



# Sanathana Sarathi

OCTOBER 2015







# Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

Vol.: 58 Issue No. 10 Date of Publication: 1st October

October 2015

© Sri Sathya Sai  
Sadhana Trust, Publications Division  
Prasanthi Nilayam

Printed by **K.S. RAJAN**  
Published by **K.S. RAJAN**

On behalf of the owner, Sri Sathya Sai  
Sadhana Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi  
Nilayam 515134, Anantapur District (A.P.)  
And Printed at M/s Rajhans Enterprises, 136,  
4th Main Road, Industrial Town, Rajaji Nagar,  
Bengaluru 560044, Karnataka  
And Published at Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust,  
Publications Division, Prasanthi Nilayam  
515134, Anantapur Dist., Andhra Pradesh.

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,

Bengaluru : 080 28411500

*Annual Subscription*  
acceptable for 1, 2 or 3 years.

**English India:** (12 issues) ₹ 75 Nepal.

Bhutan and Sri Lanka ₹ 600

**Other Countries:** ₹ 850

or US \$19 or UK £13 or €13 or

CAN \$22, AUS \$26

**Telugu India:** ₹ 60 (12 issues)

**Other Countries:** ₹ 550 or £9 or US \$13

or €9, CAN \$15 or AUS \$17

**Note:** Please do not send currency notes  
in postal covers. **For the Attention of**  
"Sanathana Sarathi" Subscribers.

The month and year of expiry of your  
subscription is indicated next to the  
subscription number on the mailing  
wrapper. Three asterisk marks (\*\*\*)

appearing after your subscription number

indicate that you should renew your

subscription immediately. Please quote

your present subscription number

while renewing the subscription. All

subscriptions and other correspondence

should be addressed to The Convener;

Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications

Division, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515134.

Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh, India.

*"Liberation or Moksha is no special  
and exclusive heaven into which one  
has to earn admission; it is not a special  
status or acquisition or possession. It  
is just the removal of the false notion  
that we are bound and limited by the  
body, the senses, the intellect, the mind,  
the ego and other fancies."*



## CONTENTS

- 4 **Liberation from Bondage**  
**Bhagavan's Discourse: 24th March 1971**
- 6 **Celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam**  
**A Report**
- 13 **Bharat is the Land that God Loves**  
**From our Archives**
- 16 **Kodaikanal Adventure**  
**John Behner**
- 18 **A Day with Sri Sathya Sai Mobile Hospital's Team**  
**Dr. Sailaja Kamaraju**
- 20 **Bhagavan 90th Birthday Celebrations**  
**Pilgrimage of Devotees from States of India**
- 25 **Divine Transformation**  
**Rama Varma**
- 27 **The Call of the Flute**  
**Effulgence of Divine Glory**
- 29 **Showmanship Brings Misery**  
**Chinna Katha**
- 30 **News from Sai Centres**



### *Forthcoming Festivals at Prasanthi Nilayam*



**16th October - 22nd October ... Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna**  
**14th November 6 p.m.**

**to 15th November 6 p.m. ....Global Akhanda Bhajan**

**18th November .....Rathotsavam**

**19th November .....Ladies Day**

**22nd November.....34th Convocation of**  
**Sri Sathya Sai Institute**  
**of Higher Learning**

**23rd November .....90th Birthday of**  
**Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**

**25th December .....Christmas**

AVATAR VANI

# LIBERATION FROM BONDAGE

*This most illuminating Discourse of Bhagavan contains the quintessence of all Vedanta and provides practical knowledge to man to attain liberation and freedom from bondage.*

## DELVE INTO THE REALM OF TRUTH

**M**ANY A SADHAKA HAS GONE through long and arduous disciplines in order to win his dearest ambition of entering the kingdom where there is no bondage; he has recited the Name or meditated on the Form or denied the senses. There are others who have ventured, with reason as their sole guide, into the realms of the inner consciousness and discovered that liberation consists in realising the Reality that is behind all the transient and manifold phenomena. But the experiences of these heroic men and women are discarded as the vapourings of crazy individuals by those who live on the flimsy surface of the first of

the five sheaths of human personality, the Annamaya Kosha (physical). They identify the body as themselves and do not delve behind the falsehood into the realm of Truth.

### Body Attachment Causes Bondage

Such cynics who condemn the Vedantic approach to the problems of living are not rare even in the land that gave birth to Vedanta! The reason behind their attitude is – they do not grasp the fact that Vedanta reveals only the genuine history of each one of them. It but seeks to hold before every one the true picture of himself, devoid of

*From the seed of love springs the sprout of devotion to the Lord. The devotee sees everything as the manifestation of the glory of God, every act as His handiwork, every word as His voice; he offers every thought, word and deed inspired and prompted by Him to Him. Thus for him, the world is but He, He is the world. There is no second. So, the fruit of the tree of love is Jnana.*



deficiencies or exaggerations. Liberation or Moksha is no special and exclusive heaven into which one has to earn admission; it is not a special status or acquisition or possession. It is just the removal of the false notion that we are bound and limited by the body, the senses, the intellect, the mind, the ego and other fancies.

What exactly is the bond which one has to free oneself from? The bonds have been forged by fear and anxiety, produced by desire which holds one in its grip. Fundamentally, fear arises because you feel there is before you, another, a second! If there is no second, whom can one fear? The first person is the seer; the second is "all others beings and things" which are seen, observed, Nature.

### **Awareness of Unity is Highest Wisdom**

The objective world is the illusion caused by ignorance, which makes one ignore the One that is only apparent as many. Ignorance causes the identification with the limited 'I' and the attachment with mine. So, when someone attached to us dies, we feel broken-hearted, whereas, when someone who is not in the circle of kith or kin dies, we are not affected at all. It is the sense of I and mine that causes grief and fear. That is why the Upanishads proclaim that renunciation alone confers immortality, freedom, fulfilment.

The highest wisdom is the awareness of the unity, the One, which is all this. In fact, there are no two, there is only one Brahman. You realise this when you are in deep sleep, when all thoughts, feelings, emotions, passions, attachments, knowledge cease, only the I remaining; and the happiness of being only the I. But the Ananda is not known at the time of sleep! It is only after waking

that you declare, 'I enjoyed fine sleep'. If only you were aware of the Ananda, sleep will be Samadhi, for, it is Ananda unalloyed. So also, in the waking stage, you have knowledge, but no Ananda.

If you can experience the knowledge of the waking stage and the Ananda of the sleeping stage, both at the same time and to the full, that is Moksha. That is true liberation. Then you have consciousness, knowledge and bliss, unalloyed; you are Sat-Chit-Ananda (Existence, Knowledge, Bliss) itself, pure and simple.

### **Acquire Jnana that can Grant Liberation**

You must watch for the moment when the wakeful stage passes into the sleeping stage and concentrate on that moment, purifying it of all the agitations and thoughts which mar the wisdom and the Ananda. Of course, it is difficult in the beginning! When you are at the wheel of your car, driving along, far off into the night, there comes a fateful moment when you slip into sleep, from the awareness of awakening! There is nothing that you cannot gain by practice! You have learnt the highly complicated and strange skills of walking erect, of writing scripts and reading them and interpreting them, all by practice, haven't you? This is the way of acquiring and experiencing the Jnana which alone can grant liberation from fear and grief.

From the seed of love springs the sprout of devotion to the Lord. The devotee sees everything as the manifestation of the glory of God, every act as His handiwork, every word as His voice; he offers every thought, word and deed inspired and prompted by Him to Him. Thus for him, the world is but

*continued on page 15...*



# CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

## ONAM CELEBRATIONS

THE 6-DAYLONG ONAM celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam began on 23rd August 2015 with an erudite talk by a famous architect, Sri G. Sankar. Narrating the story of his transformation from a Marxist to a devotee of Bhagavan, the learned speaker exhorted one and all to follow the teachings of Bhagavan and serve Manava (man) like serving Madhava (God). What followed next was a bouquet of devotional songs by Sri Vittal Bhagavathar who sang devotional songs in Abhang style dedicating them to Lord Vitthal. Beginning his presentation with “Jai Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram Vitthal Hari”, the singer next sang “Ram Krishna Hari Om” and followed it with another Vitthal song “Vitthal Vitthal Panduranga” and concluded his devotional offering with the Bhajan “Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin”. On all the six days of Onam celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam, morning and afternoon Veda chanting and Bhajan singing was conducted by Kerala devotees.

The first item of the programme on 24th August 2015 was an erudite speech of Justice D. Seshadri Rao Naidu of Kerala High Court. Dwelling on the teachings of Bhagavan on the unity of faiths, the distinguished speaker observed that different faiths were like various halls in a big mansion. Urging one and all to develop faith in Bhagavan, he said, He will take us to our destination if our faith is firm. What followed next was a virtual feast of instrumental fusion music presented by Sri K. Anoop Bhaskar who suffused the

entire milieu with devotional fervour with classical pieces for nearly 45 minutes and brought his presentation to a close with the Bhajan “Govinda Krishna Jai”.

A devotional music presentation was made by Sri Padma Kumar and party on the morning of 25th August 2015. Beginning his programme at 8.20 a.m., the singer enthralled the devotees by his melodious rendition of devotional songs dedicated to the Divine Mother and Bhagavan which included “Gaana Priye Amba Karunamayi” (the compassionate Divine Mother who loves songs) and “Antaranga Sai Anaatha Naatha Sai” (indweller Sai, the protector of the destitute). In the afternoon, two speakers addressed the gathering. The first speaker was Sri Haridas. Speaking



*Ceremonial recitation of “Narayaneeyam” in Poornachandra Auditorium.*

on “Narayaneeyam”, ceremonial chanting of which was conducted in Poornachandra Auditorium, the learned speaker observed that Bhagavan Baba is none else but Lord Narayana Himself, and Prasanthi Nilayam is the real home of the people of Kerala where they come to celebrate Onam. The second speaker was Sri Govind Bharatham who also spoke on Narayaneeyam. Quoting from



Narayaneeyam, Sri Bharatham observed that it was a treatise which taught both Jnana and Bhakti to devotees.

These talks were followed by a devotional music presentation by Sri Vishnu Bhat and party. Beginning his concert at 5.30 p.m. with a prayer song to Lord Ganesh “Gaja Mukha Gaja Mukha Gananatha” (Lord Ganesh, the master of celestial beings, bears elephant trunk), the singer surcharged the entire milieu with sacredness by spirited rendition of devotional songs which included “Swagatam Krishna” (welcome Krishna), “Charanam Sharanam Bhagavan” (salutation at the Lotus Feet of the Lord).

