



DECEMBER 2011

# Sanathana Sarathi



# Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

Vol.: 54 Issue No. 12 Date of Publication: 1st December

**DECEMBER 2011**

© 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.

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**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  
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Nilayam - 515 134, Anantapur district,  
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Cover Page Photograph: **Unity of Faiths**

*"Devotion is a sort of madness. Sai  
Baba is the embodiment of Sai-Chit-  
Ananda (Existence-Knowledge-  
Bliss Absolute) who removes your  
worldly madness and makes you mad  
for God. Why does he make you mad  
for God? It is only to drive away your  
worldly madness. If you want to get rid  
of your worldly madness, you should  
become mad for God."*



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# DIVINE PROXIMITY IS THE REAL WEALTH

*When you already have a lighted lamp in your house, where is the need for you to go to the house of your neighbour to light the lamp? If you forget God, it amounts to forgetting yourself because you yourself are God.*

(Telugu Poem)

GOD NEITHER COMES NOR GOES; HE IS EVERYWHERE

Students!



THE CULTURE OF BHARAT affirms all-pervasiveness of God. In this world, there is no entity, living or non-living, which is not divine. From a stone to a diamond, from an ant to a lion, from a small bird to a mighty eagle, from a pebble to a mountain, everything is divine. That is why the Bharatiyas have been worshipping trees, anthills, hillocks, stones, etc. But today people have forgotten this sacred tradition and consider such practices as acts of superstition. Modern students also condemn these ancient traditions considering them as acts of foolishness.

## The Same Atmic Principle is Present in All

In fact, there is a deep inner meaning associated with the sacred traditions of Bharat. The Bharatiyas do not limit the principle of love that God has bestowed on them to human beings alone. Rather, they share their love with all sentient beings and insentient objects. That is why Thyagaraja also sang:

*Oh Rama! In Your pure and unsullied form of love, You indwell all beings from an ant to Brahma as also in Siva and Kesava. Please be my protector too.*

(Telugu Poem)

Divinity is all-pervasive. Never doubt that God is here and not there. The Bharatiyas worship even a small roadside stone. They worship even an anthill, in which poisonous

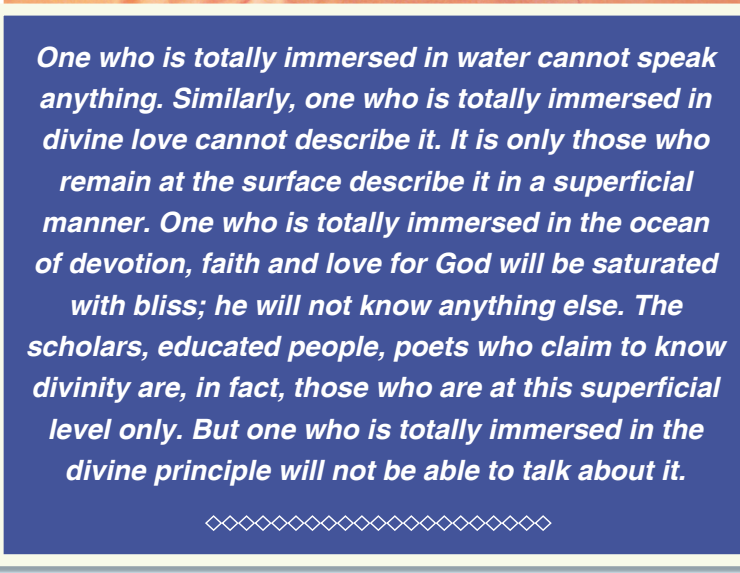
***Where is God? You should have firm faith that you yourself are God.***

***The body is the temple and the Jiva (individual soul) is the deity.***

***Therefore, you are God. Where else can you find God other than yourself? But you should strengthen this faith. Only then can you have the taste of true love and bliss. When you have sugar in your hand, you will not know its taste. Put it on your tongue and start chewing it. Only then will you be able to experience its sweetness.***



Many people in other countries believe that there is no greater principle than the principle of Brotherhood of Man. But there is a principle which is even superior to this principle of Brotherhood of Man, and that is Ekatma Bhava (the principle of oneness). There is no greater foolishness if you condemn the sacred culture of Bharat which propounds the truth that the same Atmic principle is present in all. It is this sacred land of



Bharat which promotes the principle of unity in diversity and the principle of social justice. Since ancient times, Bharat has been sharing her spiritual wealth with other countries and promoting peace and prosperity in the world. In this modern age also, one should not forget such sacred traditions and divine feelings associated with the culture of Bharat. Only broad-minded people can understand this truth. But to narrow-minded people, this will appear to be foolishness.

### **Follow Spiritual Path**

Where is the place where there is no God? Which is the object that is not permeated with divinity? Everything is God. *Anoraneeyan Mahato Maheeyan* (Brahman is subtler than the subtlest and vaster than the vastest). All objects in this world are a combination of atoms. Is there any scientist in the world who can deny the existence of divinity in every atom of the universe? If he denies this, then he is no scientist at all. There is divine effulgence in every atom. That is why Ramdas sang, *Anta Ramamayam Jagamanta Ramamayam* (the Rama principle permeates the entire universe). There is no principle other than Rama principle in this world. The Divine Name of Rama is that which confers bliss. Due to the defective modern system of education, the students are forgetting this divine principle. Modern education is only for a living; it does not illumine the intellect.

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

*Oh man! Do not feel proud of your education. If you do not offer your salutations to God and do not think of Him with devotion, all your education will become useless.* (Telugu Poem)

*Oh man! You struggle hard in life merely for the sake of filling your belly. You acquire myriad types of knowledge from various fields. Examine and enquire for yourself what great happiness have you achieved by spending all the time from dawn to dusk in acquiring worldly knowledge and earning wealth while forgetting God?* (Telugu Poem)

*Jantunam Nara Janma Durlabham* (of all living beings, human birth is the rarest). Having attained such a precious human birth, is it what you are supposed to attain? Should you attain this type of mundane happiness in your life? No. no. Your purpose and your goal of life is different. What you should achieve is true happiness. But forgetting such an eternal and everlasting happiness, you are craving for ephemeral and transient happiness. No doubt, secular education is required. I don't dispute that. Worldly education is for life here and spiritual education is for life hereafter. However, worldly education leads only to the path of Pravritti (worldliness). What you should follow is the path of Nivritti (spirituality).

All that is related to Pravritti is momentary and transient, and all that is related to Nivritti is true and eternal. That is why you should aim at attaining the happiness that comes from following the path of Nivritti. Books are no doubt full of knowledge. But what is the use if the head is filled with mud? How far is the bookish knowledge useful? If your head is filled with mud, even the knowledge contained in the books will become useless



for you like mud. What is the reason? The reason is association with wrong company. When you fill your Mastaka (head) with knowledge contained in Pustaka (book), your Mastaka itself will become Pustaka. What you need to acquire is not the knowledge of Pustaka, but the knowledge of Mastaka. That is practical knowledge. It is possible to acquire practical knowledge only when you follow the path of spirituality.

### **Deservedness Depends upon Faith**

*Yad Bhavam Tad Bhavati* (as are the feelings, so is the result). When your feeling and faith are sacred, the result is also bound to be sacred. In olden days, there used to be a niche in the wall at the entrance of well-to-do families, in which they used to place a small lighted lamp. The people of the village would come to their house to light their lamp from it. This tradition originated from the belief that if they lighted their lamps from the one kept in the house of a prosperous family, they would also become prosperous. In accordance with this tradition, Yashoda also kept a lighted lamp in the outer wall of her house so that the Gopikas of the village could come and light their lamp from it. It was the time when Krishna had left Gokul and was living in Mathura. There was a newly married Gopika named Suguna who came to Repalle after her marriage. When she heard the Divine Leelas of Krishna in Repalle, she became ecstatic and thought it was her misfortune that she had come to Repalle only after Krishna had left for Mathura. She felt dejected and cursed her fate, thinking: Is it possible to change one's destiny? Earlier her mother-in-law used to come to the house of Yashoda to light her lamp. Once it so happened that her mother-in-law was laid up with fever. So, she had to

go to Yashoda's house to light the lamp. This opportunity turned out to be her good fortune. She was overjoyed to think that she would be seeing the place where Krishna lived and moved around. She approached the house of Yashoda with pure heart and total faith in Krishna. Experience of divinity depends on faith rather than on spiritual practices or scholarship. There have been many great scholars, yogis and men of great penance and sacrifice in this world. But they could not attain the deservedness that was attained by Suguna. Right from the time when she set her foot in Repalle, she was contemplating on Krishna all the time, thinking that she did not have the good fortune to see Krishna.

When she lighted her lamp from the lamp placed in the house of Yashoda, she saw Krishna in the flame. She became so ecstatic that she lost all her body consciousness. She even did not know that her fingers were getting burnt in the flame. Seeing this, Yashoda came running and asked, "Where are you, my dear? You are not even aware that your hand is getting burnt! Have you fallen asleep? Did you not sleep last night?" Other Gopikas who had come to light their lamp also watched this. Suguna was seeing Krishna in the flame all the time, and as a result she had no body consciousness. The other Gopikas surrounded her and asked, "What is the matter? What are you seeing?" When she said that she had seen Krishna, the Gopikas burst into a joyous dance, singing:

*Our Suguna had the vision of Krishna in  
the house of Nanda,*

*Krishna appeared to her in the flame of  
the lamp.*

(Telugu Song)

What type of Sadhana and worship did Suguna perform? She had no knowledge



of spiritual practices like Japa and Dhyana (chanting and meditation). Women in those times were not educated. That, in fact, was their good fortune. If they had this type of modern education, they would not have been able to attain such divine bliss. Their entire focus in those days was on divinity. But the focus of modern students is always on acquiring bookish knowledge. After they acquire the bookish knowledge, their focus shifts to passing the examination. During the time of examination, they drink cups and cups of tea and coffee to keep themselves awake at night. Thereby they ruin their health and lose their memory power also. In this way, man today is ruining his innate powers. But people like Suguna in those days always focused on Krishna. It was their firm faith that was responsible for their deservedness. Deservedness depends upon faith and nothing else. When one wants to go to the terrace of one's house, one has to climb a ladder. The ladder has to have support at both ends, at the base and also at the top. Love is the support at the base of this ladder of spirituality and faith is the support at the top. Without the support of love and faith, it is not possible to reach spiritual heights. In fact, to develop love and faith is the real Sadhana.

### **God can Come to the Houses of Devotees in Any Form**

During the time of Shirdi Sai Avatar, there was an ardent devotee of Baba named Hemadpant. His other name was Annasaheb Dabholkar. He always contemplated on Baba and kept repeating, "Baba, Baba, Baba" all the time. One day, he was awakened at night at 3 o'clock by a tall person who patted on his back and said, "Hemadpant! Tomorrow I am coming to your house for food." He

wondered whether what he saw was a dream or a reality. When he noticed that the door of his house was open, he realised that this was not a dream. Then he was filled with joy and started shouting loudly, "My Baba came to me and told me that he would come to my house for food tomorrow." Hearing this, his wife got up and asked, "What happened to you? Did you have a dream? Have you gone mad that you are talking so loudly like this? How is it possible for Baba to come tomorrow? Where is Shirdi and where is our house? All this is your imagination only." Then Hemadpant said to his wife, "Oh foolish woman! For God, there is nothing like far or near. How can there be any coming and going for God who is all-pervasive? God neither comes nor goes; He is everywhere. Those who have deservedness can see Him anywhere. But those who lack deservedness cannot see Him. It all depends on one's faith."

