart.

All those who have achieved greatness in any field – education, science, etc., have been able to do so solely because of their conduct. Neither physical strength nor wealth, nor even intellectual ability, can make a man respected and honoured. It is the way he lives that confers honour and dignity on him. Therefore, it is only through our actions that we should strive to realise the Divine. Without right conduct, all other spiritual practices are of no avail. Hence, all devotees should acquire good and sacred qualities in furtherance of their striving to realise God.

Man is gifted with the quality of love. He has not to express it for selfish purposes but to direct it towards God. Love is the means of developing devotion and achieving liberation, apart from other things. Only the love of God is real love. It is the royal road for man to realise the divinity in him and in everyone. Instead of recognising this basic truth, people are allowing hatred, envy and other evil qualities to pollute their love. The observance of holy days like Christmas is an occasion for realising the importance of love and harmony among human beings.

– **Excerpted from Bhagavan's Christmas Discourses.**

Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital

Prasanthi Nilayam – 515134, Puttaparthi, Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh

Email: hmrgh@sssihms.org.in, Phone 08555-287256, Fax 08555-289409

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• Junior Residents / Medical Officers for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology on Consolidated Pay / Regular scale – Qualification: M.B.B.S.

Apply to the Medical Superintendent, Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, Prasanthi Nilayam, with full Bio-data and a photograph.

– *Medical Superintendent*

AGGUMULATE HIGH IDEALS, NOT JUST DEGREES

SRI SATHYA SAI Institute of Higher Learning (Deemed to be University) held its 33rd Annual Convocation in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam in the Divine Presence on 22nd November 2014. The Convocation Ceremony is a testimony to the values-based education philosophy of its Revered Founder Chancellor, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. It is special, both conceptually and in the manner in which it is conducted.

A Special Occasion

The university brass band – one of the finest in the country – led the ceremonial procession into Sai Kulwant Hall followed by two students carrying the University Standards on either side of the Registrar, who carried the Ceremonial Mace. The procession comprised the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Deans and Heads of Departments along with the Chief Guest, Members of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust and the Board of Management.

The Chief Guest of the 33rd Annual Convocation was Dr. Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan, former Chairman, Space Commission. This year, the procession



Ceremonial procession in Sai Kulwant Hall.

entered the packed and decorated hall at 10.35 a.m. Following the invocatory Veda chanting, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. J. Shashidhara Prasad prayed to the Revered Founder Chancellor to declare the Convocation open. The Convocation was then declared open in the Divine voice of Bhagavan Baba.

Introductory Speech of the Vice Chancellor

Delivering his introductory speech, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Shashidhara Prasad spoke on the fact that SSSIHL, a modern Gurukula (where students and teachers live and learn together), has stood the test of time with over three successful decades of strong academic performance and character building of students. He touched



upon the many academic and research achievements of SSSIHL in the recent past, and said amidst rapturous applause, that National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) of the University Grants Commission had ranked the Institute at No.8 among the group of 250 accredited universities.

Following this, 479 candidates for the various programmes of study were admitted to their various degrees by the Chancellor, Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah, former Chief Justice of India. The convocation oath was then administered to the graduands by the Vice Chancellor, after which 26 gold medallists of the university who excelled in the Faculties of Sciences, Management and Commerce and Economics and Humanities during the academic year 2013-14 were honoured.

Convocation Address of the Chief Guest

The Chief Guest, Dr. Kasturirangan then spoke at length about the system of education that Bhagavan Baba had set up before citing examples from various fields about the professional excellence Indians had achieved, both at home and abroad. He hailed the commendable holistic education being provided by the Institute producing young, bright, creative minds. Congratulating the graduands of the year, Dr. Kasturirangan reminded them of India's fast progress as an economic super power where young students would be rewarded with challenging opportunities in the field of socio-economic growth. In conclusion,

the learned speaker advised the students to overcome challenges with character, courage and knowledge, opting to the path of hard work, integrity and conviction.

Revered Founder Chancellor's Benedictory Address

Finally, a Benedictory Address by the Revered Founder Chancellor, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was beamed across the hall. He stressed that the essence of education lay in the accumulation of ideals and not just degrees. Despite over one crore undergraduate students in India, not many were focusing on quality, He said. He asked His students to never give up on human values and to tread along the right path, and influence their friends and family to do the same. Referring to the convocation ceremony, Bhagavan reminded the students that this rare opportunity should be made use of to earn good name for themselves and for their Alma Mater.

Following the national anthem and Arati at 12.30 p.m., the event came to a close.

Sai Krishna Awards for Excellence in Research

The evening programme began at 4.30 p.m. with Veda chanting which was followed by presentation of Sai Krishna Awards to four faculty members of the Institute for their meritorious performance during the previous year. The Chancellor of the Institute, Justice M.N. Venkatachaliah presented these prestigious awards to faculty members. They were: Dr. T.R. Rajeswari from Anantapur Campus, Sri



Raj Kumar Jain from Brindavan Campus, Dr. Shailesh Srivastava from Prasanthi Nilayam Campus and Sri V. Bhaskaran from Muddenahalli Campus of the Institute.