In the morning programme on 26th August 2015, Sai Youth of Kerala, both boys and girls, offered a garland of devotional songs



*Devotional songs in Sai Kulwant Hall by Sai Youth of Kerala.*

at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan. Beginning their presentation at 8.20 a.m. with a popular Carnatic number “Japata Japata Harinama Manuja”, the singers next sang a Mira Bhajan “Payoji Maine Ram Ratan Dhana Payo” (I have found the jewel of Divine Name). They then enthralled the devotees with selected devotional songs in Hindi, Malayalam and Tamil. In the afternoon programme, first Sri Jyotilal, Principal Secretary, Government of Kerala, addressed the gathering. Dwelling on the message of Onam, the distinguished speaker observed that the

main teaching of Onam was surrender to God and eradication of ego as exemplified by Emperor Bali. This was followed by a Carnatic music concert by Smt. Vaikom Vijayalakshmi and party. Beginning her presentation with a composition dedicated to Lord Ganesh, “Pranamamyaham Sri Gowri Sutham” (I offer Pranams to the son of Parvati), the visually challenged but divinely gifted singer suffused the entire milieu with devotional fervour by melodious rendition of Thyagaraja compositions which followed next. Thereafter she sang Bhajans which included “Darshan Deejo Bhagavan” (give Darshan, Bhagavan), “Tripura Sundari Maa” (Divine Mother is the embodiment of all beauty), “Koti Pranam Shata Koti Pranam” (crores of obeisance to Sai). Bhajans by students continued after this and concluded with Arati after distribution of Prasadam to all.

The supremely pure and divinely pious devotion of Radha came to the fore when the students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Aluva performed the dance drama “Radha



*Dance drama “Radha Bhakti” by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Aluva.*

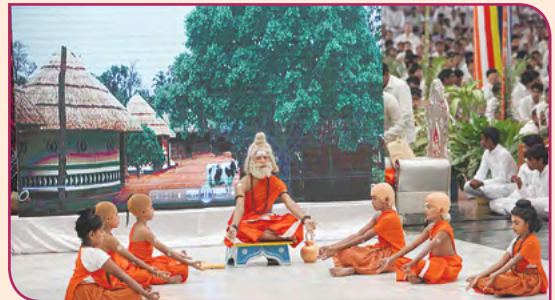
Bhakti” on 27th August 2015. Written and composed by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba Himself, the drama began appropriately with an audio clip of Bhagavan’s Discourse at 5.00 p.m. What followed next was a gripping portrayal of Radha’s intense

devotion for Krishna, which set highest ideal for all mankind to emulate. Embellished with thrilling lyrics and enchanting dances of the students, the drama forcefully conveyed the message that true devotion to God was the royal road for liberation of man. Excellent acting of the students, beautiful costumes and make-up added to the beauty of the drama.

The joyous spirit of Onam suffused the entire milieu with festivity and gaiety at Prasanthi Nilayam on the Onam day, 28th August 2015. There were beautiful Kerala style decorations in Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the celebrations, besides special colourful floral decorations on the Samadhi of Bhagavan. A noted Carnatic vocalist Kumari Abhirami Ajay added to the joy of this sacred festival when she presented an enrapturing vocal music concert on the Onam morning. Beginning her programme with a prayer song invoking Lord Ganesh, the gifted singer enthralled the devotees for about one hour with her mellifluous rendition of devotional songs which included “Shambho Mahadeva”, “Darshan Do Bhagavan” (grant us Your Darshan, Bhagavan), “Mandara Giridhara Madana Manohara” (Lord Krishna is the embodiment of charm and beauty), “Om Namah Sivaya” (hail, Lord Siva). The percussion band of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning thereafter played some joyous numbers followed by Bhajans. As per the Onam tradition, devotees were offered a sumptuous feast in South Indian Canteen after the morning programme.

The programme in the afternoon started with an erudite talk by Prof. N.R. Madhava Menon, Chancellor, Guru Ghasidas Central University, Chhattisgarh. Underscoring the harmony in the visible diversity of Indian culture, the learned speaker observed that

every Indian should be proud of this unique culture which is based on the lofty ideal of “Samasta Loka Sukhino Bhavantu” (May all the beings of all the worlds be happy!). Presentation of gold medals to the winners of the annual essay competition and Bhajan Mahotsava (Bhajan singing) followed this talk. The winners were: Kumari Kasturi Shah from Thiruvananthapuram for high school level, Kumari Anita Tajuddin from Palakkad district for inter-collegiate level and Ms. Sheetel M.C. from Kozhikode for college level. Nearly 25,000 students from about 11,000 educational institutions of Kerala took part in this year’s competition. A drama entitled “Navavidha Bhakti” (nine modes of devotion) was thereafter staged by students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidyapeeth, Srisailam. The



*A scene from the drama “Navavidha Bhakti” by students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidyapeeth, Srisailam.*

drama depicted the nine modes of devotion, namely, *Sravanam* (listening), *Kirtanam* (singing), *Vishnusmaranam* (contemplating on Vishnu), *Padasevanam* (serving His Lotus Feet), *Vandanam* (salutation), *Archanam* (worship), *Dasyam* (servitude), *Sneham* (friendship), *Atmanivedanam* (self-surrender) by illustrating each mode of devotion with an episode from mythological texts. Divine Discourse of Bhagavan followed this drama. In His Discourse, Bhagavan emphasised that man should focus his mind on God and follow the path



of spirituality. All the nine paths of devotion, Bhagavan said, help man to control his mind and direct it towards God. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan “Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram”. Bhajans continued next and came to a close with Arati.

### 13TH ANNIVERSARY OF RADIO SAI

On the occasion of 13th anniversary of Radiosai, the Radiosai team made a presentation “90 Years of Sathya Sai” on 29th August 2015 as part of Bhagavan’s 90th Birthday celebrations. Delineating the life story of Bhagavan through commentary, songs, video clips of Bhagavan’s Discourses and video screening of visuals illustrating the theme “Who is Sai”?, the team members conveyed the profound message of Bhagavan that He is none other than the Cosmic Supreme Being who has taken human form to uplift and serve mankind and to show the path of service with love and compassion to man.

### SRI KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI

Deep devotional fervour marked the celebration of the sacred festival of Sri Krishna Janmashtami held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 5th September 2015. The programme began at 8.20 a.m. with auspicious Nadaswaram notes by the students band of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. A stream of devotional songs by the Institute’s singers followed next which included “Vinati Karoon Mein” (I pray to the Lord), “Namo Narayana” (salutations to Lord Narayana), “Govinda Hare Krishna”. Meanwhile, the procession of beautifully bedecked cows led by Nadaswaram musicians and Veda chanting students entered Sai Kulwant Hall. The



*Cows and calves in Sai Kulwant Hall on the occasion of Sri Krishna Janmashtami.*

procession also included calves, pigeons, etc. After feeding them with love, Arati was offered to the cows, after which the procession returned to Sri Sathya Sai Gokulam. A beautiful dance by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School followed this.

Video screening of a clip of Bhagavan’s Sri Krishna Janmashtami Discourse marked the conclusion of the function. Narrating the Divine Leelas of Lord Krishna relating to his lifting of Govardhan mountain on His little finger and creation of cows and calves when these were taken away by Lord Brahma to test Krishna’s Divinity, Bhagavan said that Krishna’s divine pranks were mysterious and blissful. Everyone, He said, can ruminate on these Leelas and experience bliss. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan “Govinda Krishna Jai”.

### 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SRI SATHYA SAI MOBILE HOSPITAL

A grand function was held at Prasanthi Nilayam to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Sri Sathya Sai Mobile Hospital which has done yeoman service by reaching out to nearly five lakh villagers in 600 villages and provided medical care to them at their doorstep in the last ten years. Besides, nearly 300 doctors who have been providing their services to the mobile hospital, a

large number of dignitaries attended the function, which included Dr. L.V. Subramanyam, Special Chief Secretary of Medical Education and Dr. Nalini Mohan, Commissioner, AYUSH. The Chief Guest of the function was Dr. Kamineni Srinivas, Andhra Pradesh Minister of Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare.

At the outset, Dr. Narasimhan, Director of the mobile hospital, gave a detailed account of the genesis and growth of this service project which was launched by Bhagavan Himself on 30th March 2006. Explaining the salient features of this service project, Dr. Narasimhan underlined the need of regularity of service and fixity of approach by the doctors which, he said, were the hallmarks of this mobile hospital. Speaking next, the Chief Guest, Dr. Kamineni appreciated the

talks of three eminent speakers. The first speaker was Dr. Choudhary Voleti, Director, SSSIHMS. Underscoring the medical perspective of Bhagavan's mission of service to mankind, the distinguished speaker highlighted the importance of providing medical care to the patients at all the three levels – physical, mental and Atmic. The second speaker, Dr. Vinod Kumar Varma, Director, Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, Prasanthi Nilayam, highlighted the powerful role of love as the most effective ingredient in patient care. The last speaker, Dr. Ashwini Kumar, narrated some touching experiences during his service in villages and observed that Grama Seva is Rama Seva as taught by Bhagavan Baba. Thereafter, hearing aids were distributed to needy persons. In conclusion, nearly 300 doctors of the mobile hospital were honoured and gifts were presented to them.



*Dr. Kamineni Srinivas, Andhra Pradesh Minister for Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare addressing the gathering in Sai Kulwant Hall.*

work being done by the mobile hospital and Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences which he visited earlier in the morning. He also released a book on the mobile hospital. After this, a documentary film was screened which depicted the actual day-to-day functioning of the mobile hospital in villages.

The proceedings of the 10th anniversary celebrations of the mobile hospital on 6th September 2015 began at 8.20 a.m. with

### SAI SANNIDHI DAY

The former students of Bhagavan working in different departments of the Ashram and hospitals celebrated Sai Sannidhi Day (in the proximity of Sai) on 6th September 2015 to express their gratitude to Bhagavan for the love and blessings He showered on them during their student days and after. Highlighting the sacred bond of love between Bhagavan and His students, they first narrated their experiences of Bhagavan's proximity and grace in Kodaikanal and then dwelt upon many incidents which revealed His divinity and brought forth valuable lessons they learnt at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan. These short speeches of the former students were intertwined with beautiful devotional songs, some of which were: "Madhuram Nee Gaanam" (Your

singing is sweet), “Hum Tere Hain Sai Hum Tere Hain” (we are Thine).

### S. G. SUNDARASWAMY MEMORIAL LECTURE

The S.G. Sundaraswamy Memorial Lecture is an annual endowment lecture at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) instituted in honour of late Sri S.G. Sundaraswamy – a doyen of the legal profession in Bengaluru and an ardent devotee of Bhagavan Baba – by his son, Sri S. S. Naganand, Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust. The first lecture took place at Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the Institute on Saturday, 12th September 2015.

