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# Sanathana Sarathi

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# Sanathana Sarathi

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"Youth today should develop steady  
vision and unwavering mind. How  
can you attain them? It is possible  
when your faith is firm. Faith in  
whom? Faith in yourself, faith in  
God. This is the secret of greatness.  
When you don't have faith in  
yourself, how can you have faith in  
God?"



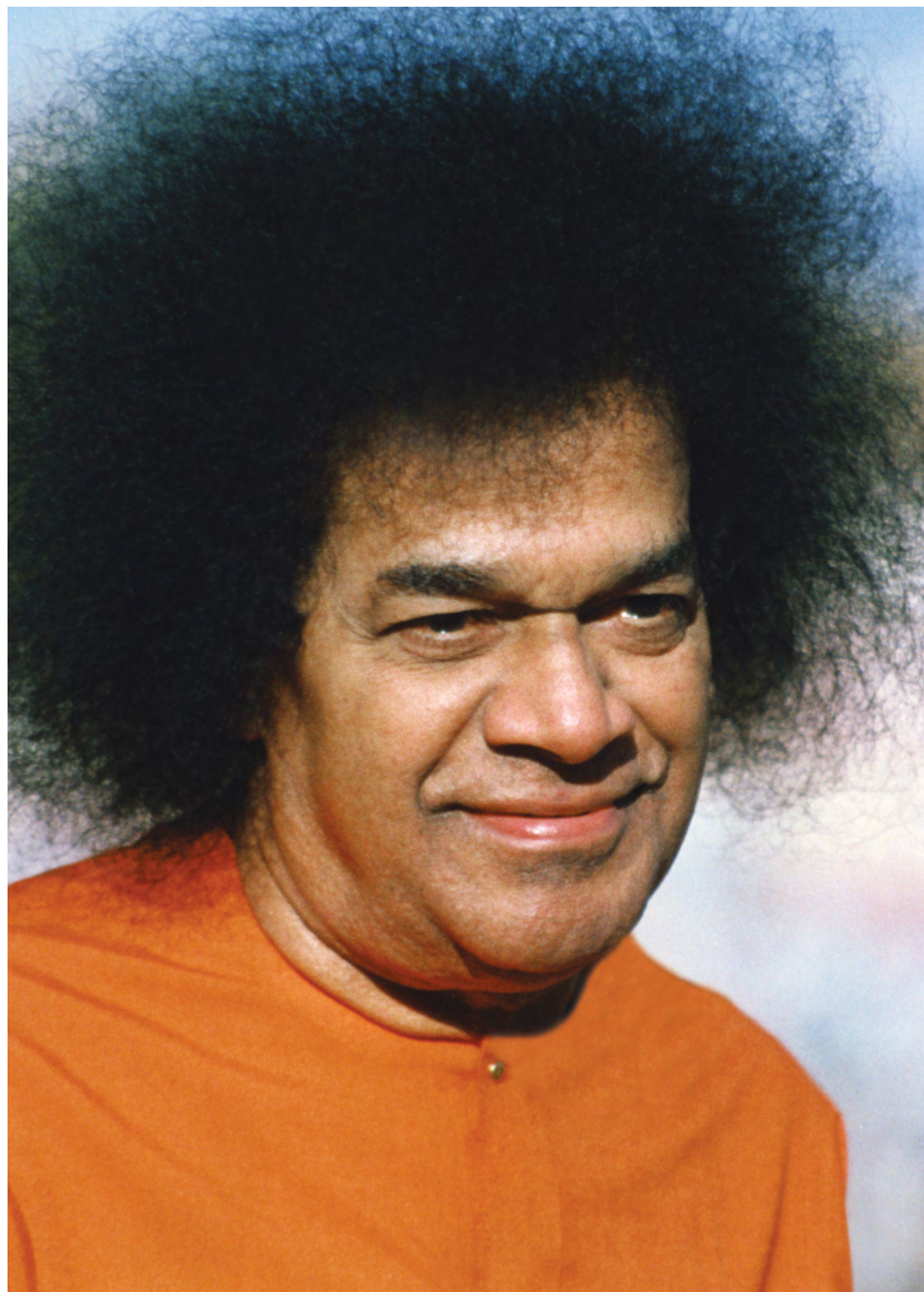
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- 14th Apr. ....Vishu**
- 24th Apr. ....Bhagavan's Maha Samadhi Day**





AMRITA DHARA

BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:  
17TH JULY 1996

## HUMANNESS BLOSSOMS IN A COMPASSIONATE HEART

*What can the evil effects of Kali Age do to a man whose heart is full of compassion, whose speech is suffused with truth and whose body is dedicated to the service of others?*

(Sanskrit Verse)

*You may worship God with various types of flowers, but He will not be pleased with such worship. If you offer Him the lotus of your heart, He will accept it with great love. Never forget this great truth.*

(Telugu Poem)

### PRAY FOR THE WELFARE OF PEOPLE OF ALL RELIGIONS

**Students!**

**E**VERYBODY KNOWS THAT people of Bharat have been offering various types of flowers to the Lord to worship Him in accordance with the ancient traditions of Indian culture. However, the beauty and fragrance of these flowers is only momentary.

#### **Offer the Flower of your Heart to God**

But there is one flower with us which neither fades nor withers away with the passage of time. This is the flower that is dear to the Lord. It is the flower of our heart which is always full of fragrance and does not undergo any change. Offering of this flower is true offering to the Lord.

*Eight are the flowers that please the Lord,*

*Offer Him the flowers of non-violence and sense control,  
Compassion on all creatures,  
forbearance and peace  
Penance, meditation and truth above all.  
These are the flowers dear to the Lord.*

(Sanskrit Sloka)

Among all the flowers, *Sarva Bhuta Daya Pushpam* (compassion on all creatures) is most important. Man alone is endowed with this virtue of compassion. This is the flower that you should offer to God. *Easwara Sarva Bhutanam* (God is the indweller of all beings). Names and forms may vary but the same God is present in all. Therefore, you should have compassion towards all beings with the broad feeling that God is present in all. Then only can you understand how expansive and fragrant this *Sarva Bhuta Daya Pushpam* is. You need not waste





your time in gathering the flowers which fade away and wither away in no time. The flower of your heart is eternal, ever fresh and ever fragrant, for which you need not spend even a naya paisa. That is the real flower. One who understands the secret of this flower is a Parama Jnani (one of supreme wisdom).

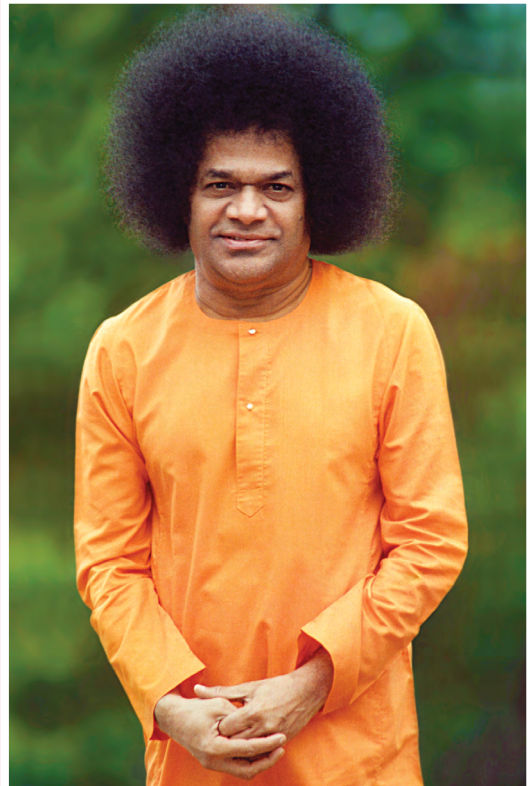
### Practise what you Study

Once Sage Narada went to Sage Sanat Kumara and requested him to grant him true knowledge. Then Sanat Kumara asked Narada, "I am prepared to impart you true and eternal knowledge. But what are your qualifications?" Narada replied, "I can recite completely the four Vedas and six Sastras (philosophical texts). I have understood the inner meaning of every word of these. I can recognise the secret of Karma and its fruition. These are my qualifications." Then Sanat Kumara replied, "Narada, it is true that you have studied all the Vedas and Sastras. But, how much have you put into practice? You would have attained true knowledge and everlasting happiness if you had put into practice what you have studied."

*Even after gaining mastery over all types of learning, Sage Narada was unable to experience everlasting happiness and eternal bliss.*

(Telugu Poem)

In spite of acquiring all types of learning, why was Narada unable to experience happiness? Does happiness lie in education? Does it lie in reading of books? Then where does it lie? Happiness lies in practice. If you spend all your lifetime in



***Both education and refinement are needed to lead a balanced life. Refinement means getting rid of evil qualities and developing virtues and goodness. This is the secret of Samskara. You will be free from all ordeals when you understand this secret and act accordingly. You will then be unruffled even in the face of serious problems.***



reading books, then when will you put them into practice, and when will you experience the fruits of putting them into practice?