Hemadpant told his wife, "Baba will come to our house tomorrow. Therefore, prepare befitting food tomorrow morning." She was very happy to hear that and said, "Is there any greater fortune for us than Baba visiting our house?" She got up early in the morning, cleaned the house and the cooking utensils and prepared many delicious items such as Vada (savoury snack of South India), Payasam (sweet pudding), etc. She decorated the house with mango leaves and garlands of flowers and waited for the arrival of Baba. It was 12 o'clock, but no sign of Baba's arrival was visible. Therefore, she was beset with anxiety. Then Hemadpant tried to pacify her, saying, "Baba will never go back on his promise. Baba is the embodiment of truth. In fact, he is verily Lord Sathyanarayana. Therefore, Baba will definitely come." It was



already two o'clock but Baba did not come. Hemadpant did not know what to do. At that very time, two persons came to their house and said, "Hemadpant! You appear to be very busy. May be, you are waiting for the arrival of some relatives. That is why you have already prepared food for them. Hence, it does not appear proper for us to disturb you at this time. We will come later. But kindly take this packet." Hemadpant took the packet, and they left. When he opened the packet, he found Baba's picture in it. He put the picture close to his head with reverence and exclaimed, "Oh dear Baba! You have come to my house in the form of this picture!"

Devotion is a sort of madness. Sai Baba is the embodiment of Sat-Chit-Ananda (Existence-Knowledge-Bliss Absolute) who removes your worldly madness and makes you mad for God. Why does he make you mad for God? It is only to drive away your worldly madness. If you want to get rid of your worldly madness, you should become mad for God. Baba wipes away the tears of your worldly sorrow and makes you shed tears for God. Hemadpant placed the food before Baba's photo, closed his eyes and prayed, "Baba! You must eat this food." When he opened his



***Whosoever is in the proximity of God will be revered and respected. Divine proximity is real wealth. You will be honoured depending upon your closeness to God. But if you become distant from God, nobody will even look at your face. In fact, you are always in the proximity of God. Whatever you see and wherever you see, there is only divinity. The divine principle is omnipresent; it neither comes nor goes.***



eyes, a Vada was missing from the plate of food. He could also see the marks of Baba's fingers in the rice served in the plate. Then he said with joy, "Baba has eaten the food," and offered it as Prasadam to all. Baba used to satisfy his devotees in this manner. Having given his word to his devotees that he would visit their house, he would come to them in some form or the other. In order to make his devotees realise that God is present in all beings, he went to their house in the form of animals also like a buffalo, a cat, a dog, etc., and partook of the food meant for him.



## God is Present in All Beings

Now I don't do like that. Once I promise that I will come to your house and accept your food, I will go Myself and have food there. I told many people that on coming to Mumbai, I would visit their house and have food there. Accordingly, I went to their houses and partook of the food served by them. Only then were they happy. What is the reason of their happiness? It is the result of their love, faith and feelings. Devotees in those days were full of love and total faith. But people today have only part-time faith. When God tells them that He will come to their house, they are very happy at that time. But later, they start doubting whether Swami will come or not. They also think that Swami might have casually told them for their satisfaction. Never give room to such doubts. When you develop total faith in Swami's words, they will certainly come true. God's words are divine and ambrosial. They are ever true. But if you lack faith, they may not come true.

Therefore, develop firm faith. Come what may, you should never give up your faith under any circumstances. Faith is your life-breath. In My Avatar as Shirdi Sai Baba, some people could not understand the subtle meanings of My words and actions. They would come to Baba and complain, "Baba! We were waiting for you because you promised to come. Why did you disappoint us? Why did you put us to so much trouble? What sin have we committed?" Then Baba would reply, "You people are really very foolish. I did come to your house. But you drove me away with a stick." These devotees would wonder and say, "What Baba! Can we ever commit this sacrilege of chasing you away with a stick?" Then Baba would tell them that

he came to their house in the form of a black dog. In this manner, Baba demonstrated the truth that God is present in all beings.

When you see a rat, you try to catch it in a rat trap or kill it with a stick. But when you see it with Lord Ganesh, you offer your salutations to it. Similarly, when you see a snake, you try to kill it or call a snake charmer to catch it. But you offer your salutations to it when you see it adorning Lord Siva. Whosoever is in the proximity of God will be revered and respected. Divine proximity is the real wealth. You will be honoured depending upon your closeness to God. But if you become distant from God, nobody will even look at your face. In fact, you are always in the proximity of God. Whatever you see and wherever you see, there is only divinity. The divine principle is omnipresent; it neither comes nor goes.

## Bliss is the Speech of a True Devotee of God

Once Parvati and Parameswara held a competition between their two sons, Vinayaka and Subrahmanya. They told them, whoever came first after going round the world would be rewarded. Vinayaka has a huge belly and his vehicle is a rat. So, his parents were curious to know how he would compete with Subrahmanya. Meanwhile, Subrahmanya got onto his vehicle peacock and speeded away. However, Vinayaka continued to be where he was without even bothering to call his vehicle rat. When he noticed Subrahmanya returning after completing his journey around the world, he circumambulated Parvati and Parameswara and declared himself to be the winner of the race. Then Parvati, said, "How clever you are? What sort of knack is this? Your brother returned after going round the world. Therefore, he deserves the reward.



How can you claim to have gone round the world by merely circumambulating us?" It was not as if Parvati and Parameswara were not aware of this truth. They enacted the drama only to demonstrate to the world that God is all-pervasive. Then Vinayaka said, "Mother! Is it not true that wherever we see, you both are present? Therefore, if I circumambulate you, it amounts to going round the entire world."

Wherever you see, there are only two things in this universe – energy and matter, represented by Parvati and Parameswara, respectively. Vinayaka could win the reward due to his intelligence. Then Parvati took pity on Subrahmanya and gave him a fruit lest he should be disappointed after taking the trouble of going round the world. She said to him, "My dear! You have come first after going round the world. But Vinayaka came first because he understood the inner significance of the divine principle that God is everywhere." When you enquire deeply, you will understand the inner significance associated with divine principle. One who is totally immersed in water cannot speak anything. Similarly, one who is totally immersed in divine love cannot describe it. It is only those who remain at the surface describe it in a superficial manner. One who is totally immersed in the ocean of devotion, faith and love for God will be saturated with bliss; he will not know anything else. The scholars, educated people, poets who claim to know divinity are, in fact, those who are at this superficial level only. But one who is totally immersed in the divine principle will not be able to talk about it. Bliss is his speech and bliss is his language. There is nothing higher than this. Therefore, it is a

great mistake to say that you are in search of God. Where is the need to search for God who is all-pervasive?

There are nine paths of devotion – *Sravanam* (listening), *Kirtanam* (singing), *Vishnusmaranam* (contemplating on Vishnu), *Padasevanam* (serving His Lotus Feet), *Vandanam* (salutation), *Archanam* (worship), *Dasyam* (servitude), *Sneham* (friendship), *Atmanivedanam* (self-surrender). It is said that these paths lead man to God. But man should realise that he himself is God. In fact, everyone is the embodiment of divinity. It is God who is in search of a true devotee.

*I am searching, I have been in search of a true human being and a true devotee then and now.* (Telugu Song)

Even birds and animals have true devotion. But, unfortunately, it is not found in human beings. Human beings have only part-time devotion. Where is God? You should have firm faith that you yourself are God. The body is the temple and the Jiva (individual soul) is the deity. Therefore, you are God. Where else can you find God when you yourself are God? But you should strengthen this faith. Only then can you have the taste of true love and bliss. When you have sugar in your hand, you will not know its taste. Put it on your tongue and start chewing it. Only then will you be able to experience its sweetness.

(Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, "*Madhura Madhura Murali Ghanashyama...*")

– **From Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 14th July 1996.**



# BHAGAVAN'S 86TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

**T**HE 86TH BIRTHDAY OF Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with great solemnity and piety. During the weeklong celebrations, many music and cultural programmes were organised.

## RATHOTSAVAM AND SITA RAMA KALYANAM

The sacred function of Rathotsavam marked the auspicious beginning of the celebration of Bhagavan's 86th Birthday at Prasanthi Nilayam. The celebration of Sita Rama Kalyanam (celestial wedding of Sita and Rama) on this sacred day this year



*The sacred function of Sita Rama Kalyanam was performed in Sai Kulwant Hall on 18th November 2011.*

heightened the devotional fervour associated with Rathotsavam. The festivities began with sacred Vedic chants at 8 o'clock on the morning of 18th November 2011 in Sai Kulwant Hall which was profusely decorated with colourful buntings, festoons of various designs and flowers of different hues.

After about 20 minutes of Veda chanting, celebration of Sita Rama Kalyanam began in the central area of Sai Kulwant Hall where the decorated idols of Sita and Rama were placed on a raised platform. Explaining the significance of the celestial wedding, the chief priest remarked that it was an event of great spiritual import and was being conducted for the welfare of entire mankind and peace in the world. After reciting invocatory prayers, the chief priest performed the worship of the idols with chanting of sacred Mantras. He then conducted the sacred ceremony as per the tradition. The celestial wedding concluded at about 9.00 a.m. with the offer of Mangal Sutra (sacred thread worn by married women) to Mother Sita amidst sacred Vedic chants and sweet notes of Nadaswaram music.

Soon after this, the palanquin carrying the idol of Lord Krishna was brought out of the Bhajan Mandir. Thereafter, the idols of Rama, Sita, Lakshmana and Hanuman were placed on another palanquin. After the Mandir priest offered Arati to the idols, both the palanquins led by Nadaswaram musicians and Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students were led in a procession to Gopuram Gate where a decorated Ratha (chariot) had already been stationed to carry the idol of Lord Krishna on it. As the chariot procession proceeded towards Sri Pedda Venkama Raju Kalyana Mandapam in Puttaparthi village, a large number of residents of Puttaparthi came out of their houses to witness the procession, broke





*The chariot procession proceeding towards Sri Pedda Venkama Raju Kalyana Mandapam on 18th November 2011.*

coconuts before the chariot and offered Arati to the idols. On reaching Sri Pedda Venkama Raju Kalyana Mandapam, the chariot with the idol of Lord Krishna was placed there after offering Arati. Meanwhile, Bhajans continued in Sai Kulwant Hall and concluded with Arati at 10.00 a.m., thus marking the conclusion of the sacred functions of Sita Rama Kalyanam and Rathotsavam.