The event commenced at 3 p.m. with Vedic chants by students. Dr. R. Sai Sathish, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, SSSIHL, then welcomed the Chief Guest, Prof. Seeram Ramakrishna, Chancellor of the Institute, Justice M.N.



*S.G. Sundaraswamy Memorial Lecture in the Institute Auditorium.*

Venkatachaliah, Vice Chancellor, Prof. K. B. R. Varma, Trustees of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, administrators, teachers and students of SSSIHL.

Prof. S. Siva Sankara Sai, Dean, Faculty of Sciences, SSSIHL introduced the speaker, Prof. Seeram Ramakrishna, Director, Centre for Nanofibers and Nanotechnology, Department of Mechanical Engineering, National University of Singapore.

Acknowledging the unique privilege of being at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prof. Seeram said that there were more than 20,000 universities in the world and he had visited more than a thousand of them, but had not come across even one such university in the entire world. He said that everyone asks the question, “What is the purpose of life”? at some point and remarked that this question helps us to begin touching the frontiers of the spiritual domain. Talking about the basic necessities of life including food, clothing, shelter, health and happiness, he observed that innovation was the only way to address these necessities. He stated that across the millennia, while many innovations had taken place, none would have more profound an impact on human society as the innovation in Nanotechnology in the 21st century.

He then succinctly explained the concept of Nanoscience using the example of the thickness of paper and underlined the importance of the same by explaining the change in the properties of matter and materials from the macro to the micro scales, using the example of gold and its colour changes at various thicknesses. Nanotechnology and its applications were very important in various field of regenerative medicine, tissue engineering, health, food, textile industries, automobile, energy, environment, diagnostics, therapeutics and many other industrial applications, he said.

### GANESH CHATURTHI

Festivity and piety marked the celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi at Prasanthi Nilayam. On the morning of Ganesh Chaturthi, 17th September 2015, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning



made a devotional music offering to Lord Ganesh. Besides Stotras and a dance number dedicated to Lord Ganesh, the students presented soul-stirring devotional songs which included “Siddhi Vinayaka Jai Gananatha” (the Lord of Ganas bestows success), “Ekadanta Jagannath” (the Lord of the universe who has one tusk), “Jai Deva, Gananath” (hail the Lord of Ganas). The Bhajan session that followed this also comprised Ganesh Bhajans which were led by students and followed in chorus by devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall with deep devotion. The morning programme concluded with distribution of Prasadam and Arati.

The programme in the afternoon began with a talk on the glory of Lord Ganesh by Sri Anil Kumar. Lord Ganesh, the learned speaker said, is known as the remover of obstacles. Enlisting three main obstacles of man, namely, ignorance, poverty and sorrow, he narrated a few incidents how Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Sai Ganesh of Puttaparthi, removed the obstacles of devotees and brought happiness in their life. Earlier, in his introductory remarks, Sri G.S.R.C.V. Prasada Rao, Secretary, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, commended the missionary zeal with which Sri Anil Kumar had been spreading the Divine Message of Bhagavan in India and overseas countries.

Video screening of a Ganesh Chaturthi Discourse of Bhagavan followed this. Ganesh, Bhagavan said, is the remover of obstacles and bestower of all

knowledge and wisdom. Man should develop intelligence like Ganesh and follow the path of devotion, He added. “If you want to become a devotee of Sai, love all and serve all”, said Bhagavan in conclusion. Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan “Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram”. The programme ended with Arati after distribution of Prasadam to all.

Worship of the idols of Lord installed in schools, colleges, Ashram departments and



*Vinayaka worship in Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division.*

hospitals began in the respective premises after the conclusion of the programme in Sai Kulwant Hall. After performing the worship of the idols on 17th and 18th September 2015, the groups of students and devotees brought the idols to Sai Kulwant Hall on 19th September 2015 for the Nimajjan



*Beautifully designed chariots in Sai Kulwant Hall.*

From our Archives

# BHARAT IS THE LAND THAT GOD LOVES

YOUR ACTIONS INDICATE YOUR CHARACTER

EVERYONE OF YOU ought to feel proud that you took birth in this holy land, long famous as the land of Yoga (divine communion), of Thyaga (selfless sacrifice) and of God-oriented Karma (dedicated action). You are the children of Mother Veda; she loves you so affectionately that she has called you here to witness this great Vedic Yajna.

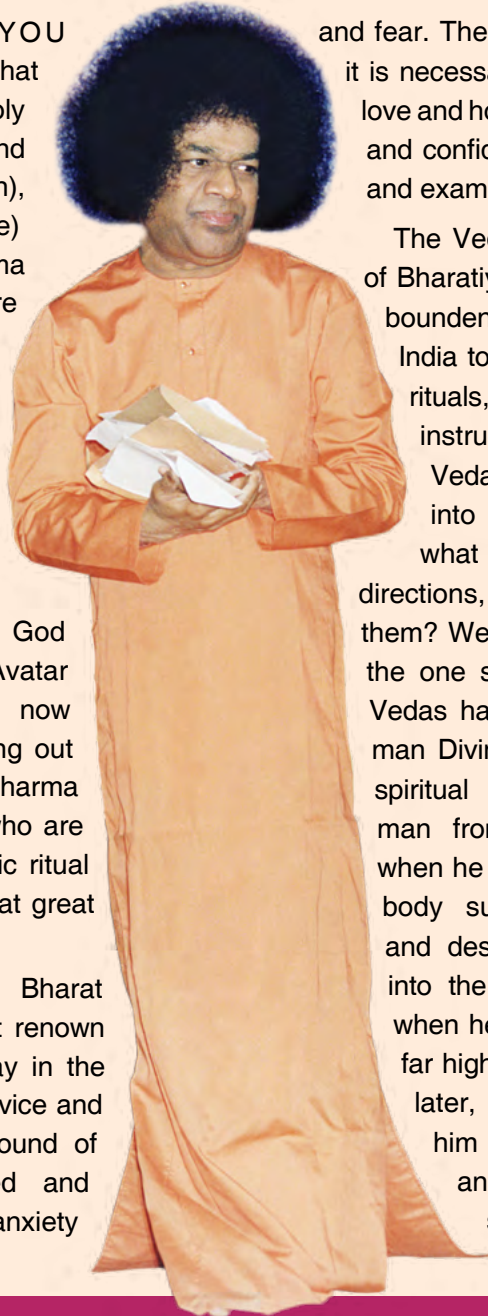
## The Vedas Raise Man to Divine Level

Bharat is the land that God loves, for, He has taken Avatar here often, and is even now moving on this land, carrying out His Mission of restoring Dharma (righteousness) to people who are ignoring it. This Yajna (Vedic ritual of sacrifice) is an item in that great task.

It is a great pity that Bharat which earned such eminent renown in the spiritual field is today in the throes of a devil dance of vice and wickedness, in the background of falsehood, injustice, hatred and conflict. The land is sunk in anxiety

and fear. Therefore, at this juncture, it is necessary to light the lamp of love and hope and impart courage and confidence, by both precept and example.

The Vedas are the very roots of Bharatiya culture. So, it is the bounden duty of every son of India to observe the rites and rituals, the injunctions and instructions, laid down in the Vedas. Many have fallen into the habit of asking, what is the object of these directions, what can we gain from them? Well, let Me tell them that the one single object that the Vedas have in view is to make man Divine through a series of spiritual exercises. They lead man from the animal stage, when he believes he is just this body suffering hunger, thirst and desires of various kinds, into the state of humanness, when he recognises that he is far higher than an animal and later, the Vedas persuade him to use his intelligence and discrimination to sublimate his passions



and emotions to the divine level where he is in eternal bliss.

The Vedas elaborate the Sanathana Sastra (the primal science of the spirit). Understanding this science well and practising it form the duties every man owes to himself. That science results in the removal of ignorance, the gaining of knowledge; not the knowledge of material, worldly things, which changes and gets superseded every few years! It endows the seeker with the knowledge that is the key to the entire gamut of knowledge, that which if known, everything else is known.

### **Yajna for the Welfare of Mankind**

Coming to this ritual of Yajna which we are inaugurating, you will notice that when the sanctified offerings are laid in the holy fire, the Pandits (scholars) utter the word 'Swaha', as often as they offer. The reason why that word has to be uttered is, according to them, to enable the offering to be totally reduced and consumed by the fire. Now, it is the very nature of fire to consume and so, there is no need to call upon fire in this manner; it does not stand to reason to declare that fire has to be prayed to for being and behaving so. It is uttered to acclaim the energy and splendour that are latent in fire and to invoke the Divine Tejas (effulgence) that enables fire to shine and purify. The presiding deity is called upon to carry the offering to the particular god to whom it is dedicated, saying, Indraya Swaha, Kesavaya Swaha, Rudraya Swaha, Varunaya Swaha, etc. Indra, Kesava, Rudra and Varuna will receive the oblation through Agni, the presiding deity of fire, only when he is invoked and aroused by the syllable 'Swaha'.

There is another clarification which I feel I should make just now. The Vedas are

countless – *Ananto Vai Veda* (the Vedas are infinite), it is said. Now, the doubt may arise why countless Vedas are necessary to lay down the path of spiritual progress. Let us take an example. To make a child understand the meaning of one word, the parent or teacher uses very often a whole barrage of words. Explanation means elaboration, repetition, re-emphasising. So, to make clear to men of average intelligence or no intelligence, it became necessary to have a number of supplementary or complementary texts and scriptures, and since their number is immense, they came to be known as Ananta (countless). The aim of every Veda, however large the number, however varied the approach, is the same: to lead man from the animal stage through the human into the height of Divine Self-realisation.

From the Universal Absolute manifested Brahman, the Cosmic Principle. From Brahman, Karma (regulated activity) based on Vedic prescriptions originated; from this kind of Karma, the gods are delighted and they shower rain, directing the rain god Parjanya to bless the world and its people; since rain falls, crops grow and food is available for consumption; through food, man gets health, strength and vitality; as a result of this vitality, man multiplies and reproduces himself. This is the cycle, according to the Vedas – Karma, rain, crops, food, fecundity. Kratus (elaborate rituals) of this type are undertaken for invoking timely rains, congenial seasons and peace and prosperity for the whole world.

It is the activity which declares whether the individual or society is good or bad. The thermometer measures the temperature of the body and announces whether the body





is well or ill. The Karma or activity is the indicator of inner character. Observing one's actions, their motives, their consequences and the extent of one's involvement, it is possible to declare one as a Pashu (beast) or Pashupathi (the Lord of individual souls), that is to say as the Divine, as God Himself.

### Pray Intensely with Faith

The Kratu is also a Karma, albeit a Vedic Karma, dedicated to the acquisition of the welfare of the world. All Karma done to ensure the welfare of others, without any aspiration for personal benefit, is good Karma which the gods would appreciate as a Kratu. The evil consequences that are sure to affect you when you have committed wrong Karmas can be counteracted by engaging yourself in beneficial Karmas, thereby earning merit.