Antaranga Sai: Convocation Drama

The students of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the Institute thereafter presented the convocation drama “Antaranga Sai” (Indweller Sai) which showcased that success in all fields of life could be achieved only through love and righteousness and not through shortcut means, bypassing virtues like morality, integrity and honesty. The story of the drama was unfolded through the life of an ideal youth Lakshmana who meticulously adhered to truth and righteousness in his personal and corporate life in the face of all odds and ultimately won the hearts of his



An impressive convocation drama by the students of the Institute.

opponents by the values learnt by him from Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Simple story, good acting of the students, excellent dialogues and perfect choreography made the drama an impressive presentation. The drama was followed by Bhajans which concluded with Bhagavan singing the Bhajan “Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin”. Arati at 7.30 p.m. marked the conclusion of the programme.

...continued from page 16

peace and unity. Preceding each song with narration of her rich spiritual interactions with Bhagavan, the singer sang songs pregnant with spiritual insights, reflecting the teachings of Bhagavan. Her compositions included “Would you Like to Come with me”, “Put on Love”, “Giving Out to Everyone”, “The Promise”, “In the Garden of Heavenly Peace”. She concluded her concert with the Bhajan “Guru Nanak Ji Ki Jai Jaikar” (hail

Guru Nanak). This marvellous musical presentation was no doubt the grand finale of the weeklong 89th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The singer, her accompanying artistes and children from Thailand were felicitated at the end of her concert. Bhajans commenced next which ended with Bhagavan’s Bhajan “Subrahmanyam Subrahmanyam”. Arati at 6.15 p.m. marked the conclusion of the programme.



Personification of Divine Love

Justice A.P. Misra

It is not the Divinity of the Almighty that is in doubt; it is the fickleness of our mind which is not able to grasp the grandeur of His divine play. Each devotee has experience of His divine play, which is beyond any perceptible imagination.

OUR FAMILY HAD OUR FIRST experience of Swami's grace sometime in 1968, when my parents got an opportunity to have Swami's Darshan at Brindavan, Whitefield, Bengaluru. My father was on a professional visit to Bengaluru. Swami blessed him with an interview, gave him His sacred Vibhuti and told my mother not to worry. My father had before this three attacks of internal bleeding which the doctors diagnosed as a case of duodenum ulcer. His last such attack was when he was travelling to Mumbai, where he was rushed to a Nursing Home. The doctor advised him to have the operation at the earliest or it might endanger his life. This led to the fixing of a date of his operation. As his faith was not so deep then, my father got himself admitted in the hospital notwithstanding the assurance of Bhagavan. The doctors were baffled. In spite of repeated spot X-rays, they could not detect the ulcer

spot which existed earlier. What could they operate? They had no option; he was released from the hospital without any operation. Thereafter, he never had any such attack nor it ever troubled him. It was a miracle, unbelievable then. But now knowing and hearing the experiences from other devotees, we know that these are His Leelas (divine sports).

Our First Visit to Prasanthi Nilayam in 1971

Swami draws His devotees towards Him in different ways at a proper time. Each has a different story to tell. We took our first journey to Swami via Bengaluru. By then, we had heard many more of His unbelievable stories. Our journey was full of exchanging such stories. We started from Bengaluru by road and reached Prasanthi Nilayam, a remote village of Anantapur district, late in the evening on 22nd November 1971. Then there were no constructions

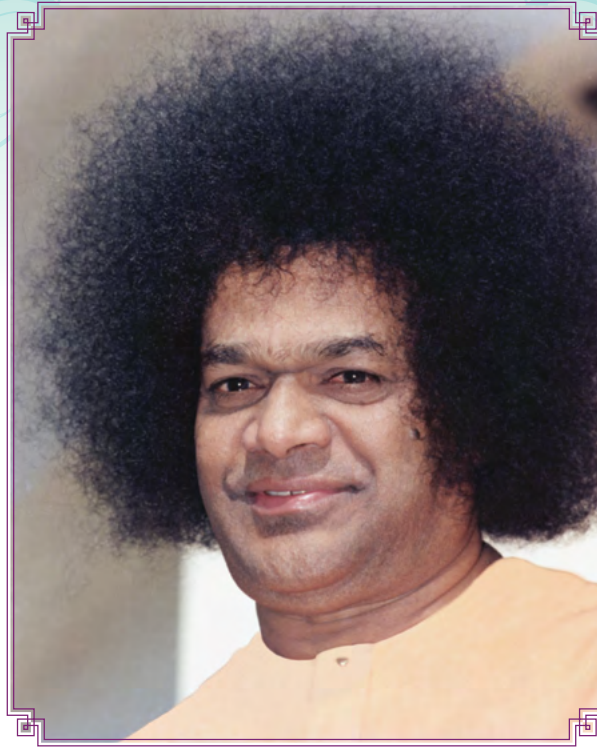


except the Mandir (temple). There was heavy rain in Bengaluru accompanied by squally winds and thundershower. Only a few minutes before we reached Puttaparthi, we got respite from this.

