



Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba giving His Divine Message on the auspicious occasion of His 81st Birthday, 23rd November 2006.



Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the President of India, offering his salutations to Bhagavan on His 81st Birthday.

YOUR SERVICE TO SOCIETY WILL MAKE SWAMI HAPPY

When man emerges from the womb of his mother, one does not find any garland around his neck. There are no jewels made of pearls nor are there glittering gold ornaments. There are no necklaces studded with precious stones like emeralds and diamonds. But there is one garland around his neck. Brahma strings together the consequences of his past deeds into a heavy garland and puts it around his neck at the time of his birth.

(Telugu Poem)

Embodiments of Love, Students – Boys and Girls!

IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DESCRIBE how fortunate a human being is. *Jantunam Nara Janma Durlabham* (of all living beings, human birth is the rarest). Man is not able to realise the value of humanness and is deluded by seeing the ephemeral and transitory objects of the world.

Develop the Feeling of Oneness of Mankind

The basis of man's life is not the transitory and ephemeral world. His life on earth is a synthesis of moral, ethical and spiritual values. Man, in fact, is the image of divinity. All of you are a part of Myself; you are not different from Me. All your learning and your strenuous efforts should be directed towards realising this truth. You don't need anything else after realising this fundamental truth. Unable to realise the value of his humanness, man becomes a victim of many delusions. All the material possessions of this world are a cause of bondage for man. So long as man is in bondage, he has to suffer. Therefore, man should try to achieve

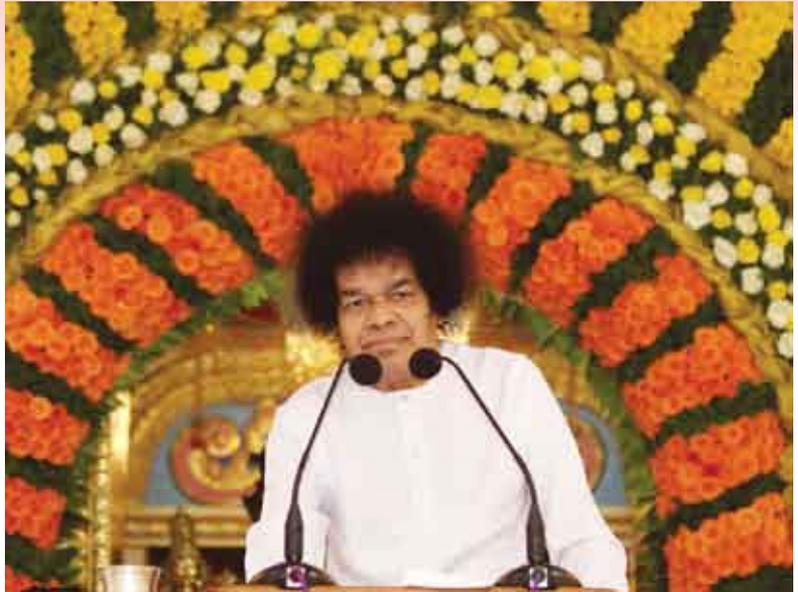
freedom from bondage. He should get rid of the feeling of attachment. Nothing is mine or thine; everything is one. Develop the feeling in your heart that all are one. Only then can you experience truth, peace and bliss.

Peace and happiness lie in spirituality and in nothing else. You may study, get married, have children and lead a happy life. There is nothing wrong in it. But never forget God. Without forgetting God, you may follow any path. This is My blessing to you. Spread the Divine Name in every nook and corner of the world. That will lead to manifestation of divinity within everyone. The closer you come to Swami, the divinity within you should become more pronounced. Then your life will be sanctified.

Embodiments of Love!

Your life is full of ambitions and desires. You have to enquire whether you are making appropriate efforts to attain fulfilment in life. First search your heart to know what your thoughts and feelings are – whether they are pure, steady and selfless or they are tainted with desires. Desires are like luggage which is a heavy burden in the journey of life. *Less luggage more comfort makes travel a pleasure.* Therefore, gradually reduce your desires. If you have less luggage, you will be more peaceful. On the contrary, man today is increasing his luggage of desires instead of reducing it.

Thousands of people have assembled here. Heads are many, but the feeling is one. *Ekatma Sarva Bhutantaratma* (one Atma dwells in all beings). Because of your body attachment, you are subjected to too many troubles. Today you are a single person. After completing your studies and securing a good job, you will try to get married. Then you become two. When one wears one bangle, no sound is produced. Sound is produced only when one wears two bangles. After marriage, you are inclined towards worldly acquisitions. You will have children and your family will expand. With this type of 'progress', how can you have peace? All these worldly attachments are the result of your



I do not want you to acquire merely high academic qualifications. There are many highly educated people in the world. But, what good have they done for the world? You should work hard and make others happy. You will have fulfilment in life only when you make society happy. Kalam is highly educated and is devoted to the service of society. Render all possible service to society. That alone will make Swami happy.



deluded thinking. There is no reality in them. When your thoughts and feelings are not in the right direction, you are bound to suffer.

Instead of getting entangled in worldly life, you should engage yourself in the service of society. Once you take to the path of service, your problems will gradually decrease. *Love All, Serve All.* Do not consider anybody as other person. Develop the feeling that he and you are one. The entire mankind is one. What you see in this world is only the reaction, reflection and resound of the reality that is one. Once you understand this truth,



you will be peaceful. Only then will your mind be steady and one-pointed in the pursuit of your study and profession. Therefore, first and foremost, engage yourself in the service of society. What is society? Society is your own reflection. Therefore, do not distance yourself from society. Keep yourself always engaged in the service of society. Why has God given you hands? They are not given to scribble something on paper. They should be fully engaged in the service of God. *Work is worship. Duty is God. Do your duty.*

Easwaramma was a High-souled Person *Embodiments of Love!*

Once the mother of this body, Easwaramma, went to a well to fetch water. Suddenly, she felt giddy and heard an ethereal voice, "I am entering your body." She was fear-stricken and was at a loss to know what was entering her body, whether it was a ghost, a spirit or an angel. She heard the voice again, "I am entering your body for the welfare of the world."

