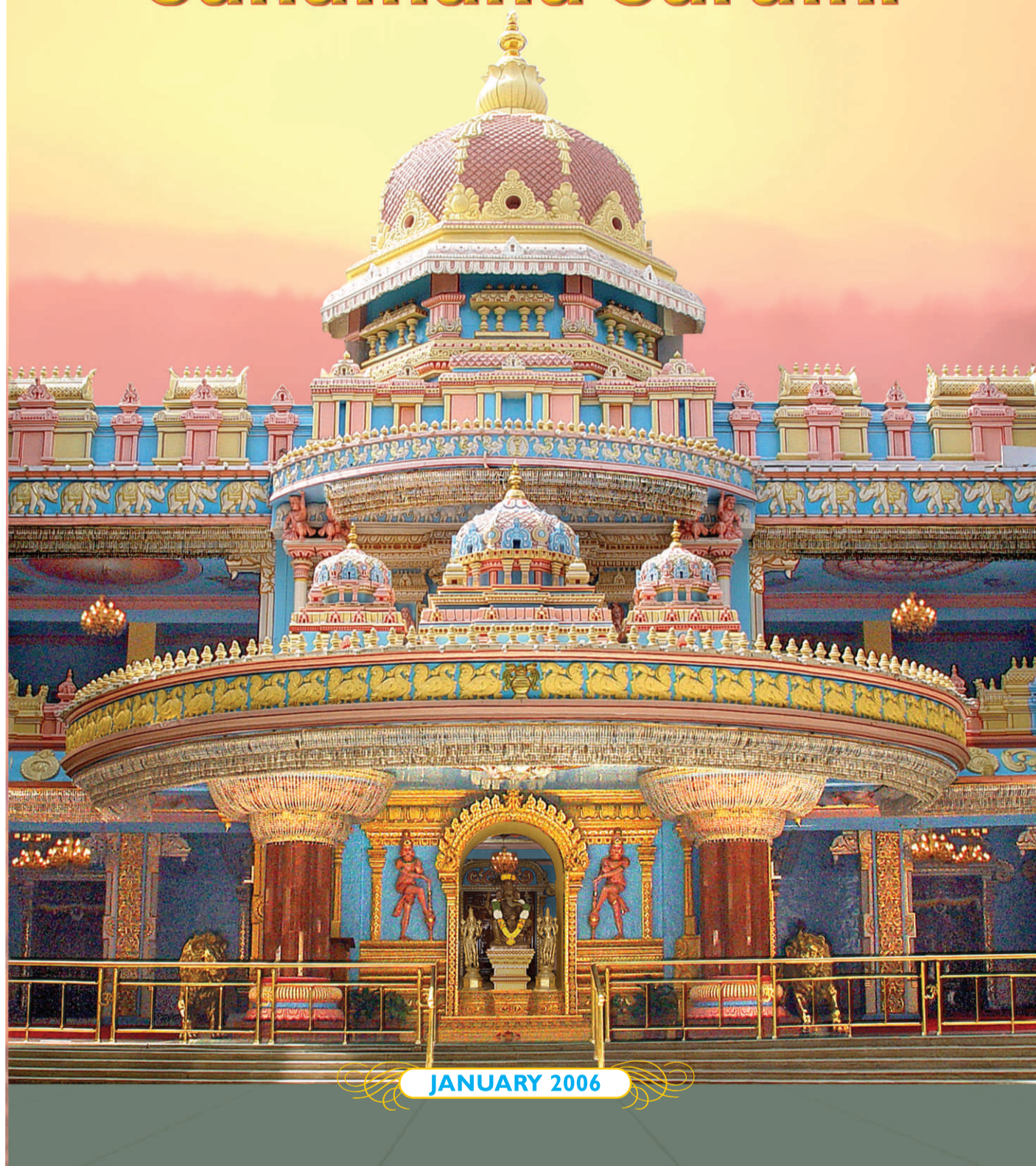




# Sanathana Sarathi



# Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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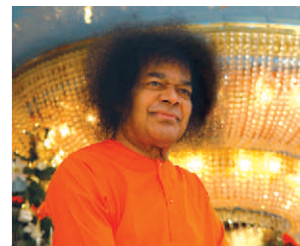
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*"Consider the suffering of others  
as your own. Do not do unto  
others what you do not want  
others to do unto you. Love is  
the basis of everything. Grow  
in love."*

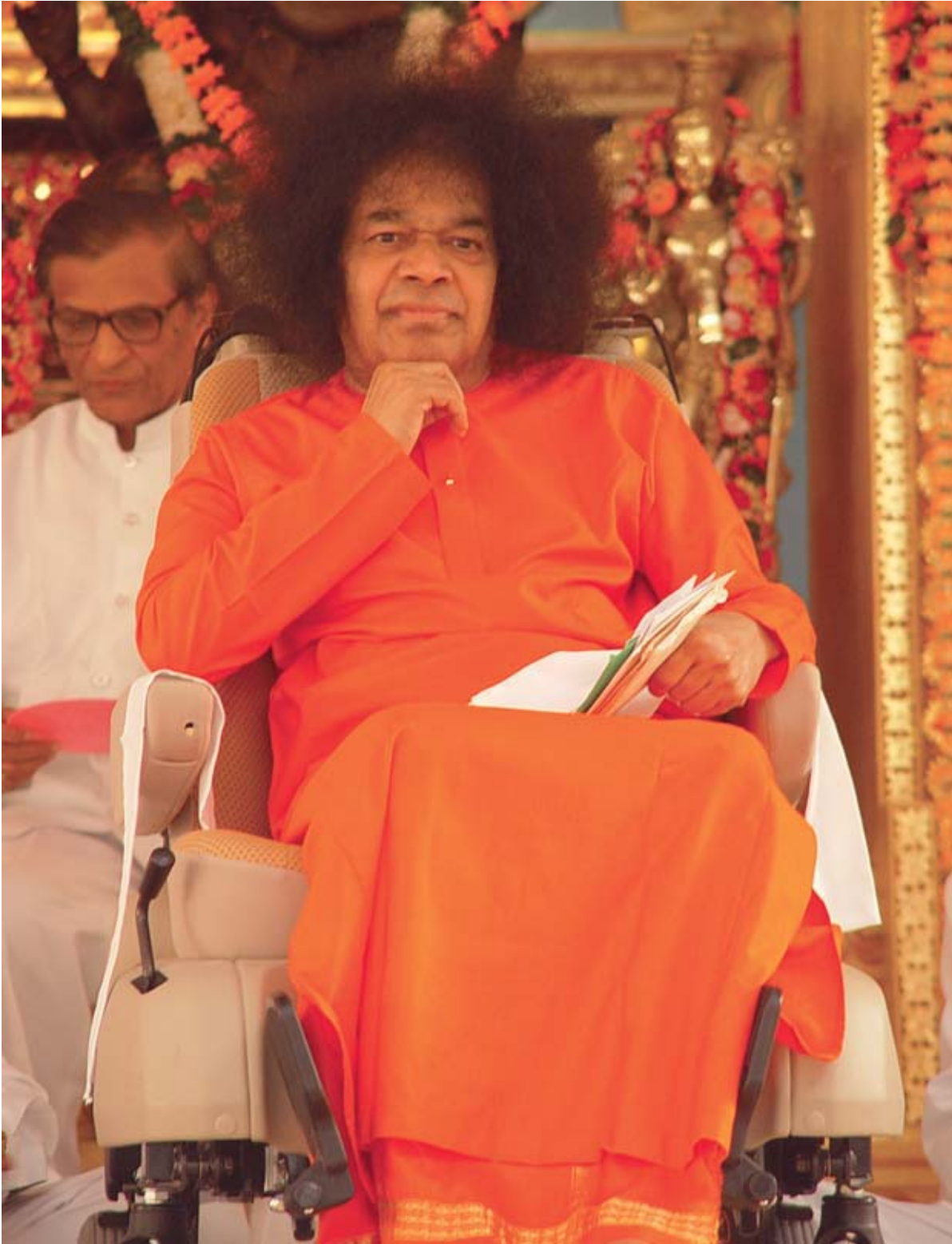
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*"Sanathana Sarathi" wishes its  
readers a holy and happy New Year*





**Bhagavan blessing the devotees with His Divine Darshan from the aesthetically decorated dais on the auspicious occasion of Ladies Day, 19th November 2005.**

# SEE GOD IN YOUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS

*Embodiments of Love!*

**T**ODAY IS LADIES DAY. IT IS AN occasion for ladies to experience happiness and share it with one and all. Men and women are not different from each other. The difference lies only in physical form. But the same principle of Brahman is



present in both. *Sarvam Khalvidam Brahma* (verily all this is Brahman).

## **Develop the Spirit of Oneness**

*Embodiments of Love!*

Everyone aspires to attain God. Many sages, seers and yogis did intense penance to have the vision of God. Where is God?

*Daivam Manusha Rupena* (God is in the form of a human being). God incarnates in human form for the protection and redemption of mankind. But God is not limited to any name or form. He is infinite and transcends all names and forms. Once Sage Narada prayed to Lord Narayana to incarnate on earth and redeem

*When you participate in Nagar Sankirtan in the early hours of the day, your heart will be brimming with bliss. It is not merely Kirtan (singing), it is Sankirtan (singing together wholeheartedly) to experience and share your joy with one and all. Sing His glory full-throated and make everyone drink the nectar of the Divine Name. In fact, the motive of all your endeavours should be expansion of heart and joy for all. Only then will you be worthy of the title of human being. Then only is your life as a human being worthwhile.*

mankind. In response to the prayers of sages and seers like Narada, God incarnates on earth in human form to uplift man and bestow joy on one and all. An Avatar is not only Brahma Swarupa (embodiment of Brahman), He is also Manava Swarupa. He is the manifestation of Divinity in human form. The same principle of Brahman is immanent in all.