People keep on studying all their lives. But they do not put into practice what they have studied. How can they experience happiness without putting anything into practice? It is only when you eat and digest the food you have cooked that you can attain nourishment and satisfaction.

Today's education is limited to mere acquisition of bookish knowledge. Bookish knowledge alone does not suffice; practical experience is essential. You should practise at least a fraction of what you have studied and have personal experience. Only then can you have the taste of true happiness. Man reads a number of spiritual texts. All the sacred texts of all religions propound the same truth. Various religious texts like the Bible, the Quran and the Bhagavadgita teach the same noble principles. But how many are putting into practice the sacred principles taught by their sacred religious texts? People hate and kill each other as they do not put into practice the teachings contained in the sacred texts. What is the cause of widespread anger, hatred and jealousy in the world? It is because people do not practise the sacred teachings they study in the sacred texts and do not understand the true meaning of these teachings. It is enough if you put at least one teaching from one sacred text into practice. Therefore, start practising at least in a small way. You may study a number of sacred texts, but if you do not practise them, you would have wasted all your time and energy.

### Realise Unity in Diversity

You should have compassion towards all beings and this is the flower you should

*Where is the need to search for God? You are looking for Him here and there. God is installed in your heart. Deho Devalaya Proktho Jivo Deva Sanathana (the body is a temple and the indweller is God). Body is a temple. What type of temple is this? It is a moving temple. God follows you wherever you go. He is with you, in you, around you, below you and above you. First of all, you should have firm faith in this eternal truth.*



offer to God. This is the essence of all sacred texts. The principle of Atma present in all is one and the same. Realising unity in diversity is knowledge and seeing diversity in unity is ignorance. Today there are many intellectuals who see diversity in unity, but very few noble souls see unity in diversity. You should make efforts to realise unity in diversity. How can you do it? What is this principle of unity that underlies diverse objects in this world? Science students know it very well that atom is the minutest particle. There is no object which is not made up of atoms. The objects of this world may have different names and forms, but all of these are made of atoms only. The same principle is propounded in Vedanta: *Anoraneeyan Mahato Maheeyan* (Brahman is subtler than the subtlest and vaster than the vastest). God is smaller than the smallest and bigger than the biggest. Therefore, when you understand



the principle of atom, you will understand everything. This is the main teaching of Vedanta, the true meaning of education, the goal of all paths and the essence of all spiritual knowledge. That is compassion, love and kindness. Bereft of compassion, man's heart has become hard like a rock. Even iron can be beaten and moulded, but it is very difficult to melt the heart of man today. It can be melted only by love. There is nothing in this world which cannot be melted by love. Therefore, every student and every individual should fill his heart with love. Do not misuse love for your self-interest and selfish gains. There may be some amount of selfishness in the love of preceptor, husband and wife and even parents. But there is absolutely no trace of selfishness in the love of God. You should make yourselves deserving of such love. When there is a heavy downpour, you can collect some water in a vessel if you keep it upright. On the other hand, if you keep the vessel upside down, you cannot collect even a drop of water. Likewise, Divine grace is available in plenty everywhere. But you are not keeping the vessel of your heart in the upright position.

Various types of feelings emerge from the heart from moment to moment. All of you know that the clouds that originate from the sun cover the sun itself. If you leave the water unused for some time, the moss that originates from water covers the water itself. The cataract which is born in the eye obstructs its vision. The ash that is produced by the fire covers the fire itself. Likewise, there is compassion in the

heart of man, but if man does not utilise it or takes to evil ways, his ignorance will eclipse the compassion itself and make his heart hard like a rock.

God is formless and attributeless, but He also assumes a form with attributes. There is Sakara (with form) in Nirakara (formless) and Nirakara in Sakara. Likewise, there is Saguna in Nirguna and vice-versa. A block of ice has a form, but it is not different from water. There can be no ice without water. When drops of water freeze, they form ice. The difference between Sakara and Nirakara is the same as the difference between ice and water.

### **Your Studies should Bring about your Refinement**

There is oil in til seeds, but you should know the process by which you can extract oil from them. How can you get jaggery out of sugarcane unless you crush it and extract juice from it? There is sweet juice in the sugarcane. But if you ask, "oh sugarcane, give me jaggery," will it give? You have to crush it, extract its juice and put it on fire. Only then can it assume the form of the jaggery. If you think by crushing the sugarcane, you are subjecting it to a great ordeal, then you cannot have jaggery from it. Its juice will dry up if you keep it aside for a few days. Thereby, its sweet juice will become useless. Our body is also like a sugarcane. When it is subjected to difficulties, ordeals and problems, the qualities of compassion, love and kindness will manifest from it. This is called Samskara (refinement). Sweetness is manifested in man when he is subjected





to the process of Samskara. That is why since ancient times, the culture of Bharat has laid great emphasis on Samskara. If you go to a goldsmith, give him some gold and ask him to make an ornament out of it, what will he do? He will cast it in fire, beat it with a hammer and stretch it with the help of a machine. Then he will give the desired shape to the gold and make it into a beautiful ornament. On the other hand, if you ask the goldsmith not to put the gold in fire, not to beat and stretch it, then how can he make an ornament for you?

Arjuna said to Krishna in the Bhagavadgita, *Chanchalam Hi Manah Krishna Pramathi Balavadrudham* (Oh Krishna, this mind is very unsteady, turbulent and powerful). Mind is very unsteady and can cause great dangers. When you offer such a mind to God and ask Him to make it pure, you should leave it to the discretion of God to do whatever He wants to do with it. You should not question Him. But due to the influence of Kali Yuga, man prays, "Oh God, I offer my mind to You, kindly make it pure without subjecting it to any difficulties or ordeals." God cannot grant such a prayer. *Kashte Phali* (hard work yields rich rewards). Happiness is born out of difficulties only. You don't switch on a fan or buy an air conditioner unless the weather is hot and sultry. You do not want food if you have no hunger. Likewise, there can be no happiness if there are



*Various religious texts like the Bible, the Quran and the Bhagavadgita teach the same noble principles. But how many are putting into practice the sacred principles taught by their sacred religious texts? People hate and kill each other as they do not put into practice the teachings contained in the sacred texts.*



no difficulties. Man does not remember God in times of happiness, but he wants God to save him when he is caught up in difficulties. Nobody wants God when the going is smooth. Not only that, man even becomes egoistic when he has all comforts and conveniences.

*Pleasure is an interval between two pains.* Therefore, one should be prepared to bear difficulties and sorrows. Only then can man develop the qualities of fortitude and courage and derive happiness. Humanness will blossom in man only



when there is harmony between his mind, hand and speech. This is the meaning of the verse that I told you in the beginning. *The proper study of mankind is man.* Study what you are supposed to study, but at the same time, you should have refinement also. Your studies have value only when they lead to refinement. A bird cannot fly unless it has two wings. A bicycle also has two wheels. One may be able to ride a monocyce with some practice in a circus, but it is not useful in daily life. Similarly, both education and refinement are needed to lead a balanced life. Refinement means getting rid of evil qualities and developing virtues and goodness. This is the secret of Samskara. You will be free from all ordeals when you understand this secret and act accordingly. You will then be unruffled even in the face of serious problems.

### **Carve out a Niche in the Hearts of People**

Youth today should develop steady vision and unwavering mind. How can you attain them? It is possible when your faith is firm. Faith in whom? *Faith in yourself, faith in God. This is the secret of greatness.* When you don't have faith in yourself, how can you have faith in God? Who is God? You yourself are God. But you are unable to realise this truth. Where is the need to search for God? You are looking for Him here and there. God is installed in your heart. *Deho Devalaya Proktho Jivo Deva Sanathana* (the body is a temple and the indweller is God). Body is a temple. What type of temple is this? It is a moving temple. God follows you wherever you go. He is

with you, in you, around you, below you and above you. First of all, you should have firm faith in this eternal truth. You should conduct yourself to the satisfaction of your conscience. Put into practice at least one or two teachings that you have learnt on the path of spirituality. Instead of listening to tonnes and tonnes of discourses, it is better that you put into practice at least an ounce of what you have heard. This will cure all the ills of your life. If your head is empty, it can be filled with anything. But you fill it with all unwanted worldly matters. You stuff your head with unnecessary information about all the countries of the world – Germany, Japan, Russia, etc., but you do not know what you are supposed to acquire. You should give room to noble thoughts and ideals which are necessary for your daily life.