When we reached Prasanthi Nilayam, it was already dark. A large crowd had arrived for Swami's Birthday celebrations. There were no staying facilities.

All had shelter under the sky spreading their bed-linen, carpet, etc., on the floor, surrounding the temple both for sitting and sleeping. In the rush of crowd, we could not find any space even to spread our bedding. We reached the gate of the temple leaving the luggage in the car.

Within a few minutes, we saw Swami coming out and had the good fortune of having His first Darshan. He passed through the verandah of the first floor of the temple waving to all devotees. He blessed all the devotees with both the hands. It was the first blessing which we received from the Divine Hands of the Almighty. For us, it was a new place, and it was our first visit, far away from our native place Allahabad



in the north of India. We were about eight in number, but could not get any proper place to spread our bedding. Finding no place, we stood at the temple gate, praying the Lord to help us to find some space for us to spend the night.

Then came the strong smell of Vibhuti. It was a signal, a sign of His

omnipresence as I was earlier told by some devotees. With this belief, I felt at ease. If that is true, either He will have mercy to give us place for the night or we stand to the test at the gate of the Lord whole night. It was then that a young boy inconceivably came straight to me and asked me, "Are you from the family of Sri K.L. Misra (my father's name)"? I was stunned, how could anyone know my father in this remote village? Then, how could he recognise me in this darkness with little light? And, how could he come with confidence straight to me and ask me that? Also with no time lost, he calmed my immediate turmoil when he enquired, "Are you searching for some place for the night?" I eagerly nodded and followed him. Just behind the present



temple, below one of the Eucalyptus trees, there was good enough place for eight of us to spread our linen to spend the night. I was so pleased and relaxed. How could I get such a place near Swami when every inch of the space here was full? I had with me ladies, children and an invalid polio boy. I was in a fix as to how before Swami's morning Darshan, we all could find places for our morning chores.

It was not what it is today; there were no constructions, not even sheds, bathrooms, etc. Besides, we had language problem. There was one lady staying here I knew but her whereabouts were not known. It was only a thought, if I could meet her she might guide us. Without my asking, that wonder boy asked me by name of that lady, "Do you want to meet her"? Giving expression of great relief, I nodded. He again asked me to follow him, and took me straight to that lady who was at that time talking to some other ladies. Seeing her I felt completely at home. Then when I turned back to thank that boy, I looked here and there but he was not to be found. That lady told me, "You would not find him. This is the play of Swami. No one can reach here unless He calls, and when He calls all is arranged by Him. He takes care of all who come here". It all passed like a puppet show, all our movements were arranged as if by invisible strings. I stayed there for eight days but could not find that boy. Each of these experiences is part of the divine play. The eight-day stay rejuvenated me and enthused us to tread our spiritual journey. This is how we were

We had heard earlier that Swami reaches out to devotees through dreams. But now we experienced it when my wife had His dream. Swami confirmed to her in the dream that He knew she was suffering from asthma. He directed her to distribute one kilogram Prasadam at the next Bhajan at our house, which was then going on once a week. She did so, and to our surprise, since then her asthma never reappeared. She was completely cured by the grace of Swami through His divine dream.

drawn closer and closer to Swami. The holy plant started growing into a tree.

The Omniscient Lord

Once, sometime in 1972, as a lawyer I was doing a case in the Patna High Court. By then our love for Swami had deepened. It made us to enquire and know about Swami. It was then that I received the news that Swami would be coming to Delhi and stay at the Golf Links residence of a devotee. Fortunately, the days happened to be Saturday and Sunday. After fixing with my wife who was in Allahabad, we reached Delhi, she with my father who was otherwise scheduled to be in Delhi and I by the evening flight from Patna. The only thought which I had in that flight was to see Swami from close, touch His feet and if He could bless by giving His materialised



Vibhuti, both to my wife and my only daughter of four years. Swami's Darshan was arranged in a big Pandal (a large tent) for a huge crowd and we could find place in a remote back corner of that Pandal. We could see Him only from a distance. I felt, how I could expect closeness to Swami in such a large congregation.

After He returned to the place of His stay close by, the crowd started dispersing. Then we reached the gate of that house where He was staying to have, if possible, a glimpse of Him. The gate was closed. We were peeping through it for that last glimpse of Swami. Suddenly, the guard at the gate surprisingly asked us lovingly whether we wanted to come in. It was an unexpected delight, a delight unbelievable. We all got in and with some others, reached the drawing room where a few persons were moving about and Swami was there. My heart started throbbing for this unbelievable entry and to have this divine glance in such close proximity. Swami was moving about talking to one or the other. My flight of thoughts reappeared: "We are now seeing Swami very close to us. Could we not touch His Lotus Feet!" Lo! He moved towards us. All of us had His Padanamaskar and then He slid to the next group. After that, my third thought started becoming intense, why not Swami give His Vibhuti at least to my wife and daughter and even not to me? The omniscient Lord, knowing all, swiftly turned towards us, created Vibhuti and gave it both to my wife and daughter and not to me. The Lord confirmed, He is all-knowing. He knows in and out of each

one of us. What a satisfying experience it was!