One has to develop inward vision to experience Him. *Easwara Sarva Bhutanam* (God is the indweller of all beings). He is in all forms whether it is that of mother, father, husband, wife, daughter, son, etc. Someone may say, "I have been blessed with a grandson today". The grandson is also a manifestation of Brahman. Brahman alone assumes various names and forms in this world. When God incarnates on earth, He assumes the form of Jiva (individual self). The principles of Daivatwa (Divinity) and Jivatwa (humanity) are inseparable. You cannot find one to the exclusion of the other. Divinity has no specific form. Only Jiva has a name and a form but not Deva (God) who is present in all. In fact, each one of you is an embodiment of God. All that you see around is also the manifestation of God. Even the small birds that you see here are endowed with the principle of divinity. There is no place where divinity does not exist. There is no form which is not divine. However, God assumes a particular form based on the feelings of His devotees.

God is extolled as *Sabda Brahmamayi, Characharamayi, Jyotirmayi, Vangmayi, Nityanandamayi, Paratparamayi, Mayamayi and Sreemayi* (embodiment of sound, mobility and immobility, light, speech, eternal bliss, perfection, delusion and wealth). Hence, consider speech as divine. Have the firm conviction that it is God who speaks through each one of us. If someone accuses you, think that it is God in that form who is accusing you. When you develop this spirit of oneness and tolerance, you will never be perturbed by censure and blame. Your mind will always rest in peace. Whatever may happen, accept it wholeheartedly as the Will of God. Have firm faith that it is God and God alone who is the doer. Do not consider your

fellow human beings as mere individuals. When you talk to someone, think that you are talking to God. When you do not see God in others and do not treat them as your own, you will be giving room to evil qualities like anger, jealousy, hatred, etc. Develop the spirit of oneness. Only then will your life be redeemed.

When you go to a noble soul and ask him for a message, he will merely say, "My dear son, know thyself". Today people are interested in knowing about others. They keep on enquiring, "Who are you? Who is he?" But they do not enquire, "Who am I?" It is only when you conduct self-enquiry will you get the correct answer. That is the teaching of God. God has given you the human body. It is by His divine power that you talk, walk, laugh and even cry. Everything happens according to His Will. Develop this firm faith.

### **Noble Ideals of Mother Easwaramma**

On this occasion, we should remember Easwaramma and the ideals she exemplified. She was a paragon of virtues. She was always happy, cheerful and had a smiling countenance. Her heart was tender and sweet as it was filled with love and compassion. One day she approached Me with a request, "Swami, when the children of our village suffer from any ailment, their mothers have to carry them all the way to Bukkapatnam hospital. It is distressing to see the grief-stricken mothers carrying their children that far. There is no guarantee that they would get proper medical attention even after going there. Hence, kindly establish a small hospital in our village itself." I assured her that her wish would be fulfilled at an appropriate time. It is only when the Kala, Karma, Karana and Kartavya (time, action, reason and duty) are favourable can one attain the desired result. So, I constructed a hospital as per her wish.



To begin with, I got a small hospital constructed on the top of the hill. Dr. Seetharamaiah from East Godavari district came here to serve in the hospital. He was an ardent devotee. He served here till his last breath. The hospital was managed by one doctor and two nurses in those days. Now much more has been achieved than what Easwamma had asked for since a Super Speciality Hospital has been established in Puttaparthi. The simple desires of Easwamma paved the way for gigantic social welfare projects (*loud prolonged applause*). On some other day, she came to Me with another prayer, "Swami, I am unable to bear the sight of small children carrying heavy loads of books and walking all the way to Bukkapatnam school. Even You had to walk to Bukkapatnam school in earlier days. Kindly construct a small school in our village and save them from the trouble of trudging their way to Bukkapatnam for their studies." I assured her, "Don't worry, I will surely construct a school in the village". Accordingly, I fulfilled her wish. As per My promise to her, I got a small school constructed in the village. In earlier days, she was concerned that all the children of the village were not attending school. Later on, I established a college. Easwamma was very happy. Gradually, the college has developed into a university.

Once when I went to the banks of the river Chitravathi, I noticed some women from the village scooping out sand to get their pots filled with water. Later, Easwamma also told Me about the hardships of the housewives in the village for obtaining drinking water and requested Me to do something to relieve their difficulties. She said, "Swami, people in our village are suffering for want of drinking water facility. They have to go all the

*Unfortunately, today selfishness is prevalent everywhere. The present-day politics is steeped in utter selfishness, resulting in rampant corruption and evil tendencies. If this kind of politics is eliminated, there will be happiness all around. All and sundry have now entered politics. People who do not understand the meaning of politics have become politicians. Only those who understand the true meaning and significance of politics should enter it.*

way to Chitravathi river to fetch water. Even in Chitravathi, we do not find water always. It is not a perennial river. We find water only when there are rains. I feel very sad to see small children carrying pots filled with water on their tender shoulders. Water is the sustainer of life. Hence, kindly get a well dug in our village and quench the thirst of people." I did accordingly and told her, "Your desires are very simple. I will fulfil them in a big way. You don't worry about these things. I will make sure that the people of our village have all facilities." Thereafter, I arranged the supply of water to the village from a long distance through pipes. In fact, I fulfilled every little desire that Easwamma expressed because her desires were never for her own benefit but invariably in the larger interest of the villagers. If anyone expresses a truly selfless desire, Swami will fulfil it in a big way. What was once a small school has now been transformed into a multi-disciplinary university. What was a small well has been transformed into a gigantic water supply system.



## Understand the True Meaning of Politics

Electricity was a rare privilege for the rural population those days. The politicians who came to power were not very enthusiastic and effective in supplying electricity to villages. Therefore, I decided that I Myself would provide these facilities to the villagers. When Puttaparthi was electrified, there was great jubilation in the village. Later, I expanded this facility to other villages also so that it does not cause jealousy in them. These were not casual acts of fancy; these services were provided after ascertaining the needs of the villagers. See this vast hall where you are sitting



comfortably. For whom have I got it constructed? Is it not for the comfort of all of you? *Paropakara Punyaya, Papaya Parapeedanam* (one attains merit by helping others and commits sin by hurting them). *Help Ever, Hurt Never*. Hence, always strive to help everybody.

We should never be selfish. Fish is better than one who is selfish.



Unfortunately, today selfishness is prevalent everywhere. The present-day politics is steeped in utter selfishness, resulting in rampant corruption and evil tendencies. If this kind of politics is eliminated, there will be happiness all around (*loud applause*). All and sundry have now entered politics. People who do not understand the meaning of politics have become politicians. Only those who understand the true meaning and significance of politics should enter it. Politicians today are engaged in harming those whom they are supposed to serve. Due to their pride of power, they expect that people should run after them

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*Whatever may happen, accept it wholeheartedly as the Will of God. Have firm faith that it is God and God alone who is the doer. Do not consider your fellow human beings as mere individuals. When you talk to someone, think that you are talking to God. When you do not see God in others and do not treat them as your own, you will be giving room to evil qualities like anger, jealousy, hatred, etc. Develop the spirit of oneness. Only then will your life be redeemed.*

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for obtaining favours, which as a matter of fact, are their right. I would therefore advise that you should not join politics. Instead, rely on your own innate strength. Your Self is your real strength. What sort of life is it if you have to go from door to door begging for votes?

Depend on God. If you depend on God, He will take care of all your needs and you will be successful in all your





endeavours. God is everything. But do not pray to God for selfish reasons. If you are selfish, you become incapable of helping others. First of all, develop the spirit of service. Help others as much as you can. Develop good qualities. Fill all your endeavours with the spirit of sacrifice. As the Gita declares: *Karmanyevadhikaraste Ma Phaleshu Kadachana* (you have right only on action, but not on the fruit thereof). Engage yourself in good actions. For all your endeavours, depend upon your own strength. Do not depend upon others. Be self-reliant and make your family happy and prosperous. I am not referring to any particular family or individual. I wish all to grow and prosper. If you want your family to flourish in all respects, pray to God earnestly.

### **Expansion of Heart Signifies Broad-mindedness**

Wherever you see, God is present there. He permeates everything in the universe, be it a mountain, a valley, the sun, the stars or the deep sea. See divinity everywhere and fill your heart with divine feelings. That signifies expansion of heart. The heart here does not refer to the physical heart. The enlargement of physical heart is an abnormality. What I refer to in this context is Hridaya or spiritual heart which is the abode of God. That is why we call God Hridayavasi (resident of heart). Expansion of heart signifies broad-mindedness and its contraction, narrowness. Hence, never entertain narrow feelings. Human birth is highly sacred. That is why God assumes human form. Develop purity of heart and lead your life in a sacred manner. When I give a discourse or involve you in Bhajan singing, it is only meant for the expansion of your heart. When you participate in Nagar Sankirtan in the early hours of the day, your heart will be brimming with bliss. It is not

merely Kirtan (singing), it is Sankirtan (singing together wholeheartedly) to experience and share your joy with one and all. Sing His glory full-throated and make everyone drink the nectar of the Divine Name. In fact, the motive of all your endeavours should be expansion of heart and joy for all. Only then will you be worthy of the title of human being. Then only is your life as a human being worthwhile.