Easwaramma was not the name given to the mother of this body at the time of her birth. This name was given to her by Kondama Raju, the grandfather of this body. He was a noble soul who had realised My Divinity even when I was a child. Realising that she was the mother of Easwara, he changed her name to Easwaramma (mother of God). Easwaramma was not an ordinary woman; she was a high-souled person who was loved and admired by one and all. Wherever she went, people greeted her with great love.

Humanness is the main quality of a human being. Mother Easwaramma was fully endowed with humanness. All her thoughts were always focused on Swami. The Summer Course was going on at Brindavan.

Easwaramma had her breakfast and coffee. After that, she was chewing betel. Suddenly, she shouted, "Swami, Swami, Swami" three times. I said, "I am coming, I am coming, I am coming." I came down immediately and she breathed her last. She had an easy death without any suffering at all. Body has value so long as there is life in it. Once the life goes out of it, it is just like a log of wood. The body of Easwaramma was taken to Puttaparthi according to My instructions and the final rites were performed. Many people said that I should also go. But I did not go. I do not have any body attachment. Body attachment is a big bondage. Once you surrender your body to God, your wayward senses will also lose their power and you will be free from bondage. There may be some ups and downs in life, but once you have surrendered to God, nothing will disturb you.

Karanam Subbamma was one of great virtues. She had a highly respectable position in the village. As time passed, there was great transformation in her. She prepared food for all the devotees who came for My Darshan. Whatever she made, she made it for the sake of Swami. Those days, I did not stay at home most of the time. I moved about in the adjoining hills and valleys. Subbamma made many dishes, put them in a tiffin box and went searching for Me wherever I was. Her love for Swami was great. In Dwapar Yuga, it was Devaki who gave birth to Krishna, but Yashoda had the great good fortune of being called the mother of Krishna. Similarly, Subbamma had such great good fortune in this age.

Once Karanam Subbamma performed Sathyanarayana Vrata (worship to please Lord Narayana). She invited Easwaramma also to participate in it. As I was born



after Easwaramma partook of the Prasadam (sanctified food) of Sathyanarayana Vrata, I was given the name of Sathyanarayana. Right from My birth, people did not consider Me as an ordinary person; they always considered Me as a Transcendental Being endowed with great Divine powers.

possibility of My mother giving them because she too had no money. One day, I left My bag and went inside. Finding this as an opportune moment, the boys searched the bag all over. They were not ordinary boys. They wanted to make sure if there was anything hidden in the bag. After making a thorough search, they could

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Everybody has to surrender to Swami's love one day or the other. The name of Sai is eternal and changeless.

One can speak whatever one likes. Boneless tongue can be twisted in any way. Stones are hurled only on a fruit-laden tree. Like a fruit-bearing tree, all noble people are subjected to many ordeals and difficulties. But when one firmly adheres to truth, nothing can shake one. Let any number of people fight against truth; they can never win. Therefore, hold on to truth firmly, come what may. One who stands by truth is bound to be victorious. Therefore, never give up truth.

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When I was a child, all the children of the village used to surround Me. I used to ask every one of them what he wanted. Each one of them wanted to have something or the other like a pencil, a pen, a sweet or a peppermint. Whatever they asked, I used to take it out from My empty bag. I did not have even a single paisa with Me. On receiving the items they asked for, they used to wonder how I was able to give them all those things. There was no

not find even a single pin. Then they realised that all these things were coming from some unknown source. They were wonderstruck. In this manner, I was always surrounded by boys right from My childhood.

Never Give up Truth

Gradually, My name spread far and wide. This created jealousy in some people. In spite of the jealousy of people, My

name and fame spread to all corners of the world. People from many countries of the world representing various faiths started coming to Prasanthi Nilayam in large numbers and started celebrating their festivals here. Now December is coming and Christmas is approaching. Christians from all parts of the world will assemble here and celebrate this festival. Likewise, Mohammedans also came to Prasanthi Nilayam and prayed for My permission to celebrate their festivals. People belonging to all faiths have been coming to Prasanthi Nilayam to celebrate their festivals here. As I have always been telling you, all are one.

Religions are many, but goal is one.

Clothes are many, but yarn is one.

Jewels are many, but gold is one.

(Telugu Poem)

Likewise, there are many beings, but the indwelling Atma in them is the same. However, there are certain people who are creating differences. As the name and fame of Swami is spreading, many people have developed jealousy and they are making false propaganda. Recently, a meeting was held in London in which Air Chief Marshal (retd.) Suri repudiated all such false propaganda. There he told the critics that they should go to Sathya Sai Baba, observe and experience the truth personally and then only make any comments. He further asked them not to listen to all sorts of gossip and start talking about it. What would one gain by listening to others? Those who spread rumours had themselves not seen or experienced anything. But they started false propaganda and it spread to many countries; it reached India also. Without ascertaining the facts, some Indian papers also published these false articles, imitating the foreign ones. In fact, these critics don't have faith in

Man should develop love for God. If you have love for God, you will have everything. Without love for God, everything will come to nothing. Love for God is like the main switch. If the main switch is put off, no other switch can function and there will be no light. Once the main switch is on, you will get light by pressing any switch.

what they themselves say. Then, why should they believe in what others say? Their only intention is to defame Swami by foul means. But it is not possible for anyone to defame Swami. Not only now, but for all times to come, nobody can tarnish Swami's name.

Everybody has to surrender to Swami's love one day or the other (*loud applause*). The name of Sai is eternal and changeless. One can speak whatever one likes. Boneless tongue can be twisted in any way. Stones are hurled only on a fruit-laden tree. Like a fruit-bearing tree, all noble people are subjected to many ordeals and difficulties. But when one firmly adheres to truth, nothing can shake one. Let any number of people fight against truth; they can never win. Therefore, hold on to truth firmly, come what may. One who stands by truth is bound to be victorious. Therefore, never give up truth. Who is God? Truth is God. Truth is unshakeable. *Sathyannasti Paro Dharma* (There is no Dharma greater than adherence to truth). It is Dharma that leads man to peace. Without peace, man cannot



live. Saint Thyagaraja said, "One cannot have happiness without peace." When you attain peace, you will experience love and bliss. Truth is the origin of bliss. Non-violence also emerges from truth. A man of love will not entertain any thought of violence. Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness), Santhi (peace), Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence) are like the five life-breaths of man. These are the prime qualities of a human being. The need of the hour is to develop these human values. Only when these values are developed can there be peace in the country.