### **LADIES DAY FUNCTION**

Ladies Day was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam with due solemnity on 19th November 2011, and a number of cultural and music programmes were organised to showcase its significance. Special decorations were done on this day on the dais where a beautiful portrait of Mother Easwaramma was installed amidst fresh flowers. The programme began at 8.30 a.m. with Veda chanting by the girls students of Anantapur Campus of



*The brass band of Anantapur Campus of the Institute playing soulful tunes on 19th November 2011 as part of Ladies Day function at Prasanthi Nilayam.*

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. At the conclusion of Veda chanting at 9.00 a.m., Anantapur Campus brass band played soulful tunes while some girls students and senior ladies offered flowers at Bhagavan's Samadhi.

### **Talks by Distinguished Speakers**

Three eminent ladies addressed the gathering after this. Introducing the speakers, Smt. Chethana Raju, Managing Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust dwelt on the omnipresence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and observed that Bhagavan was with us, is with us and will always be with us. She exhorted one and all to carry forward the Mission of Bhagavan by following His teachings.

The first speaker to address the gathering was Dr. Malathi Srinivasan, a former student of Anantapur Campus and currently working as Principal Scientist, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Bengaluru. The distinguished speaker recounted her experiences of Bhagavan's Divinity during her tenure as a student of Anantapur Campus and narrated how Bhagavan gave proof of His omniscience when she once prayed to Him for a special Prasadam. The second



speaker, Smt. Madhuri Naganand, quoted the Upanishadic dictum “Matru Devo Bhava,” (revere the mother as God) and narrated how Bhagavan loved Mother Easwamma and fulfilled all her pious wishes, setting an ideal for all to follow. The last speaker of the session was Smt. Phyllis Krystal, a nonagenarian devotee from U.S.A. and author of many books on Bhagavan. Reminiscing her long association with Bhagavan, the eminent speaker recounted the valuable lessons she learnt from Bhagavan and exhorted all devotees to live His teachings and carry forward His Mission. These speeches were followed by Bhajans which were led by the girls students of Anantapur Campus. The morning programme of Ladies Day came to a close with Arati at 10.20 a.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.

The evening programme of Ladies Day commenced at 4.30 p.m. with Veda chanting by the girls students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School. At the conclusion of Veda chanting, a group of girls students offered floral tribute at the Samadhi of Bhagavan while bagpipers band of the Primary School offered musical tribute to Him with sweet tunes. This was followed by a speech by Smt. Mallika Srinivasan, a Trustee of Sri Sathya Sai Easwamma Women’s Welfare Trust. The distinguished speaker referred to the service activities undertaken by the Trust for the welfare of women and needy sections of society and observed that only unconditional love and selfless service to society could make one deserving of Bhagavan’s love and grace.

#### **Prayer of Gratitude: A Short Play**

The students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School thereafter presented a short play,



*A scene from the drama “Prayer of Gratitude” presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam on 19th November 2011.*

entitled “Prayer of Gratitude.” The drama consisting of dialogues and dances of the students conveyed their gratitude to Bhagavan for all that He had done for them. They then prayed to Bhagavan to grant them His Darshan. The scene then shifted to Kailasa mountain where Narada prayed to the Lord to accede to the prayers of His devotees and grant them His Darshan. In answer to the prayer of Narada, the Lord said that He belonged to humanity and He was always ready to respond to the whole-hearted prayers of love. An audio clip of Bhagavan’s Discourse was then played which conveyed this message of Bhagavan in His own voice. The play came to a close at 5.40 p.m.

#### **A Carnatic Music Concert**

The next programme of the evening was a Carnatic vocal music concert by Smt. Bhagyalakshmi Suresh. Beginning her concert with an invocatory prayer to Lord Ganesh, the noted singer followed it up with three more compositions including the famous Thyagaraja composition, “Cheemalo Brahmalo” and concluded her concert with the composition “Parthipuri Vihari.” Excellent rendition and soulful presentation of the compositions enthralled the devotees for



more than 30 minutes. At the conclusion of her concert, the singer was honoured and offered a Sari, and clothes were presented to the artistes who provided instrumental support to her.

This was followed by screening of a film which showcased various service activities undertaken by Sri Sathya Sai Easwamma Women's Welfare Trust for the welfare and uplift of women. Bhajans that followed this were led by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School. When they sang the Bhajan "Aao Pyare Nayan Hamare, Sai Hamare Aao," it touched the hearts of all devotees. After distribution of Prasadam, the programme came to a close with Arati at 6.45 p.m.

## MUSIC AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

### A Devotional Music Concert

As part of 86th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, a noted singer of Mumbai Sri Sumeet Tappoo presented a vocal music concert in Sai Kulwant Hall on 16th November 2011. Before commencing his concert, the singer offered his reverential tributes to Bhagavan and invoked His grace. Beginning his presentation at 5.00 p.m. with a prayer to Lord Ganesh, the singer enthralled the audience with a number of devotional compositions and Kirtans which expressed his deep devotion to Bhagavan. Gifted with a rich and sonorous voice, the singer kept the audience spellbound for over an hour and created a mood of piety in them with his soul-stirring rendition of devotional compositions. At the conclusion of his concert, Sri Tappoo and his accompanying artistes were honoured with shawls. After

a brief Bhajan session and distribution of Prasadam, the programme came to a close with Arati at 6.30 p.m.

### Sri Rama Naamamritam: A Musical Dance Drama

The Divine Name of Lord Rama suffused the entire milieu when the students of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions of Muddenahalli presented the drama "Sri Rama Naamamritam" (the ambrosia of Rama's Name) in Sai Kulwant Hall on 17th November 2011 as part of 86th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai



*As part of Bhagavan's 86th Birthday celebrations, the students of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions, Muddenahalli enacted a drama on the significance of chanting Lord Rama's Name on 17th November 2011.*

Baba. The drama commenced at 5.10 p.m. with the scene depicting Thyagaraja singing his famous composition, "Endaro Mahanubhavulu" (there are many great souls). This was followed by depiction of some episodes from the Ramayana which included the marriage of Sita with Rama and Rama, Lakshmana and Sita leaving the grieving residents of Ayodhya while going to forest for 14 years. The story of the Ramayana was beautifully depicted through the immortal compositions of Thyagaraja, Bhadrachala Ramdas and Bhagavan



Himself, which were sung by children playing the roles of Thyagaraja, Lava and Kusa and two child singers. Excellent costumes and make-up, thrilling dances of children, perfect rendition of songs and good props added to the beauty of the drama. The drama was followed by a brief Bhajan session, which befittingly concluded with the Bhajan sung by Bhagavan, "Madhura Madhura Murali Ghanashyama." Meanwhile, Prasadam was distributed to the entire assembly of devotees in the hall. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.15 p.m.

### **A Hindustani Classical Music Concert**

A most elevating vocal Hindustani classical music concert was presented by Sumitra Guha, a noted vocalist and exponent of Indian classical music, on 18th November 2011. Commencing her concert with a devotional song dedicated to Lord Krishna at 5.00 p.m., the accomplished singer followed it up with a Mira Bhajan and the famous song of Kabir, "Moko Kahan Dhunde Bande Mein To Tere Paas Mein" (Oh man! Why do you search for Me when I am close to you). After this, she presented "Narayana Jaya Namoh Namah," an Annamacharya composition and concluded her concert with the Bhajan "Govinda Bolo Gopala Bolo," saturating the entire milieu with devotional ecstasy. The concert, in fact, was a feast for the soul and kept the audience glued to their seats for over an hour. At the conclusion of her concert, the singer was honoured and a Sari was presented to her. The artistes who provided instrumental support to her were also felicitated and clothes were offered to them. This was followed by Bhajans led by Prasanthi Nilayam and Anantapur Campus students. After distribution of Prasadam, the

programme came to a close with Arati at 6.15 p.m.

### **Devotional Songs Par Excellence**

Internationally-renowned singer Dana Gillespie paid her musical tribute to Bhagavan by presenting a garland of devotional songs at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan on 20th November 2011. Starting her presentation at 5.15 p.m., the accomplished singer kept the audience in Sai Kulwant Hall spellbound for nearly an hour and a half, singing with aplomb in all 12 songs and Bhajans which included evergreen numbers like "Love to Love," "Prem Ishwar Hai, Ishwar Prem Hai," "Allah Ho Akbar, Allah Ho Akbar." She concluded her sterling presentation with Vibhuti Mantra "Paramam Pavitram Baba Vibhutim." The theme of her concert was the teachings of Bhagavan mainly on unity and love, which she appropriately illustrated by narrating various experiences with Bhagavan during her long association with Him. Each song was well received by the audience, and the entire hall reverberated with rapturous applause at the end of her concert. The programme befittingly concluded with the song, "Love is My Form" in Bhagavan's golden voice. At the conclusion of the programme, the singer was honoured and a Sari was presented to her. The programme came to a close with Arati at 6.40 p.m.

Earlier, Dr. Michael Goldstein, Chairman, Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation addressed the gathering and shared one of his wonderful experiences of Bhagavan's Glory and Divinity with the audience. Referring to the teachings of Bhagavan that all human beings were essentially divine, the eminent speaker exhorted one and all to recognise this truth in a higher and deeper sense.



## Praying Hearts and Serving Hands: A Video Film

The programme on the evening of 22nd November 2011 comprised two items. The first item of the programme was a video film entitled “Praying Hearts and Serving Hands” which depicted the genesis and growth of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram. The occasion was the 20th anniversary of the Institute, the unique super speciality hospital, inaugurated by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on this day in 1991. The film showed how the compassionate Lord conceived the idea of setting up a super speciality hospital for providing state-of-the-art healthcare totally free of cost as part of His Mission to serve mankind and how this architectural marvel took shape in a record time of less than one year despite so many hurdles and obstacles. The films also showed clippings of Bhagavan’s Discourses, in which He outlined the guidelines for doctors and emphasised that they should treat the patients with loving care because the objective of this hospital was selfless service with love and not money. The screening of the film started in Sai Kulwant Hall at 5.20 p.m. and concluded at about 6.00 p.m.

## An Instrumental Music Concert

The second item of the programme was a “Tala Vadya Kacheri” (instrumental music concert) by world-renowned Mridangam maestro Karaikudi Mani. Starting his presentation at 6.00 p.m., the accomplished artiste kept the huge audience mesmerised with thrilling rendition of compositions of noted musicians for nearly one hour, receiving deafening applause of appreciation at the conclusion of every piece. The artiste

also presented a prolonged Jugalbandi (fusion music) with the Ghatam player V. Suresh and received rapturous applause of the audience. He concluded his concert with the Bhajan, “Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram,” which was dear to Mahatma Gandhi. At the conclusion of his concert, he and his accompanying musicians received a prolonged applause of the audience. They were then honoured and shawls were offered to them. Meanwhile, Bhajans started in the hall which were led by the students of Prasanthi Nilayam and Anantapur campuses. The programme came to a close with Arati at 7.25 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to the entire gathering in Sai Kulwant Hall.