Miraculous Cures and Operations in Dreams

My wife was having terrible time due to her asthmatic attacks which started within a few years of our marriage. In spite of many types of medicines, she could get only temporary relief but could not get rid of it. We had heard earlier that Swami reaches out to devotees through dreams. But now we experienced it when my wife had His dream. Swami confirmed to her in the dream that He knew she was suffering from asthma. He directed her to distribute one kilogram Prasadam at the next Bhajan at our house, which was then going on once a week. She did so, and to our surprise, since then her asthma never reappeared. She was completely cured by the grace of Swami through His divine dream. We had heard stories of Swami curing, talking and guiding His devotees through dreams. But this was our first experience.

Once when I was at Prasanthi Nilayam, the Governor of a State was also there. As he knew me, he asked us for a short Satsang at his place to exchange our experiences. Then, his sister-in-law, who was a doctor in one of the medical colleges of Uttar Pradesh, related her dream experience. She was to be operated for some ailment but in spite of she being a doctor she was postponing it. Once Swami came in her dream and asked her, "Should I operate on you"? She was surprised. She asked, "Could You operate on me"? He smiled and nodded. She then happily consented.



She just felt a painless little incision in her stomach. Swami said to her that she would be weak for three days, after that she should get her stitches removed from a named doctor. She woke up in escalation but felt sorry that it was only a dream. While trying to get up, she felt weakness. Remembering her dream, she touched the place of incision. There she found stitches; then some cotton with blood lying beside her bed. This looked like fantasy. But what is fantasy and unbelievable, it is the divine play of God. She was weak for three days. With some effort she could find that doctor, and got her stitches removed. Normally, one would not believe that an operation could be performed through a dream. But unbelievable are the ways of God. He does what others cannot do. He makes us believe these as His divine play, which is beyond the conceptual imagination of mankind.

Swami's Divine Play

Another time when we were at Prasanthi Nilayam, we were returning from the canteen. At that time, a Canadian couple passed by us, who were given interview that day by Swami. My two daughters asked me to enquire from them what Swami talked to them in the interview. I was very reluctant but their insistence made me to request them. I asked them to relate any one of their unique experiences with Swami.

This was what they told us. Once on a Christmas Day, they were granted interview. Swami told them to ask anything they wanted as it was their God's day. They asked Swami to bless their only

son, who was in the Canadian Air Force. Swami smiled and nodded. When they reached back Canada, they found their son excited. He told them that Swami came and blessed him there. They said, "This is unbelievable. How can He come to Canada"? When they asked their son when Swami came, he replied that Swami came on the Christmas Day at a time when he was on duty at the airport. The time given by him was the same when they were in the interview room with Swami on that day. So, Swami blessed their son that very moment when they were with Him. He is not human. He is beyond time, space and causation. What better credentials can we ask from Him? It is not the Divinity of the Almighty that is in doubt; it is the fickleness of our mind which is not able to grasp the grandeur of His divine play. Each devotee has experience of His divine play, which is beyond any perceptible imagination. He is giving such experiences to innumerable persons that are beyond human capability, which no man on earth can do.

Swami is love personified. He is full of love for each one of us. He is counselling us, protecting us, infusing us with love through His every deliberation. He is both mother and father of each one of us. It is we, as His undisciplined sons and daughters, who are not following which He lovingly asks us to do. Unless we follow the path of truth, the path of love, we would always be sceptics to recognise or receive His divine grace.

– **Justice A.P. Misra, former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, is a Trustee of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust.**

NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

HONG KONG

ON 16TH JULY 2014, SAI volunteers visited the Mongkok Senior Citizens Home, where about



Providing joy to physically and mentally challenged elders.

30 physically and mentally challenged elders reside. The programme organised in the Home opened with a few relaxing exercises and meditation, followed by a short talk on the subject, "Guru." A question-and-answer session was then followed by the awarding of prizes. Sathya Sai volunteers sang beautiful Bhajans, which prompted the elders to join in the singing spontaneously – some of them even danced to the music. The event brought joy and happiness to the inmates of the Home, on an otherwise routine day.

U. S. A.

Sathya Sai volunteers in the San Diego area organised a second Community Free Health Screening Day on 7th June

2014 in Vista, California. Services were rendered by volunteers from Kaplan College and eight primary care physicians, two gynaecologists, four paediatricians, one podiatrist, two cardiologists, two dermatologists and four dentists. Volunteers from Friends in Sight, a service programme of Lions Club International, provided vision care. About 170 guests received healthcare services from 24 doctors and 184 general volunteers. More than 100 patients received dental care, 127 received eye examinations, and 112 were given prescription eyeglasses. Patients also received oral hygiene instructions and food counselling. Tests conducted at the camp included 11 Pap smears, 26 bone density exams, 11 EKGs and 93 blood tests.