Peace and Happiness Lie in Spirituality

Wherever you see today, you find limitless desires in people. Take any area of human endeavour, man's desires have no limit. There is no limit even in reading of books. People keep reading books all the time. This reading of all sorts of books is a mere waste of time. What is the use of reading if it does not give you self-satisfaction? Your bookish knowledge can help you only in earning a living. Bharatiya culture emphasises the inculcation of morality, ethics and spirituality. But our modern authors are ignoring these three principles. That is why in spite of widespread academic learning, there is no real progress.

*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 becomes useless.*

(Telugu Poem)

Therefore, man should develop love for God. If you have love for God, you will have everything. Without love for God, everything will come to nothing. Love for God is like the main switch. If the main switch is put off, no other switch can function and there

will be no light. Once the main switch is on, you will get light by pressing any switch.

Dear Students!

You are now young and all your limbs are healthy and strong. First is the body. Next come the senses. Higher than the senses is the mind, and the intellect is higher than the mind. The Atma is the highest. When you understand and contemplate on the principle of the Atma, you will be free from all suffering and bondage. It is the perversion of the mind that is the cause of all your sufferings and bondages.

Study whatever you are expected to study. Earn a good name in society. Your parents have high expectations from you. You should satisfy their aspirations. *Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava, Acharya Devo Bhava, Atithi Devo Bhava* (revere your mother, father, preceptor and guest as God). When you make your mother, father, preceptor and guest happy, then God will give you more happiness. All your learning is useless without love for God. You are all young. You should study well and earn a good name in society. This is what I expect from you. I do not want you to acquire merely high academic qualifications. There are many highly educated people in the world. But, what good have they done for the world? You should work hard and make others happy. You will have fulfilment in life only when you make society happy. Kalam is highly educated and is devoted to the service of society. Render all possible service to society. That alone will make Swami happy.

Yesterday, Ram Setty said that he did not want to go back to America and wanted to spend the rest of his life here in the service of Swami. His son is as worthy as his father. He is also a doctor. He told his father that he did not want to come in the way of



his father's wish. This stadium is built by the munificence of Ram Setty, his wife, son and daughter. He sold all his property and donated the entire money for the construction of this stadium. He is a man of great sacrifice. He has donated 40 crore rupees for the construction of this stadium. How many will have the spirit of sacrifice of such a high order? In modern age when people turn away even a beggar without giving him anything, this family has made such a great sacrifice. He has a son and a daughter. Both his son and daughter are not interested in worldly enjoyments. Their only objective is to obey Swami.

Peace and happiness lie in spirituality and in nothing else. You may study, get married, have children and lead a happy life. There is nothing wrong in it. But never forget God. Without forgetting God, you may follow any path. This is My blessing to you. Spread the Divine Name in every nook and corner of the world. That will lead to manifestation of divinity within everyone. The closer you come to Swami, the divinity within you should become more pronounced. Then your life will be sanctified.

Worldly pleasures are no pleasures in the real sense of the term. Today you may have pleasure, tomorrow you may experience pain. You may be happy when a son is born, but you will be grief-stricken when some mishap occurs to the son and he dies. One day you smile, another day you cry. There is only a little gap between happiness and sorrow. Everything in man's life is transient and temporary. *Ma Kuru Dhana Jana Yauvana Garvam, Harathi Nimeshath Kalah Sarvam* (do not be proud of your wealth, progeny and youth; the tide of time may destroy them in a moment).

Students!

May you live long and lead a happy life! Serve society. Consider service to society as service to God. Service to society alone can confer peace on you.

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

– From Bhagavan's Birthday Message in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 23rd November 2006.

Lead an Exemplary Life

The sweetness in the fruit the tree yields is the sweetness of character. Pursue your studies, not for the sake of a job alone, but for living a good and happy life. That is to say, you must, even from now, cultivate faith in God, keep virtuous company, nourish discipline and cherish ideals of service. Control the senses; avoid seeing evil, hearing evil and relishing evil sights, words and news. Bad thoughts breed bad character and drag you down into the beast. Those whom we now adore for their exemplary lives have been boys and young men like you; they did not neglect during their youth the development of their moral fibre and qualities of sympathy and service. You too should not neglect these.

– Baba

BHAGAVAN'S 81st BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

A SEA OF HUMANITY CONVERGED at Prasanthi Nilayam from all parts of the world to offer their obeisance to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on the auspicious occasion of His 81st Birthday. Beginning with Akhanda Bhajan on 11th November 2006, a large number of programmes of cultural, social and spiritual significance were held at Prasanthi Nilayam as part of 81st Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan.

Akhanda Bhajan

A new dimension was added to Bhajan singing as a spiritual practice when Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba started it as part of daily programme at Old Mandir in Puttaparthi in early 1940's. With the spread of Sai Organisations in all parts of the world in the last 5-6 decades, Bhajan singing has assumed the form of one of the greatest spiritual movements of the world today. With Sai Centres in all corners of the world holding regular Bhajans, it is transforming the lives of millions of people through Namasmarana which is considered as the most potent means of man's redemption in this Kali Age.

An important feature of this movement is the annual Akhanda Bhajan (continuous singing) for 24 hours held simultaneously at the global level in which millions of people all over the world sing the glory of Lord with unity, purity and devotion. At Prasanthi Nilayam, Akhanda Bhajan has a special significance since Bhagavan Himself inaugurates it and blesses the devotees by His Divine Presence. This

year also Bhagavan inaugurated the Akhanda Bhajan at Prasanthi Nilayam by lighting the sacred lamp in the Bhajan Mandir at 6.00 p.m. on Saturday, 11th November 2006.