## BHAGAVAN'S BIRTHDAY FUNCTION

The main function of Bhagavan's 86th Birthday was held on 23rd November 2011 in Sai Kulwant Hall which was aesthetically decorated for the sacred occasion. The proceedings of the morning session of the function on 23rd November 2011 started at 9.00 a.m. with Veda chanting. Simultaneously, the curtain was raised



*The Governor of Tamil Nadu, Sri K. Rosaiah placing a wreath of flowers at the Samadhi of Bhagavan on His 86th Birthday, 23rd November 2011.*



unveiling Bhagavan's Samadhi which had been beautifully decorated with fresh flowers and where a magnificent silver throne had been placed for Bhagavan. The Chief Guest of the function Sri K. Rosaiah, the Governor of Tamil Nadu and other dignitaries thereafter offered flowers at the Samadhi and paid their respects to Bhagavan.

### **Guru Vandana: A Musical Tribute**

The first item of the programme was "Guru Vandana" (worship of the Guru) by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Beginning their presentation with chanting of Sai Gayatri three times, the students poured out their hearts and offered their musical tribute to Bhagavan by singing His glories which included the song "Vande Sathyam Jagat Gurum" (we worship Lord Sai, the World Teacher) and the evergreen melody "Madhura Mohana Ghana Shyama" (one with a sweet and enchanting form like Lord Krishna).

### **Devotional Songs by Malladi Brothers**

The second item of the programme was a musical tribute to Bhagavan by the renowned duo Malladi Brothers, Sri Sriram Prasad and Sri Ravi Kumar. Their father Sri Malladi Suribabu also joined them in offering tributes to Bhagavan. Before the beginning of their programme, the Governor Sri K. Rosaiah released a CD of the duo which contained their compositions earlier sung by them in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. As the Governor released the CD, a song of the CD dedicated to Bhagavan was played. The singers thereafter created an aura of piety and sacredness by singing devotional songs which included "Dayagala Baba Darshanam" (Darshan of the compassionate Lord),

"Bhagavanudu Puttina Panduga" (Birthday festival of Bhagavan Baba), "Janula Madhya Tirugade Jagapati" (the Lord of the universe moves amidst human beings). At the conclusion of this soul-elevating concert, the singers and their accompanying artistes were honoured and offered shawls.

### **Annual Report of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust Released**

After this concert, Sri V. Srinivasan, Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust addressed the gathering. He extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest of the function, Sri K. Rosaiah and thanked him for rescheduling his programme at Coimbatore to come to Puttaparthi for this function. Referring to the Convocation drama presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning and the devotional music concert presented by Dana Gillespie, both of which dwelt on the immortal teachings of Bhagavan and showcased His Divine Glory, the distinguished speaker exhorted one and all to be ever happy, loving, caring and sharing without fearing or worrying as taught by Bhagavan. He reassured the devotees that all the institutions started by Bhagavan were functioning as before, and also gave details of the new initiatives undertaken by Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust. The Central Trust, he said, had brought out its Annual Report and Radio Sai Global Harmony was doing live streaming in its website of Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations. On his request, the Governor thereafter released the Annual Report of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust.

### **Governor's Address**

After the speech of Sri Srinivasan, Sri Rosaiah addressed the gathering and said,



it is not the high positions he has occupied in life that make him feel proud, but he is proud that he is a devotee of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Referring to Puttaparthi a holy and divine place as the birthplace of Bhagavan, the eminent speaker observed that it was as sacred as Mathura, the birthplace of Lord Krishna or Ayodhya, the birthplace of Lord Rama.

### **Bhagavan's Discourse**

This was followed by a video screening of a Birthday Discourse of Bhagavan, in which Bhagavan explained that man was searching for happiness in external and worldly objects but the source of happiness was within him. Happiness is union with God, He said. He therefore exhorted one and all to install God in their heart. Bhagavan added that man should give first place to God, second to the world and third to himself in life. That is what the Pandavas did and won the war whereas the Kauravas did the opposite and lost everything. In conclusion, Bhagavan blessed all to be happy and brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, "Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin" which the devotees joyfully followed in chorus.

After this, schools, colleges, hospitals and overseas devotees offered cakes at the Samadhi of Bhagavan and sought His blessings. Meanwhile, bands of various educational institutions played thematic tunes befitting the occasion and Prasadam was distributed to all. The morning programme came to a close with Arati at 11.00 a.m. After the conclusion of the morning function, free food was offered to all the devotees in the Pandal set up behind North Block.

The evening programme on 23rd November 2011 comprised Jhoola

Mahotsava (swing function), instrumental music concert by noted musicians U. Srinivas and U. Rajesh and vocal music concert by renowned Bhajan singer Anup Jalota.

### **Jhoola Mahotsava**

The evening programme commenced at 5.30 p.m. with the unveiling of the Jhoola (swing) placed in the central area of Sai Kulwant Hall. It was aesthetically bedecked with flower garlands and buntings and a beautiful photograph of Bhagavan was



*A decorated Jhoola was set up in Sai Kulwant Hall with a beautiful photo of Bhagavan on it to celebrate Jhoola Mahotsava on 23rd November 2011.*

placed on it. Simultaneously, beautifully decorated Samadhi was also unveiled for devotees in fully-packed Sai Kulwant Hall to have its Darshan and sanctify their life. The swinging of the Jhoola started with playing of music by U. Srinivas and U. Rajesh. Besides the picture of the swing with Bhagavan's



photo on it, an earlier video clipping was also shown on the LED screen with Bhagavan Himself on the swing which delighted all devotees.

### **Instrumental and Devotional Music Concerts**

Mandolin maestro U. Srinivas and U. Rajesh began their presentation with a composition invoking the blessings of Lord Ganesh. They followed it up with a couple of Thyagaraja compositions and kept the audience spellbound with their masterly renditions for nearly 45 minutes. They concluded their presentation with a Bhajan, “Sankara Siva Sankara Siva Sankara Sambho” at 6.15 p.m.

The grand finale of the programme was a superb devotional music concert by the world-renowned Bhajan singer, Anup Jalota. In his introductory talk, the legendary singer spoke about how he had Bhagavan’s Darshan in Lucknow nearly 48 years ago when he was 10 years old. Revealing that he had been blessed by Bhagavan many times over the years, the singer told that Bhagavan Himself had taught him the art of singing. The singer began his concert with the song, “Aisi Lagi Lagan, Mira Ho Gayee Magan” (Mira’s devotion made her ecstatic) and electrified the entire atmosphere with his surcharged rendition of this evergreen composition. He

followed it up with the songs, “Ram Naam Ki Loot Hai” (Rama’s Name is totally free), “Sai Baba Bolo” (chant the Name of Sai Baba), another Mira Bhajan, “Payo Ji Mein To Ram Ratan Dhana Payo” (I have acquired the supreme wealth of Rama’s Name) and “Jag Mein Sundar Hain Do Naam” (two names of Rama and Shyama are beautiful in the world). Thereafter, the great master of music presented a Jugalbandi (fusion music) in the company of Tabla player Amit Chaubey and completely mesmerised the audience. After singing a Jhoola song, he sang a Kabir Bhajan and the Bhajan “Dama Dama Dama Dama Damaru Baje” (the Damaru of Siva sounds Dama Dama) and concluded his concert with a song of dedication, “Mera Jivan Tere Havale” (I surrender my life to You) at 7.30 p.m. At the end of his concert, there was a deafening applause of devotees who expressed their joy and appreciation of the soul-elevating concert of the singer. Thereafter, the singer and the artistes who provided instrumental support to him were felicitated and shawls were offered to them. Mandolin maestro U. Srinivas and U. Rajesh and their accompanying artistes were also felicitated. The Bhajans that followed concluded with a Bhajan in Bhagavan’s voice, “Subrahmanyam Subrahmanyam.” Bhagavan’s Birthday function came to a conclusion with Arati at 7.40 p.m.

### **NOTICE**

Please refer to the advertisement that appeared in November 2011 issue of “Sanathana Sarathi” wherein the last date for artists, sculptors and other creative personalities from India and abroad for sending proposals for Bhagavan’s statue to the Chairman, Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515134 (coordinator@ssmt.org.in) was given as: **by the end of November 2011**. At the request of devotees, this is now being extended by another month, i.e., **the end of December 2011**.

**Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust**

# JESUS EXEMPLIFIED BLOSSOMING OF MAN'S INNATE DIVINITY

THE DIVINE PRINCIPLE PRESENT IN ALL IS THE SAME

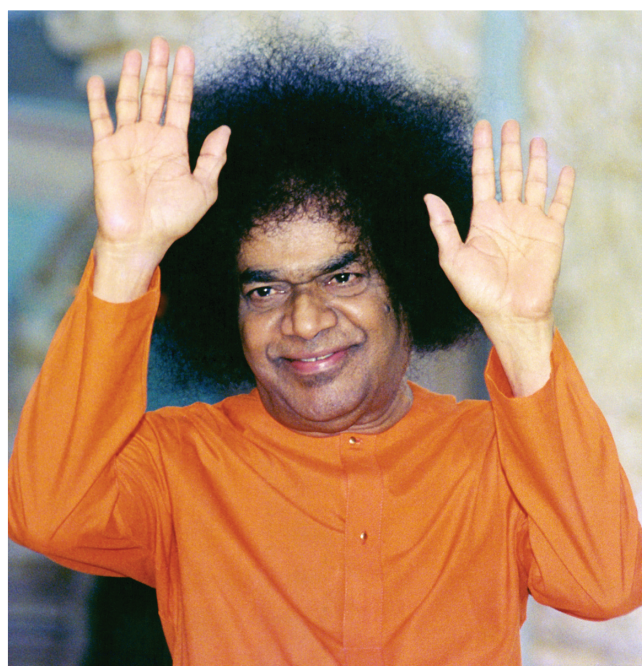


**G**REAT TEACHERS belong to mankind. It is wrong to believe that Jesus belongs only to the Christians and that Christmas is a holy festival for the West only. Christ, Rama, Krishna are for all men, everywhere. To accept one of them as one's own and discard the rest as belonging to others is a sign of pettiness.

## Differences Cause Loss of Divine Grace

Various limbs and organs together form a body. Various States and communities together form the world. The sustenance given by Divine grace circulates in every part of the body, helping it to function in unison. The sustenance of love, endowed by Divine grace, has to circulate in every State and community to make the world live in peace and joy. If this truth is realised, there will arise no idea of difference.

If the members of a family are at loggerheads, the lands and other possessions of the family will be uncared for, and either wasted or



*Each one must become aware that he is part of the one truth that encompasses everything in the universe. It is reprehensible to stick to low narrow paths of selfishness, envy and greed for one's whole lifetime. Make the heart big and the mind pure. Then only can peace and prosperity be established on the earth.*



lost. The separation of one member will also be a big loss, for, the grace that sustains the family will diminish and get lost. When a hand is amputated, the limb loses its function, and a great deal of blood, too, is lost during the removal. So, too, the Divine grace of love is lost when a country sets itself apart. It also becomes a weak and functionless limb of the world community.

Divisions, differences and distinctions cut one off from the life-giving grace that feeds every cell of the body and every individual in the world. The world is sustained by the self-same grace. A tree requires for its growth, soil, sunlight and atmosphere. But more than these three, it requires the seed. Man's life is conditioned by feelings and deeds, and the consequences of these feelings and deeds. His existence, his very Is-ness depends on the Will of God.