At present, selfishness and self-interest are on the rise. People are not making any effort to purify their heart. In spite of their many defects, they pose to be men of eminence. Their narrowness of vision motivates them to promote their own interests and that of their family only. Instead one should have equal concern for the feelings and well-being of others. All are one as God is present in all. *Love is God. Live in love.* Love should not be tainted with narrow feelings of mine and thine. No one can live without God who is present within. With such awareness, live always in God consciousness. Consider the suffering of others as your own. Do not do unto others what you do not want others to do unto you. Love is the basis of everything. Grow in love. Be broad-minded and share your love with everybody. Pray that others should not undergo the suffering that you have undergone. Let everybody be happy and make progress in life. It is possible only when you develop love. When you develop love, you will never be narrow-minded.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "*Prema Muditha Manase Kaho ...*")

**– From Bhagavan's Ladies Day Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 19th November 2005.**



# MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS



Thousands of people come to Prasanthi Nilayam from the four corners of the world to bask in the divine beauty and bliss of this holy land and to celebrate Christmas in the Divine proximity of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. This year also over 2,500 devotees from more than 45 countries celebrated this holy festival at Prasanthi Nilayam on 25th December 2005 with devotion and sacredness. The entire Prasanthi Nilayam bore a festive look on this occasion with Christmas trees, stars, bells and other attractive decorations. Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the celebrations, was specially done up in an aesthetic manner to kindle the spirit of this holy festival. The dais was adorned with nativity scene, two beautiful Christmas trees and images of angels along with other decorations.

On the morning of 25th December 2005, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.00 a.m. and showered the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the mammoth gathering of devotees. Coming straight to the lower portico where cakes were placed by students and hospital staff, Bhagavan performed the cake cutting ceremony amidst a thunderous applause of the devotees.

There were three items in the morning programme which began soon after Bhagavan was seated on the dais. The first presentation was violin recital by a group of students from

Sri Sathya Sai Primary School. The students displayed their musical talent and enthralled the audience with tunes of many popular carol songs. Thereafter, there was a display by the Institute orchestra which kept the audience



*The violin group of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School making their presentation in Sai Kulwant Hall on Christmas morning.*

spellbound for nearly 20 minutes with its soul-elevating musical presentation. The last item of the programme was also presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. This programme of carol singing was compered by two students who narrated the story of the birth and life of Jesus, which culminated in the Advent of Holy Father in the form of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The students presented popular carol songs appropriate to the narration of the story and captivated the audience with their excellent





*Soul-stirring presentation of carol music by the orchestra of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning.*

presentation. As they sang “Jingle Bells ...” accompanied by the clapping of the huge gathering, Santa Claus appeared on the stage with his bagful of chocolates. After seeking the blessings of Bhagavan, he went into the rows of the devotees and students and distributed chocolates to them. Simultaneously, Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to the entire gathering in the Hall.

As the morning programme was coming to a close, everyone experienced the joy of celebrating this sacred festival in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. But the joy of Christmas celebrations became manifold when Bhagavan suddenly stood up from His chair on the dais and walked His way to the interview room to the surprise and joy of one and all. Spontaneously, there arose a deafening applause from the devotees who were beside themselves with excitement and joy to see Bhagavan walking, which they had not seen for the last many months. There was a flood of joy in the entire milieu which turned the vast Sai Kulwant Hall virtually into an ocean of bliss. The devotees of Bhagavan could not ask for a better Christmas gift on this

auspicious Christmas day. After receiving Arati at 8.50 a.m., Bhagavan left for His abode.

In the afternoon, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 3.45 p.m. and walked His way from the verandah to the dais filling each heart with immeasurable bliss. Standing near the railing of the dais, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the mammoth gathering of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall amidst chanting of Vedic hymns by the Institute students.

The programme began with a skit presented by the children of Atlanta, USA which showed how the spirit of sacredness behind Christmas celebrations had been marred by the commercialisation of Christmas in many countries of the world. After this short but meaningful skit, children’s choir comprising 87 children from 31 countries enthralled the gathering with 14 beautiful songs set to sweet music. Not only was the wording of the songs full of feelings of love, the rendering of the songs was also done with a heart full of love for Jesus and Bhagavan Baba. Thereafter, the



*The adults choir comprising nearly 800 members from 45 countries presenting a programme of Christmas carols on 25th December 2005.*



adults choir comprising nearly 800 members, both ladies and gents, from 45 countries of the world made a thrilling and soul-stirring presentation of Christmas carols and devotional songs which touched every heart.

The carol singing programme came to a close at 5.00 p.m. Bhajans which followed this programme also filled each heart with sacred feelings. Bhagavan's gracious presence spread spiritual and blissful vibrations in the vast Sai Kulwant Hall. To add more bliss to this joyous occasion, Bhagavan called three youth members of the adults choir one by one, talked to them and materialised gold chains for two and a ring for the third. To top it all, Bhagavan walked again to the verandah and came back to the dais amidst a thunderous applause of the devotees. Before the conclusion of the programme, Bhagavan again got up from His chair and asked the members of the choir "Are you happy?" A joyous response arose from all "Yes, Swami." This joyous celebration concluded at 6.05 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Surely, this was a memorable Christmas at Prasanthi Nilayam.

### **Life is a Song, Sing it**

In continuation of the soul-stirring programme on Christmas day, there was another soulful musical presentation on the afternoon of 26th December 2005. The programme commenced after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall at 4.00 p.m. The first item of the programme was a musical presentation by Shalom Choir from Australia who sang two beautiful songs in Hebrew commemorating the Jewish festival of Hanukah. Thereafter, the Sathya Sai Singers of Southern California and Hawaii presented seven most beautiful devotional songs. This

musical programme entitled "Life is a Song, Sing it" kept the audience spellbound for nearly 45 minutes. The programme was conducted by the famous US choir conductor Ms. Maryalice Jessup. Each heart was filled with the sweetness of the devotional music as the seven songs were sung one after the other with great devotional fervour. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance and showered His blessings on the group. Special blessings were in store for the conductor of the programme for whom Bhagavan materialised a gold chain with a pendant of gold cross encrusted with blue sapphires.

This programme concluded at 5.00 p.m. after which there was a soul-stirring programme of Bhajans which were also led by the members of the Sathya Sai Singers of Southern California and Hawaii. The entire



*Devotional music at its best by the Sathya Sai Singers of Southern California and Hawaii in Sai Kulwant Hall on 26th December 2005.*

gathering was lost in the ecstasy of the sweet devotional session of Bhajans for nearly one hour. This excellent programme of devotional music came to a close at 6.00 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.



# GOD INCARNATES TO TRANSFORM MAN

*True education is that which dispels narrow-mindedness and promotes unity. It teaches man to live peacefully with his fellow human beings and establish peace in the world.*

(Telugu Poem)

**M**ERELY READING MANY books, gathering bookish knowledge and teaching it to others does not signify true education. Bookish

**The Ramayana Contains Eternal Truths**

Reading books and magazines and acquiring bookish knowledge connotes worldly or secular education. Most people in the world



*God loves everyone. He does not hate anyone. In fact, God does not know what anger, hatred and envy are. Unfortunately, such a loving God is being subjected to criticism by many people. God brings about transformation in the hearts of human beings. If you pray sincerely, you can also experience transformation. Note this important point that within a short period of time, the entire world will come together and live in peace and unity. I assure you that the world unity will occur very soon.*

knowledge is of little use. By accumulating bookish knowledge, you may perhaps become a book yourself. Real education is that which promotes unity, peace and peaceful co-existence.

today are pursuing this type of education only. But this cannot be called real education. Real education comes from the heart and is termed as educare. There is a lot of difference between education and educare. Educare

comes from within and education from without. Educare is, in fact, the basis and foundation for all types of education. Educare is the Adhara (support) and education is the Adheya (that which is supported). All the books we read help us to acquire secular education. But this is totally inadequate. So, we should acquire educare along with education.

Sage Valmiki composed the great epic Ramayana. It emerged from within him after deep contemplation as a spontaneous expression of his divine feelings. So too is the Bhagavata composed by Sage Vyasa. They were composed by great sages on the basis of the truths experienced by them. These great Rishis (sages) gave expression to their experiential knowledge emerging from the depth of their heart in the form of such great epics. That is why they became immortal works teaching eternal truths unlike those books written on the basis of superficial bookish knowledge. These great epics teach about the divine life and message of Avatars.

During their sojourn in the forest, Rama imparted divine knowledge to Sita. Though she did not reveal it to anyone, she put that knowledge into practice in her life. In the Ashram of Sage Valmiki, she was one day lost in deep contemplation of Rama. She was thinking of the happy days that she had spent in His company and was feeling utterly dejected at the turn of events. Meanwhile, Lava and Kusha returned to the hermitage and saw their mother in tears. They could not understand the reason for her grief. They enquired why she was in tears. They tried to console her saying, "Mother! Why should you shed tears when you have such brave sons who are even more powerful than Lord Rama? Do not underestimate our

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*The Ramayana teaches the principles of Sathya (truth) and Dharma (righteousness). Rama always followed these principles and ruled over His kingdom on the basis of these great ideals. His entire life was a saga of these great values. Not only did He follow these values, but also exhorted everyone to put them into practice in their life. He did not pay mere lip service to Dharma, but followed it sincerely. Since then, the practice of daily Parayana (reverential reading) of Ramayana has come to stay in the Indian culture and ethos.*

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strength and valour." Sage Valmiki who was observing this dialogue between Sita and her sons advised Sita, "Amma! Please control your emotions. These children are not ordinary children. They are not only well educated, they are capable of taking appropriate decisions after deeply contemplating over important issues. They have great sense of discrimination and analytical ability."