Soulful Bhajans then started in the Bhajan Mandir which were led by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. A huge gathering of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall enjoyed the bliss of singing them in chorus with deep devotional fervour. Besides the girls students of Anantapur Campus and the boys students of Brindavan and Prasanthi Nilayam Campuses of the Institute, several groups of devotees, Ashram staff and hospital staff led the Bhajans. The Akhanda Bhajan continued all through the night of 11th November and up to 6.00 p.m. on 12th November when it was brought to a happy conclusion in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Arati was offered to Bhagavan at the conclusion of the Akhanda Bhajan. Prasadam was distributed to all the devotees after its conclusion.

Bhagavan's Gifts of Grace

On the eve of His 81st Birthday, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba distributed 81 bicycles to needy girls students studying in schools and colleges in Anantapur. The girls coming from villages in Anantapur district had to travel long distances everyday to reach their school or college. This gift of grace of Bhagavan would therefore immensely benefit them by saving them their time and effort which they could devote to their studies to come up in life.





Bicycles were distributed to 81 school and college girls students coming from far off areas to attend school / college at Anantapur as part of 81st Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan.

The programme began at 9.00 a.m. in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam after Bhagavan's morning Darshan on 16th November 2006. The girls came one by one before Bhagavan, paid their obeisance to Him and received the bicycle. The programme was organised by the Anantapur Campus staff and students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning as part of celebration of Bhagavan's 81st Birthday.

The joy of the occasion was enhanced by a grand display of band music by the brass band of the Anantapur Campus of the Institute. Starting with a prayer to Lord Ganesh, the band presented sweet devotional melodies to the joy of a huge gathering of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall for about 15 minutes.

Rathotsavam

The ceremonial celebration of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 81st Birthday started with the sacred function of Rathotsavam on the morning of 18th November 2006. Nadaswaram musicians heralded the auspicious day with sweet music early in the morning. Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.30 a.m. and showered the bliss of His Darshan on

the huge gathering of devotees amidst sacred chanting of Vedic hymns by the Institute students and sweet notes of Nadaswaram musicians. Finely caparisoned Sai Geeta, Bhagavan's dear elephant, was waiting for the arrival of Bhagavan in the Hall. On His arrival in the Hall, Bhagavan lovingly caressed it and fed it with fruits. After completing His round of Darshan in the Hall, Bhagavan came to the Bhajan

Mandir where two exquisitely bedecked palanquins with idols of Rama, Lakshmana, Sita and Hanuman and Venugopal were ready to be taken out for Rathotsavam, and the Veda chanting group of students were chanting sacred Vedic Mantras. With the blessings of Bhagavan, the two palanquins were brought out of the Mandir followed by Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students. The decorated Ratha (chariot) was ready outside



The decorated Ratha (chariot) carrying the idol of Venugopal (Krishna) ready to start from Gopuram gate in celebration of Rathotsavam.



the Gopuram gate where idol of Venugopal was placed on it. The procession then started from the Gopuram gate at 8.15 a.m. It was led by Nadaswaram musicians and followed by Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students. Winding its way through the streets of Puttaparthi, it reached Pedda Venkama Raju Kalyana Mandapam. On the way, people of Puttaparthi came out of their houses in large numbers and watched the procession. Many of them offered worship to the idols, broke coconuts before the chariot and waved Arati before the idols. The procession returned to Sai Kulwant Hall with the palanquin of Rama, Lakshmana, Sita and Hanuman at 9.05 a.m., marking the conclusion of the sacred ceremony of Rathotsavam.

Russian Folk Music

The devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall had a fine treat of Russian folk music when Russian devotees of Bhagavan presented an excellent music programme on the afternoon of 18th November 2006. The programme began at 4.10 p.m. and enthralled the audience for nearly 45 minutes with folk group songs and solo presentations of folk songs and instrumental music. Besides the traditional folk songs of Russia, the musicians rendered some Hindi



Russian devotees presented an excellent programme of Russian folk music on the afternoon of 18th November 2006 to offer their homage to Bhagavan on the eve of His 81st Birthday.

devotional songs, like Sai Narayana, Om Sri Sai Ram in an exceptionally beautiful manner sending the devotees into raptures. This superb music programme came to a close at 4.50 p.m. At its conclusion, Bhagavan blessed the participants and posed for photographs with them.

Ladies Day Celebrations

Ladies Day was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam on 19th November 2006 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.



A beautiful portrait of Mother Easwaramma adorned the aesthetically bedecked dais in Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of Ladies Day celebrations on 19th November 2006.

Sai Kulwant Hall was aesthetically bedecked with fresh floral decorations for this occasion. A beautiful portrait of Mother Easwaramma, the shining example of ideal womanhood, adorned the dais amidst an exquisite array of flowers.

Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.00 a.m. in a grand procession led by Sri Sathya Sai Primary School girls bagpipes band and Veda chanting group of senior girls students holding plates with lamps. After showering the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall, Bhagavan came to the dais and inaugurated the programme by lighting the

sacred lamp at 8.15 a.m. After an introductory speech by Ms. Chethana Raju, Managing Trustee of Easwamma Women's Welfare Trust, a group of girls dressed in different costumes, carrying flags of various countries and representing women from all over the world paid homage to Bhagavan. Thereafter, the girls of the bagpipes band gave a scintillating musical performance, which was followed by a medley of English devotional songs by the U.K. Sai Youth Choir (ladies).

Two speakers, both long-time devotees of Bhagavan, were then invited to the dais to share their experiences with the audience. The first speaker was Smt. Vasumathi Bhaskar Rao who spoke in Telugu, paying glowing tributes to Mother Easwamma whose entire life was an ideal for all women to follow. She expressed her gratitude to Bhagavan for showing to mankind the path of selfless service and for teaching human values to one and all. The next speaker, Ms. Ronne Marantz of the U.S.A., referred to Bhagavan's concept of educare which was transforming the students by bringing the light of divinity and spirituality into their lives. She praised the noble activities of Easwamma Women's Welfare Trust for the benefit of disadvantaged women. At the conclusion of the speeches, there were Bhajans led by the Youth Choir. Thereafter, Prasadam was distributed. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.15 a.m.