Growing trees may differ according to the nature and quality of the soil and the quantity of sunlight. So, too, men may differ according to the consequences of the types of feelings and deeds that emanate from them. Just as it is true to say that the seeds are the same, the divine principle present in all is the same, without any difference. The variety of forms, the variety of emotions and attitudes, the variety of communities and loyalties are the result of man's ignoring his fundamental unity in the Divine Will, and his acting contrary to that unity.

### **Realise the Fundamental Principle of Unity**

The moving water of a river has the moon in its depths. The still water of a lake has also the moon underneath. The sky has the

moon up above. The moon in the flowing river is broken and fragmentary, it flows fast, apparently, with the floods. The moon in the lake is calm, unmoved, undistracted. These two are but reflections of the real moon in the sky. The moon reflected in the flood is the individual soul, engaged in activity, embroiled in Maya, cause and effect. The moon reflected in the placid face of the lake is the yogi, the saint who has attained balance, equipoise, peace, dwelling in the One. The real moon, in the sky, is the Eternal Witness, the Absolute, the Primal Principle.

Christ spoke of these three, when he made, one after the other, three statements. Referring to the active individual soul, the flickering moon, he said, "I am the Messenger of God." Referring to himself as a yogi, who has risen beyond dualities, and attained balance, he said, "I am the son of God." Realising that these two are but reflections, and that the real moon is the witness in the sky, that he too is the formless, nameless absolute, he declared, towards the end of his life, "I and my Father are One."

### **Celebrate Christmas in a Sacred Way**

The ways in which Christmas is being celebrated now show how far men have moved away from those ideals, how much ignominy they are heaping on his name! The midnight hour is revered, illumination is arranged, the Christmas tree is set up, and then the night is spent in drinking and dance. It is a day of holy Ananda, but the Ananda (bliss) is reduced to the level of the poisoning excitement of intoxication!

Drinking is so pernicious an evil habit that when man puts the bottle in, he himself gets



into the bottle and cannot escape! First man drinks wine, then the wine drinks more wine; and finally, the wine drinks man himself! He is sunk and drowned in drink. Liquor destroys the humanity in man. How then can it develop the Divinity in him? One must dance in divine bliss. Instead, sensual dance is indulged in as a deleterious substitute! Make your hearts pure, your activities holy, and your feelings beneficial to all. That is the best way of celebrating the birth of Christ.

### **Shed Narrowness of Mind**

From the narrow vision of “individual need,” man must voyage out into the broad vision of the universal. When a drop of water falls into the ocean, it loses its narrow individualities, its name and form. It assumes the form, name and taste of the ocean itself. If it seeks to live separately as a drop, it will soon evaporate and be reduced to non-existence. Each one must become aware that he is part of the one truth that encompasses everything in the universe. It is reprehensible to stick to low narrow paths of selfishness, envy and greed for one’s whole lifetime. Make the heart big and the mind pure. Then only can peace and prosperity be established on the earth.

This day is a holy day, the day on which Jesus was born. He announced himself as the Messenger of God. The fact is, all humans are born as messengers of God. The sole purpose of this human career is to propagate the omnipresence of God, His might and glory. No one has incarnated for merely consuming quantities of food and catering to one’s senses. Human life is much more precious than that. That is why the capacity to appreciate beauty, truth and goodness has been endowed only on man.

***Various limbs and organs together form a body. Various States and communities together form the world. The sustenance given by Divine grace circulates in every part of the body, helping it to function in unison. The sustenance of love, endowed by Divine grace, has to circulate in every State and community to make the world live in peace and joy. If this truth is realised, there will arise no idea of difference.***



### **Realise your Divine Identity**

To acquire awareness of the Divine, one need not journey to any special region or place. It is enough if the eye is turned inwards. In the Bhagavadgita, the inner reality, the Atman, is described as resplendent like a billion suns. But man has not become aware of the light and power within. He still flounders in the darkness of ignorance. The scriptures proclaim that man is the child of immortality. Man is unaware of this glorious heritage. He feels he is mortal, his end is imminent, and his existence is temporary.

When Jesus declares that He is the son of God, He becomes entitled to the paternal majesty and power. These He can claim only when He grows in the qualities that His Father has. As a result, he attains mergence which leads Him to assert, “I and My Father are one.” The scriptures say, *Brahmavid Brahmaiva Bhavati* (the knower of Brahman becomes verily Brahman).

**– Excerpted from Christmas Discourses of Bhagavan.**



# CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

## DEEPAVALI AND GUJARATI NEW YEAR FUNCTIONS



LARGE NUMBER OF devotees including Bal Vikas students and youth came from Gujarat and presented excellent music and cultural programmes to celebrate the joyous functions of Deepavali and Gujarati New Year in the sacred precincts of Prasanthi Nilayam on 26th and 27th October 2011.

### Devotional Songs and Thrilling Dances

The programme on 26th October 2011 started at about 5.00 p.m. with an invocatory prayer to Lord Ganesh accompanied by a befitting dance by Sai Youth (boys). This was followed by a vibrant Gujarati folk dance by another group of Sai Youth (boys) to the accompaniment of a sweet Gujarati folk song, celebrating the devotion and love of Radha



*On the sacred day of Deepavali, Sai Youth of Gujarat presented folk songs and dances on 26th October 2011.*

for Lord Krishna. What followed this was a marvellous dance called “Bhavai” by an eminent artiste of Ahmedabad, Sri Rajendra D. Raval. The dancer first performed a sword dance, demonstrating his wonderful skill of balancing two swords on various parts of his body while twirling round and round. Continuing his twirling movement, the artiste then pleasantly surprised the viewers by making a peacock, a white pigeon and a rabbit with pieces of cloth handed out to him by his assistant. Bhajans which followed this amazing performance were also led by singers, both boys and girls, of Gujarat. Meanwhile, Sri Raval was honoured with a shawl and clothes were distributed to children who took part in the cultural programme. After distribution of Prasadam to all, the programme came to a close with Arati at 6.00 p.m.

### Living Sai’s Omnipresence: A Dance Drama

The programme on 27th October 2011, the auspicious Gujarati New Year day, began at about 5.00 p.m. with chanting of a Stotra (verse) dedicated to Lord Ganesh by Sai Youth (girls) which was followed by a dance by Bal Vikas girls to the accompaniment of a prayer “Ekadantaya Vakratundaya” also dedicated to Lord Ganesh.

After this, the students of Sri Sathya Sai School, Surat presented a drama entitled “Living in Sai’s Omnipresence” which showcased the omnipresence of Kali Yuga Avatar, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba



and brought home this profound truth to enlighten one and all to realise His presence in everyone, thus promoting unity and peace in the world. The first scene of the drama depicted how John Wright, a young pilot from British Royal Air Force, realised the omnipresence of Bhagavan when he came to Prasanthi Nilayam. The second scene depicted how firm faith of a little boy Ahmed in Swami cured him of his heart problem without an operation after Swami appeared in his dream and gave Vibhuti to him when he was admitted in Super Speciality Hospital in Puttaparthi in June 2011. Both the episodes were preceded by dances of students who sang the song “Sai Teri Mahima Apar” (Oh Lord Sai! Your glory is limitless). Realistic story, excellent sets, thrilling dances and superb acting of the children made it an outstanding presentation. Specially, the acting of the child who enacted the role of Swami was most commendable.

### **Beda Dance: A Skilful Display Of Balance**

After this drama, a renowned artiste Sri Chirag Mahida mesmerised the audience with a dance called “Beda Dance.” Sri Mahida demonstrated his unique skill when he balanced and rotated two plates on the tips of his fingers and then on the tips of two knives while performing his dance to the tune of a song and its accompanying music. Thereafter, he displayed another amazing feat by balancing up to 11 pitchers on his head while performing the dance. At the conclusion of this wonderful dance, there was a brief session of Bhajans which were led by singers, both ladies and gents, of Gujarat. Meanwhile, Sri Mahida was honoured with a shawl, clothes were distributed to children

who presented cultural items and Prasadam was distributed to all. The Bhajan session concluded with a recording of the Bhajan, “Rama Kodanda Rama” in Bhagavan’s voice. The celebrations of Gujarati New Year came to a happy conclusion with Arati at 6.30 p.m.

### **GLOBAL AKHANDA BHAJAN**

Global Akhanda Bhajan is an event of great spiritual significance at global level, in which millions of devotees in all parts of the world without any difference of caste, creed, nationality, language and religion unitedly sing the glories of God continuously for 24 hours. At Prasanthi Nilayam, Global Akhanda Bhajan was held this year on 12th and 13th November 2011 in Sai Kulwant Hall. Starting with a Bhajan dedicated to Lord Ganesh at 6.00 p.m. on 12th November 2011, the students of Prasanthi Nilayam and Anantapur campuses of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning alternately led Bhajans which were followed in chorus by a large number of devotees in the hall, suffusing the entire milieu with devotional fervour. Later during the night and the following day, various groups of devotees, Ashram and hospital staff and students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary and Higher Secondary schools led the Bhajans, continuing non-stop singing of God’s glories. The programme of singing Bhajans continued on 13th November 2011 throughout the day, radiating spiritual vibrations in all directions. Towards the end of the Akhanda Bhajan, two Bhajans in the golden voice of Bhagavan were played which the devotees followed in chorus with great joy and devotion. These Bhajans were

*continued on page 422...*





*The Chief Guest, Prof. P. Balam delivering his Convocation Address.*

## 30TH CONVOCATION OF SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

*I hereby solemnly declare and promise that, if admitted to the degree for which I have been duly recommended, I will in my daily life and conversation, and in thought, word and deed, conduct myself as befits a member of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning; that I will to the utmost of my capacity and opportunity, support the cause of sound learning, humanity, morality and spirituality; and that as far as lies in me, I shall uphold and advance the social and indeed all round welfare of my countrymen and fellowmen.*

**Convocation Oath, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning**

**T**HE 30TH CONVOCATION OF Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) (Deemed to be University) was held in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam, in the Divine Presence, on 22nd November 2011.

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba inaugurated the Institute on this day, thirty years ago, in 1981. Bhagavan Baba founded this unique institution with the prime objective of developing women and men of character. He desired that His students be academically competent, socially sensitive and spiritually aware; and present themselves as role models and proactive agents of change in

society. Bhagavan established the Institute on the lines of a modern Gurukula, with His teachers playing the noble role of the Guru moulding the personality of the students. Right from the inception of this Institute, Bhagavan always highlighted the crucial role of a teacher in such an education system. He compared the teachers to the overhead tank and the students to taps.

### **The “Sai Krishna Award” for Research and Teaching**

In this spirit, on 21st November, on the eve of the 30th Convocation, the Institute started a new initiative, the “Sai Krishna Award” for excellence in research and teaching, to recognise and felicitate its top researchers

for their active research work and research accomplishments. This year, the three winners of the award were researchers in the fields of Sciences; Management, Commerce, Economics and Education; and Languages and Philosophy.