Many noble souls took birth in this world and propagated great ideals. There were many highly educated people, but their names are found only in history books. It is only the noble souls like Ramakrishna Paramahansa who have found permanent place in the hearts of people. The names of educated people find place only in books whereas the names of noble souls will be imprinted on the hearts of people forever. What is so great about finding your name in history books? You should find a place in the hearts of people. People should extol you, saying, "Oh what a great soul he is," and put your ideals into practice. You should have Samskara along with education. But people today do not even know what Samskara means. They do a



lot of research, but they do not know what refinement really means. Eliot defined culture as a way of life. What type of way it should be? The path that leads to bliss directly is the real way of life. What type of qualities you should acquire for this? *Brahmanandam, Parama Sukhadam, Kevalam Jnanamurtim, Dwandwateetam, Gagana Sadrisham, Tattwamasyadi Lakshyam, Ekam, Nityam, Vimalam, Achalam, Sarvadhee Sakshibhutam* (God is the embodiment of divine bliss, wisdom absolute, beyond the pair of opposites, expansive and pervasive like the sky, the goal indicated by the Mahavakya Tattwamasi, one without a second, eternal, pure, unchanging, witness of all functions of the intellect, beyond all mental conditions and the three attributes of Sattwa, Rajas and Tamas).

### Students should Lead an Ideal Life

The entire universe is the combination of the Gunas (qualities) of Sattwa, Rajas and Tamas (serenity, passion and sloth). Human body is also comprised of these three qualities. Man should try to transcend the three Gunas. There are four strings in a violin, with the help of which one can play four hundred types of tunes. Likewise, these three Gunas give rise to many other Gunas. Science students are aware of this truth that white colour is the combination of seven different colours. White colour represents purity. The combination of seven colours symbolises unity. Unity leads to purity and purity leads to divinity. You wear white dress which symbolises purity. In accordance with your dress, you

*In spite of acquiring all types of learning, why was Narada unable to experience happiness? Does happiness lie in education? Does it lie in reading of books? Then where does it lie? Happiness lies in practice. If you spend all your lifetime in reading books, then when will you put them into practice, and when will you experience the fruits of putting them into practice?*



should keep your heart also pure, sacred and selfless. Everything in the world is the reflection of the inner being. What is inside is reflected outside. If there is no harmony between what you think and what you say, it amounts to deception. Our students should be ideal in all respects. They should uphold the name of their institution and bring a good name to their parents. You should make your parents feel proud of you.

*Dhritarashtra had hundred sons, but what was his ultimate fate? Did Suka undergo any suffering because he did not have a son?* (Telugu Poem)

What type of son one should aspire for? Even one good son who will bring a good name to you is enough.

*Even if there is one virtuous son, he will bring a good name to the entire clan just as a jasmine creeper spreads fragrance all around in the forest.*

(Telugu Poem)





Just as jasmine flower spreads fragrance all around, you should try to impart good qualities, good feelings and good thoughts to all those whom you come into contact with. Never hurt anyone and never imitate others. *Follow your conscience. Help Ever, Hurt Never.* If you follow these three principles, there is nothing in three worlds that can shake you. However, you should follow these three principles with deep faith. If your mind wavers like the pendulum of a clock, you cannot achieve anything.

King Harishchandra took a vow that he would not deviate from the path of truth even at the cost of his life. That is why even after thousands of years, he is remembered as Sathya Harishchandra. Is it the body that is all important for us?

*This body is a den of dirt, and prone to diseases; it is subject to change from time to time; it cannot cross the ocean of Samsara (worldliness). It is nothing but a structure of bones. Oh mind! Do not be under the delusion that body is permanent. Instead take refuge at the Divine Lotus Feet.*

(Telugu Poem)

Body is like a water bubble. Mind is like a mad monkey. Don't follow the body, don't follow the mind, follow the conscience. Your conscience is your witness. Today the mind of not only students but also elders is unsteady like the mind of a monkey. That is not an ordinary monkey but a mad monkey. Therefore, before performing any action, take time and discriminate, is it good or bad, is it right or wrong. After due

consideration, follow what is good. Don't be in haste. *Haste makes waste, waste makes worry. So, do not be in a hurry.* Contemplate on God with a steady mind and enquire, whether what you are going to do is right or wrong; will it do good or cause harm to others. But, unfortunately, students today do not have such broad feelings.

One should not think in a selfish manner. Suppose someone prays, "Oh God, there is a heavy rain with lightning and thunderbolt, let others be struck by the thunderbolt, not me." This type of attitude is not correct. You should pray for the welfare of the entire world. *Samasta Loka Sukhino Bhavantu* (May all the beings of all the worlds be happy)! This is the prayer that you recite everyday. You should pray for the welfare of people of all religions and all nations. Students should strengthen their faith that all the religions and their respective sacred texts are highly sacred. Do not criticise any religion because the goal of all religions is one and the same.

*Students!*

Give up hatred. Develop love and compassion and lead your life in a righteous manner.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahi...*")

**– From Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 17th July 1996.**



# CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

## DELHI YOUTH PILGRIMAGE



ABOUT 100 YOUTH CAME from Delhi-National Capital Region on a four-day pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from 26th to 29th January 2012 and offered homage at Bhagavan's Samadhi. During the course of this pilgrimage, they made two vocal music presentations in Sai Kulwant Hall.

The first presentation was made on 26th January 2012 by girls singers who offered a garland of nine beautiful songs comprising patriotic songs, devotional songs and Bhajans. Commencing their programme with a prayer to Lord Ganesh at 5.00 p.m., the girls singers first sang the famous patriotic song, "Vande Mataram" (salutations to motherland) appropriate to the occasion as 26th January was India's 63rd Republic Day. Thereafter, they sang the first Bhajan sung by Bhagavan,

"Manasa Bhajare Guru Charanam" and followed it up with a Telugu song, "Brahmamokkate" (God is one). Next, they sang a Mira Bhajan and followed it up with another patriotic song, "Sare Jahan Se Acchha Hindostan Hamara" (India is the best country in the world). Thereafter, they presented a famous Qawali, "Dama Dam Mast Kalandar" and concluded their programme with a song dedicated to Bhagavan. At the conclusion of the programme, clothes were presented to the singers and Prasadam was distributed to all. This was followed by a brief Bhajan session which concluded with the Bhajan, "Govinda Hare Gopala Hare" in Bhagavan's golden voice. The programme came to an end with Arati at 6.00 p.m.

The programme on 27th January 2012 was presented by boys singers and comprised devotional songs. Beginning their programme with a devotional song dedicated to Bhagavan as the Universal Teacher, "Guru Deva Deva Deva," they sang the glory of Bhagavan for nearly one hour, saturating the entire milieu with devotional fervour. The programme which started at 5.00 p.m. came to a close with a beautiful Qawali at 5.50 p.m. At the conclusion of the programme, clothes were presented to the singers and musicians. The



*Delhi youth presenting a devotional music programme in Sai Kulwant Hall.*



programme came to a close with Arati at 6.00 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.

## CHINESE NEW YEAR FUNCTION

More than 250 Chinese devotees came from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand to celebrate Chinese New Year 2012 in the sacred precincts of Prasanthi Nilayam. The main function to celebrate Chinese New Year was held on 28th January 2012, the 6th day of Chinese New Year which began on 23rd January 2012 when 36 Buddhist monks chanted sacred Buddhist Mantras in Sai Kulwant Hall. The programme began at 5.00 p.m. with lighting of the sacred lamp followed by offering of salutations at the Samadhi of Bhagavan by 12 ladies from Malaysia in traditional Chinese prayer attire while the prayer song of Kuan Yin (the Chinese Goddess of Mercy) was played. Thereafter, children from Indonesia presented Chinese delicacies at Bhagavan's Samadhi and prayed for His blessings. This was followed by a talk by Sri Billy Fong, Coordinator for Chinese New Year, who elaborated on the importance of the values of love and gratitude to parents which formed the cornerstone of Chinese civilisation and the core of Bhagavan's teachings. Sri Billy Fong observed that man would acquire good luck and prosperity if he developed character, as emphasised by Bhagavan. The next item of the programme was a traditional Chinese prayer ceremony expressing gratitude to God on behalf



*Devotees in traditional Chinese attires presenting a Chinese New Year song.*

of four categories of people, namely, government officials, farmers, workers and businessmen. This was followed by a Chinese New Year song by eight Chinese immortals representing eight human values.