### **The Story of Aswamedha Yajna**

While Rama was ruling the kingdom of Ayodhya, he decided to perform the Aswamedha Yajna. For this purpose, a horse was selected which carried the message to all the rulers of the land that they should accept Rama's sovereignty. The horse was let out into the country followed by a huge army. While the horse followed by the army was thus moving, one day, it came near the hermitage of Sage Valmiki. Lava and



Kusha saw the horse and the army following it. They took the horse under their control and kept it at the hermitage of Valmiki. First, Satrugna confronted Lava and Kusha and tried to dissuade the twin brothers from fighting the battle, saying, "You are still children; you have not faced any difficulty in life so far, being under the loving care of your mother and Sage Valmiki. Please give up the idea of fighting a battle with our army; return to your Ashram. If you still insist on fighting with us, we are ready." The children could not, however, be persuaded to return to their Ashram. They had no fear of the battle at all. They therefore responded by saying, "We are also ready for the battle." So saying, they started the battle against Satrugna. Satrugna could not withstand the shower of arrows released by Lava and Kusha and he fainted. The news was conveyed to Rama in Ayodhya. Then Rama sent Bharata and Lakshmana to continue the battle. They too met the same fate as his brother Satrugna.

Finally, news reached Rama that the young boys had subdued Bharata, Lakshmana and Satrugna and their army and that they were ready to confront even Him. Rama now had no choice but to come to the battlefield with His army. Rama tried to convince them to leave the horse and go away since He did not want to fight with them as they were too young. Lava and Kusha did not relent. In the battle that ensued, Rama too was vanquished. When Lava and Kusha returned to their hermitage, Sita and Valmiki came to know what had happened. Valmiki then rushed to the battlefield. Lava and Kusha also followed him. When Valmiki saw Rama, he fell at His feet and told Him that Lava and Kusha were His sons. On coming to know that

Lava and Kusha were none other than His own sons, Rama embraced them. Likewise, the twin brothers also realised that their fight was against none other than their own father and they immediately fell at the feet of Rama, begging His pardon. Rama blessed them and caressed them.

### **Put the Teachings of the Ramayana into Practice**

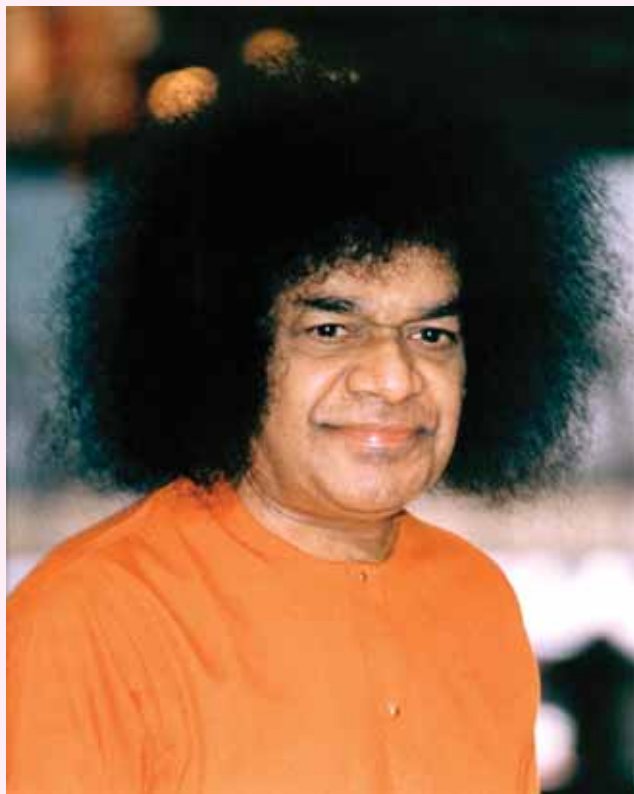
Valmiki composed the great epic Ramayana exactly as the events took place without any imagination or fabrication of events. The great sages and seers in those days spoke nothing but the truth. The Ramayana teaches the principles of Sathya (truth) and Dharma (righteousness). Rama always followed these principles and ruled over His kingdom on the basis of these great ideals. His entire life was a saga of these great values. Not only did He follow these values, but also exhorted everyone to put them into practice in their life. He did not pay mere lip service to Dharma, but followed it sincerely. Since then, the practice of daily Parayana (reverential reading) of Ramayana has come to stay in the Indian culture and ethos. You might have observed that even in our Ashram also, the Ramayana, Bhagavata and Durga Saptashati are recited during the Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna.

You must develop faith in God. If you give room for doubt, even that flicker of faith you have will be extinguished. Hence, faith in God is the essential prerequisite for every human being. In present times, unfortunately, man is gradually losing faith. It is only when man follows God's command that mankind can make progress. The essential commands which God expects man to



obey are Sathyam Vada (speak truth) and Dharmam Chara (follow righteousness). But man today is going against the command of God and distorting these principles as Sathyam Vadha (kill the truth) and Dharmam Chera (imprison righteousness). The country will

the Ramayana. The great epic Ramayana has been translated into several languages of the world, including Russian. It is a widely read classic in the world. Many people from other countries not only read Ramayana in their own language, but they even worship and revere



*Sage Valmiki composed the great epic Ramayana. It emerged from within him after deep contemplation as a spontaneous expression of his divine feelings. So too is the Bhagavata composed by Sage Vyasa. They were composed by great sages on the basis of the truths experienced by them. These great Rishis (sages) gave expression to their experiential knowledge emerging from the depth of their heart in the form of such great epics. That is why they became immortal works teaching eternal truths.*

prosper only when this trend is reversed and people follow these principles in letter and spirit. Truth is eternal. Truth is God; speak truth. Truth only will protect you.

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

God protects all; He never punishes anyone. Unable to realise this truth, some people attribute unworthy motives to God and accuse Him of making innocent people suffer. Many books are being published now on God, Divinity, etc. But none of these books glorifies the values portrayed in

this great epic. The other day, the First Lady of Kazakhstan visited Prasanthi Nilayam and heard My Discourse on the Ramayana with great reverence and joy. In fact, Ramayana is held in high esteem in many erstwhile communist countries. The people of these countries have developed great faith in the Ramayana and the Ramayana way of life. Unfortunately, Indians are still lagging behind in this regard. Due to their subjugation by the British for a long period of time, Indians lost faith in their great epics. The Ramayana is a great spiritual text which everyone





should read with utmost reverence and devotion.

### World Unity is Imminent

God loves everyone. He does not hate anyone. In fact, God does not know what anger, hatred and envy are. Unfortunately, such a loving God is being subjected to criticism by many people. God brings about transformation in the hearts of human beings. If you pray sincerely, you can also experience transformation. Note this important point that within a short period of time, the entire world will come together and live in peace and unity (*loud and prolonged applause*). I assure you that the world unity will occur very soon. Conflicts, differences and hatred will become a thing of the past. The differences that you witness today will not be seen in future. All the people will then follow the ideal of unity as enshrined in the Vedic prayer:

*Let us all move together, let us all grow together,*

*Let us all stay united and grow in intelligence together,*

*Let us live together with friendship and harmony.* (Telugu Poem)

### Embodiments of Love!

No one can describe God's love as this or that. If you hate such a loving God, it amounts to hating yourself. Hence, all of you should love God. Develop love more and more. Expand your love. The Navaratri celebrations and the Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna are coming to a close. On the final day of the Yajna, Poornahuti (final oblations) will be offered in the sacred fire of Yajna. Poornahuti is a symbolic ritual wherein one should put one's evil qualities in the sacrificial fire and come out pure and sacred. If you follow this sacred path, the whole world will be transformed. Constantly chant the Divine Name of Rama wherever you are and whatever be your circumstances. Never forget Rama Nama.

(Bhagavan concluded His Divine Discourse with the Bhajan "Rama Rama Rama Sita ...")

– **From Bhagavan's Dasara Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 10th October 2005.**

## FESTIVALS / EVENTS IN THE YEAR 2006

11th Jan. .. Annual Sports and Cultural Meet of SSSIHL  
14th Jan. .. Sankranti  
26th Feb. .. Sivarathri  
30th Mar. .. Ugadi (Telugu New Year Day)  
7th Apr. .. Sri Rama Navami  
14th Apr. .. Tamil New Year Day  
14th Apr. .. Vishu (Malayalam New Year Day)  
6th May .. Easwaramma Day  
13th May .. Buddha Purnima  
7th Jul. .. Ashadi Ekadasi

11th Jul. .. Guru Purnima  
16th Aug. .. Sri Krishna Janmashtami  
27th Aug. .. Ganesh Chaturthi  
5th Sept. .. Onam  
2nd Oct. .. Vijaya Dasami  
21st Oct. .. Deepavali  
11th Nov. (6 p.m.) -  
12th Nov. (6 p.m.) Global Akhanda Bhajan  
19th Nov. .. Ladies Day  
22nd Nov. .. 25th Convocation of SSSIHL  
23rd Nov. .. **Bhagavan's 81st Birthday**  
25th Dec. .. Christmas



*An institution of hope for destitute children*

## **SRI SATHYA SAI DEENAJANODDHARANA PATHAKAM**

***K. Geetha Paramahamsa***

“**A**RE YOU STUDYING IN CLASS VII?” Swami paused before a group of 60 boys sitting in the south-eastern corner of Sai Kulwant Hall, and asked one during Darshan. It was around January 2004.

“No, Swami!” the boy replied kneeling down humbly before Bhagavan.

“VIII?”

“No, Swami!”

“IX?”

“No, Swami!”

“What are you studying?” Swami asked.