### **Annual Convocation Drama**

The research award ceremony was followed by the Convocation Drama, which is a highly anticipated event at Prasanthi Nilayam. It is a conduit through which the university students enact the practical lessons that the Founder Chancellor has enunciated for humanity at large.

This year, the drama was entitled “Guru Mahima.” The story revolved around a Music Acharya (teacher) and his students at an Ashram, interspersed with scenes from the Ramayana and a scene between King Akbar and Tansen, his court singer. With music and drama, the students brought home the significance of the spiritual relationship that exists between a Master and his disciples. They portrayed the loving bond that persists between them even in the absence of the Master’s physical presence, and how his teachings and influence always work through them.

### **The Convocation Ceremony**

The Convocation at SSSIHL is different from ‘graduation day’ at any other university in two ways. First, the ceremonial oath serves as a fitting reminder for all students to re-dedicate themselves to the vision of Bhagavan Baba, the Founder Chancellor, and to practise His teachings in their daily lives. Second is the Benedictory Address by the Founder Chancellor. It must be noted that at no other university does the Chancellor himself speak on the occasion

of the Convocation. At SSSIHL, the Founder Chancellor, who is the Sadguru, addresses the students on Convocation day, giving them the Upadesa, which serves as their guiding advice before they go out into the world.

The Chief Guest at the Convocation this year was Prof. P. Balaram, Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. He, along with the Vice Chancellor, and other dignitaries including former Vice Chancellors, Members of the Board of Trustees, Board of Management and the Academic Council, entered the venue in a procession that was led by the brass band of the Institute. Following the convention, the procession was headed by two students carrying the Institute’s Standards on either side of the Registrar, who carried the Ceremonial Mace.

The function began with Veda chanting, after which the formal proceedings began with the voice of the Founder Chancellor, Bhagavan Baba, declaring the Convocation open to rapturous applause from the audience.

### **Vice Chancellor’s Introductory Speech**

The Vice Chancellor reiterated the Institute’s resolve to work towards fulfilling Bhagavan’s Mission by following His ideals. He outlined the progress made by the Institute during the last year and spoke about the new initiatives undertaken by it. Amongst others, this included the setting up of an advanced research facility in the near future. The Vice Chancellor then introduced the Chief Guest, Prof. P. Balaram.

### **Graduands Receive their Degrees and Award of Gold Medals**

The Controller of Examinations of the Institute presented the graduands to the



Revered Founder Chancellor for award of degrees. Following this, the customary oath was administered to the students by the Vice Chancellor. Gold medals were thereafter awarded to the meritorious students for their excellence in academic performance. The recipients of gold medals came one by one, sought the blessings of the Revered Founder Chancellor, received the gold medal from the Vice Chancellor and stood by the chair of the Revered Founder Chancellor for a photograph.

### **Chief Guest's Convocation Address**

In his Convocation Address, the Chief Guest, Prof. P. Balaram hailed the Institute as a unique one that evolved over three decades under Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's able guidance with discipline as its hallmark. He stressed the importance of research and suggested that to confront the major scientific and technological challenges facing us in today's world, the boundaries between the different academic disciplines needed to be blurred and seamlessly integrated. Elucidating on the subject on how to become successful, the learned speaker stressed on the need to work hard, irrespective of failures. Failure is a common phenomenon that one should treat with equanimity, he said, and overcome with discipline, hard work, commitment and imagination. He gave the example of the rags-to-riches story of author J.K. Rowling

of the 'Harry Potter' fame, and concluded by wishing the graduating students all success.

### **Revered Founder Chancellor's Benedictory Address**

This was followed by the benediction of the Founder Chancellor (beamed on video screens) on the importance of combining secular education with spiritual knowledge; of being patriotic and serving one's motherland; and of facing life's challenges with courage. Reiterating the importance of the principles, *Adhyatma Vidya Vidyam* (spiritual education is true education) and *Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaye* (true education is that which liberates) propounded in sacred texts, Bhagavan emphasised that true education is spiritual education which enables students to realise their divinity. Referring to the principles of Indian culture, Bhagavan advised the students to follow the principles such as *Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava, Acharya Devo Bhava, Atithi Devo Bhava* (revere your mother, father, preceptor and guest as God). There was nothing great in acquiring a degree, said Bhagavan, and added that what was important was service to the mother and motherland. In conclusion, Bhagavan remarked that students were His property and they would make Him happy if they served their parents. The programme ended with the singing of the National Anthem followed by Mangala Arati.

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"Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin" and "Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram." The Akhanda Bhajan concluded at 6.00 p.m. on 13th November 2011 with offer

of Arati at the Samadhi of Bhagavan. At the conclusion of the Bhajan, Prasadam of tamarind rice and sweet rice was distributed to the entire gathering in the hall.



# NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

## CANADA

WITH BHAGAVAN BABA'S blessings, the new Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Scarborough, Ontario was inaugurated during Easwaramma Day celebrations from 6th to 8th May 2011. The new facility consists of two floors. On the first floor, a grand, marble-tiled and ornate sanctum houses a large and majestic portrait of Bhagavan, which had been blessed by Him. Besides, it



*The new building of Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Scarborough, Ontario which was inaugurated during Easwaramma Day celebrations.*

has a statue of Ganesh and Shirdi Sai Baba, a spacious prayer hall and various office rooms dedicated to Bhagavan. The ground floor consists of a multi-purpose hall, eight classrooms, a library and kitchen facilities.

On 6th May 2011, Veda chanting, Yajna and Bhajans were held. On Saturday, 7th May 2011, spiritual leaders from major religions took part in the invocations, with prayers by

a Chinese-Taoist priest, a Christian minister, a Muslim Imam, a Buddhist monk and a Parsi-Zoroastrian elder. In the evening, a special musical programme, "Atma Gitam," was rendered by the alumni of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. In addition to office bearers from regional Sai Organisations inside Canada, representatives of the municipal, provincial and federal branches of the Canadian Government were present.

On 8th May, about 1,500 people took part in Easwaramma Day celebrations, which coincided with Mothers' Day in Canada. The SSE programme of the Sai Centre, now in its 25th year, instructs over 800 children, ranging from 5 to 18 years of age. The Sai Centre facility was built primarily to serve the overwhelming demand by the community to inculcate character and morality education for their children. In addition to the regular spiritual activities of the Centre, service projects such as providing food and clothes to the needy and blood donation drives are undertaken. Recently the provincial government of Ontario, Canada publicly recognised the vast contributions made by the Sai Centre to the community.

## UKRAINE

The city of Bohodukhov is in the Kharkov region of eastern Ukraine. With special approvals by the Administrative Board, the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor of the city, Sri Sathya Sai Service Organisation (SSSSO) of the Russian-speaking countries organised an international service camp from 5th to 13th August 2011. Over 250 volunteers



including youth and adults from ten countries worked tirelessly in unison to provide loving medicare, educare and sociocare services to the public. In April 2011, representatives from SSSSO Ukraine had visited Bohodukhov to identify the needs of the community. In the medical camp, based at a local hospital, 63 healthcare professionals covering a broad spectrum of specialities, and support-team members from United Kingdom, Europe, U.S.A., Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Azerbaijan, provided loving medical services to over 4,000 people. Free medicines and new eyeglasses were given out. Healthcare professionals travelled to various villages to care for the patients, including home visits for severely disabled people. During the week, three teams of ophthalmologists worked at different sites where more than 600 new glasses were dispensed to children, adults and the elderly, many of whom were very happy on the restoration of their eyesight. The local doctors were given medical health awareness presentations, and the international team was touched by the love and affection of the devotees from Ukraine and Russia.

In the educational aspect of the project, more than 825 children, including orphans, participated joyfully in “Educare” activities, which included over 108 classes. Human values activities were organised for children up to the age of 13. Guitar and piano lessons and the basics of dance, drawing, embroidery and knitting were taught. Children were also given guidance on improving their eyesight. A project, “Clean Town Day,” was arranged to educate people in keeping their surroundings environmentally clean and liveable. A series of events were organised for local parents

as well as teachers on topics relating to “Raising Children with Human Values.” The teachers and parents learned new methods of teaching children by being role models. The participants thoroughly enjoyed the “Educare” activities and requested the teaching team to stay in Bohodukhov forever. In their feedback, children said that they learned how to live joyfully in love and about the power of gratitude.

In other service activities, Sathya Sai volunteers worked tirelessly and carried out extensive repairs to various buildings, rooms and sanitary systems that had been left unattended in and around the city and nearby villages. Volunteers reinstalled floors, windows and pipelines, repaired bathrooms and replaced light bulbs in many schools. Nutritional food packets along with essential items such as clothes, footwear and so on were distributed in the hospital, an orphanage and in the villages. A “sustenance” programme was undertaken by purchasing a tool kit for a welder and a hoisting jack for a polyclinic garage, giving financial support for a child who needed advanced medical diagnosis, paying overdue electricity bills for the family of a single mother who had been without electricity for years and who had been suffering through bitter cold winters, purchasing appliances for a gymnasium kitchen including a boiler for hot water, and providing sanitation facilities for a local college and needed items for two visually challenged elderly people. Throughout the day, Sathya Sai volunteers prepared various national dishes using fresh ingredients for the 250 volunteers as well as for the children in the education camp. Sri Vladimir Belyy, the Mayor of Bohodukhov, thanked the Sathya



Sai Organisation and the volunteers for their selfless services and invited them to come back again.

### U. S. A.

On 30th July 2011, over 70 Sathya Sai volunteers including children from the Chicago Metro, West and North Suburb Sai Centres, along with volunteers from other organisations, participated in a community home-building service project called C.R.E.W. (Community Restoration by Ecumenical Workers). The project involved constructing two three-bedroom houses to be later transported to a Habitat for Humanity site in Will County. All volunteers assembled at the parking lot of Peace Memorial Church in Palos Park, a south-western suburb of Chicago. The service project started with a prayer, followed by introduction to safety rules and construction guidelines. With Sai in heart and hammer in hand, wall panels for the homes were lovingly constructed. Bhagavan's messages of love, peace and happiness to all were inscribed on each wall panel being constructed. Once all the wall panels were built, the CREW team assembled the pre-built walls and created the basic structure for one of the houses. The service project ended with a dedication ceremony, with prayers recited for the well-being and prosperity of the inhabitants of the houses.

The Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of America, South-east Region (Region 3), organised a tribute to Bhagavan at the Melbourne Civic Centre in Melbourne, Florida on 29th May 2011. About 200 people attended the meeting. Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman, Sri Sathya Sai International



*Reverential tributes were paid to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in a meeting organised in Melbourne, Florida on 29th May 2011.*

Medical Committee, and Director, Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation was the guest speaker. Dr. Gnana Bhaskar Tenali, president of the Palm Bay Sathya Sai Baba Centre, and Dr. Axay Kalathia, the South-east regional president, spoke initially and introduced the guest speaker. Dr. Reddy gave an inspiring talk and shared Bhagavan's message and some of the life lessons he learned at His Divine Lotus Feet. He reiterated the pledge of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation to continue Bhagavan's Mission with more enthusiasm and dedication. Following Dr. Reddy's talk was a musical performance by Smt. Vasumathi Vasudevan, a well-known Carnatic vocalist. A soulful rendering of the song, "Kanula Mundara Kadali Ade Karuna Murthivi Neevu," (the embodiment of compassion moves amidst us right in front of our eyes) brought tears to the eyes of all present. During the question-answer session by Dr. Reddy, Bhagavan's divine presence was felt when the stage lights in the auditorium flickered on and off multiple times without a reason. The technician in charge of the auditorium stated that this had never occurred before and that there was no flaw in the lighting system. The devotees and organisers felt the divine hand in the miracle.