### Love and Gratitude: A Drama

The highlight of the programme was a drama entitled "Love and Gratitude" performed by the children and youth of Sai Study Group, Medan, Indonesia. Based on a story from the ancient Chinese folklore, the drama highlighted the values of love, gratitude and sacrifice. The drama



*A scene from the drama "Love and Gratitude" performed by the children and youth of Sai Study Group, Medan, Indonesia.*





depicted the story of a Chinese king who after having two daughters desired a son but was disappointed when he got another daughter, Miao Shan. As she grew up, she left the palace and led the life of renunciation, penance and service as nun and sacrificed her eyes and arms to cure the king when he was afflicted by an incurable disease. It was through this great sacrifice that Goddess of Mercy Kuan Yin emerged. The climax of the drama was reached when a child in the role of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba blessed one and all while a verse from the Bhagavadgita was melodiously sung. Excellent acting of the cast, superb costumes and make-up and beautiful sets made the drama and the entire programme a memorable presentation. At the conclusion of the drama, clothes were presented to the participants. This was followed by traditional Chinese New Year songs and Bhajans led by Chinese singers, both ladies and gents. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.25 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.

### PILGRIMAGE OF OOTY DEVOTEES

A group of Sai Youth and Bal Vikas children along with their Gurus and parents came from Ooty, Nilgiris district, Tamil Nadu on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam and performed a drama entitled "Sathya Harishchandra" in Sai Kulwant Hall on 10th February 2012. Though the mother tongue of the people of Nilgiris is Tamil, they performed the drama in Telugu out of their love for Bhagavan. The drama



*The supreme importance of truth was highlighted in the drama "Sathya Harishchandra" enacted by the Sai Youth and Bal Vikas children of Ooty.*

portrayed the life story of the legendary king Harishchandra who sacrificed his kingdom, family and himself at the altar of truth and earned the grace of Lord Siva and other gods. The entire drama was presented with powerful dialogues interspersed with melodious poetry which earned the appreciation of the audience. At the conclusion of the drama, clothes were presented to the cast and Prasadam was distributed to the entire assembly of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall. The programme which started at 5.00 p.m. came to a close with Arati at 6.00 p.m.

### THYAGARAJA ARADHANA

A group of eminent singers and musicians from Tamil Nadu performed Thyagaraja Aradhana by rendering all the five Pancharatna Kritis of Thyagaraja in Sai Kulwant Hall on 11th February 2012. Starting their concert with prayer to Lord Ganesh and Guru at 5.00 p.m., the reputed artistes, both ladies and gents,





*A group of eminent musicians from Tamil Nadu performed Thyagaraja Aradhana by rendering five immortal compositions of this great saint poet.*

rendered the five immortal compositions of Thyagaraja, namely, Jagadananda Karaka (victory to You, the cause of happiness of this entire universe), Dudukugala Nanne (who could be that nobleman's son who could save this sinner who is so aggressive), Sadhinchene O Manasa (Oh mind! He has achieved His objective), Kana Kana Ruchira (Oh the golden attired one, it is a limitless pleasure beholding You) and Endaro Mahanubhavulu (there are many great souls; I prostrate before all of them) with perfect synergy of rhythm and melody and sublime feelings, which made the entire concert reach elated heights. At the conclusion of this soul-stirring concert lasting nearly an hour and a half, the singers and musicians were honoured and clothes were offered to them. This was followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.40 p.m.

### **SIVA PARVATI KALYANAM IN BURRA KATHA**

On the occasion of Sivarathi celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam, three

former students of SSSIHL presented the sacred story of the marriage of Lord Siva with Parvati in the folk art form of Burra Katha in Sai Kulwant Hall on 17th February 2012. Beginning their narration at about 5.00 p.m. with prayer to Lord Ganesh and Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the students described the devotion of Mother Parvati and effulgent glory of Lord Siva through pithy dialogues and excellent lyrics set to thrilling music. It was a lively mix of acting, dance, song, music and narration of the students which made this ancient art form come alive to the delight of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall, who responded with a thunderous applause when this sublime narration was brought to a close by the students with the singing of the lively song, "Anandame Sai Bhajana" at 6.15 p.m. This was followed by a brief session of Bhajans. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.25 p.m.

### **PILGRIMAGE OF HYDERABAD DEVOTEES**

A group of Hyderabad devotees including students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Hyderabad came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam and presented an excellent music and cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall on 18th February 2012.

### **Sri Sathya Sai Naada Neerajanam**

The first item of the programme entitled "Sri Sathya Sai Naada Neerajanam" (a musical offering to Sri Sathya Sai) comprised an ensemble of devotional



songs in Telugu and Hindi which depicted Bhagavan's Divine Glory and highlighted His teachings. This programme was presented by Sivam Bhajan Group of Hyderabad who created an aura of devotion by their soul-stirring rendition of devotional songs set to thrilling music.

### Indian Folk Dances

The second item of the programme was Indian Folk Dances which were presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Hyderabad. Beginning their programme with a song and dance dedicated to Lord Ganesh, they presented



*Cheraw dance presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Hyderabad showed their nimble footwork.*

in all six excellent dances which included Chakka Bhajan of Andhra Pradesh, Garbha dance of Gujarat, Kalbelia dance of Rajasthan and Cheraw dance of Mizoram. They brought their programme to a close with peacock dance, a very popular dance of India. The selection of dances from various States of India not only depicted variety of the presentation but showcased the cultural unity of India also. Superb dances of the children, colourful costumes and scintillating music made

the programme a charming presentation. At the conclusion of the programme, clothes were presented to the singers, musicians and dancers. This was followed by Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam. The programme came to a close with Arati at about 7.00 p.m.

### Carnatic Vocal Music Concert

On the second day of the pilgrimage of Hyderabad devotees, there was another beautiful music and cultural programme. The first item of the programme was a classical Carnatic Vocal Music Concert by a renowned classical Carnatic music exponent, Smt. Panthula Rama. Starting her concert at 5.00 p.m. with a song dedicated to Lord Siva, the eminent artiste kept the audience spellbound for nearly one hour with her mellifluous rendition of classical compositions and some popular numbers which included "Navaneeta Chora" and "Leela Nataka Sai." At the conclusion of the concert, the singer and the artistes who provided instrumental support to her were honoured with clothes.

### Sivanandalahari: A Dance Ballet

The concert was followed by a dance ballet by Bal Vikas students of Bhagyanagar Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Hyderabad and Bal Vikas alumni. Starting their presentation at 6.00 p.m. with prayer to Lord Ganesh, the students depicted various incidents related to Lord Siva, e.g., his marriage with Parvati, consuming of deadly poison Halahala obtained from churning of ocean by gods and







*A scene from a dance ballet presented by Bal Vikas students and Bal Vikas alumni of Hyderabad.*

demons, supporting of Ganga in his locks, beheading of Vinayaka and his restoration with the head of an elephant. Brilliant dances of children, colourful costumes, thrilling music, good commentary and innovative lighting made the dance ballet a memorable presentation. The ballet had a grand ending when a group of students with lighted lamps in their hands danced to the tune of the Bhajan, “Bhasma Bhushitanga Sai Chandrasekhara” (Lord Siva looks glorious with moon on his head and ash on his body). At the conclusion of the presentation, clothes were presented to the students and Prasadam was distributed to all. Finally, the Bhajan, “Govinda Gopala Prabhu Giridhari” in Bhagavan’s golden voice was played and Arati was offered at 7.00 p.m., marking the conclusion of the programme.

### THIRD CONVENTION OF SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS IN INDIA

The Third Convention of Sathya Sai Schools was held at Prasanthi Nilayam

on 18th and 19th February 2012, wherein the Principals and Management Officers of nearly 100 Sathya Sai Schools in India came to participate. The theme of convention was “The Way Forward to Excellence.” The proceedings of the convention were conducted in the Exhibition Hall near Shopping Complex of Prasanthi Nilayam.

On 18th February 2012, the programme began at 10.40 a.m. with ceremonial lighting of lamps amidst chanting of Vedic hymns followed by recitation of the common prayer song of these schools by a group of Principals of schools. Three speakers addressed the participants in the morning session. The first speaker was Dr. B.G. Pitre, Director, Institute of Sathya Sai Education, Mumbai who described how the Divine plan of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba unfolded after the inauguration of the Institute of Sathya Sai Education at Mumbai on 9th January 2000. Referring to the important milestones on the journey forward to excellence of these schools during the last eleven years, the distinguished speaker named two major achievements – the establishment of four Regional Institutes and launching of National Council of Sathya Sai Schools. The second speaker was Sri A. Ranga Rao, Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Andhra Pradesh. The learned speaker referred to the valuable guidance received by him in one of his interviews with Bhagavan and observed that an ideal school should have an atmosphere of love and its teachers should themselves imbibe human values to inspire the students who should also be



encouraged to develop a service-oriented attitude and love for ancient Indian culture. The third speaker of the session was Sri Nimish Pandya, Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Maharashtra. Referring to the famous quotation of Bhagavan, “When there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in character; when there is beauty in character; there is harmony in the family; when there is harmony in the family, there is order in the nation; when there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world,” Sri Pandya emphasised that the focus in all schools should be on the development of character of the students. The greatest service that we could do to mankind, he said, was to transform the children in schools. These speeches were followed by group discussions on the various parameters of excellence, in which the delegates participated with enthusiasm.