ARGENTINA

The Noccan Kani House, which belongs to the SSIO of Argentina, is located in a poverty-stricken area approximately 20 kilometres from the city of Santa Fe, near a settlement of about 2,000 aboriginal people. Sathya Sai volunteers have rendered loving services at the Noccan Kani House, a two-story building with adjoining structures for medical and dental services, for the last 22 years. Twice weekly, volunteers from Santa Fe provide meals, conduct Sathya Sai Education in Human Values workshops, organise recreational activities and distribute toys,



sweets, clothing, footwear, food and infant supplies to needy people. Medical care is provided bimonthly to the low-income community by eight medical and general volunteers. Mothers from the local community receive instructions in dress making and in human values. Sathya Sai medical, vision, and veterinary camps are also organised here periodically by the Sathya Sai International Organisation (SSIO) of Argentina. On 10th August 2014, Children's Day was celebrated joyfully at the Noccan Kani House and at another location a few kilometres away, with the local community.

COSTA RICA

A Sathya Sai volunteer, who is an agronomist, assisted by his three sons, planted an organic garden for orphaned children in San José, Costa Rica, in June 2012. The orphans learned to tend the garden and grow their own food, along with principles of sustainability. They planted various kinds of vegetables, such as spinach, radish, beans, corn and carrots, and herbal plants such as oregano, rosemary and thyme. The children learned to eat healthy food and were proud and happy to eat from their own garden, planted by themselves. The project inspired self-confidence, satisfaction and enthusiasm among the 14 orphans who participated.

PUERTO RICO

In Puerto Rico, Sathya Sai volunteers cook and serve food to about 40 homeless people on the first Sunday of every month. They started this service project several

years ago and secured a permanent location in the city of San Juan in January 2013. The homeless, who sleep on the streets or in public places, are happy to receive the breakfast, which is often their only meal of the day. The volunteers serve food and read a short spiritual message and a prayer.

SOUTH AFRICA

On 19th and 20th of July 2014, about 920 Sathya Sai devotees attended the Annual National Conference of the SSIO of South Africa. The conference, under the theme, "Unity and Love and Action,"



*Annual National Conference,
South Africa.*

was spiritually uplifting and accentuated spiritual transformation through service to humanity. The Ladies Forum held discussions about the spiritual role of the mother, the family, the Sathya Sai Organisation and the community. Three former students from Prasanthi Nilayam shared their personal experiences with Bhagavan and sang beautiful Bhajans. An exhibition on the life and teachings of Bhagavan was also organised.

– Sathya Sai International Organisation



BHARAT

Andhra Pradesh: More than 700 Bal Vikas children participated in the “Festival of Joy and Truth” organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation and Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on 19th October 2014 at Sivam, Hyderabad. The programme started with Veda chanting by a group of Bal Vikas children after lighting of lamp by the Chief Guest, Smt. Vimala Narasimhan, wife of the Governor of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan. Offering hearty welcome to



Valedictory address by Smt. Vimala Narasimhan.

the Chief Guest and other dignitaries, the Convener of Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Sri A. Ranga Rao observed that the festival of Bal Vikas aimed at inculcating values in children and moulding their character. Two Bal Vikas children, Sai Hruday and Kum. K. Saloni, thereafter addressed the gathering. The Chief Guest, Smt. Vimala Narasimhan then gave her Valedictory Address, in which she dwelt on the importance of Bal Vikas

for children as it inculcated values in them and led them to the path of goodness and spirituality. Value-orientation of children, she said, was the dire need of society today. The Chief Guest also gave away prizes to meritorious Bal Vikas children.

Gujarat: A State-level Bhajan Mahotsava (Bhajan festival) was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Gujarat to motivate Bal Vikas children, youth and



Bhajan Mahotsav in Vadodara, Gujarat.

devotees for spiritual Sadhana. It was hosted by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Vadodara. A total of 85 participants who took part in the programme were divided into two groups. The Mahotsava was conducted in two rounds for selection. After completion of the second and final round, five participants were declared as selected from each category. A large number of State office bearers and district presidents attended the Bhajan Mahotsava.

Karnataka: Sri Sathya Sai Vocational Training Centre for Women was inaugurated on Thursday, 9th October





Vocational Training Centre for Women in Karnataka.

2014 at College for Women, Dharwar, by Sri Nagesh G. Dhakappa, State President. This is part of the national initiatives in connection with Bhagavan's 90th Birthday celebrations. To begin with, the training is being offered in Fabric Designing and Ethnic Cooking. Home Nursing will be started shortly. The training programme of three months duration is aimed at creating good job opportunities for the trainees. Excellent arrangements have been made

for boarding and lodging of the trainees. The entire programme is totally free.

Punjab: A Bal Vikas training programme entitled "Samskara" was organised on 5th October 2014, in which approximately



A Bal Vikas training programme in Punjab.

150 delegates from Batala, Gurdaspur, Dinanagar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Patiala, Amritsar, Sujanpur and Pathankot took part. Be it story telling, Bhajan singing, Sloka recitation or Veda chanting, the programme encompassed all the constituents of an effective Bal Vikas class.