## KAZAKHSTAN

From 21st to 30th June 2011, the family camp, “Solnyshko,” was organised in the Karakystak valley, located at the base of the Sinyuha mountain on the shore of the crystal-clear Lake Malye Schebach’e. Over 55 participants, including children from seven cities across Kazakhstan, participated in the camp. The theme, “United Family of Swami,” allowed the participants to focus on demonstrating human values in various aspects of daily life. The atmosphere was surcharged with Bhagavan’s love. Sai Olympic Games with the slogan, “Healthy Spirit in a Healthy Body,” included a ceremonial march with the five Olympic rings representing the unity of the world religions and the five human values. The Sarva Dharma (all faiths) flag was hoisted as a symbol of the unity of the Sai family worldwide. Bhajans were sung while preparing food for the participants, rendering the food to pulsate with Sattwic (pure) vibrations. Everyday the participants discussed how to practise human values in their daily lives and thus experience Bhagavan’s love and light.

## MALAYSIA

Since 2002, about 50 to 75 Sathya Sai volunteers, including many youth from Malaysia and Singapore, have been active in village improvement programmes. About 500 people in two of the most remote villages, Perkampungan Bawie and Perkampungan Sepayak, were served from 19th to 23rd April 2011. These service activities, themed as “Sustainable Action Initiatives” (S.A.I.), included the distribution of plants, vegetable seeds and fruit trees, along with programmes to educate villagers on proper cultivation methods. About 45 families were provided



*Sathya Sai volunteers have been helping needy villagers of Malaysia under the village improvement programme since 2002. From 19th to 23rd April 2011, they provided various services to two remote villages.*

with basic food supplies. School supplies were distributed to children and raincoats to the villagers. The S.A.I. programme was initiated with the aim of promoting a healthy environment to alleviate the suffering of the villagers.

Medical professionals including doctors and dentists held medical camps and provided loving services to 200 to 300 people, including handing out medicines to patients and vitamins to children. The nearest hospital is approximately 100 kilometres away from the village. Preventive health education programmes were organised on proper personal and dental hygiene. Sathya Sai volunteers offered the villagers haircuts followed by medicated shampoo treatments for lice. Sarongs, towels, “Sathya Sai Avatar” T-Shirts and 300 pairs of slippers were given away.

– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

## BHARAT

**Andhra Pradesh:** In Visakhapatnam district, all the major Samithis jointly conducted an 86-hour non-stop Nama Sankirtan



programme for four days starting from 5 a.m. on 12th October 2011 to 7 p.m. on 16th October 2011. A large number of devotees participated in devotional singing with great enthusiasm and devotion.

As part of 86th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan, Rajam Samithi in Srikakulam district organised 'Saptaha Dikshalu' for seven days in Sundaram Mandir where 86-hour Akhanda Nama Sankirtan was also conducted.

**Gujarat:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Surat and Prashanti Charitable Trust organised a function at 11 a.m. on 12th October 2011 at Sri Sathya Sai Seva Sankul, Althan, Surat to inaugurate Sri Sathya Sai Medical Van, sponsored by ONGC Hazira. The programme started with three Omkars followed by Veda chanting. Sri S.K. Jain, Executive Director, ONGC Hazira inaugurated the medical van and handed over the key of the van to Sri Manohar Trikanad, State President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Gujarat. The function concluded with offering of Arati.

**Jammu and Kashmir:** Under SSSVIP activities in selected villages, nine marriages of poor girls were conducted in villages named Burmal, Rehal Kalanderian, Rehal Dhamalian and Halqua Marh where arrangements were made for catering of food, wedding clothes, ornaments, etc. This way, the marriages were conducted in a smooth way which gave solace to needy villagers.

**Kerala:** An essay competition for college and higher secondary school students was held in August 2011, in which about 17,000 students from more than 2,000 institutions participated. The topics were 'Mind Management is Life Management' and 'God is One, but Paths are Different.' Sri Sathya Sai gold medals were

awarded by All India President to winners on the Onam Day at Prasanthi Nilayam.

The Sai Organisation of Kerala is now fully involved in the work of eradication of evils, especially among the student community. The programme is named as "Stop-Stop, Think, Organise and Proceed." Under this, experts concentrate on evil effects of drug addiction, smoking, misuse of internet, and non-vegetarian food, etc. This has already been organised in Alleppey, Palakkad and Thiruvananthapuram-North districts. Video presentations, classes by experts, exhibitions, etc., were some of the items. In Palakkad, 4,000 students, parents and others attended one-day programme held at Chittur.

**Manipur:** Thangmeiband Samithi visited leprosy patients at 'LEWS', Lei Inkhol, Imphal on Sunday, 28th August 2011 and distributed Amruta Kalasams (food provisions) to 17 leprosy patients and Prasadam to 31 children of LEWS children home. The recipients were very happy and thanked Bhagavan Baba for this act of kindness.

**Odisha:** A "Mahanagar Parikrama" (grand rally) was organised on 20th October 2011 to commemorate the Declaration of Avatarhood of Swami. Devotees in thousands participated in the rally. The beautiful and decorated chariot carrying Swami's photo was the centre of attraction of one and all. A group of ladies carrying Kalasha (sacred pots) on their heads amidst Veda chanting and Bhajan singing added splendour to the rally that moved across Bhubaneswar city. During the procession, Swami's Vibhuti, photos and pamphlets were distributed to a large number of people. The rally ended with offering of Arati to Swami. Similar rallies



were organised at district headquarters all over Odisha.

**Punjab:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Punjab offered at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan a two-day programme 'Premanjali' (offering of love) at two different places in the State, viz., Amritsar on 5th November 2011 and village Patti on 6th November 2011. In Amritsar, the programme was held in Guru Nanak Auditorium. It was inaugurated by Sri O.P. Soni, M.L.A. and other prominent guests, and was attended by dignitaries, devotees and a cross-section of people numbering about 700. A similar programme was conducted the next day on 6th November 2011 at a rural place, Patti (Khem Kharan border near Pakistan) in Punjab, where about 3,000 persons including distinguished guests, priests of the Golden Temple and Gurudwaras, political dignitaries, luminaries from different universities, school children, teachers, etc. attended the programme. It was opened at 6 p.m. by the State President, Sri V.K. Kapoor who also honoured all respected guests and dignitaries with a woollen shawl.

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Punjab organised "Sanathana Sarathi Golden Jubilee Photo Exhibition" from 23rd to 28th



*Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Punjab organised "Sanathana Sarathi Golden Jubilee Photo Exhibition" at Kurali from 23rd to 28th June 2011.*

June 2011 at Kurali, Ropar District, Punjab. Initially, the exhibition was scheduled for only three days but due to the visitors' demand, it was extended by another three days. The visitors were very much impressed by the display of exhibits. The exhibition concluded with Arati on 28th June 2011.

**Rajasthan:** A State-level Youth Conference was held at Bhilwara, Rajasthan on 5th and 6th November 2011, in which more than 300 delegates across Rajasthan came to participate. The theme of the conference was "Youth: Messenger of Love and Transformation." In the inaugural session, Sri Sanjay Sahni, Director, Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning shared his intimate experiences with Bhagavan and drenched the youth in divine love. This was followed by inspiring talks by a galaxy of distinguished speakers who highlighted Bhagavan's teachings, specially His spiritual guidelines for youth. The topics of deliberations for the second day of the conference included "Character Development through Sri Sathya Sai Organisation" and "Our Life is His Message." The conference came to an end on 6th November with offering of Arati and distribution of Vibhuti Prasadam.

**Sikkim:** Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Sikkim, South and West District organised a two-day Youth Conference on 9th and 10th July 2011 at Sri Sathya Sai Sarva Dharma Kendra, Daramdin, in which about 200 Sai Youth (both boys and girls) from all the Samithis and Mandalis of the two districts took part. State President and other office bearers of the Sai Organisation also attended the

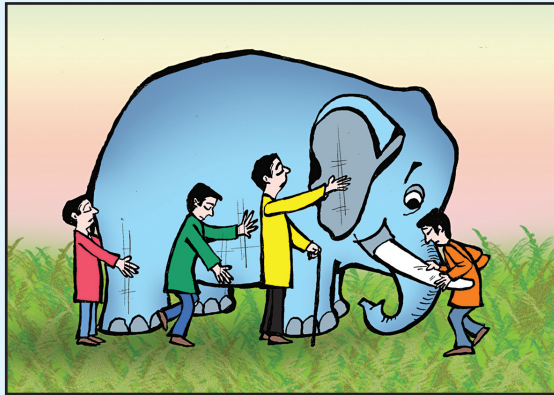
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# God is One

Chinna Katha

*O*NCE THERE WERE FOUR visually challenged persons who wanted to know what was elephant like. One of them went



*Four visually challenged persons formed four different opinions about what was elephant like on the basis of touching only one of its parts.*

near the elephant, touched its ear and thought that elephant was like a winnowing basket. The second person touched its leg and thought that the elephant was like a pillar. The third touched its belly and considered it like a wall. The fourth one held its tusk and supposed the elephant to be like a pestle for pounding grain.

In this way, each of the four visually challenged persons touched only one part of the elephant and formed his opinion on the basis of his knowledge of only one of its parts. But one can really know what is elephant like only when one knows all its parts.

In the same way, different religions of the world see only one aspect of God. They can attain the knowledge of God in all His aspects only when they all join together.

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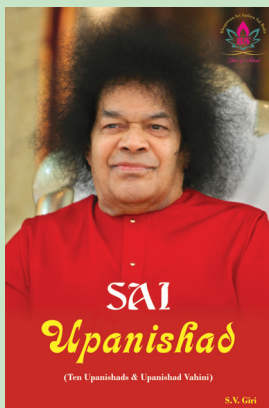
conference. On this occasion, the youth planted about 100 saplings of flowering plants in and around the Mandir complex and road side. They also presented devotional songs.

**Tamil Nadu:** The 72nd year of the Declaration of Avatarhood of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was celebrated on 20th October 2011 at Sundaram, the Divine Abode of Bhagavan at Chennai. The programme commenced with screening of a video film "Prema Pravaham," which was viewed by a large number of devotees. Thereafter, All India President, Sri V. Srinivasan graciously

opened the Reading Room with multimedia facility to the public, against the backdrop of Vedic chants. Later, he gave a powerful, motivating speech, reiterating that our Beloved Lord Sai is installed in each of our hearts and His omnipresence is felt all over the world through several incidents. Sri T.E. Vasudevan, the next speaker, who has performed 108 Sai Bhagavata Saptahams all over Tamil Nadu, spoke on the glory of Bhagavan. This was followed by world renowned Mandolin maestro U. Srinivas and party paying their musical obeisance to Lord Sai. The programme concluded with Arati.