“Class X, Swami”, the boy answered. It was, no doubt, odd, but nevertheless a fact. Swami had a hearty laugh before He remarked, “jumping and jumping up!” and moved on.

The boy, an inmate of the Children’s Home established by Bhagavan under

the Deenajanodhdharana Pathakam on 20th June 2002, was one of the seven boys appearing for the Class X public examination in March 2004. He is among the 62 boys that came to Bhagavan to share His compassion and benediction. All the seven boys passed Class X, six in first class and one in second class!

A few weeks before Bhagavan inaugurated the Pathakam, He had told at a meeting in Sai Kulwant Hall of His anguish and deep concern, moved by a press report in a Telugu daily, that a woman with her four children had committed suicide unable to maintain them and herself, on the death of her husband. Immediately thereafter, He instructed enumeration of destitute boys in the three Mandals of Puttaparthi, Kothacheruvu and Bukkapatnam. Over eighty boys with their relations came to Prasanthi



Nilayam on 20th June 2002. Of them, only sixty-two boys (including two that have recently been admitted) with twelve mothers have stayed on to receive Bhagavan's benediction. The youngest of them was only ten months old and the eldest was under thirteen in June 2002.

When the boys came from the dusty villages, they were looking shabby in dirty rags, and undernourished. Some had skin problems while several had problems with eyesight. All needed a haircut and bath, to begin with. As they were brought to Prasanthi Nilayam along with their relations, they were housed in shed No. 30 in the Ashram. Bhagavan came to the shed on that day and distributed new clothes and other accessories to them, as they had nothing to use.

While they were in the shed for about five weeks, the first thing they began to learn was Veda chanting. How could it be otherwise for the children of Veda Purusha? Now they recite Veda well. A few months later, Bhagavan asked late Sri P.V.Narasimha Rao to visit the Children's Home (the complex to which the boys were shifted in July 2003). It was a surprise visit. When Sri P.V. Narasimha Rao went round the Home and listened to the recitation of Veda by the boys, he remarked, "simply enchanting!"

When the boys were shifted to the new sprawling complex on the Guru Purnima Day, 25th July 2003, Swami personally went there and boiled milk (boiling milk is a ritual observed by the house owner while house-warming). The new complex has a prayer hall, a spacious dining hall with a modern kitchen and stores attached. It has about 200 independent rooms with a toilet and a bath attached to each. A solar water heater provides hot water to all the inmates of the Home.

A few days after their moving into the new complex, they were in Sai Kulwant Hall for Darshan of Bhagavan when fruits were being distributed among all the devotees present. One of the students who came to the group of inmates of the Home, distributing fruits, offered a fruit to one boy Nagendra. "No, thanks", the boy declined politely, "you have given me one already!"

"What a contrast to some among the grown-ups and so-called educated who pester us for more, even after getting their due," the student wondered. That is the level of transformation brought about in the boys in a few days after coming into the fold of Bhagavan. Bhagavan knows whatever happens in the universe. Does He not know about what happens in the Mandir? He walked slowly to the boy and offered a fruit Himself.

"No, thanks, Swami", he said, "I got already."

"Doesn't matter, take it", said Swami, "I am giving it."

"No, thanks, Swami", the boy politely declined.

"What do you want?" Swami asked.

"Chaduvu (education), Swami!" the boy answered.

Everyone was pleasantly surprised.

"I will arrange that", promised Swami.

Swami again asked, "What more do you want?"

"Nothing, except education", the boy answered.

Swami was pleased. He materialised a gold chain and put it around the boy's neck Himself.

Swami followed up His promise promptly. A new school building with eight classrooms came up in the



complex in just two months. Trained teachers among Seva Dal volunteers teach the boys. Besides, quite a few devotees of Bhagavan work there voluntarily.

Bhagavan inaugurated the new school building in February 2003. He went into



*Sri Sathya Sai Deenajanodharana Pathakam School.*

each classroom, touched each blackboard and blessed it. The boys, who were then attending their classes in some rooms of the complex, promptly moved into the new school building.

“Till recently, we had no square meal a day and none to care for us”, an inmate recalls. “Today Swami has arranged everything for us. We are well clad and well fed. At the time of our arrival here, we underwent a health check-up, the first in our life. We get sumptuous breakfast, lunch, afternoon snacks and dinner, not to speak of frequent bouts of Prasadam Swami sends us – especially fruits, sweets, dry fruits, cashew nuts, biscuits and chocolates – all in baskets!”

Each inmate has six pairs of dress, two

pairs of night dress, sweaters and rugs in winter, mattresses, pillows, bed sheets, shoes, chappals and what not.

“We enjoy all facilities here on par with the inmates of hostels of other Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions, may be better”, an inmate claims happily. “Not only that, we are given equal opportunities to stage cultural programmes like them on occasions such as the Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Bhagavan’s Birthday celebrations, festivals like Ugadi, etc.”

Daily routine in the Children’s Home begins at 4.30 a.m. when the boys wake up and join Nagar Sankirtan. Jogging follows. On return, they bathe and sit for Bhajan. After breakfast, they go to school at 7.30 a.m. At 10 a.m. they have a few minutes’ break to have milk. At 12, they move for lunch. After lunch, they relax for a while, do homework, etc., and return to school by 2 p.m. They attend Bal Vikas classes between 4.30 p.m. and 5

p.m. when they go into their own spacious playground to play. After bath, they have dinner at 6.30 p.m., do homework and study up to 10 p.m. before they pray and go to bed.

The boys find time for hobbies such as kitchen gardening, painting, cultural activities, etc. They have been initiated into yoga and are now able to perform as many as 26 Asanas with ease.

*Bhagavan had set apart one lakh rupees for each of the boys at the time of launching the scheme. This will be gifted with the interest that it earns on the completion of their education and finding a placement for service. Bhagavan once explained, “This is only a token of what Swami gifts them, because they bask all the time in His Divine aura, enjoying His love, compassion and protection invaluable!”*

Boys who passed Class X in March 2004 are now taking the Senior Secondary grade of the National Institute of Open Schooling. They opted for two subjects in computer science besides English for examination in April-May 2005. They will take examination in mathematics and accountancy in 2005-06 when they qualify for admission to the BCA Course of the Indira Gandhi National Open University in July 2006. The Computer Lab at the Home has eleven systems all local area networked (LAN). Ten other boys will take the Class X examination of the Andhra Pradesh State Board of Secondary Education in March 2006.

“We go for Darshan of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall on Thursdays and Sundays, and on every festival day by a special bus”, an inmate says, “and return recharged with His bliss.” “At the outset, we fell for the excellent food we were having for the first time in our life. Today we realise the more valuable things we receive here owing to His grace – motherly love and affection, good bringing up in value system and quality education tempered with spirituality. I do not know how many among the millions of contemporary students in the country are that lucky.”

Bhagavan pauses before the group of the boys during Darshan, and makes affectionate enquiries about their food, facilities, health, education, etc. As Bhagavan goes by the boys in Sai Kulwant Hall, most devotees feel that Bhagavan has utmost concern and compassion for these boys.

Bhagavan’s love and compassion for them knows no bounds. When the Class X public examination was approaching, one boy told Swami in the Darshan line, “I am not able to remember what I study, Swami!”

“That is education, my boy!” Bhagavan quipped, a comment on the present-day system of education in which we learn not much worthwhile to remember.

On 17th March 2003, Bhagavan went to the Home. It was the day on which the public examination for Class X commenced.

Bhagavan blessed the boys taking the examination personally, putting Vibhuti on the forehead of each of them. Parents see their children off to examinations. Here Lord Himself arrived to bless them and see them off to their examinations. What a blessed lot!

Bhagavan had set apart one lakh rupees for each of the boys at the time of launching the scheme. This will be gifted with the interest that it earns on the completion of their education and finding a placement for service. Bhagavan once explained, “This is only a token of what Swami gifts them, because they bask all the time in His Divine aura, enjoying His love, compassion and protection invaluable!”

Besides the boys, the mothers of some of them, twelve, live in the Home. Some serve as Ayahs to the boys, besides helping in the upkeep and maintenance of the Home.

One, Smt. Venkatalakshmi, had her backbone broken completely. She was in bed when she entered the Home. She underwent physiotherapy in Bhagavan’s General Hospital at Whitefield, Bangalore. It is just a miracle that she now attends to her work on her own. “I am having physiotherapy as advised. But my hope centres on Sai therapy – incessant chanting of Sai Ram”, Smt. Venkatalakshmi says, “It has paid off. Swami, in His abundant grace, has allowed me very good improvement in stages. Today I can

attend to my work without support of others. I can even walk around using



the walker. It is purely a Sai miracle that I am back on my legs.”

“Our best resource here is prayer”, says an inmate. “Whenever anyone of us has a problem, we all pray together for him, and Swami responds. When someone is ill, they take him promptly to the hospital for treatment. But, on our part, we pray for him, and he will be back soon in good health owing to Bhagavan’s grace.” It is no surprise that one boy is completely cured of cancer in the throat having undergone surgery twice in the Kidwai Hospital at Bangalore. A couple of boys have been treated of suspected tuberculosis with no trace of it. At least a dozen boys have had fractures of leg or hand on different occasions, but everything is set. More surprisingly, a dumb boy that came with his dumb mother is now able to speak and study, and is no different from others.

The boys have their own Homa Kunda – of all things! “Whenever they performed Homa (Yajna), there was rain. It is remarkable”, one teacher at the Home noted. “They do Homa with Sai Gayatri or do Ganesh Homa.” They celebrate festivals of all religions. The mothers have grown spiritually, beyond imagination. They do Sai Vratams, Sita Vratams, etc. They themselves feel that they have shed the vestiges of their earlier cantankerous environment of filth, squalour and slang.