The meetings of various groups continued in the morning session of 19th February 2012 also. The reports of the groups were then discussed and recommendations of the convention were placed in the open house on the afternoon of 19th February 2012. Deliberating on these recommendations, Sri V. Srinivasan,

All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations delineated the various tasks which could lead to all-round excellence in Sai Schools. He emphasised that all efforts should be made to achieve the targets set by the present convention, remembering at the same time that Bhagavan is always with us. He advised the participants to constantly contemplate on Bhagavan and recite His Divine Name while doing His work. In conclusion, he said, “The journey towards excellence is like the journey to Sai; it never ends. Every forward step is itself a milestone. The travellers and pilgrims may change but the journey goes on. What is sure is, Sai is always with us, holding our hands, soothing our tired limbs, guiding us forward. The journey itself is the joy of the destination.”

In the end, Dr. Pitre expressed gratitude to all who worked tirelessly to make this convention a great success. He had a special word of thanks for Sri Ranga Rao and Sri S.G. Chalam in this regard. The deliberations of the convention came to a happy conclusion with singing of a group song signifying the spread of illumination while the participants waved lighted candles.

Good actions are very important; one who undertakes sacred actions excels everyone. That is why I often exhort you to undertake service activities. You are born and brought up in society, you owe your education, wealth and happiness to society. Then is it not your duty to show gratitude to society? You can express your gratitude to society by undertaking service activities.

– *Baba*

From our Archives

# LOVE IS TRUE FORM OF GOD

*Today there is no fear of sin. Wicked deeds and acts of cruelty have become an everyday occurrence. Their magnitude is beyond all description. Devotion to the Lord has become extinct. Oh man! Understand that you can attain peace and happiness only by chanting the Divine Name.*

(Telugu Poem)

## TRUE HAPPINESS LIES IN DESIRELESSNESS

### Embodiments of Love!



YOU MAY BE THINKING about the events that are going to take place in the forthcoming New Year (Ugadi). You speculate whether the New Year would bring you happiness or sorrow. The year may be new, but how does it matter if you do not give up your old and mean habits? You aspire for good results, but are you performing good deeds? You expect others to be good towards you, but are you good towards them? How can you expect to be happy if your deeds are not in accordance with your aspirations? Good deeds will certainly yield good results.

### See Good, Hear Good, Do Good

Many new years have gone by but there is no change in the life of man. What is the reason? The reason is that man is not making efforts to experience the principle of divinity which is present in all in the form of love. Love is the true form of God. It is your foremost duty to recognise this eternal principle of love.

On Ugadi, you have to resolve to undertake sacred actions if you want to enjoy peace and happiness. Bhadram Pashyantu, Bhadram Srunvantu and Bhadram Kurvantu (see good, hear good and do good). These three principles form the basis of the Dharma Sastra (sacred scripture) given by Emperor Manu to mankind. You should strictly adhere to them in your daily life. If you follow them, you are bound to be good. Nothing else is

*Today's newspaper becomes tomorrow's waste paper. Our life is like a newspaper. Once you have finished reading a newspaper, you do not like to read it again and again. You have been given this birth, and have gone through varied experiences of pleasure and pain. Enough is enough. Do not ask for another birth as you would not like to read yesterday's newspaper.*







*On Ugadi day, people get up early, have a sacred bath, put on new clothes and partake of sweets and various delicious items. They are interested only in external cleanliness and are not concerned about purifying their hearts which are tainted with evil thoughts and evil feelings. It is rather easy to have external cleanliness and to wear new clothes but that is not the purpose of celebrating festivals. True celebration of Ugadi lies in giving up evil qualities and purifying one's heart.*



required to redeem your life. The Vedas say, *Srunvantu Viswe Amrutasya Putrah* (Oh the children of immortality! Listen). You are the children of immortality. Hence, you should see, hear, think and do all that is good.

People celebrate this festival with all festivity and gaiety. But their enthusiasm and happiness are short-lived. They do not last even for one day. It is not the true celebration of the New Year. Your happiness should be forever. It should be permanent. True happiness is not something which comes and goes like a passing cloud. You are born with bliss; you should retain it all your life.

We have been experiencing the bliss of celebrating Ugadi for the past many ages and generations. The Bharatiyas have been spreading peace and security to all the nations of the world with their strength of spirituality. Since time immemorial to this day, the prayer of the Bharatiyas has been: *Samasta Loka Sukhino Bhavantu* (May all the people of the world be happy!) But the present-day condition is just the opposite. Man has progressed in worldly sense but morally he has regressed. He is not able to give up his narrow-mindedness and criticism of others.

### **Desirelessness Leads to Bliss**

If one enquires into the reason for this, one will realise that one's selfishness and self-interest are the cause for this. Man does not love objects or individuals for their sake; he does so for his self-interest. He does not love his country and work for its



welfare. All his thoughts, words and deeds are motivated by selfishness. We will be celebrating Ugadi in its true spirit only when we give up our narrow-mindedness and selfishness.

On Ugadi day, people get up early, have a sacred bath, put on new clothes and partake of sweets and various delicious items. They are interested only in external cleanliness and are not concerned about purifying their hearts which are tainted with evil thoughts and evil feelings. It is rather easy to have external cleanliness and to wear new clothes but that is not the purpose of celebrating festivals. True celebration of Ugadi lies in giving up evil qualities and purifying one's heart. Human heart in its pristine state is highly sacred and human birth is difficult to attain. *Jantunam Nara Janma Durlabham* (out of all the living beings, the human birth is the rarest). Having attained such a precious life, man is not making any effort to live like a true human being. Today he has become a bundle of desires. He is spending all his time and effort in fulfilling his desires. He is under the mistaken notion that fulfilment of desires will confer happiness on him. He should realise that only annihilation of desires will lead him to ultimate bliss. True happiness lies in the state of desirelessness.

### Give up all Bad Qualities

True Ugadi is the day when you give up bad qualities, fill your heart with love and take to the path of sacrifice. Today you may wear a new shirt, but how long

will it remain new? Tomorrow it becomes old. Nobody reads the same newspaper everyday. Today's newspaper becomes tomorrow's waste paper. Our life is like a newspaper. Once you have finished reading a newspaper, you do not like to read it again and again. You have been given this birth, and have gone through varied experiences of pleasure and pain. Enough is enough. Do not ask for another birth as you would not like to read yesterday's newspaper. You should pray, "Oh God! You have given me this life and I have gone through all the experiences of pleasure and pain. I do not want to have another birth."

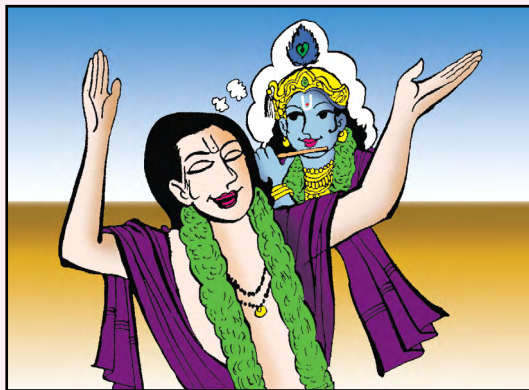
On this day of Ugadi, take a firm resolve to purify your heart. Past is past. It cannot be retrieved. When you are walking on the road, you should look at the path ahead of you. What is the point in looking behind? Likewise, there is no point in brooding over the past. Future is not certain. What is the guarantee that you will be alive until tomorrow? So, do not worry about your future. Live in the present. It is not ordinary present. It is omnipresent, meaning the results of past and seeds of future are contained in it. So, when you make proper use of the present, you can be rest assured that your future is safe and secure. Consider everything as for your own good. This is the primary message of Ugadi festival. Everything that occurs should be treated as a gift from God.

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



# God Loves Devout Feelings

**J**AYADEVA WAS A POET AND singer of Odisha. He was a great devotee of Lord Krishna and wrote the famous poetic work “Geeta Govinda.” Thinking of Krishna playing on His flute and moving about on the sandy shore of Yamuna where cool wind was



*Jayadeva was lost in ecstasy while singing the glories of Lord Krishna.*

always blowing, he sang this song, “Dheera Sameere Yamuna Teere Vasativane Vanamali” (Krishna abides in Brindavan adjoining the Yamuna where cool breeze blows gently). Though Jayadeva composed many songs, yet the song, “Dheera Sameere” was so popular that everybody in Odisha could be heard singing this song. Constantly contemplating on Krishna and lost in the ecstasy of singing this song, he always envisioned Krishna running about near him. Exemplifying in his life the saying, *Manasyekam Vachasyekam,*

*Karmanyekam Mahatmanam* (Those whose thoughts, words and deeds are in perfect harmony are noble ones), he set an ideal for all.