In the afternoon, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 3.10 p.m. and distributed Saris with His Divine Hands to a large number of ladies for full one hour. Next came twenty minutes of a beautifully choreographed dance performance by Sri Sathya Sai Primary School girls, who wore shining, brightly-coloured costumes. Bhagavan blessed the



Primary school students performed an exhilarating dance on the afternoon of 19th November 2006 as part of Ladies Day celebrations.

children at the end and posed for photographs with them. After this, Priya Sisters started their concert. The dulcet Carnatic vocals of Shanmukhapriya and Haripriya enthralled the audience for nearly one hour and their selection of devotional songs was superb. Bhagavan blessed the pair profusely after the concert and the Ladies Day function came to a joyful conclusion. Arati was offered to Bhagavan at 6.00 p.m. and Prasadam was distributed to all.

Easwamma Women's Welfare Trust Programmes

Easwamma Women's Welfare Trust (EWWT) organised a function on 20th November 2006 in Sai Kulwant Hall as part of Bhagavan's 81st Birthday celebrations. Out of more than 2,000 cases registered under "The Mother and Child Project" of the Trust, around 1000 village women came from the surrounding villages to express their gratitude to Bhagavan.

Bhagavan was offered welcome by rhythmic traditional drumming when He came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 3.45 p.m. He was visibly happy to see so many rural women gathered in Sai Kulwant Hall. The programme began with distribution of bicycles by





Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust distributed bicycles to women from rural areas as part of its social welfare programmes for women.

Bhagavan to rural women currently working under Easwaramma Women's Welfare Project. Many of them had been walking long distances everyday during the past year to come to the Project facility inside the Ashram. Their joy was evident on their faces as each one bowed to Bhagavan in gratitude and received His blessings.

Two folk dance performances then followed. The first, called Chekkabhajana, was presented by a group of tribal girls to the accompaniment of simple musical instruments. The charm and simplicity of the music, the



A group of tribal girls performing a folk dance in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 20th November 2006.

melody of the accompanying songs and the rhythmical movements of the dancers held the viewers spellbound. The second folk dance,

the Goravayya, was performed by adult male folk dancers in their colourful tribal dress. They played the flute with one hand as they danced, with a percussion instrument held in the other. Impromptu talks were then given by four rural women, one of them being a Muslim. They represented the whole congregation of villagers gathered in the Hall. These simple ladies poured out their hearts to Bhagavan, in song as well as speech, for setting up this Trust which touches the lives of thousands of rural women by making them economically independent and which takes much-needed medical care to their doorstep. Bhagavan's generosity was showered on the village women as He Himself started the distribution of 9 sets of water filters and 9 gift bags containing items of daily use. The remaining items were then handed out by a set of volunteers to the rest of the rural women who came from 18 villages of Sathya Sai Mandal. Mementoes were also received from the Divine Hands by the doctors participating in "The Mother and Child Project" and by the staff members of EWWT.

The programme concluded with a film show 'The One – Sri Sathya Sai', produced by Ms. Chethana Raju. A giant screen was set up in the centre of Sai Kulwant Hall for screening it. The film portrayed the story of creation and showed how the various forms of life emerged from the sound vibrations created by the divine syllable 'AUM'. As the film progressed, it showed harmony between Nature and living beings which later man started disturbing with disastrous effects. It powerfully conveyed the message of Bhagavan Baba that man should learn to live on earth in harmony with Nature, following the path of morality and spirituality. Embellished with sweet devotional songs, the film revealed the creative talent of the film makers who showcased many innovative

depictions. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.20 p.m.

Cultural Programme by Institute Students

The students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning presented a cultural programme on the afternoon of 20th November 2006. It started with a dance performance devoted to the worship of Lord Vishnu. Performed to the accompaniment of Stotras in praise of Lord Vishnu and set to solemn music, the dance created an ambience of devotion and spirituality. The second item of the programme was Yaksha Gana dance, Karnataka's famous folk art. It depicted a few episodes from the life of Lord Krishna in its unique style, earning the appreciation and applause of one and all. The last item of this programme was the depiction of ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu which the students performed with aplomb. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance, blessed the students at the end of the programme and gave them the rare opportunity of group photographs with Him.

Bhagavan's 81st Birthday Function

The entire Prasanthi Nilayam bore a festive look with decorations of various kinds for celebrating the 81st Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Bhagavan's residence presented an enchanting look at night with trees of light and other decorative lights. The Birthday function was held in fabulously decorated and brilliantly lit Sai Kulwant Hall on the morning of 23rd November 2006.

Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.10 a.m. in His sparkling white robe and was led in a grand procession comprising Anantapur girls band, Primary School girls bagpipes band, Primary School boys Veda group, Primary School boys band, Institute

brass band and Institute Veda group with Poornakumbham.

The mammoth gathering of devotees in and around Sai Kulwant Hall felt a wave of bliss when they got a glimpse of Bhagavan while He took full round of the Hall, blessing one and all. The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was the first to offer salutations to Bhagavan



Bhagavan in conversation with Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the President of India on the morning of 23rd November 2006 in Sai Kulwant Hall.

when He reached the portico of the Bhajan Mandir. After this, Bhagavan blessed him and other dignitaries present in the portico. Bhagavan conversed with Dr. Kalam for a short time after he occupied his seat near the chair of Bhagavan. Meanwhile, Institute band played joyous tunes and the Veda group chanted Rudram. On the auspicious



occasion of Bhagavan's Birthday, Dr. Kalam made a brief speech. Dr. Kalam observed that Bhagavan has been giving a unique gift to mankind on His Birthdays, and this time He has chosen to give the beautiful indoor sports stadium which was built in a record time of about four months. Dr. Kalam said that he had composed a poem in Tamil in honour of Bhagavan for this festive day and got it translated into Telugu. Sri Anil Kumar volunteered to recite this Telugu poem to the joy of the entire congregation. After this, Dr. Kalam took leave of Bhagavan. Bhagavan then blessed the huge gathering of devotees with His Birthday Message and exhorted the devotees to realise the unity of mankind by knowing their divine identity. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue.) Prasadam was distributed to all in the end. The morning programme came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.20 p.m.