“Our aspiration in life is clear”, an inmate declares. “We have, no doubt, ambition to come up in life getting good education and winning high positions. More than that, we aspire to shape into effective instruments of Bhagavan to perform His work on earth, as a member of the universal Sai family, imbibing human values dear to His heart.”

So moves on the caravan – SAI caravan!

## SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Deemed University accredited by NAAC at A<sup>++</sup> level)

Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam-515134, Anantapur Dist., Andhra Pradesh, India

Ph: (08555) 287239, 287191 www.srisathyasai.org.in/sssihl.org E-mail: sssihl@hotmail.com

### Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music

#### Admission Notice

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning offers the following courses under the auspices of the Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music in Prasanthi Nilayam (for boys). The admissions will be made for the Academic Year commencing from June 2006.

#### FULL-TIME COURSES

1) **FOUNDATION COURSE** - Duration: 2 years: (Camatic, Hindustani) Vocal, Veena, Mridangam, Sitar, and Tabla.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Candidates should have passed 7th Standard of study, and be 13 to 20 years of age.

2) **DIPLOMA COURSE** - Duration: 3 years: (Camatic, Hindustani) Vocal, Veena, Mridangam, Sitar, and Tabla.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Candidates should have passed 10th Standard of study and also a Course in Music equivalent to the Foundation Course from any recognised College / Institution, and be 16 to 23 years of age.

Application forms will be available from **1st December 2005 to 28th February 2006.**

Admission to the above Courses will be on the basis of Admission Test and Interview which will be held in May 2006, at Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh.

Interested candidates may apply to the **Registrar, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515 134, Anantapur Dist., A.P.** along with Indian Postal Order or Bank Draft for Rs.50/- drawn in favour of **Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning**, payable at **Prasanthi Nilayam / Puttaparthi**. The name, postal address and phone number of the candidate should clearly be mentioned in the requisition letter.

**Registrar**

# BHAGAVAN'S 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

*80th Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was celebrated on 23rd November 2005 with an unprecedented outpouring of love from hundreds of thousands of devotees who came to Puttaparthi from all over the world for Bhagavan's Darshan on this auspicious day. This, however, was a fraction of the devotees the world over who celebrated the 80th year of the Advent of Bhagavan in their respective countries with gratitude, love and selfless service. A brief description of the global activities, celebrating Bhagavan's 80th Birthday follows.*

## GUYANA

His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo, President of the Republic of Guyana conveyed a written message of greetings to Bhagavan Baba on His 80th Birthday on behalf of the people of Guyana. In the message, he stated: "You inspire millions of people around the world to transform their lives, and at the same time lift their spiritual consciousness. Your presence gives us all hope for a more compassionate and humane global society where all are guided by the principle of the Brotherhood of Man and Fatherhood of God. The success of Your Avataric mission is evident all around us, as more people are responding positively to the plight of the poor, suffering and downtrodden in the world."

## USA

Much like the City of St. Louis did in September 2005, the City of Little Rock, Arkansas proclaimed 23rd November as Sri Sathya Sai Baba Day.

Birthday celebrations held in Northern California on 24th November 2005 were attended by 1,250 devotees. They all witnessed the actual Birthday



*Proclamation by the Mayor of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, USA for celebrating 23rd November as Sri Sathya Sai Baba Day.*

celebrations in Puttaparthi projected on a large screen. This was followed by devotional singing. Seva was performed in celebration of the Birthday. Sai Centres





*Beautiful altar made by devotees to celebrate Bhagavan's 80th Birthday in Northern California where 1,250 devotees participated in the function.*

delivered a large quantity of rice, flour, sugar, cooking oil and clothing to homeless people in San Francisco. Akhanda Bhajan was attended by more than 500 people.

In Southern California, Akhanda Bhajan was held on 12th and 13th November in the city of Norwalk. Approximately 1,000 devotees were present during the last several hours of the Bhajan. Devotees also celebrated Swami's 80th Birthday on 20th November 2005. The programme consisted of a play by SSE children on stories of Swami's childhood, talks by old time devotees and Bhajans.

In Arizona, 80 blankets and 80 lunches were distributed to children. Approximately 300 devotees attended the Birthday celebrations chanting Sai Ashtottaram, Sai Gayatri, singing Bhajans and ending with cake cutting.

In Colorado, devotees distributed a truckload of clothes and food in the city of Saguache. On 23rd November 2005, 150 devotees gathered to celebrate Swami's Birthday with Bhajans, skits by Bal Vikas students and cake cutting.

The Flushing Sai Centre in New York celebrated Swami's 80th Birthday on 24th November 2005. They also hosted Akhanda Bhajan on 12th and 13th November, which was attended by more than 350 devotees.

Over 600 devotees gathered in Baltimore, Maryland to celebrate Bhagavan's 80th Birthday which included a devotional programme, medical camp, cleaning inner city neighbourhoods and delivering food to shelters for the homeless.

## CANADA

An eight-day-long celebration was held in Ontario, Canada to celebrate Bhagavan's 80th Birthday. The spiritual vibrations were shared by a large congregation of approximately 1,000.

A national programme called "HOST" was initiated to celebrate Bhagavan's 80th Birthday. Sai devotees volunteered to adopt refugee families and provide them with food, clothing, shelter, assistance and friendship so as to help each family towards financial self-sufficiency. Fifteen families have been adopted and, in a twist of Sai coincidence, the government has offered another 80 families for adoption during this year.

Birthday celebrations were also held in Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Toronto, Brampton, Ottawa and Montreal where Birthday Bhajans were sung and food distributed to the needy.



*A section of the congregation celebrating Bhagavan's 80th Birthday in Toronto, Canada.*





## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

On 23rd November 2005, Birthday celebrations held in the Foodlands Hotel Banquet Hall in Abu Dhabi were attended by 750 devotees. The programme consisted of Omkaram, Suprabhatam and Bhajans. The Centre, which had planned to complete 80 lakh Likhit Nama Japa (writing the Divine Name),



*Foodlands Hotel Banquet Hall, Abu Dhabi where Bhajans were held by Sai devotees and Bhagavan's 80th Birthday was celebrated.*

instead came close to one crore Likhit Japas in time for the Birthday. Ladies Day was celebrated in the auditorium of the Indian Embassy with a two-day function which included skits, Arabic dance and Bhajans attended by 200 devotees. Akhanda Bhajan was held in the Foodlands Hotel Banquet Hall and 400 devotees attended. In Oman, a blood donation drive that planned to collect 80 units of blood collected 136 units. The Director, Department of Blood Services, Ministry of Health commended the Sai group for their humanitarian work.

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

After three years of severe war, Bosnia and Herzegovina has many refugees who live in



*Sai devotees visited a nursing home to help the refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

nursing homes and have no families. Devotees of Bosnia Sathya Sai Centre visited these nursing homes on 22nd November 2005. They warmly greeted the residents and offered food and sang Bhajan in Bosnian language for Christian and Muslim residents.

## BULGARIA

About 30 devotees gathered in the capital city of Sofia to celebrate Swami's 80th Birthday with multi-faith Bhajans and distribution of food.

## CROATIA

In the capital city of Zagreb, Republic of Croatia, over 700 people attended the Birthday



*A large gathering of people in a hall celebrating Bhagavan's 80th Birthday in the capital city of Zagreb, Republic of Croatia.*



celebrations in a hall with a capacity of 537. Celebrations consisted of Bhajan singing, screening of the movie "His Work" and distribution of Prasadam. Similar celebrations took place in the cities of Rijeka, Bjelovar, Osijek and Split.

### **SLOVENIA**

In Ljubljana, Slovenia, Akhanda Bhajan was sung on 11th November 2005 and was followed by the recital of Sai Gayatri 1,008 times. On 23rd November 2005, approximately 100 people gathered to celebrate Bhagavan's Birthday with a video presentation of Swami's Darshan, a spiritual play and distribution of a brochure describing Bhagavan's social and educational projects.

### **COSTA RICA**

In the auditorium of the Federation of Voluntary Organisations, San Jose, 70 people gathered on 27th November 2005 and sang Bhajans, performed a children's play on human values, listened to a talk on Swami's life and service projects and watched a slide show of the 80th Birthday celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.

### **EL SALVADOR**

On 27th November 2005, more than 350 Salvadorian devotees assembled to celebrate Swami's 80th Birthday. In an auditorium overlooking scenic mountainsides and volcanoes, devotees enjoyed a talk about Bhagavan Baba and His humanitarian work as well as a musical performance.

### **VENEZUELA**

Bhagavan's 80th Birthday was celebrated in Caracas, Venezuela at the National University and was attended by over 500 people including some Government officials. The event consisted of choir singing, a

Ramayana play and singing by musical groups. Thirteen Sai Centres participated in this grand event.

### **PANAMA**

National service for the underprivileged was the theme for Bhagavan's 80th Birthday celebrations in Panama. In the city of Colon, 80 surgeries were performed free of charge for the economically disadvantaged population. In Panama City, 200 food bags and 250 snack baskets were distributed to the needy, a community centre was renovated and 80 baskets of well-baby care products were distributed at the Santo Tomas Hospital. At a children's centre, 100 toys and gifts were distributed.

### **TAIWAN**

On 23rd November 2005, 75 devotees gathered at the Taiwan Sathya Sai Centre to celebrate Bhagavan's Birthday. Beginning from the November 2005 Global Akhanda



*A public programme to celebrate Bhagavan's 80th Birthday in Taiwan.*

Bhajan day, Bhagavan's "Thought for the Day" now appears in the popular Chinese daily newspaper "China Post".