There is no attempt now to counteract evil by good and so, the country is fast sliding into decline. How can the country uplift itself? The country is not just a piece of the map, or a slice of earth. It is a collection of men, women and children, bound together by tradition and certain common ways of life and thought handed down as valid and valuable by generations of patriots and leaders of spiritual life.

Yajna means, as you know, sacrifice, Thyaga (renunciation). The Yajna celebrated here has no particular individual desire to satisfy. The aim is to ensure the prosperity and peace, not of any one individual, nor of

***Bharat is the land that God loves, for, He has taken Avatar here often, and is even now moving on this land, carrying out His Mission of restoring Dharma (righteousness) to people who are ignoring it.***

any region or community or country, but, all mankind.

This Yajna was gone through for the sake of Loka Kalyana (welfare of the whole world). You should merge your welfare with the welfare of the world. How can you be happy when your neighbour is in misery? Therefore, I call upon you to give up praying for your own advancement; pray for the peace, prosperity and happiness of all humanity, irrespective of clime or colour.

Pray intensely and with faith. Then, grace will be showered on you. When the heart is soaked in Love, it cannot be contaminated by egoism and its evil consequences. Just as you crave for physical health, which means health for the limbs of the body, you should strive for the health of humanity, which means peace and joy for all sections, in all nations. If you dwell in that wider outlook, you will start feeling less and less for your own troubles and worrying more and more for troubles of others. That is the initial offering of yourself in the great Yajna called living.

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

*...continued from page 5*

He, He is the world. There is no second. So, the fruit of the tree of love is Jnana. The sweetness in that fruit is Ananda and the fruit contains once again the seed of love from which the sapling puts forth its leaves.

In the Viswa Virat Swarupa, which Krishna allowed Arjuna to witness, Arjuna found himself as well as his brothers and cousins.

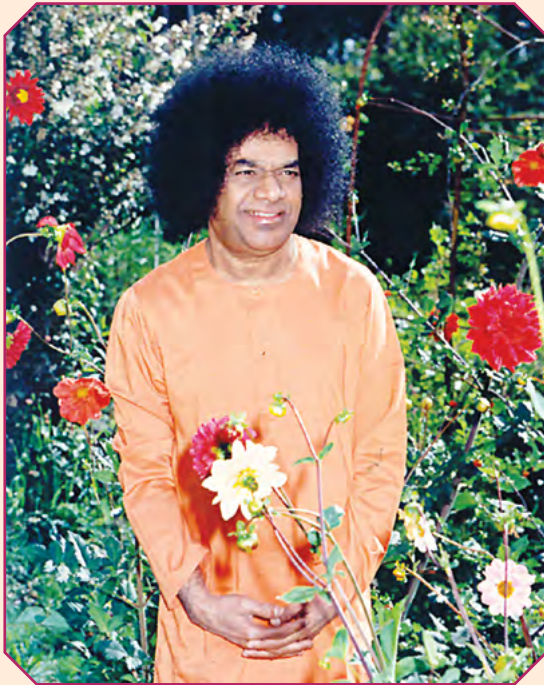
**– Bhagavan's Divine Discourse on 24th March 1971.**

# KODAIKANAL ADVENTURE

John Behner

*Swami would also make interesting comments from time to time such as one evening He told us: Shirdi Baba was the food gatherer, Sathya Sai is the food cooker, and Prema Sai will be the one to serve food. We all got the message.*

**I**T WAS IN 1989 THAT BHAGAVAN Baba left for Kodaikanal for a 6-week stay. This was very unusual, since He would normally stay just for two or three weeks. However, this year it had been determined that the original Bhajan Hall, built next to Swami's residence, was to be expanded as it was too small for the number



of devotees coming for His Darshan. The best way to expand the hall was to excavate earth from behind the hall, where the hillside continued its upward thrust.

## Dig Deeper

After morning Darshan, all the able-bodied men and many women too joined in digging out the hillside, and passing the earth in small baskets from one devotee to another in order to make a land fill, where later the Darshan area was also expanded. Our Beloved Bhagavan would come out every morning to supervise the work, and then with His own hands distribute cold milk shakes in tetra pak cartons to all of us. But the best part were the questions or remarks He would make. One day He asked me, "How many feet"? I was digging into the hillside, and in my innocence, I thought He wanted to know how many feet we had been able to dig from the existing wall of the Bhajan Hall. I told Swami, "let me get a tape measure", but without further comment He walked on. Later when comparing notes with a friend, he told me that Swami had told me to 'dig deeper'. So, then I realised that Swami was speaking about spiritual progress, not the construction at hand. In my case, "how many feet" referred to attachments to family, and my friend received advice on introspection.

## Krishna's Story and Priceless Materialisations

In the evenings after the Darshan was over, I was blessed to go into Swami's living



room for the gatherings with the students. Here Swami would ask a student to speak, and then He Himself would take up the narration of the life of Krishna, telling the story as only someone who was there could tell it. Every night we listened with rapture to this story, and Swami would punctuate it with materialisations. One night He materialised the ring of Kamsa, called the Vijaya Bhushana. This ring had been given to Kamsa by his father-in-law, Jarasandha in order to conquer more lands, and which made Kamsa invincible as long as he wore the ring. Swami passed the ring around to all of us, and it was huge, too big for my thumb. It had a green stone with a very deep blue colour in the centre. Then Swami blew on the ring and it returned to its original resting place.

Another night Swami materialised a gift that Sathyabhama had received for her wedding to Krishna which was a golden swan, whose body was a small basket. The neck of the swan contained diamonds for its entire length; it was a piece of jewellery that would make any craftsman proud. Swami

put the swan on the table next to His chair, but did not make it disappear. The next day we asked the students what happened to the swan. They said Swami had taken it to His room, and from there who knows where it went.

Swami would also make interesting comments from time to time such as one evening He told us: Shirdi Baba was the food gatherer, Sathya Sai is the food cooker, and Prema Sai will be the one to serve food. We all got the message.

When the six weeks of digging and earth moving came to a close, we boarded our vehicles to follow Swami to Ooty. On the way, Coimbatore had been suffering from a drought for too long, but when Swami's car approached, the heavens opened up and there was a downpour in response to the Lord's presence. We pray that all of our readers will feel the downpour of His grace during this 90th Birthday celebrations.

**– John Behner from El Salvador is the Chairman of Zone 2 of Sathya Sai International Organisation.**

*...continued from page 12*

(immersion) ceremony. As Veda chanting began in the hall at 4.00 p.m., the idols led by Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students and devotees started arriving in the hall in magnificent chariots and palanquins. In all, 22 beautiful vehicles were lined up in the hall which presented a grand spectacle. The most attractive vehicles included a giant elephant, a ship, a camera, a lighthouse and a large number of beautiful temples. After these vehicles were methodically stationed in the hall, the groups of students and devotees circumambulated

the Bhajan Hall chanting Vedic Mantras and singing Bhajans. Jubilant dances of the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary and Higher Secondary School followed this. Thereafter, the Mandir priest offered Arati to all the idols which marked their departure for immersion. After seeking Bhagavan's blessings, they were taken out of the hall for immersion. A brief session of Bhajans followed this. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.00 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.





Dr. Sailaja Kamaraju

## A DAY WITH SRI SATHYA SAI MOBILE HOSPITAL'S TEAM

**B**HAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI Baba's mission and his tireless efforts towards uplifting of educational and health standards of the poor has made a profound impact within India and abroad. He Himself paid special attention to the core curriculum and design of educational and



*Healthcare at the doorstep of villagers.*

health institutions, end result of which is His magnificent healthcare, serving the poorest of the poor at no cost. Bhagavan Baba is the founder of General Hospital in Prasanthi Nilayam and Super Speciality Hospitals providing tertiary and sub-specialised healthcare for local villagers. Despite a huge success of these hospitals, His intense urge for community engagement and outreach continued for those with language, financial and transportation difficulties. As a result, the project of Sri Sathya Sai Mobile Hospital materialised a decade ago.

Mobile hospital's doctors and paramedical staff have been working intensely for the past one decade. They celebrated the tenth anniversary of the mobile hospital at Prasanthi Nilayam in September 2015. In this context, it is very much appropriate to review the enormous amount of work and

service that is being provided to the rural communities at no cost for all these years. Now, let us take a minute to understand Swami's inscrutable Will in choosing the team headed by Dr. Narasimhan for mobile healthcare project. Dr. Narasimhan, having completed his postgraduate degree in General Medicine at a very young age, soon became a very busy private practitioner. Few years into his practice, arrived an invitation from Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, asking Dr. Narasimhan to join as the chief of mobile hospital project. Taking this as the highest command, he left his practice and started working day and night for mobile hospital project implementation. Shortly after that, materialised a collaborative team of physicians and paramedical staff with a thorough understanding of this mobile hospital's concept and philosophy. After multiple planning sessions, it became very obvious that local schools in the villages were a perfect platform for health education and medical camps with an easy access to rural communities in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh, declared as an area of extreme drought and famine.

After completing the formalities of the local government, rural areas opened their doors wide for mobile hospital, where there is a dearth of medical services. Although it was launched as a small mobile medical unit at its inception a decade ago, today it offers 12-15 medical specialities on a routine basis. One should be aware of this magnanimous work being done for twelve days out of each and every month. These days are divided into three teams of doctors serving four days per camp. The day starts at Prasanthi Nilayam's South Indian Canteen, where all the doctors and paramedical team get onto mobile van and reach the local

village singing Bhajans. Upon arrival, there is a group chanting of Vibhuti and Santhi Mantra, preparing everyone for a hectic day. Prior to this, early in the morning starts health education at 6.30 a.m. at the place of the camp. Can you ever imagine that Dr. Narasimhan arrives at the camp site around 6.30 a.m. to teach the villagers regarding routine healthcare and preventative medicine, where 200-300 villagers gather at the site to listen to him? Medical camp is held at a centrally located village, where patients from 30-40 nearby villages gather. This is currently reaching out to about 600 villages of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh.

Multiple specialities are being offered at the camp, where each doctor examines 60-90 patients per day, serving 600-1200 patients on given average camp day. Physicians discuss the cases with each other and refer to other specialities onsite in a multidisciplinary approach. General medicine, general surgery, pulmonary, cardiology, gynaecology, paediatrics, orthopaedics, ENT, dental, neurology and psychiatric care are offered onsite itself. Provision of multispeciality approach, that too on a mobile hospital, is beyond my imagination and comprehension. X-Ray tests, ultrasound and about 15 types of blood tests are offered on mobile van itself, releasing results within 20-30 minutes in a record time indeed. Other procedures including surgical biopsies and minor procedures are offered onsite as well. In case of any need for additional investigations, patients are referred to either Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospital or to other collaborative sites across the State.