Near the Jagannatha Temple of Odisha, there lived a farmer family, every member of which used to sing this song, “Dheera Sameere.” One day, the farmer’s daughter was singing this song while going to their field to bring vegetables. As soon as she started singing this song, Krishna came and stood behind her. She was frightened to think that some young man was following her. Recognising her fear, Krishna said to her, “I am Krishna who resides in the heart of all. Dear child! I am young man among the youth, an old man among the aged, a woman among women and a child among children.” In this way, people of Odisha had many such experiences while singing the songs composed by Jayadeva. The entire State of Odisha praised him for his devotional songs. As the fame of a great man spreads, it generates the feelings of hatred and jealousy in the hearts of some people. The same thing happened with regard to Jayadeva in Odisha.

Seeing all people of Odisha singing the songs of Jayadeva and praising him, the king of Odisha, Lakshmanasena also composed a poetic work out of jealousy

*continued on page 86...*





## DEVOTIONAL FERVOUR MARKS SIVARATHRI CELEBRATIONS

**D**EEP DEVOTIONAL fervour marked the celebration of Sivarathri at Prasanthi Nilayam. The venue of the function held on 20th February 2012 was Sai Kulwant Hall which was tastefully decorated for the auspicious occasion. Special decorations were done at the Samadhi of Bhagavan with fresh flowers of various colours. Programmes were held both in the morning and evening to celebrate this important event.

The morning programme comprised chanting of Stotras and singing of classical and devotional songs dedicated to Lord Siva and Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the incarnation of Siva and Parvati. This programme was presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, who suffused the entire milieu with spiritual vibrations by their soulful singing. The programme that started at 8.30 a.m. concluded at 9.30 a.m. It was followed by Bhajans for nearly half an hour. The morning programme came to a close with Arati at about 10.00 a.m.

The first item of the evening programme was Abhisheka and worship of Sayeeswara Linga which was placed on a stand in Sai Kulwant Hall in front of the Samadhi of Bhagavan. This Linga had earlier been consecrated by Bhagavan on 10th August 2006 during Ati Rudra Maha Yajna held at Prasanthi Nilayam. The programme



*Abhisheka and worship of Sayeeswara Linga was performed in Sai Kulwant Hall on Sivarathri.*

started at about 4.00 p.m. when the Linga was unveiled and Veda chanting priests followed by students came out of the Bhajan Mandir to conduct the Abhisheka. At the outset, the chief priest conducted preliminary rituals amidst chanting of Vedic hymns by the priests and students. The Abhisheka of the Linga was thereafter conducted with sacred water, milk, curd, honey, dry fruits and various other traditional items. After the Abhisheka, the Linga was decorated with flowers, and clothes were offered on it. This was followed by ceremonial worship and offer of Arati to the Linga. Recitation of 1,008 Names of Bhagavan followed this. The chanting of sacred Mantras during the course of Abhisheka and worship suffused the entire milieu with divine vibrations. At the conclusion of the worship and Abhisheka of the Linga, an audio clip of Bhagavan's Discourse on Sivarathri was played in





*A section of the gathering participating in Sivarathri Bhajan in Sai Kulwant Hall.*

which Bhagavan exhorted the devotees to lead their life in an auspicious way by contemplating on the Atmic principle and reciting the Divine Name in order to attain

*... continued from page 84*

and named it, “Abhinava Geeta Govinda.” He ordered the people of Odisha to sing the songs composed by him and not the songs written by Jayadeva. However, the people continued to sing the songs written by Jayadeva, disregarding the order of the king. Thereupon, the king decided to find out what the speciality of the songs of Jayadeva was. Taking a collection of his own songs as well as that of Jayadeva, he went to the Jagannath Temple and placed his songs on one foot of the Lord and Jayadeva’s songs on the other. The priest of the temple then locked the door of the temple and took away the key of the lock with him.

unity, purity and divinity. Bhagavan concluded the Discourse at 6.00 p.m. with the Bhajan, “Prema Mudita Manase Kaho” which was followed by the entire gathering of devotees in chorus. With this began the Sivarathri Bhajan which was led by the boys and girls students alternately. The Bhajan continued during the entire Sivarathri night, wherein a large number of devotees took part. During the night, many groups of devotees and Ashram staff took turns to lead Bhajans, which concluded on 21st February 2012 at 6.00 a.m. with the Bhajan, “Subrahmanyam Subrahmanyam”

in Bhagavan’s golden voice. After this, Arati was performed and Prasadam of tamarind rice and sweet rice was distributed to all in Sai Kulwant Hall.

Next morning, the king came to the temple along with his queen and ministers. As he stepped into the sanctum sanctorum of the temple, he saw the collection of the songs written by Jayadeva in the hand of Lord Jagannatha, while the collection of the songs composed by him had been thrown away. This incident was an eye-opener for the king. In this way, the Lord recognised the devotion of Jayadeva.

God dwells in the hearts of those who get immersed in ecstasy while blissfully singing His glories. He is the servitor of such devotees. The king understood that God does not like the erudition that comes from a heart filled with ego and jealousy.



## Effulgence of Divine Glory

# TIME AND SPACE DO NOT BIND ME



ABA IS TOO BRIGHT A SUN for human eyes. We can bask and bathe in sunlight but we cannot gaze at it. The sun must itself diminish the splendour and become a beautiful red disc, as it does twice a day, so that man can imbibe the golden grandeur. Baba too gives us frequent glimpses of the glory that He is.

Baba had returned from Venkatagiri two days previously. An old lady staying in the Nilayam had gone to her native village which lay astride the road that Baba had to pass through, when He went up to the place or came down from it. She had plans to halt His car on His return drive and to offer Him hospitality in her own home. But when she learnt that Baba had reached Prasanthi Nilayam, she had hurried back.

While Baba was conversing from the verandah on the first floor with a small bunch of visitors (among whom I had smuggled myself) standing on the ground, she stood at a short distance from us and complained aloud, "Swami! How did Your car come through our village without being noticed? Our men were watching at both ends night



*Prof. N. Kasturi with Bhagavan.*

and day. No car was seen." Even as Baba was chuckling in amusement at her plight, we heard the chuckle behind us, for Baba was right behind us. "You see, I have come from there to here; when I can do this, can I not skip your village unseen, car and all? Time and space dare not bind Me," He said. We stood aghast at this revelation. I sensed a tug in my heart. I fell at His feet. His face was dazzlingly divine...Jesus went out of the temple, "through the midst of them and so passed by." Baba passed by, car and all!

— Excerpted from "Loving God" by Prof. N. Kasturi





# NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

## LAOS

ON 19TH NOVEMBER 2011, over 300 people including children from Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV) School and Buddhist monks took part in community prayers in Nonkho Pagoda as part of Bhagavan's 86th Birthday celebrations. Buddhist prayers were conducted by the monks, alms were offered to the monks and food was served to all who attended the celebrations. Over 200 people attended a similar event at Pho Sai Pagoda on 20th November 2011. On 23rd November, Sathya Sai volunteers lovingly served food to 40 children at a school for the visually challenged. On 23rd evening, a community Bhajan session was organised at Nonkho Sai Centre.

On 29th July 2011, heavy rains from tropical storm Nock-Ten flooded the central regions of the country. Nearly 1,90,000 people were affected in the Khammouane province. Several villages were inaccessible for weeks due to damaged roads and collapsed bridges. People affected by the floods were evacuated and temporarily relocated in temples and schools on higher ground. Once the flood waters subsided, many found that their belongings and houses had been badly damaged. On 10th and 11th September, the Sathya Sai Foundation of Laos undertook relief operations for the flood victims in Sopbaw village. Forty



*Sathya Sai Foundation of Laos provided food provisions to flood-affected people.*

Sathya Sai volunteers travelled more than 800 km to reach the village and distribute two tonnes of rice and 6,000 packets of noodles. In Thakhek, 200 kg of rice and noodle packets were distributed to the children at a school. The district authorities commended the Sathya Sai Foundation for their humanitarian efforts.

## DUBAI

On 10th and 11th November 2011, about 330 people including Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) children, active workers and devotees took part in the 24-hour Global Akhanda Bhajan at Sri Sathya Sai Mandir, Dubai. Divine vibrations pervaded the entire atmosphere, and the devotees experienced Bhagavan's presence.



## KUWAIT

On 23rd November 2011, Bhagavan's 86th Birthday celebrations began at 6.00 a.m. with the chanting of Omkaram and Suprabhatam by about 100 devotees. Over 400 devotees attended the evening Birthday function, which began with Veda chanting followed by special Bhajans. As part of Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations, 79 devotees donated blood at a hospital in Dubai, organised by the "Serve and Inspire"



*A section of participants in Bhagavan's 86th Birthday celebrations in Dubai.*

(SAI) group. Snacks and tea were provided to blood donors and the hospital staff on duty. The staff of the hospital commended the SAI group for their consistency in arranging blood donation camps. Besides, a team of six doctors, three paramedical staff and two pharmacists provided loving medical services to about 325 patients in a medical camp organised by Sathya Sai volunteers held in the MBM labour camp in Dubai Al Quoz. The labour camp is home for about 400 people of different nationalities. The recipients were very happy and requested the medical service team to come more often to their camp.