## Relevance of Upanishads to Man's Daily Life



**SAI UPANISHAD**  
**S.V. Giri**

Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana  
Trust, Publications Division,  
Prasanthi Nilayam. ₹ 100.00

**T**HE UPANISHADS, ALSO called the Vedanta, are the distilled essence and culmination of the Vedas. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has further distilled and expounded in His “Upanishad Vahini” in His inimitable elegant and pleasant manner the essence of the ten Upanishads which are considered the beginning of the journey of the Sadhaka towards the experience of Brahman.

In this small volume, Sri Giri has brought out in contemporary idiom the meaning, relevance and content of the ten Upanishads (from Isa to Chandogya) and

rounded it up with Bhagavan's own summation of the Upanishads in the form of the “Brahmanubhava Upanishad” to guide the reader to Real Freedom.

There are numerous commentaries on the Upanishads authored by great scholars and luminaries. But most of them explain only the meanings of the Upanishads and interpret the subtle concepts dealt in them. Their focus is on fathoming the spiritual truths contained in these oceans of spiritual knowledge. The approach of the present author Sri S.V. Giri is different in the sense that he also interprets the Upanishads in the contemporary context and establishes their relevance to day-to-day life of modern man and society to facilitate an understanding of the principles contained in them for putting them into practice in daily life. Since the Upanishads contain eternal verities, the present commentary on the Upanishads is also all-encompassing and relates to all aspects of man's life – personal, social, educational, economic, ethical, moral and spiritual as it relates to society, nation and world at large. The book is therefore not only a practical guide for spiritual seekers but it also provides valuable lessons for people of all sections of society.

The first two chapters of the book explain the antiquity, philosophy, relevance and content of the Upanishads while next ten chapters deal with ten principal Upanishads. The last chapter entitled “Brahmanubhav Upanishad” is based entirely on the “Upanishad Vahini” authored by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The book also gives the summaries of all the chapters, three valuable appendices and an index, all of which make it all the more useful reference material.

.....  
**A valuable book for seekers of all forms  
of knowledge and wisdom.**  
.....

## Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences Prasanthigram, Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up the vacancy in SSSIHMS, PG.

**Name of the post / Department:** Perfusionist - CTVS

**Pay scale / emoluments (at minimum of basic):** 5000-150-8000 (old) 9300-34800 (new)

**Essential Qualifications:** 1. B.Sc. Degree from a recognised university. 2. Certificate in Perfusion Technology (awarded by a recognised Institution / Association / Authority such as Association of Thoracic and Cardio vascular surgeons of India) after a training in a centre with at least one year experience in clinical perfusion.

**Desirable Qualifications:** One year working experience in Clinical Perfusion.

(or)

**Name of the post / Department:** Technician - Perfusion

**Pay scale / emoluments (at minimum of basic):** 4000-100-6000 (old) 5200-20200 (new)

**Essential Qualifications:** (a) 12th Class pass with science or intermediate or equivalent from a recognised university / institution. (b) One year paramedical certificate course recognised by Government. (c) One year experience in clinical perfusion.

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for filling the vacant post of **Physiotherapist in SSSIHMS, PG**. Pay band details and qualification required are as under.

**Pay Band Details:** Consolidated pay of Rs.10,000 (1st year), Rs.14,000 (2nd year), Rs.18,000 (3rd year), Rs.9300-34800 with grade pay of Rs.4200/- (4th year)

**Qualification:** 1. Inter (Science) and 2. Degree in Physiotherapy / Occupational Therapy or four year Diploma Course in Physiotherapy from a recognised institution.

Applications are also invited from qualified / eligible candidates for filling up vacancy in Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram, Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh. For details of vacant posts and other information about the Institute, please visit our website ([www.psg.sssihms.org.in](http://www.psg.sssihms.org.in)). Compensation package will commensurate with the qualifications and experience.

Candidates may furnish their bio-data in prescribed form (to be downloaded from our website: <http://psg.sssihms.org.in/pages/Careers.htm>). Complete applications, along with a passport size photo and copies of qualifying degrees and experience, may be sent by post to the **Director, SSSIHMS, PG, Puttaparthi - 515134, Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh**. Applications may also be sent through e-mail ([humanresourcespg@sssihms.org.in](mailto:humanresourcespg@sssihms.org.in)) along with scanned copies of certificates and photo.

Last date for receiving applications is: 25/12/2011.

– Director

# NOTICE

It is with great pleasure that we announce the launch of three new websites to help serve the devotees of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on the auspicious occasion of the 86th year of Advent of our most Beloved Bhagavan.

The banner for the Sanathana Sarathi website features a collage of magazine covers on the left, a central logo with a flower-like design, and a photograph of Swami Sathya Sai Baba on the right. The text 'Sanathana Sarathi' is prominently displayed in a stylized font, with 'THE ETERNAL CHARIOTEER' written below it. A navigation bar at the bottom includes links for Home, The Story, Subscription, My Profile, eCopy, International Editions, Regional Editions, FAQs, and Links. A quote from Bhagavan is also present on the left side of the banner.

From this day, our Sanathana Sarathi will lead to victory the cohorts of Truth - the Vedas, the Sastras and similar scriptures of all faiths, against the forces of the ego such as injustice, falsehood, immorality and cruelty. This is the reason why it has emerged. The Sarathi will fight in order to establish world prosperity. It is bound to sound the paean of triumph when universal Ananda is achieved.

**Sanathana Sarathi**  
THE ETERNAL CHARIOTEER

Home | The Story | Subscription | My Profile | eCopy | International Editions | Regional Editions | FAQs | Links

**THE MISSION**

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through  
**SATHYA DHARMA SANTHI PREMA AHIMSA**

During the occasion of the launch of Sanathana Sarathi on Feb 16, Maha Sivarathri, 1958, Bhagavan declared:

"From this day, our Sanathana Sarathi will lead to victory the cohorts of Truth - the Vedas, the Sastras and similar scriptures of all faiths, against the forces of the ego such as injustice, falsehood, immorality and cruelty. This is the reason why it has emerged. This Sarathi will fight in order to establish world prosperity. It is bound to sound the paean of triumph when universal Ananda is achieved."

**Sanathana Sarathi**, the spiritual monthly magazine was started by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in the year 1958. You can visit the website [[www.sanathanasarathi.org](http://www.sanathanasarathi.org)] to subscribe online for the printed magazine. Please note that those subscribing from **Overseas** should select the region "**Outside India**" before going to the payment gateway and those from **India** should select "**Within India**" before going to the payment gateway. Please use only **Credit Card / Debit Card** for transactions and it is mandatory for Credit Card / Debit Card to have **Card Rectification Value (CVV)** number. Besides there is also an **electronic version** of the printed magazine available every month. One can order online the **English version** in Interactive Pdf format and download the same to the computer. Please download **Adobe Reader 9.0 or higher** to view the Pdf. You can order photographs of Swami and programme photographs by clicking on the photos. Short videos also can be viewed in the eCopy. A few other programme videos can be viewed online by clicking on the links in the top bar. Besides there are host other features. The **eCopy version** is also available in **Telugu** and can be ordered online through the website. Please visit [[www.sanathanasarathi.org](http://www.sanathanasarathi.org)] for further details.



## Welcome to Sai Reflections



### What is Sai Reflections?

*Sai Reflections* is an endeavor by the Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust - Publications Division to bring you Bhagawan's photographs directly to your home through the online medium. This site has 2 major categories of products. The first is Bhagawan's close-ups and the second is Programme Photos. The second category is an attempt to capture your memories. If you have participated in any of the programmes in Prasanthi Nilayam in The Divine Presence listed on the site, you may search for your photographs in that album and place orders.

This site has two different interfaces based on whether the products are to be shipped within India or Overseas. Though the content is the same, there is a difference in the shipping mechanism. Please select the appropriate link below, which will direct you to the respective portal. Hope you have a pleasant experience. Sai Ram!



### Where do you want to ship your products?

[Within India](#)

[Outside India](#)

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**Sai Reflections** [[www.saireflections.org](http://www.saireflections.org)] is an endeavour by Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division to bring you **Bhagavan's photographs** directly to your home through the online medium. This site has two major categories of products. The first is **Bhagavan's close-ups** and the second is **Programme Photos**. The second category is an attempt to capture your memories. If you have participated in any of the programmes in Prasanthi Nilayam in the Divine Presence listed on the site, you may search for your photographs in that album and place orders or download soft copies. If you are not able to find the programme, kindly write to us at [photosadmin@saireflections.org](mailto:photosadmin@saireflections.org) and we will respond to you at the earliest.

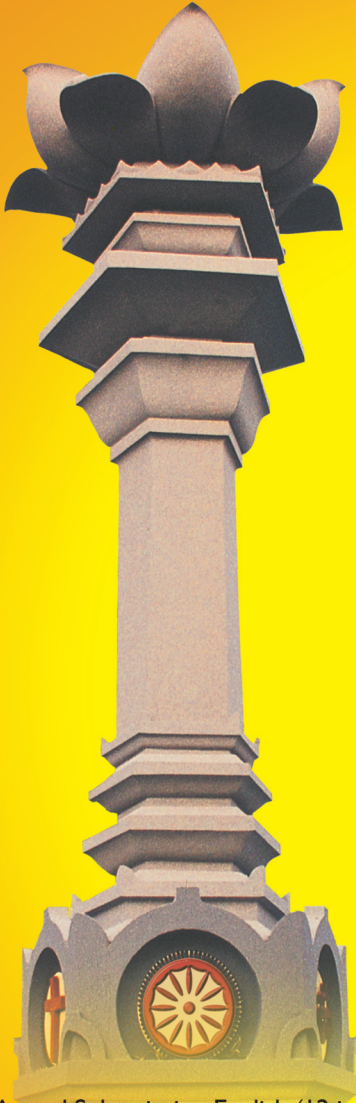


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**The Prasanthi Reporter** [[www.theprasanthireporter.org](http://www.theprasanthireporter.org)] is a reporting channel from Prasanthi Nilayam. This channel of peace, love and harmony is a humble endeavour of the Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust, Publications Division to bring the **ambience and grandeur of Prasanthi Nilayam** to the homes of the devotees of Bhagawan spread across the globe. Bhagawan had blessed a blueprint of this project on **23rd August 2008** in His Abode, Yajur Mandir.

— *Convener*

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### *God Takes Human Form to Uplift Man*

The common aim of the sages and saints of all lands is to lead man towards God and prevent him from sliding down to the level of a beast. Man must earn equanimity; he must be firmly established in truth and love. That will make his heart reflect the Lord within. When the road laid down for man's uplift is overgrown with thorny bushes and becomes unrecognisable, the Lord Himself takes human form and marks it out again.

*– Baba*

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.



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