Beyond these, an unwearied team of staff including nurses, pharmacists, and

lab technicians, patient navigators such as Seva Dal and community health workers keep this project seemingly effortless. Swami's master plan and his munificent love are simply exemplified by a pure and delicious lunch coming from the South Indian Canteen of Prasanthi Nilayam which is served onsite to the entire team. Multiple physicians have been passionately working for the past several years. A project will not simply succeed because of its methods and implementation unless one can touch the soul of the patients. A warm welcome, a kind word and a big smile by doctors and paramedical staff keep the mobile project infectiously energetic.

After Swami's Maha Samadhi, there is a great need for us devotees to join each other unitedly and work for the fulfilment of His Divine Mission. Come on! Let us all put our hands together and prove that "Service to mankind is service to God".

I express the pleasure of gratitude and thanks to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba for all the initiative He has taken and immense support and above all His continued blessings on everyone that is associated with this stupendous monthly programme on a regular basis. I consider this opportunity as a privilege to have been able to accompany the medical team during this very brief visit of mine. I pray Bhagavan to bless me with many more opportunities of this nature in the years to come. Those that are interested may get associated with this divine programme and earn Bhagavan's blessings.

**– Dr. Sailaja Kamaraju is an Assistant Professor in Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology-Oncology, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee (WI), U.S.A.**



# BHAGAVAN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



S PART OF 90TH BIRTHDAY celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of various States organised pilgrimages of devotees of their respective States, and put up excellent music and cultural programmes at Prasanthi Nilayam.

**Andhra Pradesh:** More than 4,500 devotees including about 2,600 Bal Vikas children from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana came on a 6-day pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam and presented music and cultural programmes as part of 90th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

On the morning of 30th August 2015, a group of these Bal Vikas children presented a programme of devotional songs which included "Jai Jai Ram Sai Ram", "Narayana Narayana", "Hare Rama Hare Krishna Hare Sai Hare Hare" concluding their presentation with the Telugu song "Rama Kodanda Rama". Bhajans that followed this programme were also led by the singers of Bal Vikas children. In the afternoon programme on 30th August 2015, first Sri A. Ranga Rao, Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Trust spoke about Sathya Sai Schools in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Narrating how Bhagavan always showered His love on students and spent time with them to guide them, the distinguished speaker elaborated on how with the grace of Bhagavan, the students of Sathya Sai Schools in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana were making a mark not only in academic studies but were developing as ideal future citizens of India. After this, the students of Sathya

Sai Schools of these two States presented a dance drama entitled "Sri Rama Bhakti Samrajyam" (realm of devotion for Rama) portraying the illustrious life story of Saint Thyagaraja. The drama depicted how this



*A scene from the drama "Sri Rama Bhakti Samrajyam".*

legendary saint composer and pioneer of Carnatic music spurned worldly riches, faced trials and tribulations at the hand of his money-minded brother and ultimately earned the grace and direct vision of Rama, the only goal of human life. Embellished with choicest compositions of Thyagaraja and thrilling dances of children, the drama powerfully conveyed the message that one-pointed devotion to the Lord is the royal road to attain Him.

The morning programme on 31st August 2015 began with a brief speech of Kumari Y. Padmaja, Bal Vikas Joint Convener of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, in which she elaborated on the progress and growth of Bal Vikas movement in the two States highlighting its undisputed influence in shaping the lives of children. This was followed by a grand rally of Bal Vikas







*Bal Vikas rally in Sai Kulwant Hall.*

children, wherein more than 300 Bal Vikas children and Gurus entered Sai Kulwant Hall singing value songs collectively. The rally demonstrated the teachings of Bhagavan, on the themes of unity of faiths, protection of Nature and love for mother and motherland, and showcased spiritual centres of Sathya Sai Mission, great saints of India, holy texts of the world, Avatars of God, etc. As the rally marched ahead singing value songs, the Bal Vikas children in Sai Kulwant Hall waved Bal Vikas flags.

The programme in the afternoon began with brief speeches of two Bal Vikas children, who highlighted the life, teachings and mission of Bhagavan and exhorted one and all to make their life the Mission of Bhagavan by following the path of all-conquering love and compassion exemplified by Him. After these speeches, a group of Bal Vikas children performed an enchanting Kolatam Dance. Making rhythmic movements to the tune of sweet lyrics and thrilling music, the students made many beautiful formations to the delight of spectators. This was followed by thrilling group songs in which all the 2,600 Bal Vikas children in Sai Kulwant Hall along with their Gurus took part. Beginning with the song “Sri Ganesha Sivuni Kumara (Ganesh, the son of Siva), the students suffused the entire milieu with spiritual vibrations with

devotional songs which included “Tu Pyar Ka Sagar Hai” (You are the ocean of love), “Narayana Mantram Sriman Narayana Mantram”, concluding with the popular song “Sai Matha Biddalam Andaram” (all are the children of Mother Sai). What followed next was a grand instrumental music extravaganza by Bal Vikas children which thrilled one and all. Some of the tunes played by the budding musicians were:



*Instrumental music extravaganza by Bal Vikas children.*

“Madhura Mohana Ghanashyama Sundara Sai”, “Brahmamokkate” (God is one), which were followed by a Bhajan medley. They concluded their wonderful presentation with the Bhajan “Govinda Krishna Jai”.

On 1st September 2015, all the programmes including morning and afternoon Veda chanting and Bhajans were conducted by the Ladies Wing of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. After Veda chanting in the morning, ladies singers of the two States presented a soulful programme of devotional songs entitled “Sri Sathya Sai Sudha Madhuri (ambrosial sweetness of Sai). The session also marked the inauguration of a Mobile Medical Van for the benefit of the inhabitants in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. This is the 11th Mobile Clinic from these two States forming part of the medicare activities. Senior office



*Inauguration of mobile medical van.*

bearers from Prasanthi Nilayam graced the occasion. The afternoon programme began with a talk by Dr. D.S.D. Shyamala, a former student of Anantapur Campus, currently Education Wing Coordinator of East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. Speaking about the growth of Bal Vikas, Nagar Sankirtan, Bhajan classes, vocational training initiatives, etc., Dr. Shyamala gave a succinct account of the Seva activities of the Ladies Wing of the Sai Organisation of the two States. A captivating Veena recital by a noted Carnatic classical music exponent Dr. R. Madhuri Devi followed this talk. Beginning with the composition “Mahaganapatim” dedicated to Lord Ganesh, she next played the first Bhajan sung by Bhagavan “Manasa Bhajare Guru Charanam”, and followed it with “Om Namah Sivaya Sivaya Namah Om”, fusion music and Carnatic classical compositions. Dr. Madhuri Devi and her accompanying artistes were felicitated at the end of the concert.

On 2nd September 2015, all the programmes including morning and afternoon Veda chanting and Bhajans were conducted by devotees from Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh. They also presented a beautiful programme of devotional songs in the morning entitled “Sri Sathya Sai Sangeeta Sudha”. Beginning

their presentation with a Hindi song “Aaye Hain Tere Dar Pe Pujari” (Your worshippers have come to your door), the singers next sang “Enta Madhura Sri Rama Smaranam” (how sweet is the chanting of Rama’s Name!) and another beautiful song dedicated to Bhagavan Baba. Love for the motherland formed the central theme when the Visakhapatnam Sai Youth presented a musical dance drama, “Sai Padham Lo Nava Bharatham” (new India in the Sai



*A scene from the dance drama “Sai Padham Lo Nava Bharatham”.*

Way) on the afternoon of 2nd September 2015. The dance drama depicted that it was unworthy of people to give up their culture, their way of living and their principles solely for making a living. It made an attempt to correct this appalling trend in the Sai Way.

On 3rd September 2015, the programme began with a speech of Sri Dinakar Kadam, an alumnus of the Institute. After this, Sai Youth and Institute alumni put up a very realistic drama “Nethi Karthavyam” (our responsibility today) which showed how the teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba had turned the mind of man all over the world towards spirituality, ethics, morality and divinity through spiritual practices and service activities like Bhajan, Nagar Sankirtan, Bal Vikas, selfless service and human values, thereby subduing the







*A drama by Sai Youth and Institute alumni.*

influence of six inner enemies of man, viz., Kama, Krodha, Lobha, Moha, Mada and Matsarya (desire, anger, greed, delusion, pride and jealousy) in this Kali Age. Noble theme, simple story, excellent acting of the youth and talented direction made the drama an admirable presentation. As Bhajans continued after this, the participants in the drama were felicitated.

The six-day music and cultural programmes organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana concluded on 4th September 2015 with a unique devotional music presentation by a renowned playback singer Sri Sai Ram Iyer of Mumbai. This divinely gifted singer sang devotional songs in both male and female voice casting a spellbinding effect on the audience. The popular devotional songs he sang included "Ram Ka Guna Gaan Kariye" (chant the Name of Rama), "Sathyam Sivam Sundaram" (God is truth, auspiciousness and beauty) and "Sainath Tere Hazaron Haath" (Sai has thousands of hands). He concluded his beautiful presentation with a Bhajan medley. There was a brief Bhajan session after this, during which the singer was honoured with a shawl and the artistes who provided instrumental and vocal support to him were felicitated.

Earlier in the morning, a grand function was held in Poornachandra Auditorium to celebrate Sri Venkateswara Swami Santhi Kalyanam (celestial marriage of Lord Venkateswara). The idols of the deities were brought from famous temple of Lord



*Sri Venkateswara Swami Santhi Kalyanam.*

Venkateswara at Dwaraka Tirumula, and the function was attended by a large number of devotees.

**Rajasthan:** A contingent of devotees from Rajasthan came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam for three days and presented music and cultural programmes on all the three days from 7th to 9th September 2015 as part of Bhagavan's 90th Birthday celebrations. On 7th September 2015, they performed a drama on the life and teachings of Kabir, the famous mystic poet saint of India, who created awakening in the public mind against narrow ritualistic beliefs and fighting



*A scene from the drama "Dhai Akshar Prem Ka".*



in the name of religion by propounding the doctrine of unity of all faiths and advocating the path of love for man's redemption. Interspersed with Kabir's immortal Dohas (couplets), the drama entitled "Dhai Akshar Prem Ka" (two-and-a-half lettered word love) brought forth his universal teachings through acting, dialogues and commentary in a simple way.