Devotees visited a Home for the elderly and physically challenged persons and distributed 9 wheelchairs and a physiotherapy table. A





*A Home for physically challenged in Taiwan where Sai devotees performed Seva and distributed wheelchairs.*

blood donation camp was carried out and 120 units of blood were collected. Sai Gayatri was sung continuously for two hours by local residents at a Chinese temple.

## BRUNEI

In the Sultanate of Brunei, Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations were held at the Akhar Gurkha temple on 23rd November 2005 with Suprabhatam, Ashtottaram and Bhajans, and were attended by over 200 devotees.

## HONG KONG

Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations began in early November. On 6th November 2005, 800



*Nearly 1500 people attended the function to celebrate Bhagavan's 80th Birthday in Hong Kong.*

families received with love 10,000 kilos of rice, packed in bags with the Sai Organisation's logo and Sai's message of "Love All, Serve All" in Chinese together with 800 quilts and 800 Seva packets, containing basic household necessities. There was also a public forum on the humanitarian works of Bhagavan on the same day. On 2nd December 2005, the Birthday programme was attended by 1,500 people. At the end of the programme, a DVD with Swami's photos, Bhajans and biography was distributed.

## KOREA

Akhanda Bhajan was held on 12-13th November. Bhagavan's Birthday was celebrated at the Sai Centre on 23rd



*A cultural item being presented as part of the function to celebrate Bhagavan's 80th Birthday in Korea.*

November 2005 and also at the Korean Methodist Women's Society on 4th December 2005. The highlights of the event were a speech by the Indian Ambassador to Korea and a cultural programme.

## MALAYSIA

Approximately 2,000 devotees from all the Sai Centres in Malaysia celebrated Bhagavan's Birthday on 4th December 2005 in Juara Stadium, Kuala Lumpur from 7.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. The programme began with

Paduka procession followed by universal prayers, Bhajans and a blood donation drive.

## NEW ZEALAND

Birthday celebrations in the capital city of Auckland began with a weeklong service project in November 2005 which included



*Beautiful decorations on the altar at a public function held in Auckland to celebrate Bhagavan's 80th Birthday.*

delivery of food to a night shelter, blood donation camp, soup kitchen for 70 people, distribution of food, singing at nursing homes and hospitals, distribution of toys at a children's hospital and free medical clinics. Similar events of service and devotion took place in the Waikato Bay of Plenty region and the Wellington region. On 23rd November 2005, a public function was held in Auckland which was attended by 2,000 people. The event was celebrated with plays, music and Bhajans.

## SRI LANKA

In the Sai Baba Centre of Colombo, 1,500 devotees took part in various festivities for the 80th Birthday that included Bhajan singing, plays and talks by speakers of all religions. As Birthday gift, Sri Lankan devotees offered the following service projects: 80 cornea transplants, 80 wheelchairs, 80 artificial limbs, 80 tube wells, 80 small houses built for homeless families, 80 cataract

surgeries, 9 medical camps and 9 public awareness meetings on Bhagavan's teachings.

## BRAZIL

Rather than having small celebrations in individual centres, all 5 Sai Centres of Sao Paulo, Brazil decided to get together to celebrate Swami's 80th Birthday on 23rd November. More than 400 devotees attended the meeting which included an excellent musical programme by talented artistes.

## UNITED KINGDOM

On 12th and 13th November 2005, Region 2 embarked on a ground breaking event by hosting Akhanda Bhajan at regional level in London. The spirit of unity was evident when all the 15 Sai Centres and Groups of the region participated in 24 hours of singing the glories of the Lord.

On Sunday 20th November, Ladies Day was celebrated by approximately 200 devotees from Region 5. SSE students commenced the celebrations with heartfelt prayers, and later gave short speeches about great women. Children from the Sathya Sai School of Leicester performed two excellent short plays on Florence Nightingale and Mother Teresa. The programme also included two guest speakers and devotional singing. The programme truly captured the essence of Ladies Day and was a day to remember.

All five regions celebrated Swami's 80th Birthday. Programmes included devotional singing, prayers, plays and panel discussion. The Mayor of Brent who was the Chief Guest at one regional celebrations commented on the dedication, commitment and enthusiasm of the SSE students in taking on a vital role today to first learn



about their heritage and then to show the importance of human values that are so needed in the world now. The Mayor was very much impressed to learn that the UK Sai Organisation was not only celebrating the 80th Birthday of Swami but also 40 years of 'Selfless Service - Love in Action', in the United Kingdom.

## AUSTRALIA

In all the States and territories of Australia, Bhagavan Baba's 80th Birthday was celebrated with enthusiasm and devotion. In the capital cities, large events were held with overall attendances exceeding 5,500 people. Many Centres and Zones focused on service activities to celebrate the Birthday. Service work included a weekend at Toomelah aboriginal community where a water purification plant was installed.

In Sai Centres throughout Australia, devotees worked to deliver hampers, gift packs and school kits to homeless and needy families. Blood donations were organised, and in Perth this exceeded 500 units of blood in an outpouring of devotion. At the national level, 7,000 sleeping bags have been sent to the earthquake victims in Pakistan.

Many of the celebration programmes extended through the day with devotional singing, morality plays and sketches. Inspiring speeches relating to Sri Sathya Sai Baba's life of love and service, and His remarkable achievements in the areas of health, education and water projects were given. Other events focused on the need to put into practice His message and His teachings. Those attending the events reported that joy and love was evident in abundance throughout the Birthday events.

## BOTSWANA

Swami's 80th Birthday was celebrated by the Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Gaborone, Botswana on 23rd November 2005; 600 people attended the celebration. The programme was in two sessions and included devotional singing, cake cutting, and video presentation. Special service at Day Care Centre for Destitute Children at Old Naledi in Gaborone city was organised. Fruits, bread and milk were distributed to 54 children of Day Care Centre. In addition to the regular services, on Saturday 20th November 2005 a special service was organised at Tlomalong Centre (Red Cross Society) for physically challenged children in Tlokweng village. Fruits, bread and milk were distributed to physically challenged children and three wheel chairs were donated.

## FIJI

Bhagavan's 80th Birthday was celebrated by the eight districts in Fiji attended by approximately 4,000 people. All meetings were held in the evenings with 2-hour programmes which included performances by youth and Bal Vikas children and talks on Swami's teaching. A number of service activities were also conducted to coincide with Swami's Birthday. This included distribution of 80 food parcels to poor and needy in a number of districts and blood donation. It was a wonderful week of celebrations and service to poor and needy in a spirit of love.

## RUSSIA

It took the whole year to get ready for the celebration of Swami's 80th Birthday in St. Petersburg. About 250 people attended the function. The audience was rather heterogeneous comprising long-time devotees



and newcomers. Sri Sathya Sai Organisation members shared with the audience many inter-regional and international events such as the medical camps, community service projects, children's camps and conferences with the help of audio visual material. Newsletters covering all the events conducted by the Sai Organisation and big 2006 wall calendars with Swami's portrait were sold. As most leading singers had left for Prashanti Nilayam, the remaining singers had to invest much time and effort to practise the Bhajans and enlarge the repertoire. This year, singing of Bhajans was accompanied by showing the film "Pure Love" with Swami walking among the devotees talking to them, giving them Prasad and materialising Vibhuti. Combining Bhajans with the screening of the film made the audience ecstatic.

We are indebted and grateful to Bhagavan for this wonderful opportunity to celebrate His 80th Birthday with love and humility.

– Prasanthi Council

## B H A R A T

**Assam, Manipur and N.E. States:** In order to create public awareness about Bhagavan's mission and to spread His message of love, Digboi Bhajan Mandali in the district of Tinsukia celebrated Bhagavan's 80th Birthday in Digboi with colourful programmes in the premises of Durgabari Girls High School. The unique aspect of the celebration was the huge rally held from the premises of the school to Muliabari Bihutoli covering the main thoroughfare of the town to the delight of the people.

In the temple town of Sivasagar, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi has constructed a new building for Bal Vikas and Sai activities, the ground floor of which was

completed and dedicated to the Lotus Feet on His 80th Birthday on 23rd November 2005. As a part of celebration, colourful illumination of the building was done in the evening.

**Punjab:** An 80-hour Akhanda Bhajan was organised at Abohar from 22nd September to 25th September 2005. More than 10,000 persons attended the Bhajan during these four days. All the Samithis of Punjab actively participated in the Akhanda Bhajan. Devotee singers and Bhajan leaders sang Bhajans with full devotion. Free food was served throughout this period.

Global Akhanda Bhajan was organised on 12th and 13th November 2005 in 26 Samithis in the State. On an average, 150 – 300 persons attended the Global Akhanda Bhajan at each place.

80 Nagar Sankirtans were held at Ludhiana starting from 4th September 2005 to 22nd November 2005. On the concluding day, a grand Rath Yatra (chariot procession) with Bhagavan's portrait was taken out throughout the city. A large number of devotees followed the Ratha and sang Sarva Dharma Bhajans on the way.

On 23rd November 2005, grand functions, lectures, Nagar Sankirtans, special Bhajans, Narayana Seva, etc., were held in all the Samithis of the State.

An artificial limbs camp was organised at Gurdaspur on 6th November 2005 in which 170 physically challenged persons were provided with free artificial limbs. Narayana Seva and Sai Bhajans were also held.