Badminton and Basketball Matches in Indoor Stadium

The afternoon programme on 23rd November 2006 was held in Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports. Bhagavan arrived at the venue at 4.15 p.m. in a resplendent yellow robe. The first item of the programme was a doubles badminton match between India and Indonesia. As soon as Bhagavan arrived in the badminton court, the players of both the teams were introduced to Him. There was much excitement when the match progressed. India lost the first game but recovered subsequently to clinch the match by two games to one.

After this, Bhagavan came to the basketball court where a friendly match was to be played between Harlem Globetrotters and New York



Bhagavan watching the doubles badminton match between India and Indonesia held in Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports on the afternoon of 23rd November 2006.

Nationals. The proceedings opened with the entertaining antics of mascot Globie who had the globe of earth as his head. He charmed and entertained the audience with his pranks and there was fun and mirth in the entire stadium. He also arranged a musical chair contest with primary school boys and made everybody laugh. The basketball teams then entered the



Display of talent and skill in the basketball match held in Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

court to play the friendly demonstration match.

First of all, Harlem Globetrotters displayed their talent and skill by dancing and playing with the ball as if it was glued to their hands and obeyed their every command. Harlem Globetrotters are a band of highly talented basketball players who tour the world as ambassadors of goodwill. As the match began, both the sides were cheered by the spectators whenever they scored a point. During the time-outs, the players generated much fun by inviting a few primary school children and playing with them. The players provided much entertainment by involving the referee also in humorous interludes. The match which started at about 5.30 p.m. came to a close at 6.30 p.m., filling the entire one hour with fun and mirth, and spreading cheer all around. Bhagavan blessed both the teams at the end and distributed watches to all the participants in the two matches. During this period, the Institute band entertained the spectators with sweet music.

Music Programme in Sai Kulwant Hall

A sweet musical treat awaited the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall when they came back from the indoor stadium after the conclusion of friendly badminton and basketball matches there. Well-known Hindustani music artiste Smt. Parveen Sultana filled each heart with deep devotion when she presented Mira Bhajans and other devotional songs in her melodious voice. Thereafter, Mandolin U. Srinivas and U. Rajesh accompanied by renowned percussionist Anandan Sivamani made a scintillating musical presentation providing a befitting finale to Bhagavan's 81st Birthday Celebrations. The programme concluded at 8.20 p.m. with offer of

Arati to Bhagavan.

Sai Symphony Orchestra

The devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall had a taste of divine music when Sai Symphony Orchestra presented a soulful music concert on the afternoon of 24th November 2006 as part of 81st Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Presented in the Divine Presence of



Magnificent devotional music programme presented by Sai Symphony Orchestra to offer homage to Bhagavan as part of His 81st Birthday celebrations.

Bhagavan, the programme comprised prized compositions of renowned musicians of the world devoted to soul-elevating themes like purity of thought, word and deed, beauty of Nature, faith, surrender, determination, etc. 45 musicians from 16 countries of the world formed the orchestra. The programme which started with a beautiful tune of a Sanskrit devotional song enthralled the audience for nearly one hour. At the end of the concert, Bhagavan blessed the musicians and posed for photographs with them.

Unity in Diversity - A Dance Drama

This beautiful dance drama was presented by the Sathya Sai Central Council of Italy with the participation of Argentinian devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of





Similarities between the teachings of Bhagavan and Dante's "The Divine Comedy" were highlighted in the dance drama presented by Italian devotees on 25th November 2006.

25th November 2006. The drama highlighted the similarity between the teachings of

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and Dante Alighieri's immortal work "The Divine Comedy". As described in the beautiful pamphlet distributed by the organisers before the start of the drama, parallelism with Bhagavan's universal teachings explains the spiritual message of "The Divine Comedy". Superb acting of the cast, excellent choreography and sweet music justifiably matched the exalted theme of the play and created a lasting effect on the audience. The drama which started at 5.30 p.m. came to a close at 6.15 p.m. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance and blessed the cast at the conclusion of the drama.

SRI SATHYA SAI GURUKULAM ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL, Rajahmundry - 533 101, Andhra Pradesh (Affiliated to C.I.S.C.E., New Delhi)

Applications on plain paper in candidate's own handwriting containing complete Bio-data inclusive of the detailed academic particulars and work experience (if any) along with copies of relevant documents and a recent passport size photograph, are invited from *Trained Candidates* fluent in English for appointment as Teacher in Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam English Medium School, Rajahmundry - 533 101, in the following post.

1. Chemistry Teacher (TGT) - 1

Qualifications Required:

- a) Candidates must preferably hold a first class Graduation Degree by taking Chemistry subject as an elective

OR

Second Class Postgraduation degree in Chemistry subject

- b) Teachers Training Degree with relevant methodology.

Scale of Pay: Rs 7,200-16,195 + D.A. and H.R.A.

Last date for the receipt of applications is 21-1-2007. Selected candidates have to appear for an interview at their own expense at short notice.

Correspondent

PUT HUMAN VALUES INTO PRACTICE

MAN TODAY FEELS PROUD THAT he has mastered many branches of knowledge and studied a number of texts. But he does not try to understand the essence of education. Nowadays, learning is limited only to physical and worldly aspects; moral, ethical and spiritual aspects are left out.

A Test of Intelligence

Today the parents make strenuous efforts to provide education to their children. But nobody is trying to know the real meaning of

nothing else. Mere knowledge of the alphabet cannot be called education. Besides knowing the letters, one has to know the meaning of the words and the sentences constituted by them. Having realised this truth, King Krishnadevaraya convened a big assembly. He posed a question to all the assembled poets and scholars. Also present in this assembly were eight renowned poets of his court known as Ashta Diggajas (eight eminent scholars). They were: Allasani Peddana, Nandi Thimmana, Madayyagari Mallana, Dhurjati, Ayyalaraju Ramabhadru,



education. People think that those who can speak eloquently and have studied a number of books are highly educated. But the fact is that it shows just the knowledge of the alphabet and

Pingali Surana, Ramarajabhushanudu and Tenali Ramakrishna. Krishnadevaraya wanted to know who among them was the best. He