Bhagavan's 86th Birthday was celebrated at the Indian Community School, Amman branch, Salmiya, on the evening of 23rd November 2011. The celebrations which began with Veda chanting were attended by over 175 persons. A birthday cake was offered to Swami by children while singing a birthday Bhajan. This was followed by a Bhajan in which all the attendees participated. The programme came to a close with Arati.

As part of Bhagavan's 86th Birthday celebrations, about 100 devotees participated in a blood donation service activity held at the Indian Community



*Devotees participating in Bhagavan's 86th Birthday celebrations in Kuwait.*

School Auditorium, Salmiya, on 8th October 2011. A doctor and nurses from the Kuwait Blood Bank also took part in this event. Over 80 people who donated blood were served snacks by Sathya Sai volunteers, who also handed out "Thank You" cards to the donors.

## HONG KONG

Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organisation, Zone 5, covering China, Hong Kong, Japan,



Korea and Taiwan, held a conference on 10th and 11th September 2011. About 70 people participated in the event. Following the opening ceremonies, nine devotees shared their reflections on Bhagavan's teachings. They discussed Bhagavan's teachings for women and youth, the importance of Bhagavan's life and teachings to the Chinese and Japanese people, and the uniqueness of the Sai study circles. The rest of the first day was dedicated to contemplating on Bhagavan's legacy through speeches, video and group discussion. In the group discussions, conducted with the theme "Making Every Moment a Sai Moment," devotees shared their experiences on personal Sadhana (spiritual practice and transformation).

The second day was focused on the role of a devotee in the Sathya Sai Organisation. The proceedings began with a speech on Bhagavan's Educare, Medicare and Sociocare programmes as a framework for service to the needy and seeing divinity in all. A video of a talk given by Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman, Prasanthi Council, about our role in Bhagavan Baba's Mission, was screened. Eight representatives from different countries spoke of their vision of the "Sai Mission in 2020." Overall, the Conference emphasised the true purpose of the Sai Mission: to understand and realise that we are divine, and that this is the ultimate goal of all our thoughts, words and deeds.

## THAILAND

Various regions of Thailand are affected by seasonal flash-flooding. On

29th and 30th September 2011, Sathya Sai volunteers served food for 35 families in Chiang Mai, in northern Thailand, and assisted in the preparation of 10,000 packets of food for distribution in a village. Chiang Mai Radio praised the Sathya Sai volunteers for their assistance in preparing the food. Then, between 12th October and 1st November 2011, Sathya Sai volunteers continued to pack, transport and distribute urgently needed supplies to many more



*Sathya Sai volunteers of Thailand reached remote areas and supplied essential items of daily use to the needy.*

flooded locations. On 21st October 2011, staff and children of the Sathya Sai School, assisted by the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, donated drinking water from the treatment plant at the school. From 2nd to 4th November 2011, around 70 Sathya Sai volunteers packed 1,500 packages of supplies including noodles, milk, biscuits, canned food, candies, malted milk powder, cakes, hygiene items, candles and lighters. On 5th and 6th November 2011, Sathya Sai volunteers, facing many difficulties, travelled bravely by road and by boat to





## GREECE

On 23rd November 2011, Bhagavan Baba's 86th Birthday celebrations were held at the Sathya Sai Centre in Athens Patision. Over 110 people including Sai Youth and children attended. The programme began with the screening of the video of Bhagavan's 85th Birthday celebrations. This was followed by readings from select Discourses of Bhagavan and sharing of experiences by devotees. The celebrations concluded with Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam.

## MALAYSIA

Bhagavan's 86th Birthday was celebrated at various Sathya Sai Centres across the country on 23rd November 2011. The morning programmes began at 5.30 a.m. with chanting of Omkaram and Suprabhatam, followed by Bhajans. Many service projects, including the provision of food for the needy, were undertaken by Sathya Sai volunteers throughout the country. On 26th November 2011, Birthday celebrations were held at the Sathya Sai Centre in Sri Muda, which included a

## BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Bhagavan's 86th Birthday celebrations, held in Sarajevo on 23rd November 2011, commenced with Veda chanting. About 70 people attended the function. Following the greetings and opening address by Sri Jadranko Panjeta, National Coordinator of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, selections from Bhagavan's teachings and a poem were read. Two famous actresses who are members of Sri Sathya Sai Centre in Sarajevo read a few stories. This was followed by Bhajans and devotional songs from different religions practised in the country. During the entire proceedings, a video on Bhagavan was played in the background.



*Devotees participating in Bhagavan's 86th Birthday celebrations in Malaysia.*



heartwarming public programme where the parents of the SSE children were honoured. The theme of the programme was “Honoring Our Parents Everyday” (HOPE). More than 700 people including the public attended this programme. About 150 SSE children took part in six skits and dramas, focused mainly on respecting parents. The programme also included serving food to the needy and awards to honour the best son and best daughter. Devotees spoke about their experiences with Bhagavan and His love for one and all. Bhagavan Baba’s love and presence were strongly experienced by all, along with an overwhelming feeling of gratitude to Bhagavan.

## HAITI

Since the massive earthquake on 12th January 2010, Sri Sathya Sai Organisation continues the relief work in Haiti with dedication, enthusiasm and love. As part of Bhagavan Baba’s 86th Birthday celebrations, a devotional meeting, a radio and television programme and visits to the Sai service and education projects were organised. Members of the Embassy of Santo Domingo in Haiti and Sri Lidio Cadet, a devotee of Bhagavan and a member of the Haiti relief efforts coordinating committee from the Dominican Republic, were the special guests. Sri Cadet has also been hosting a weekly radio programme for several years on the life and message of Bhagavan, broadcast from Santo Domingo. On 18th November 2011, at the San Presyon radio and television station,

Sri Cadet spoke about his religious and spiritual experiences and his meeting with Bhagavan seven years ago. This was followed by a visit to one of the largest



*Sri Sathya Sai Organisation provides 600 meals daily to children in the tent camp named “Benedikson” in Haiti.*

tent camps in Haiti, named “Benedikson.” Sri Sathya Sai Organisation provides about 600 meals daily to children at this camp. On 19th November 2011, food was also distributed at the “El Puente” camp. The special guests had the opportunity to observe the human values classes conducted for children every Saturday. On 20th November 2011, around 80 people from the four Sathya Sai Centres in Haiti, the special guests, and people from a local church took part in devotional singing and sharing about Bhagavan’s love.

## SRI LANKA

Sathya Sai volunteers have continued to organise mobile medical camps in various parts of Sri Lanka, during and after the end of the long civil war in the country. An ophthalmology team consisting of an eye specialist, optician, paramedical



staff and volunteers from the Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Vavuniya conducted eye camps and screening for cataracts in the war-affected Wanni region of Sri Lanka in May, July, and October 2011. Overall, 1,283 people were screened and 696 pairs of prescription eyeglasses were given out. Cataract surgeries were also performed on 75 needy people. The Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Vavuniya provided the lenses required for the cataract surgeries. Sathya Sai volunteers assisted in providing post-operative care for 117 patients after the

pharmacists and five other volunteers. On 3rd September 2011, eight doctors, three pharmacists and four other volunteers rendered medical services to over 560 people. On the same day, medical services were also rendered to 35 people residing at an old age home in the nearby town of Haputalle. On the following day, medical services were provided to over 480 people in Adampitiya village.

– **Sri Sathya Sai International Organisations**

## BHARAT

**Andhra Pradesh:** An Akhanda Parayana (non-stop recitation) of Vishnu Sahasranama (1,008 Names of Lord Vishnu) was conducted by City Seva Samithi, Visakhapatnam in Prema Sadan, Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar. It was followed by Lakshmi Narayana Homam. A large number of devotees participated in this spiritual programme.

A medical camp was conducted at Sri Sathya Sai Astha Dala Seva Puspam, Ravulapalem in East Godavari district, where medical services were provided to nearly 500 patients.

**Assam:** 19th December 2011 shall remain a red letter day for the devotees of Assam and North-eastern Region since on the morning of that day, a new exquisitely-designed Sai Centre named “Sai Madhuram” was inaugurated at Rupnagar, South Guwahati by Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President. A brief but attractive Bal Vikas programme was organised on this



*Sathya Sai volunteers are organising medical camps regularly in various parts of Sri Lanka to help the people affected by civil war.*

cataract surgery at the Vavuniya hospital. Patients were accommodated at the Sai Children's Home. Meals and transportation were also provided. In the northern part of the country, mobile medical camps were organised on 25th and 26th June 2011, at four villages in the Mullaitivu district. More than 1,140 patients were provided medical services by fourteen doctors, four







*Newly-constructed Sai Centre "Sai Madhuram" inaugurated in Guwahati.*

occasion. Apart from regular activities, the Centre will serve as the headquarters of Bal Vikas activities for the State.