The rich culture and folklore of Rajasthan came to the fore when a group of Rajasthan folk singers Manganiyar Loka Kalakar Vrinda from the Barmer district of Rajasthan presented scintillating devotional folk songs on 8th September 2015. Beginning their programme with a song "Aao Sai Babaji" (come, Lord Sai), they kept the audience spellbound for more than one hour with soulful rendition of devotional songs in folk style which included "Mere Ghar Mein Sajan Aaya" (the Lord has come to my house), "Damadam Mast Kalandhar", "Chaap Tilak Sab Chheeni Re Mose Naina Milaike" (You have taken away my identity by just a glance). They brought their presentation to a close with a popular Sufi song "Padharo Hamare Desh" (oh Lord, come to our land).

On 9th September 2015, Bal Vikas children and Sai Youth of Rajasthan presented a drama entitled "Sai Grama Vahini" based on the Village Integrated Programme of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation. The drama showcased how Seva Dal volunteers of the Sai Organisation brought about a total transformation of a village which was earlier infested with diseases, lack of employment and evil practice of drinking alcohol.

**Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh:** More than 2,000 devotees came from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh on a two-day pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from 12th

to 13th September 2015 and presented a devotional music programme and two dramas. On 12th September 2015, 36 tribal youth from a village of Chhattisgarh performed a drama "Sri Ram Vanvas" (exile of Rama), a tribal folk dance depiction of the Ramayana story, covering the incidents relating to the story of Rama, Lakshmana and Sita at Panchavati during their exile. Accompanied by constant chanting of the Name of Rama and embellished with sweet



*A tribal folk dance depiction of the Ramayana story.*

songs to the accompaniment of tribal music, the drama in the end conveyed Swami's message of "Love All Serve All".

Bhajans composed by Kabir formed the first item of the programme on 13th September 2015. Presented by a renowned Kabir Pathi Bhajan singer Prahlad Tipania and party, the Bhajans not only touched the hearts of one and all by their simplicity and profundity, they also conveyed deep philosophical truths as propounded in Upanishads and other scriptures. Some of these were: "Aaya Hai Sab Jayega, Ni Raja Ranku Fakir" (one who is born will surely die whether a king or a beggar), "Zara Dheere Dheere Gaadi Haanko" (drive the vehicle of life slowly).

*continued on page 26...*



# DIVINE TRANSFORMATION

Rama Varma

**I**T IS WELL KNOWN THAT ALL THOSE who came in the physical proximity of Bhagavan Baba have unique experiences to narrate. I seek Bhagavan's permission and blessings to write a few incidents that brought me and my husband in His Divine fold and transformed our lives.

## **First Call of Bhagavan Baba**

My husband was posted at Indore during the years 1978 to 1980. Our life was busy with all kinds of worldly activities. We had neither visited any holy place nor read any spiritual or religious book. In fact, we were very much ignorant about spirituality. Anyway past is past, but I am relating this so as to tell how the first call of Sai came in our lives.

One day my husband, Dr. Varma (at that time Major Varma), myself along with our children, Kanika and Rohit went to an optician named Sri Sancheti for my husband's eye check-up. As soon as we entered his chamber, we saw a huge photo of Sri Sathya Sai Baba. At that time, we did not recognise Swami's photo. Hence, we enquired from the optician, "Who is He"? Sri Sancheti was a bit surprised and said, "You do not even know, He is Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba". My husband forgot to get his eyes checked up; rather he started asking more about Bhagavan. Though we were not fully convinced, yet we felt a strong attraction towards Him by seeing His huge photo. Seeing our interest Sri Sancheti



presented us with Baba rings and also a very good photo of Baba sitting on Jhoola (swing) wearing a white robe.

Happy to receive a beautiful photo of Baba, we got it framed and put it in our bedroom. Somehow, this photo started bringing about transformation in our lives. Whenever I looked at Baba's photo deeply into His eyes, Baba conveyed to me, "One day you will come and stay with Me at Puttaparthi". We started lighting incense sticks before Baba's photo and I started attending Baba Bhajans on Thursdays held in the house of my friend (a retired Colonel's wife) at Indore.

## Strengthening of Faith in Bhagavan

The seed of spirituality sown at Indore needed nourishment, which was provided to us by Chatterjee Dada (father of a Major in the army), when my husband got posted as Commanding Officer to Military Hospital at Barmer (Rajasthan). Chatterjee Dada was a very humble, pious old man and a staunch devotee of Bhagavan Baba. Dada used to visit military hospital regularly and every time he would sing the glory of Baba. Whenever he met my husband, he gave him many books on Baba to read. After reading the book, "Vision of the Divine", we were fully convinced that Swami is the Avatar of Kali Yuga and started following His teachings. Bhagavan's life is His message. We also read three volumes of "Sathyam Sivam Sundaram" and many other books written by ardent devotees of Bhagavan.

In 1984, Chatterjee Dada came to Puttaparthi from Barmer for Swami's Darshan. Bhagavan called him for interview and told him that there is one doctor who would ask more books from you to read. Swami also gave two packets of Vibhuti Prasadam to Dada and said, "One for you and one for the doctor". When Chatterjee Dada reached Barmer, he handed over one packet of Vibhuti to my husband which

was sent by Swami. After receiving Vibhuti Prasadam, my husband was in tears of gratitude to Swami, and said to himself, "I am sitting so far away about 3,000 km from Puttaparthi and yet Baba knows about me and has sent Vibhuti Prasadam"! Bhagavan's omnipresence made us wonderstruck and from that day till today we both have surrendered totally at His Divine Lotus Feet. Obeying His Divine Command, we finally settled in Puttaparthi in November 2003.

I conclude my write-up with a humble prayer at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan:

*From dawn to dusk I think of Thee,*

*Every breath I talk of You,*

*In every step, I see Your Divine Lotus Feet,*

*Aura so bright around Thy hair,*

*Makes me feel go beyond time and space,*

*My thoughts to share with everyone,*

*Not through speaking but by writing.*

*My Divine Master, make this body to live for years and years,*

*Reciting Your Name for ever and ever.*

*Samasta Lokah Sukhino Bhavantu* (May all the beings of all the worlds be happy!)

– **Smt. Rama Varma is the author of six books on Swami's teachings.**

*...continued from page 24*

The dance drama "Narmada Gatha" (story of river Narmada) was thereafter presented by about 125 Bal Vikas children and Sai Youth of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The drama portrayed the legendary story of Narmada as the daughter of Lord Siva and showcased its sacredness, on the banks of which was

located the Ashram of Valmiki and where Adi Sankara had his famous debate with Mandana Mishra. This well-directed and well-presented drama was further enriched by the thrilling dances of the children.

Bhajans continued after this and concluded with Arati after distribution of Prasadam to all.



## *Effulgence of Divine Glory*

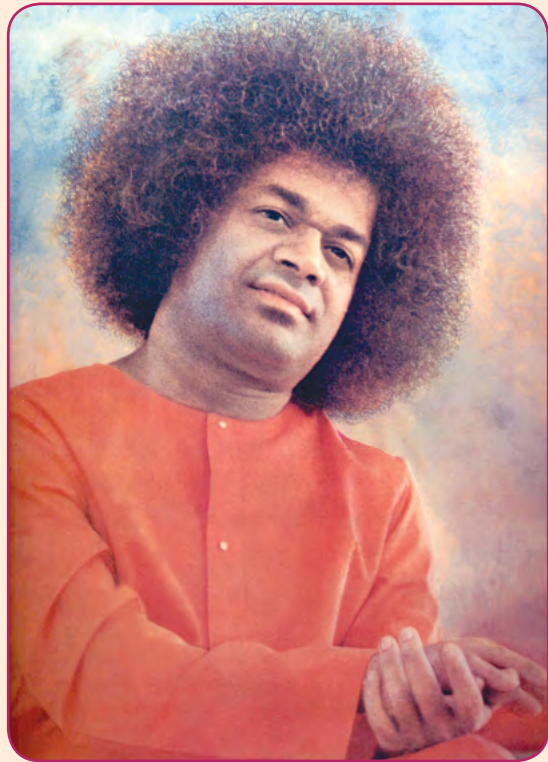
# THE CALL OF THE FLUTE

**O**NE YEAR HAS PASSED SINCE I drove away from Prasanthi Nilayam and waved farewell to Sathya Sai Baba and came to U.S.A. As I look back on that eventful July day when I first met Baba, I realise how fast has been the spiritual progress since meeting Him.

I first went to Puttaparthi in 1964 to see some miracles, for I had heard that a great holy one was doing Siddhis. I thought I was going for a day to see miracles, but one glimpse of Baba – and I changed all plans, cancelled all trips, extended my visa, etc; to be with the Master!

His Prema (love) is a tangible thing which comes into the heart, fills it with divine love for all beings. Through Baba's presence, the body becomes like a cloud of light, weightless, timeless.

When I look back on myself at Rishikesh, I cannot believe that such a change could take place. I recollect sitting by the Ganges pondering, "Who of all those have I met is my teacher – my Guru"? In my heart I cried out, called to the Himalayas, to the holy ones residing there, hidden from mortal view, "Who of you will help me, who will help"? As I sat silently in the dilemma, I heard a voice and there stood a young man from a nearby Ashram whom I had never seen before. Without introduction he spoke, "If you are to reach the goal early you must give up all teachers but one. Get one and you will attain". With that he walked away. Sitting there by the Ganga in the dark with rippling waters at my feet and the roaring "Om" of the



waters in my ears, I mentally threw out all the past and its many teachers. Within two weeks I was standing in Prasanthi Nilayam before Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Whole heart and soul felt at peace in His Presence. Just the sight of His halo of hair, or the orange robe, sent a wave of the consciousness of Santhi through me. He asked, (as He asks all who come to Him) "What do you want"? "God" was all I could answer. Many short interviews, he gave me in the ensuing days. A few words, a smile; but an inner change was discernible. Prema began to fill my being to overflowing. I became spiritually one with the Guru in those early days. Walking, moving, praying, I was with the



Master in consciousness. But that was not enough. He directed me onwards, upwards with the words “we” “he” meaning, “Don’t stop until you become He, the one universal consciousness”.

Before my leaving Prasanthi Nilayam, Baba created presents, taking them from the “universal storehouse” or as Baba says the “Sai Store” with a wave of His hand. There was a little picture for a ring with the Master’s face on it, Vibhuti, pictures, oh! many gifts, but the greatest of His miracles is not the spiritual ‘Siddhi’ manifestations, but the Divine Miracle, the transformation of the soul. With His little kindnesses, little gestures, He unfolds the consciousness. One day He stood before the group with His face radiant. He sweetly said, “I am so happy”. And I too instantly felt that happiness which is beyond words. It was His unique way of giving the grace of Ananda.