Electric Buggies in the Service of Devotees

On the eve of Bhagavan's 89th Birthday celebrations, two electric buggies named "Sevak" were pressed into service for commuting old and sick devotees and their luggage within the premises of Prasanthi Nilayam. This facility will be available to devotees throughout the year.



An electric buggy serving the devotees.

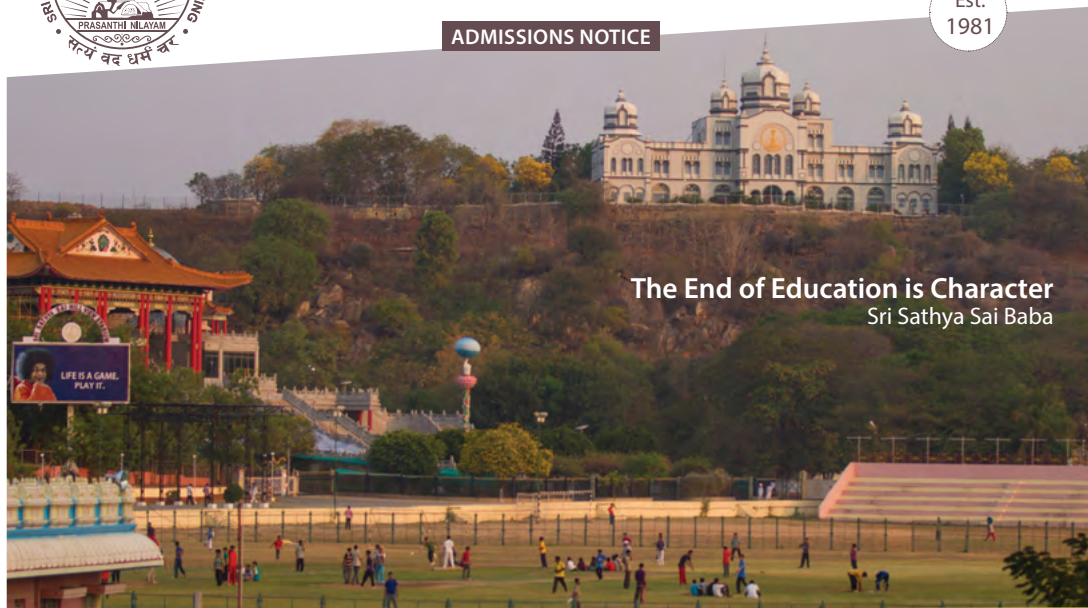


SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Deemed to be University)

Est.
1981

ADMISSIONS NOTICE



The End of Education is Character
Sri Sathya Sai Baba

ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSIONS

Note: Certain courses have additional requirements apart from the ones listed below. For complete details of Eligibility Criteria for each programme, kindly visit the Admissions section of sssihl.edu.in

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- Candidates should have completed 10 + 2 years of schooling of a recognized Board (e.g. CBSE), or equivalent thereof.
- Candidates should have passed or appeared for the final/intermediate qualifying examination at the XII Standard level before the admissions test.
- At the XII Standard (X or XI Std. if the results of XII Std. are unpublished at the time of application), the candidate should have secured a minimum of 55% marks in General English, and a minimum of 60% marks (aggregate) in all subjects combined, including General English and languages.

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- At the Bachelor's degree, candidates should have secured a minimum of 50% marks in General English, and a minimum of 60% marks (aggregate) in all subjects combined, including General English and languages. If final year results are unpublished at the time of application, the aggregate in all the preceding years/semesters will be considered.
- Candidates should have passed or appeared for the Final Year/Semester qualifying examination of the Bachelor's degree before 30 May 2015.

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

- At the Bachelor's degree, candidates should have secured a minimum of 50% marks in General English, and a minimum of 60% marks (aggregate) in all subjects combined, including General English and languages. If final year results are unpublished at the time of application, the aggregate in all the preceding years/semesters will be considered.
- Candidates should have passed or appeared for the Final Year/Semester qualifying examination of the Bachelor's degree before 30 May 2015.

NOTE

- Candidates who wish to apply for more than one programme, need to submit a separate application form for each programme.
- Eligible candidates will be short-listed based on the marks in the qualifying examinations and only those who meet the eligibility criteria will be called for the admissions test.
- The university follows the guidelines issued by the Govt. of India and the UGC with regard to Reservation of seats for SC/ST candidates. They are entitled to a relaxation of 5% marks below the eligibility criteria.

APPLICATION FORM AVAILABILITY: 1 Dec 2014 - 15 Feb 2015

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Interested candidates may apply through either one of the following options:

WALK-IN: Purchase applications (Rs. 100) directly from the Office of the Registrar, SSSIHL.

POST: Apply in writing to the Registrar, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515 134, Dist. Anantapur, A.P., along with an IPO or Bank Draft for Rs. 100 in favour of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, payable at SBI, Prasanthi Nilayam/Puttaparthi. The name and complete postal address along with programmes for which application form is required should be clearly stated in BLOCK LETTERS on the reverse of the IPO/DD and also on the requisition letter.