**Gujarat:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Gujarat organised a conference on 24th and 25th December 2011 at Ahmedabad on the theme "Journey with Sai," in which over 750 delegates from all over Gujarat took part. Dr. Shashank Shah, Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam Campus was the keynote speaker of the conference who spoke about Bhagavan's life, His teachings and what He expected from His devotees. On 25th December 2011, the day started with Christmas celebrations. In the afternoon session, a quiz based on Swami's life and message was conducted, wherein the delegates were divided into four groups. In the end, the State President of Gujarat, Sri Manohar Trikannad summarised the group discussion to pave the way for further action by the Sai Organisation.

**Jammu and Kashmir:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Jammu and Kashmir

organised 20 medical camps in different parts of the State, benefiting more than 6,500 patients. It also organised five veterinary camps and examined over 1,000 cattle for various diseases. The Sai Organisation is providing food provisions to 35 needy families every month. Besides, about 1,000 needy persons are being served cooked food.

**Maharashtra and Goa:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Maharashtra and Goa organised eye check-up camps in Washim district, Mumbai, wherein 1,500 patients were examined in different villages and



*Eye check-up camps were organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Maharashtra and Goa.*

432 patients were operated upon for cataract. In another eye camp for eight days from 16th to 23rd November 2011 at Dharmakshetra, 103 cataract operations were successfully performed. With their eyesight restored, the patients had more than one reason to be happy, for they also received post-operative medicines and gift packs of clothes, bed sheets and towels wrapped with Bhagavan's love!





Foundation ceremony for the first ever Sri Sathya Sai Wellness Centre was laid at Dharmakshetra, Andheri, Navi Mumbai. Santoor maestro Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma, along with Sri Indulal Shah and Smt. Sarla Shah laid the foundation stone amidst Vedic chants, prayers from all religions and Puja (worship). In order to promote a state of complete physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being, a humble beginning was made in this direction keeping in view the message of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba: "Man should understand that he is not merely the body, but a combination of body, mind and spirit." The Wellness Centre is proposed to be constructed in the next 5-6 months under the auspices of Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Maharashtra and Goa. The therapies that shall be adopted will be meditation, yoga, Pranayama, counselling, music, vibrations, study circles, etc.

**Punjab:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Abohar organised a youth camp on 9th October 2011 in Sai Mandir, Abohar. The youth camp started with chanting of Ganapati Prarthana and Saraswati Vandana. Thereafter, there was a lecture-cum-presentation on the topic, "Awareness – Realisation of the Self." Other motivational lectures for youth were also given. Sai Youth of Abohar then presented a play entitled "Every Man." In this camp, Bal Vikas children shared their experiences with the audience. The youth camp concluded at 4.00 p.m. with Arati and distribution of Prasadam.

**Tamil Nadu:** A very severe cyclonic storm christened "Thane", crossed the southern coast of Tamil Nadu between the district of Cuddalore and Union Territory of Puducherry, in the early hours of 30th December 2011, leaving behind a trail of extensive destruction and devastation and human suffering. Hundreds of people were rendered homeless and were forced



*House-to-house distribution of food provisions by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu to the people affected by the cyclonic storm "Thane".*

to take shelter in relief camps. People living in remote coastal villages were without food, shelter and water. Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu swung into action immediately to provide succour to these unfortunate people, in the form of food provisions, medical aid, bed sheets, sleeping mats, milk and potable drinking water. Essential food items like rice, pulses, oil, salt, tamarind, biscuits were packed into small cartons to make Amruta Kalasam (food provisions) for house-to-house distribution. These Amruta Kalasam cartons were sent to the cyclone-affected areas in two closed container vehicles. Due to failure of power supply, people



were in need of potable drinking water which was provided by hiring local water tankers. Besides, Sri Sathya Sai Water Supply Tanker has been put into service and will be serving in the affected areas till water supply is restored. With the grace of our Beloved Bhagavan, 1,071 Amruta Kalasam cartons have been distributed to the families by the dedicated team of Seva Dal (ladies and gents) from the districts of Cuddalore, Villupuram, Nagapattinam and Chennai Metro.

**West Bengal:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Darjeeling North District

executed two water projects to provide safe drinking water to two villages Sikari Basti and Harsing Hatta as an offering to Bhagavan on His 86th Birthday. To ensure the durability of the projects, good quality pipes were laid and nine pucca tanks were constructed. These projects provided water to more than 100 houses in these two villages. On the completion of the project for Harsing Hatta, the villagers were so happy that one of them said, "After Independence, this is the first time that such pucca tanks have been constructed in this village."

**Statement of Ownership and other Particulars of the Newspaper  
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1. Place of Publication : Sri Sathya Sai Press, within the compound of Sri Sathya Sai Ashram, Prasanthi Nilayam.
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I, K.S. Rajan, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: 1-3-2012

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



## Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam English Medium School

Alcot Gardens, Rajahmundry - 533101

East Godavari Dist., Andhra Pradesh

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

### ADMISSION NOTICE 2012-2013

Admission to Class I (boys, Indian Nationals only) of Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam English Medium School, Rajahmundry, will take place in June, 2012. It is an English Medium, wholly residential school following I.C.S.E. syllabus.

Prospectus and Admission Forms may be obtained from the school from 10-02-2012 by paying Rs 50/- either by cash or through Demand Draft Drawn from any Nationalised Bank in favour of Correspondent, Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam English Medium School, payable at Rajahmundry. For obtaining the application set by post, please send a Demand Draft with a Self Addressed cover (size 15 cm x 24 cm) and Rs 15 stamps.

Last date for issuing the forms is 30th March 2012 and the last date for receiving the filled in forms at this office is on or before 10th April 2012.

Only students coming from English medium classes should apply.

Age limit for 1st std. is between 5 years and 6 years as on 31st August 2012.

Phone: 0883 2430989

**Note:** Admissions for 1st std. will be under "RTE Act 2009" by Random method.

### VACANT TEACHER POSTS NOTIFICATION

Applications on a plain paper in candidates own handwriting containing complete Bio-data inclusive of the detailed academic particulars and work experience (if any) along with a recent passport size photograph and contact phone numbers are invited from meritorious candidates fluent in English for appointment as Teachers in Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam English Medium School, Rajahmundry - 533101, in the following posts ( Total - 3)

Trained Graduate Teacher (Chemistry) – 1

Trained Graduate Teacher (Mathematics) – 1

Primary Teacher (Social Studies) – 1

**Qualifications Required:** a) Candidates must preferably hold a first Class Graduation Degree in the relevant subject i.e., Chemistry / Mathematics / History as elective.

Or / And

Second Class Post Graduation Degree in relevant subject i.e. Chemistry / Mathematics / History

b) Teachers Training Degree with relevant methodology.

**Scale of Pay:** T.G.T. in Chemistry; Mathematics - Rs 14,860 - 55,660

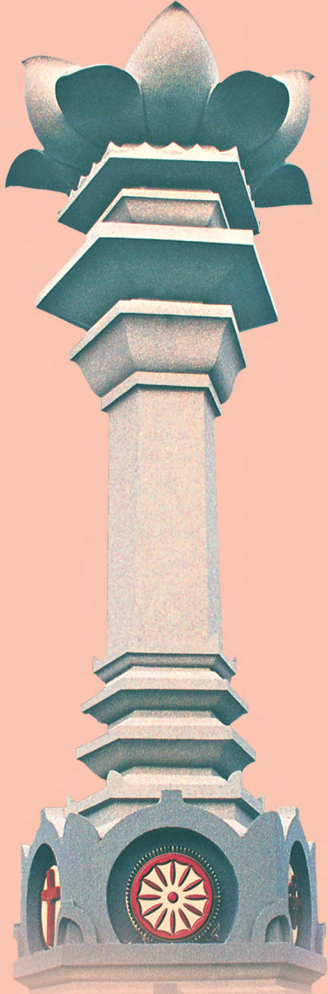
P.R.T. in Social Studies - Rs 10,900 - 31,550

The last date for the receipt of applications is 20th March 2012. Shortlisted candidates will be called for interview at a short notice.

Phone: 0883 2430989

– Correspondent





## *Freedom from Bondage*

The experience of this one life must be enough to show you that there is no joy unmixed with grief, that both grief and joy are short-lived and they both depend on the mind and its control. You do not require the experience of a series of lives to grasp this patent fact. This world is keeping you in bondage; it is a prison from which you must get released; and you should not plan to return to it again and again.

– *Baba*

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