When I asked Him for Moksha, His answer was: “Do Sadhana with great determination. Swami will help”. The days at the Ashram were filled with determined effort. I often sat through hours of ‘meetings’ knowing no word which was spoken. But when Baba got up to speak and filled the hall with His Prema, the place would turn a radiant white with the effulgence of God and my being responded, the heart opened and love flooded me. So many gifts of the spirit He has given me. The gift of seeing the whole world as Prakash (light), God, the essence, revealed before my waking eyes; the gifts of Ananda, Prema, peace, happiness. He says, “I give with down-turned hands, My hand only turns upward to receive the gifts of a devotee’s divine love”.

Having seen Him under numerous circumstances I have never seen Him less than perfection in action – peaceful, humble, loving, joyous yet sternly kind and

boyishly young. These are all attributes of His diversified nature. Yet this same body can control the elements and produce any material manifestations. He never flaunts or misuses His gift of Siddhi, only using His spiritual powers to help the helpless, the ailing, the sick, the destitute and at times just for happiness, as He did, when with a wave of His hand He took from the universal storehouse sweet Halwa (pudding) still warm, of a quality never tasted before or after. He told me of the yogic heat in my system caused by intense Sadhana and with a quick movement of the hand He took from “nowhere” this sweet, and placed it in my hand saying “This is sweet, that is heat, eat”, laughing in His own inimitable way, which makes all who hear laugh with delight in response.

As I sit here in New York, meditating, writing, I no longer look back on the years of spiritual struggle as futile and useless waste. They were years of preparation leading me to the Feet of the Master – Sai Baba.

I sit here, by Baba’s grace, not loving... but love itself, not seeking Ananda... but the consciousness of Ananda made manifest in me. A smoothness, an inner radiance, which shines in all alike, permeates my being also. No longer need I try to awaken the heart centre. My whole self is the centre of love, for I am the eternal Ananda and Santhi. Who is there outside? I no longer exist as such, I am part of the Cosmic Whole.

The mind no longer fears the future or dispels the past for He, Baba, has said, “Swami is with you always”. Yet the call of the Flute is ever heard within my heart and some day I will wend my way back to the sacred feet of Krishna.

– **From the article of Hilda Charlton, “Sanathana Sarathi” 1966.**

# Showmanship Brings Misery

A GROUP OF INDIANS ONCE went to New York to participate in a conference. They arranged there to stay in a modern multi-storeyed hotel. The leader of the group took for himself and for all his team members rooms on the 80th floor of the hotel since he thought they were superior to others and therefore should stay on the highest floor.

One evening, they went out together for shopping and purchased a number of things which they thought of showing proudly to



*The leader of the group and other members returned happily to the hotel after making purchases.*

their friends and relatives in India to make them happy. When they returned to the hotel with their purchases, the electric supply to the hotel suddenly stopped. As the elevator stopped working, all the members of the group had to climb the steps to reach up to the 80th floor. Climbing so many steps while carrying the burden of the purchases was not only a hard task, but it was also very time consuming. To forget the strain of climbing the stairs, the leader of the group devised a plan, which envisaged that everybody would

tell about the goal of his life turn by turn. In this way, all the members of the group narrated what they wanted to attain in their life. When they had to climb to the 80th floor, it was the turn of the leader of the group to state his goal of life. But the members of the group were surprised when the leader of the group did not say anything. In fact, it was he who had made this proposal. Therefore, all the members of the group asked him to speak about his goal of life in order to bring this topic to a close. With his face reflecting misery and helplessness, the leader of the group then lamented, "Dear friends! Leave aside what my goal of life is, but my present task is to bring the key of my room from the ground floor since I have forgotten it



*The leader of the group had to undergo suffering for his showmanship.*

there. I have to perform the arduous task of going down all the stairs and climb up to my room". It was he who wanted all of them to stay at the highest floor. Isn't it? It was a self-imposed hardship which he brought upon himself.

This is the sad state of man today. He indulges in showmanship and brings misery upon himself.



# NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

## SOUTH AFRICA



ON 15TH MARCH 2015, SATHYA SAI youth from the Northern KwaZulu-Natal region of South Africa took part in an event titled *Youth Living for Truth*, in



*"Youth Living for Truth" retreat.*

the idyllic town of Howick, about 90 km from Durban. Ninety members of the provincial youth team attended the event, aimed at developing spiritual knowledge through practising Sathya Sai ideals. Youth from other provinces in the country have planned to hold similar events in their localities.

The Sathya Sai Centre of Hillside near Durban celebrated Easwaramma Day on 6th May with a ceremony opening a computer learning centre. Nedbank, a local bank, donated eight computers for this project. The ceremony was attended by more than 160 Sathya Sai devotees and a Nedbank representative. The learning centre will provide much-needed computer lessons and Internet access to needy children in the community, particularly with school projects. Sathya Sai youth have pledged to provide computer lessons to community members.

## RUSSIA AND ADJOINING COUNTRIES

From 20th to 22nd February 2015, the SSIO of Zone 8 hosted an annual meeting in St. Petersburg to review events of the past year and plan for the future. The meeting was attended by 28 senior SSIO



*Meeting of senior SSIO officers in St. Petersburg.*

leaders from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. Ms. Marianne Meyer, Director of the European ISSE, also attended the meeting. The SSIO representative from Ukraine stated that even during the current and recent unsettling times, the Sathya Sai centres and groups had joined hands to help refugees fleeing areas of conflict. SSIO leaders from other areas described humanitarian relief efforts, including delivery of a truckload of necessities to displaced people. SSIO members in Ukraine pray for peace every night. Sri Valery Voshchinin, Chairman, Zone 8, reported on the service activities undertaken by the SSIO.

On 8th and 9th March 2015, forty-seven youth from three countries and 20 cities attended a second zonal youth festival



near Moscow on the theme, *Service is the Flowering of Love*. The youth viewed a film about service activities in other SSIO zones and held classes in making children's toys, bracelets and paper flowers for distribution to children in orphanages. Participants played an allegorical game, completing tasks illustrating the value of love and service. Other activities at the festival included songs, dances, theatrical performances, and a team game, all aimed at showcasing the best of human qualities.

On 4th April 2015, public meetings were held in all regions of Zone 8, including Russia, to bring Bhagavan's priceless teachings to the interested public. The events were attended by 212 SSIO members and more than 140 others. The meeting presented information on the life and teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba as well as on human values. In addition, Sathya Sai members spoke about Bhagavan's childhood, their own experiences, the Sathya Sai Organisation and its work at different levels. Films about service projects were screened. The meetings ended with informal discussions during a tea break and with the distribution of a DVD featuring Bhagavan's quotations, relevant books and calendars. Many visitors, surprised at the magnitude of work of the Sathya Sai Mission and inspired by the loving experiences of Sathya Sai devotees, showed interest in learning more about Bhagavan and the SSIO, and participating in service projects.

## BELARUS

On 28th February and 1st March 2015, thirty-two Sathya Sai members from the centres and groups of Minsk, Vitebsk, Mozyr, Baranovichi, and Lida attended the SSIO national conference, held annually since

1998. The conference theme was *Love is the Source, Love is the Path, Love is the Goal*. It included a seminar on information dissemination, with reference to the zonal website and a new magazine, *Sai Ram*. Other presentations included seminars on personal transformation, unity in Sathya Sai centres and groups, and creative projects of interest. Sathya Sai youth from Vitebsk staged a skit that reflected humorously on the challenges of personal Sadhana, and the Minsk Centre presented



*Round table discussions on the sidelines of national conference, Belarus.*

a song. The conference facilitated round table discussions on new ideas in work, communication and personal Sadhana.

## MACEDONIA

On the weekend of 31st May 2015, the Institute of Sathya Sai Education (ISSE) of South Europe, the SSIO of Macedonia, and the educational centre, Lighthouse, held a public seminar on Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV). The two-day seminar, attended by 25 individuals including teachers from public and private schools and school psychologists, focused on SSEHV teaching methodology and Educare. The seminar featured workshops on the human values of truth and love, and



*Seminar on Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV).*

presentations on Sai Spiritual Education around the world. Participating teachers showed keen interest in incorporating SSEHV into their class curricula. The next seminar for the same group is planned for October 2015.

### U. S. A.

In the days leading up to Maha Samadhi Day, 24th April 2015, Sathya Sai devotees in the Mid-Atlantic Region organised health and hygiene programmes. In addition, a health camp was held at East Elmhurst, Queens, New York City on 11th April 2015 by the Sathya Sai Centres of New York. About 60 Sathya Sai volunteers, including medical professionals, served 90 people, who received health screenings, medical consultations and a hygiene kit.

About 50 Sathya Sai volunteers, including medical professionals, organised a health camp in Houston, Texas on 21st March 2015. In addition to a complete health screening, patients received information on balanced nutrition and a health kit.

To assist efforts to contain the deadly Ebola virus in West Africa, SSE children from Northern California collected medical supplies for health workers and families of victims of the disease. The project, in



*Medical supplies ready for shipment to West Africa.*

honour of both Maha Samadhi Day and Easwaramma Day, was spearheaded by two SSE Group 4 students from the Central San Jose Sathya Sai Centre in Northern California. These students were moved by the suffering of thousands affected by the Ebola virus and the bravery of the healthcare workers who put their own lives at risk to treat those affected by the virus. With the guidance of their SSE teacher and help from Sathya Sai youth, the children contacted Medshare for shipping supplies to West Africa. A website, [www.region7saicenters.org/SSEStopsEbola](http://www.region7saicenters.org/SSEStopsEbola), was set up to provide information on the project. The children collected 33,018 pairs of nitrile gloves, 5,365 masks, 370 bars of soap, 18,116 adhesive bandages, 129 bottles of hand sanitiser, 16,469 individual wipes, and 280 bottles of liquid soap. Prayers were printed on more than 1,000 labels of selected items, prior to shipping.

### ITALY

Over 200 Sathya Sai members from southern Europe attended a Pre-World Conference at the Mother Sai House near Milan from 1st to 3rd May 2015. Representatives from the SSIOs of



Spain, Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, France, Switzerland, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina were joined by senior SSIO leaders. A unique feature of this conference was the simultaneous translation of talks from English to Italian, Spanish and Croatian. Inspiring devotional songs in different languages kept the audience spellbound in two daily sessions, and the youth staged an entertaining programme which showcased their talents. The beautiful natural surroundings of the Mother Sai House offered an ideal setting for the delegates to discuss spirituality.

### CANADA

Sai Youth (Ladies) of a Sathya Sai Centre in Toronto have undertaken a new project to serve the residents of a women's shelter called Sistering. The shelter provides basic services to disadvantaged or homeless women, who are in need of a safe environment during the day. The facility offers breakfast, snacks and lunch to the women and provides assistance to find housing. Four or five Sathya Sai youth volunteers visit the shelter on the first Saturday of every month and help to prepare and serve meals and assist with cleaning. The shelter staff and residents are always happy to see Sai volunteers, who have been visiting the facility since 2014.