ONLINE To apply online, visit the Admissions section of **sssihl.edu.in**

Women's Campus at:
Anantapur

Men's Campuses at:
Puttaparthi | Bangalore | Muddenahalli

Admissions for the academic year commencing 1 June 2015 are open for the following programmes:

PROGRAMMES FOR WOMEN

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- B.Sc. (Hons.) in: Mathematics / Physics / Chemistry / Biosciences*

* leading to M.Sc. in Biosciences

- B.Sc. in Food Science & Nutrition / Food Technology (leading to Postgraduate Programmes in respective subjects)

- B.Com. (Hons.)

- B.A.

- B.B.A.

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- M.A. (English Language & Literature)

- M.Sc. (Biosciences)

- M.Sc. (Food Science & Nutrition / Food Technology)

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

- M.B.A.

- B.Ed.

- M.Ed.

PROGRAMMES FOR MEN

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- B.Sc. (Hons.) in: Mathematics / Physics / Chemistry / Biosciences (leading to Postgraduate Programmes in respective subjects)

- B.Sc. (Hons.) in Economics

- B.B.A.

- B.A. (Hons.) in Economics

- B.A.

- B.Com. (Hons.)

- B.C.A. (leading to M.C.A. - Master in Computer Applications)

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- M.A. (Economics)

- M.Sc. (Mathematics)

- M.Sc. (Physics)

- M.Sc. (Chemistry)

- M.Sc. (Biosciences)

- M.Sc. (Nanoscience & Nanotechnology)

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

- M.B.A.

- M.B.A. (Finance)

- M.Tech. (Computer Science)

- M.Tech. (Optoelectronics and Communications)

- M.Tech. (Analytical Methods and Chemical Instrumentation)

admissions@sssihl.edu.in | +91 9441 911 381 / 391

Admissions Office, Office of the Registrar, Administrative Building,
Prasanthi Nilayam - 515 134, Dist. Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

**application
deadline**

**28 FEB
2015**

**admissions tests
& interviews**

**17-30
APR
2015**

**academic year
begins**

**1 JUN
2015**

SATHYA SAI MIRPURI COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515 134, Dist. Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

ADMISSIONS NOTICE

FULL-TIME COURSES

FOUNDATION COURSE (2 years)	DIPLOMA COURSE (3 years)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carnatic / Hindustani - Vocal, Veena, Mridangam, Sitar or Tabla	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carnatic / Hindustani - Vocal, Veena, Mridangam, Sitar or Tabla
Eligibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schooling: passed Std. VIII• Age: between 14 to 18 years	Eligibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schooling: passed Std. X• Qualification: Foundation Course (or equivalent) in Music from a recognized College / Institution• Age: between 16 to 20 years

Applications: **1 January 2015 to 28 February 2015.**

Admissions Tests & Interviews: **April 2015** at Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh.

Candidates may apply to the **Registrar, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515 134, Anantapur District, A.P.** along with an Indian Postal Order / Bank Draft for ₹50/- drawn in favour of **Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning**, payable at SBI, Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi. The name and complete postal address should be clearly stated in block letters on the reverse of the IPO/DD and also in the requisition letter.

Alternatively, candidates may email their request to musicadmissions@sssihl.edu.in for the application form and Admissions Handbook.

+91 9441 911 381 / 391 | musicadmissions@sssihl.edu.in

Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School

Prasanthi Nilayam – 515134, (A.P.)

ADMISSION NOTICE 2015-2016

Admissions to Class I (Boys and Girls) and Class XI (Boys and Girls) of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Vidya Giri, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515134, Anantapur District, (A.P.), for the academic year 2015-16 will take place in June 2015. The medium of instruction will be English and the school will be wholly residential school.

Admission criteria for Class I ** Age limit: 5 ½ years to 6 ½ years as on 30th Sept. 2015 (Duplicate copy of Date of Birth certificate - “issued by competent authority” shall be produced). The Date of Birth should be between 30.3.2009 and 30.3.2010. ** **Selection through RTE method.**