**Tamil Nadu:** The State was affected by three major bouts of floods in the months of November and December 2005. Seva activities were undertaken by the



Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu in the flood ravaged areas in Chennai Metro and other districts of Tamil Nadu. In Anna Nagar area of Chennai Metro, our Seva Dal volunteers distributed 625 kg rice in packets of 5 kg each to 125 families in Vedachalam Nagar, Koyambedu on 12th November 2005.

In Chennai Metro, 15 Sai Youth constructed a float using bamboo sticks and barrels and rescued 20 people marooned in the swirling waters in Madipakkam area on 2nd December 2005. Bread, bun and biscuits were served to about 50 people stranded at the Koyambedu Bus Terminus.

On 3rd and 4th December when many areas of Chennai Metro got submerged in the water released from Sembarampakkam Lake, our Samithi members prepared and distributed food packets to 1200 persons in Choolaimedu area. Wading through knee-deep water, the food was served to the people at their doorstep as Prasadam from Swami. 40 members of the Chennai Youth (some of them trained in Disaster Management) got together and assessed the needs of the people marooned



*Door-to-door distribution of food packets to flood affected houses in Thanjavur district.*

on the bank of the Adyar river in Mallikaipoo Nagar. As the people were getting cooked food from the government agencies, they organised hot milk and biscuits. This was distributed to 300 homes by wading through water to their homes and using emergency lights.

Thanjavur and Trichy districts were affected by the flood waters of Cauvery and Coleroon. On 26th and 27th November, Sai Samithis in Thanjavur district swung into action. 60 gents Seva Dal and 35 Mahila Seva Dal members distributed in all 2200 packets of food in the villages of Arasangudi, Kilikodu, Savithrasanallur, Thozhur, Muthiapuram, Alamankurichi and Parattai.

**Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal:** The auspicious 80th Birthday of Bhagavan was celebrated with great devotional fervour and enthusiasm all over the the two States of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal with Nagar Sankirtan, Homam, Nama Sankirtan, video shows of Swami's life and message and distribution of Prasadam. The celebrations were spread over one week to ten days in many districts.

Bags containing 5 kg wheat flour, 1 kg pulses, 1 kg salt were distributed to 80 selected very poor families in a slum area in an adopted village on 17th November 2005. Narayana Seva in the leprosy colony was done on 18th November 2005.

As a part of celebration of the 80th year of the Advent of Bhagavan, a seminar was organised from 14th to 18th October. 80 woollen sweaters were given to pre-selected poor children. On the Ladies Day on 19th November, Rangoli was made on the Sangam site (confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati) and decorated with 80 lighted lamps. 80 Saris were distributed to poor ladies by going

from door to door. A 25 kg cake was cut on Bhagavan's Birthday. Narayana Seva was done amongst lepers, mentally challenged children and orphanages. All lepers were given blankets. Children were given warm clothes. 80 glasses and 80 plates were given to lepers. An 80-minute Bhajan was organised on Bhagavan's Birthday. 80 sewing machines along with certificates were given to the ladies who took training in tailoring and embroidery.

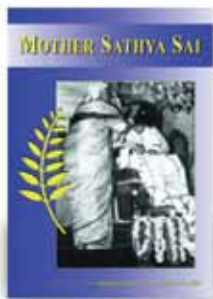
A big medical camp was organised on 6th November in which 480 people from slum areas were checked up: pathological tests were also made and free medicines were distributed. 91 spectacles were given free and 20 people were operated upon for cataract. On 19th November 2005, five elderly ladies connected with Sai Organisation for about 30 years were honoured with shawls. A Kalash



*Medical camp organised on 6th November 2005 to help people of slum areas.*

Yatra was taken out on Bhagavan's Birthday on 23rd November 2005 in which 300 ladies and gents participated. A cultural programme was presented by children at the end of this procession. Narayana Seva was conducted in lepers' colony. The programme ended with fireworks display.

## MOTHER SATHYA SAI ~ SUBSCRIPTIONS



Inaugurated by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on November 19, 2005, *Mother Sathya Sai* is a new biannual journal from Prasanthi Nilayam, dedicated to the spiritual, moral and social upliftment of women everywhere. For more information, see [www.ewwt.org.in](http://www.ewwt.org.in), coming in February 2006.

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ONCE A KING WENT TO A forest for hunting. There he was separated from his entourage and lost the way. While walking in darkness, he slipped and fell into an old well. Fortunately, he firmly caught hold of some roots of the branches of a nearby banyan tree as they were hanging in the well. Thereby, he saved himself from falling into the well.

After some time, a person doing Nama Sankirtan happened to pass that way. Hearing the sound of groaning coming from a nearby place indicating that someone was in distress, he came near the well and peeped into it. Seeing someone hanging in the well, he managed to procure a rope from somewhere to pull him out. Throwing the rope in the well, he addressed the person in trouble, "Catch hold of this rope firmly; I will try to pull you out slowly." The king had a doubt: what should I catch at – the roots of the branches of the banyan tree or the rope?

In the same way, man becomes the victim of doubts in certain situations and loses his discrimination. First, the roots of the branches of the banyan tree were the means by which the king saved himself. But to come out of the



*The king had a doubt: what should I catch at – the roots of the branches of the banyan tree or the rope?*

well, he should have left those roots and caught hold of the rope. Here, the roots symbolise the world which man keeps holding. But some day or the other, he has to know the path which can lead him to his redemption. Leaving the roots and catching the rope are the means which lead him to the path of his liberation.



*In the rose plant of our body, there is the rose of pure and sacred love emitting the fragrance of good qualities. Below the rose, however, there are thorns in the form of sensual desires. The purpose of meditation is to separate the rose of selfless love from the senses and offer it to the Lord.*

*- Baba*

# SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

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Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam-515134, Anantapur Dist., Andhra Pradesh, India

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## Admission Notice

Admission for the Academic Year commencing from June 2006

will be made for the following Courses:

**Prasanthi Nilayam Campus (for Men):** B.A., B.Sc.(Hons) in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biosciences, Economics (leading to PG Courses in the respective subjects); M.B.A., M.B.A.(Finance), and M.Tech.(Computer Science).

**Brindavan Campus (for Men):** B.Com.(Hons), B.Sc.(Hons) in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biosciences (leading to PG Courses in the respective subjects).

**Anantapur Campus (for Women):** B.A., B.Com.(Hons), B.Sc.(Home Science), B.Sc.(Hons) in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biosciences; M.A.(English), M.A.(Telugu), M.Sc.(Home Science), and B.Ed.

### Eligibility for Admission:

**Undergraduate Courses:** 10+2 pattern of study/Intermediate. Minimum marks required in the X Std. examination is 60% in aggregate and 55% in General English. Candidates should have taken their final year +2/Intermediate qualifying examination before the date of Admission Test.

**Postgraduate Courses:** 10+2+3 pattern of study. A First class (minimum of 60% marks in aggregate in all the three years of study) in respective degrees with 50% in General English.

**M.B.A./M.B.A.(Finance) and B.Ed.:** 10+2+3 pattern of study. A First class (minimum of 60% marks in all examinations of the course) in any first degree or Postgraduate degree with 50% marks in General English in the first basic degree. Candidates of Technical Courses like B.E., B.Tech., B.Pharma., B.Sc.(Agri). etc. are exempted from the minimum requirement of 50% marks in General English.

**M.Tech.(Computer Science):** A First class (60% and above) both in the first degree and M.Sc.(Mathematics)/M.Sc.(Physics)/M.Sc.(Computer Science)/M.C.A./B.E.(Computer Science)/B.Tech. (Computer Science) levels of examination with Computer Science background, and the candidates should have formally undergone the following courses: Artificial Intelligence, Computer Networks, Computer Organisation & Architecture and Database Systems.

**Note:** Eligible candidates will be short-listed by the Institute based on the marks of qualifying examinations. Only such candidates will be called for Admission Test.

In the case of candidates who have not received the marks statements of the final year of the first degree examination, their marks in the previous years/semesters should not be less than 60% in aggregate and 50% in General English. They should have taken their final year / semester qualifying examination before the date of the admission test.

Admission to all the above courses will be on the basis of Admission Test and Interview which will be held in May 2006, at **Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh.**

Application form along with Information Handbook will be available from **1st Dec. 2005 to 28th February 2006.** Interested candidates may apply to the **Registrar, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Vidyagiri, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515 134, Anantapur Dist., A.P.** along with I.P.O. or Bank Draft for Rs.50/- for Undergraduate Courses and Rs.70/- for Postgraduate Courses/M.B.A./M.B.A.(Fin)/M.Tech./B.Ed. Courses. The draft should be drawn in favour of **Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning**, payable at **Prasanthi Nilayam/Puttaparthi.** Since the application forms are different for each programme, candidates must indicate in the requisition letter the details of course/subject of study for which they seek admission. Also, **the name, postal address and phone number** of the candidate should clearly be mentioned in the requisition letter.

**Registrar**



## *Treasures of the Spirit*

*Man cannot take any step in life disregarding the influence of the social environment. Every thought of man is determined by the law of necessity, which depends upon surrounding factors and purity of heart. In the attempt to love himself, man is bound to love all others around. Love, happiness and delight are the treasures of the Spirit. They are best enjoyed when their fruits are shared with others in a spirit of friendliness.*



*— Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba*



## *Qualities of an Ideal Student*

**When the sun is over your head, there will be no shadow. So, too, when faith is steady in your heart, it should not cast any shadow of doubt. Do not talk ill of others; talk only of the good in them. All are good. If you see bad in them, it is because there is bad in you. If you do not like someone, do not mix with him. Grace is the sunlight which will ripen the fruit; Sadhana (spiritual practice) is the sap which rises from earth. Both are needed by the tree in order that it may yield fruit.**

*- Baba*

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