### PUERTO RICO

In Puerto Rico, during February to April 2015, the ISSE organised the fifth contest of human values stories for school students. In response, 72 stories were submitted by students from 55 public schools, seven private schools and one home school from 25 towns. From these submittals, 18 entries were selected and

grouped into three categories according to the class. On 5th May, the three authors who submitted winning entries in each category were awarded prizes in Caguas. The closing ceremony was attended by 68 people including the winning authors, ISSE members, parents, teachers, contest judges and principals of schools. One of the special guests was very impressed by the activities of the ISSE and congratulated Sathya Sai educators for organising the event focused on human values. She was particularly impressed by the fact that the work was done without solicitation of funds, and without publicity. She felt blessed on learning about Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and His works.

### BRAZIL

On 25th April 2015, about 90 parents, students, administrative staff and local community members participated in a meeting at the Sathya Sai School of Minas Gerais, Brazil. The event focused on self-transformation and human values, and commenced with Jyoti Meditation. After a group discussion on gratitude, a video was shown. Sathya Sai students participated in a dance called "Circular Dance", followed by "Capoeira", which is a form of Brazilian martial arts based on the African-Angolan tradition. Then the students presented a drama titled "The Legend of Manioc", about the origin of the manioc plant, a typical Brazilian food, from the tradition of the Guarani indigenous people. A traditional children's dance, "A Linda Rosa Juvenil" was presented by the kindergarten and first-grade children. After the programme, the participants helped to clean up the school premises.

— Sathya Sai International Organisation



## BHARAT

**Gujarat:** On the auspicious occasion of Sri Krishna Janmashtami, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Navsari, Gujarat organised a unique programme of Godaan (giving cows in charity) on 5th September 2015 at village Rajwada. 20 cows were donated to needy villagers, including three widows belonging to villages named Bhunwadi,



*Cows being given in charity to villagers.*

Rajwada, Kanbad and Vakasariya. Dr. A.G. Dave, Manager, Bhagwan Mahaveer Vishwa Kalyan Trust, graced the occasion by presiding over the function. In his inspiring talk, Dr. Dave explained the importance of healthcare and love in the life of animals, particularly cows and promised to render service as a doctor to all the cows whenever needed free of cost. Sri Manohar Trikanad, State President, SSSSO, Gujarat in his speech narrated a number of experiences with Bhagavan and explained the significance of this unique programme. Thereafter, the ceremony of offering cows to the beneficiaries was performed which was followed by Bhajans.

**Manipur:** A one-day State-level Service Wing Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Manipur was held on 13th June 2015 at Sai Prasanthi Mandir, Mantripukhri, Imphal East, in which nearly 100 delegates from various districts of Manipur came to



*State-level Service Wing Conference of Manipur.*

participate. In their talks on this occasion, State President of the Sai Organisation of Manipur and other senior functionaries stressed on the need for mobilising Seva Dal volunteers for Prasanthi Seva, developing Bal Vikas programmes and organising more medical camps for the benefit of needy people. Other subjects discussed were Technology for Seva, Pure Drinking Water Mission and Disaster Management. An interactive session was also held in which the participants were elaborated on the service activities of the Sai Organisation.

**Tamil Nadu:** A symposium entitled "Transformation through Medical Seva" was held at Sundaram on 15th August 2015, in which more than 350 doctors, who have been rendering Seva in various Sai dispensaries, took part. On this occasion, Dr. M. Vijai Kumar recounted his first-hand experience of observing Swami's love for a patient both in His physical as well as cosmic forms and the transformation that was brought about by the same. Dr. Sundararajan, a plastic surgeon, spoke on the joy of medical Seva from his long association with it, at Chennai, Puttaparthi and Whitefield. Dr. Krishnamurthy from Madurai spoke on the sweetness of Sai grace from his personal experiences.

The keynote address "Sai Medicare – the Way Forward" was delivered by Sri V.

Srinivasan who stressed the need to train a team of paramedical volunteers as an interface between doctors and patients for better compliance of doctors instructions and thereby better outcomes.

As part of 90th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, 90 mass marriages were performed by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tirpur district, Tamil Nadu on Friday, 21st August 2015. Couples belonging to very poor families and mostly residing in small hamlets were selected for this mega marriage ceremony. Each couple was provided with Mangal Sutra, new dresses and grocery provisions for one month. In addition, a medical card was issued to every couple to avail free treatment



*Mass marriages organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu.*

during the period of pregnancy and have child birth expenses totally exempted at a hospital run by a devotee doctor.

The Presence of Bhagavan was clearly visible when Vibhuti appeared on the Prasadam and on the dress materials kept for the newly-wed couples on the day of the marriage.

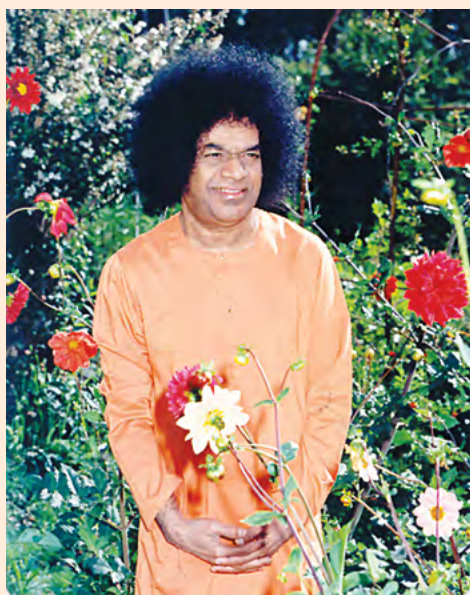
## **Psychic Phenomena should Never be Misused**

There is a danger in communication phenomena. For one thing, as occultists know, the lower astral plane contains plenty of impostors, pretenders and worse, ever ready to seize a chance of communicating with this world. Therefore, psychic forces not so good, not so benevolent, might easily begin to manifest under the guise of the great spiritual name. Thus, people may be fooled and misled. And the eventual result would be to foster man's pride, egotism and lower desires rather than his higher spiritual aspirations. There were indications that greed and desire for notoriety were already being stirred among followers when a notice appeared in the Ashram magazine, under the direction of Baba. The notice said: "Some persons misuse the name of Baba, and announce that Baba is in communication with them, giving them messages, answering questions and granting interviews, their object being to earn money or fame". The notice goes on to say that such phenomena have to be explained either as the manifestation of spirits or as sheer fakes by cranks or crooks: "It is the duty of devotees to stop all such trickery by wise counsel and firm denial". Baba makes it clear that recipients must judge the genuineness of any psychic happenings for themselves, but they should never use them as a means of drawing a crowd around for publicity, fame or making money.

– From "Sai Baba: Man of Miracles" by Howard Murphet.



**To buy photographs of this issue, please click on any of the photographs, you will be guided to our website**



## 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-version of the magazine is also released simultaneously and is available in the popular Interactive PDF format on [www.sanathanasarathi.org](http://www.sanathanasarathi.org).
- 3) Maintaining a reporting channel, 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.

## Get Sanathana Sarathi

On Sanathana Sarathi official website – [www.sanathanasarathi.org](http://www.sanathanasarathi.org) – subscribe for paperback and e-versions. Single monthly editions are also downloadable in English and Telugu languages at <http://bit.ly/sarathienglish> and <http://bit.ly/sarathitelugu>.

### Other Books By SSSSTPD (In English)

1. Sai Sathya Sakha
2. Summer Showers In Brindavan, 1972
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. Sevalal
15. Silence
16. Suffering
17. Surrender
18. Atma
19. Do You Know
20. Gopikas Of Brindavan
21. Gratitude
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
40. Path To Peace - Prayers for Daily Life

### **Connect with SSSSTPD**

### **The Publications Division's websites are**

1. Sri Sathya Sai Publications – [www.srisathyasaipublications.com](http://www.srisathyasaipublications.com)
2. Sanathana Sarathi – [www.sanathanasarathi.org](http://www.sanathanasarathi.org)
3. Sai Reflections – [www.saireflections.org](http://www.saireflections.org)
4. The Prasanthi Reporter – [www.theprasanthireporter.org](http://www.theprasanthireporter.org)

### **Connect with us on**

1. Facebook – [www.facebook.com/sssstpd](http://www.facebook.com/sssstpd)
2. Twitter – [www.twitter.com/sssstpd](http://www.twitter.com/sssstpd)
3. Pinterest – [www.pinterest.com/sssstpd](http://www.pinterest.com/sssstpd)
4. Shelfari – [www.shelfari.com/sssstpd](http://www.shelfari.com/sssstpd)
5. Goodreads – [www.goodreads.com/sssstpd](http://www.goodreads.com/sssstpd)
6. Amazon – [www.amazon.com/author/sssstpd](http://www.amazon.com/author/sssstpd)
7. Smashwords – [www.smashwords.com/profile/view/sssstpd](http://www.smashwords.com/profile/view/sssstpd)



REGD. WITH REGISTRAR OF NEWSPAPERS R.NO.10774/1958 REGN.NO. HDP/002/2015-2017  
LICENCED TO POST WITHOUT PREPAYMENT No.PMGK/RNP/DLGS/Sanathana Sarathi

Date of Publication: 1st October 2015



*Carnatic music concert by Smt. Vaikom Vijayalakshmi and party.*



*Devotional music presentation by Sri Sai Ram Iyer of Mumbai.*



*Devotional folk songs by Rajasthan folk singers, Manganiyar Loka Kalakar Vrinda.*

Annual Subscription English (12 issues)

India ₹ 75. Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka ₹ 600.

Other Countries ₹ 850 or US \$19 or UK £13 or €13,

CAN \$22, AUS \$26. Acceptable for 1, 2 or 3 years.

Payment for print and electronic editions can be made online through our website: [www.sanathanasarathi.org](http://www.sanathanasarathi.org) or through conventional methods such as M.O. or D.D. or Personal Cheque to **The Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515134. A.P., India.**

## *Declare that you are Egoless*

When you take a coconut to be offered in the temple, you buy it after its fibre is removed; then you offer it to God, breaking it into two halves. This is the symbol for destroying the ego and surrendering to the Lord. So, you have to remove the fibre of desire for sense objects and then, go before the Lord devoid of Kama and Krodha (desire and anger); there you declare that you are egoless by breaking the coconut into two. You will be accepted then, not before.

*– Baba*



Printed by K.S. RAJAN Published by K.S. RAJAN On behalf of the owner Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi Nilayam 515134, Anantapur District (A.P.) And Printed at M/s Rajhans Enterprises, 136, 4th Main Road, Industrial Town, Rajaji Nagar, Bengaluru - 560044, Karnataka And published at Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division, Prasanthi Nilayam 515134, Anantapur Dist., Andhra Pradesh.

Editor: G.L. ANAND