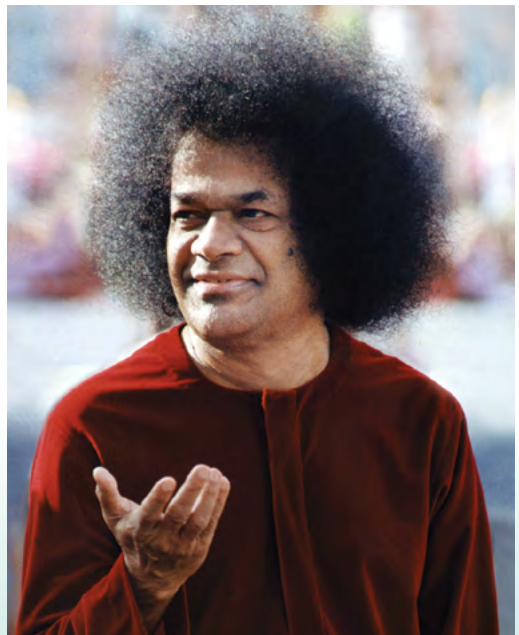
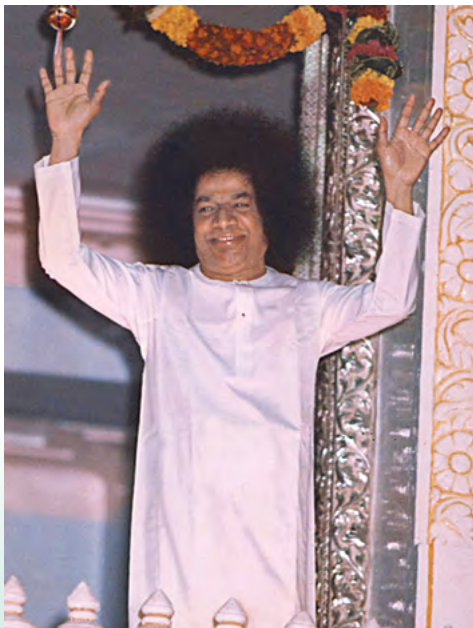
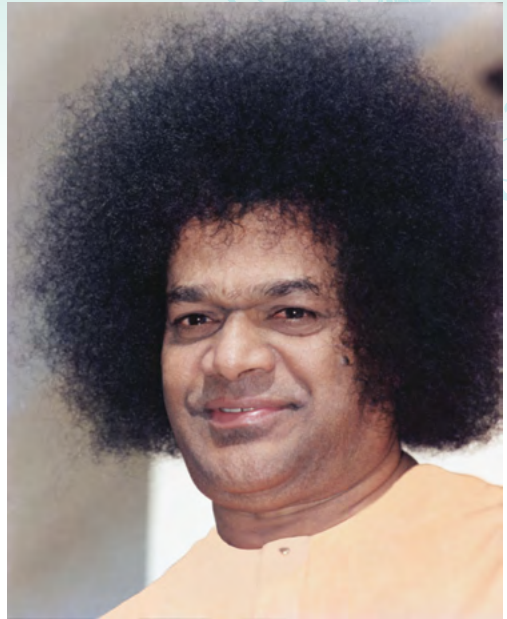
Admission criteria for Class XI

Only English Medium students are eligible to apply. Prospectus and Application forms can be obtained from **1st January 2015** onwards till **15th February 2015** from the following: The office of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi (or) can be downloaded from our **Website: www.ssshss.edu.in**

The last date for submission of filled in application form will be **1st March 2015**. The downloaded filled in application should be sent along with a Demand Draft drawn in favour of Principal, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, on State Bank of India, Puttaparthi Branch (code no: 2786) for the value of ₹ 100/- with self addressed envelope (size: 15cm x 24cm). Phone: 08555-289289. E-mail: ssshss@gmail.com

– Principal

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About SSSSTPD

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, educational software etc 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-versions of the magazine are also released simultaneously and are available in PDF and EPUB formats on www.sanathanasarathi.org.
- 3) Maintaining a reporting channel, which covers all the major activities taking place in Prasanthi Nilayam, and publishing an e-newsletter 'Sai Spiritual Showers'- for free distribution.
- 4) Organising and conducting seminars

and conferences on spirituality, religion, education, and human values.

5) Providing library and Reading room for visiting devotees, with a very large collection of various spiritual and religious books.

Other Books By SSSSTPD (In English)

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3. Satyopanisad I
4. Satyopanisad II
5. Gurudev
6. Namasmarana
7. Bhakthi And Health
8. Life Is Love, Enjoy It!
9. Life Is A Challenge, Meet It!
10. Life Is A Dream, Realize It!
11. Bhagawan And Bhakta
12. Body And Mind
13. My Dear Ones
14. Sevalad
15. Silence
16. Suffering
17. Surrender
18. Atma
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20. Gopikas Of Brindavan
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22. My Beloved Ones
23. Only Love
24. Purity
25. Memoirs Of A Sai Student
26. A Journey To Self-Peace
27. Dharma
28. Guru



29. Karma
30. Life
31. Meditation
32. Peace
33. Simple Truths
34. Nama Mahima
35. Divine Vibrations
36. Guidelines To Active Workers
37. Sri Sathya Sai Anandadayi
38. Truth, Auspiciousness, Beauty
39. Sai Baba's Mahavakya On Leadership
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The Publications Division's websites are

1. Sri Sathya Sai Publications – www.srisathyasaipublications.com
2. Sanathana Sarathi – www.sanathanasarathi.org
3. Sai Reflections – www.saireflections.org
4. The Prasanthi Reporter – www.theprasanthireporter.org

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Jhoola Mahotsava.



Chief Guest Dr. K. Kasturirangan delivering the Convocation Address.



Violin concert by child prodigy Sai Rakshit.

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Editor: G.L. ANAND

True Mark of Devotion

Swami's main teaching is Prema Tattwa (love principle). You are all experiencing this love. With how many are you sharing it? All around there is only hatred. Only egoism is present everywhere. Equally, ostentation is displayed all the time. How then can you be deemed to have experienced the Sai truths? Whoever has imbibed those truths must be filled with love. That is the true mark of devotion.

— Baba