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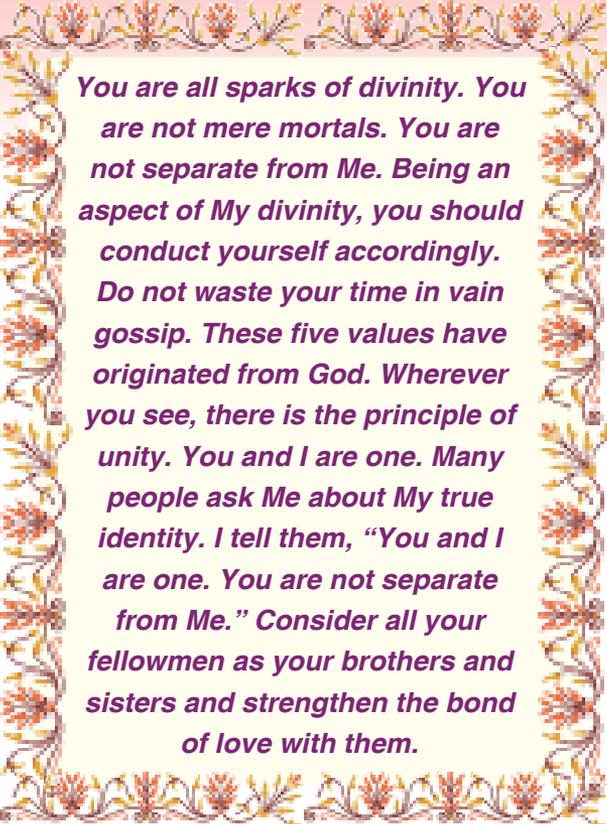
Never give room for evil qualities like anger, hatred and jealousy. These qualities will create only differences. We should develop the five human values which will promote harmony and unity in the world. We should develop those qualities which will bring us closer to each other and not the ones which will distance us from each other. Leave the burden of all your responsibilities to God. This is My message to you today.

.....

wanted them to frame a meaningful sentence consisting of five words, each word having the same meaning in five different languages. "Whoever comes out with an answer to this question by tomorrow morning will be suitably rewarded", he declared.

Since his house was far away, Tenali Ramakrishna decided to spend the night in his brother-in-law's house. When he was provided with a comfortable bed for the night, Ramakrishna refused to sleep on it. He said, "I have to think of an answer to a question put by the king by tomorrow morning. A bed like this is sure to put me to sleep in no time. So, provide a cot for me in the cowshed." As he was lying on the cot, at one o'clock in the night, one of the cows in the shed gave birth to a calf. Ramakrishna called out to inform his brother-in-law about this. His brother-in-law wanted to know which cow it was since he had given different names to his cows like Lakshmi, Saraswati, Radha, etc. He asked Ramakrishna, "Ye Aav Ra Bava" (Oh brother-in-law! Which cow is that?). When Ramakrishna heard this, his joy knew no bounds since he had found an answer to the king's question. So, he repeated the phrase again and again. His brother-in-law thought that Ramakrishna was behaving in this strange manner due to lack of sleep.

Next morning, Ramakrishna went to the royal court and found that no one else had the answer to the question. All others were convinced that it was not possible to frame such a sentence. "Ye Aav Ra Ba Va. This is the answer", he said. Everyone was intrigued. Then he explained, 'Ye' in Marathi, 'Aav' in Hindi, 'Ra' in Telugu, 'Ba' in Kannada and 'Va' in Tamil convey the same meaning, i.e., 'come'. All the five languages were represented in this sentence.



You are all sparks of divinity. You are not mere mortals. You are not separate from Me. Being an aspect of My divinity, you should conduct yourself accordingly. Do not waste your time in vain gossip. These five values have originated from God. Wherever you see, there is the principle of unity. You and I are one. Many people ask Me about My true identity. I tell them, "You and I are one. You are not separate from Me." Consider all your fellowmen as your brothers and sisters and strengthen the bond of love with them.

In this manner, one should know the meaning of every letter. People today read many books without knowing the real meaning of the words. But in ancient times, people knew the meaning of every letter that they studied. Pleased with the answer of Tenali Ramakrishna, Krishnadevaraya presented a bundle of gold coins and precious diamonds to him. Ramakrishna was happy to receive the precious gift from the king, but he was worried how he should safeguard it. Therefore, he requested the king to provide him with two bodyguards to enable him to carry the bundle safely to his house. Accompanied by the bodyguards, he carried the bundle safely to his house. On reaching there, the thought of keeping the bundle safe in the house caused him a lot of worry since he did not have any iron safe. His wife came near

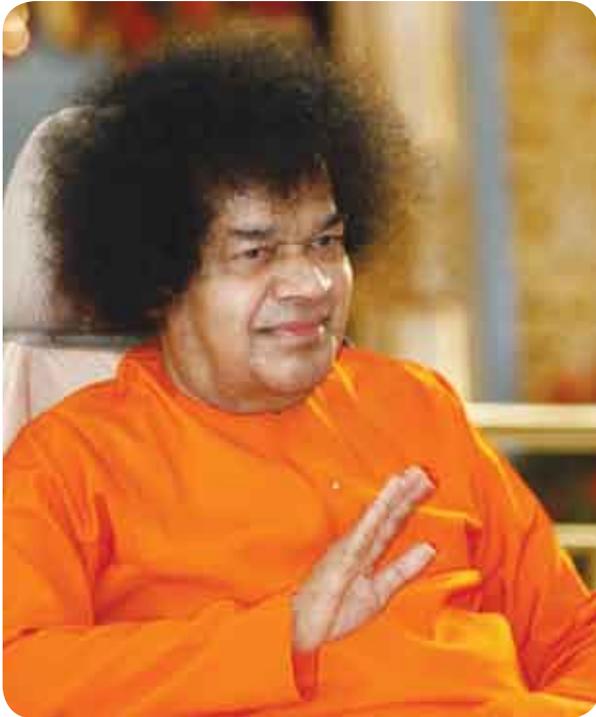


him and saw the bundle. At that time, Tenali Ramakrishna noticed two thieves who had followed him all the way and were now hiding in the backyard of his house. Then he told his wife that he was going to drop the bundle of gold coins and precious gems into the well in the backyard of his house for its safety. He spoke loudly so that the thieves could overhear him. Instead of putting the bundle of precious gems in the well, he actually put a bag of stones in it. All through the night, the thieves kept on

is a true poet. Tenali Ramakrishna was one such great poet.

*Kavim Puranamanushasitaram
Anoraniyansamanusmaredya,
Sarvasya Dhataramachintyarupam
Adityavarnam Tamasa Parastat.*

(He who contemplates on the all-wise, ageless Being, the ruler of all, subtler than the subtle, the universal sustainer, possessing a form beyond human conception, refulgent like the



.....

Today we run after all that is perishable, ignoring that which is immortal. The President of India has told you many important things. You can achieve great heights if you put his teachings into practice. Every human being is endowed with these five human values. If we promote these five human values, we become God. The Vedas declare: Tat Twam Asi (That Thou Art). This profound statement of the Vedas contains the essence of all knowledge. Therefore, these five human values have to be inculcated in everyone right from childhood.

.....

drawing water out of the well in expectation of getting the bundle of gold coins and precious gems. All their attempts proved futile. They left the place at daybreak. Tenali Ramakrishna was happy that he could save the precious bundle from the clutches of thieves and in the process his garden was adequately irrigated.

sun and far beyond the darkness of ignorance, he reaches verily that supreme divine Purusha (God).

Acquire the Knowledge that Makes one Immortal

Today people try to know the meaning of sentences without trying to know the meaning of letters and words that constitute the sentences. Even the preceptors

One who knows the meaning of every letter, every word and every sentence



today give only the worldly meaning of the sentences, but none gives the moral, ethical and spiritual import of the sentences. It is the responsibility of teachers to disseminate the knowledge pertaining to moral, ethical and spiritual principles. That is true education. Today the students pursue their studies, but if you ask them what they are doing, they reply, “Chaduvu-Kontunnamu”, which also means, “We are buying education”. That is no education at all. We have to know the meaning of every letter, every word and every sentence and act accordingly. Despite acquiring all this worldly knowledge, one has to meet one’s end which is inevitable. One should acquire that knowledge which makes one immortal. It is the knowledge of five human values, namely, Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa.

The first one is Sathya (truth). Truth is deathless. Truth is one, not two. Dharma (righteousness) is eternal. Santhi (peace) is the source of bliss. Next is Prema (love). Right from a child to an old person at the verge of death, everyone is endowed with love. But love has no death. The last, but not the least, is Ahimsa (non-violence). Where is the death for Ahimsa? Buddha propagated this principle. He declared: *Ahimsa Paramo Dharma* (non-violence is the highest Dharma). Knowledge and practice of these five principles is real education. Speak truth, follow the path of righteousness and experience peace. Share your love happily with all and lead your life with non-violence. This is the essence of education. These are the five main human values which should be propagated in the world. They are eternal and immortal. Today we run after all that is perishable, ignoring that which is immortal. The President of India has told you many important things. You can achieve great heights if you put his

teachings into practice. Every human being is endowed with these five human values. If we promote these five human values, we become God. The Vedas declare: *Tat Twam Asi* (That Thou Art). This profound statement of the Vedas contains the essence of all knowledge. Therefore, these five human values have to be inculcated in everyone right from childhood.

When you rely on truth, you can achieve anything in life. *Daivam Manusha Rupena* (God is in human form). God is not separate from man. All are the embodiments of divinity. The same principle of the Atma is present in all. But it assumes many names. Develop self-confidence. Face all difficulties with self-confidence. Whomsoever you see, consider him as your own reflection. God is beyond all attributes and actions. Develop the spirit of sacrifice. *Na Karmana Na Prajaya Dhanena Thyagenaike Amrutatthwamanasu* (immortality is not attained through action, progeny or wealth; it is attained only by sacrifice). You should be prepared to make any sacrifice. Have the firm conviction that you are God and God is not separate from you. Wherever you see, God is there. There is nothing else except God. Names and forms may be different, but the same principle of the Atma is present in all.

Practice of Human Values Promotes Unity and Harmony

All that man experiences is the result of his actions. It is already very late now. I do not want to cause inconvenience to you by speaking at length. It is enough if you know these five principles and put them into practice in your daily life. It is only by practising these five principles that you can know them, not merely by reading or writing about them. Any knowledge that is not put into practice



is no knowledge at all. Put into practice at least one or two principles in your life out of all that you have learnt. Then only will your life be redeemed and you will acquire merit. Then you would have followed the right path. You have heard many things from Me and Kalam. What is the use of all your listening if you do not put anything into practice? It is your rare fortune that you have got the opportunity of listening to such sacred talks. Make the best use of the opportunity and attain the goal of your life.

Lord Krishna declared in the Bhagavadgita, *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). You are all sparks of divinity. You are not mere mortals. You are not separate from Me. Being an aspect of My Divinity, you should conduct yourself accordingly. Do not waste your time in vain gossip. These five values have originated from God. Wherever you

see, there is the principle of unity. You and I are one. Many people ask Me about My true identity. I tell them, "You and I are one. You are not separate from Me." Consider all your fellowmen as your brothers and sisters and strengthen the bond of love with them. You should all stand united. Never give room for evil qualities like anger, hatred and jealousy. These qualities will create only differences. We should develop the five human values which will promote harmony and unity in the world. We should develop those qualities which will bring us closer to each other and not the ones which will distance us from each other. Leave the burden of all your responsibilities to God. This is My message to you today.

– **From Bhagavan's Benedictory Address in Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports, Prasanthi Nilayam on 22nd November 2006.**

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF SANATHANA SARATHI **Exhibition on "Journey with Sai"**

An exhibition of photographs and other audio-visual materials is proposed to be organised at Prasanthi Nilayam as part of golden jubilee celebrations of "Sanathana Sarathi" around Sivarathri 2007, highlighting the visits of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to various places. It will be based on the reports in "Sanathana Sarathi" and other relevant records. Copies of publications/ records giving details of these visits as also the relevant photographs, CDs, video films, documentaries, etc., are required by us for this purpose. All the material received will be gratefully acknowledged and safely returned, if required.

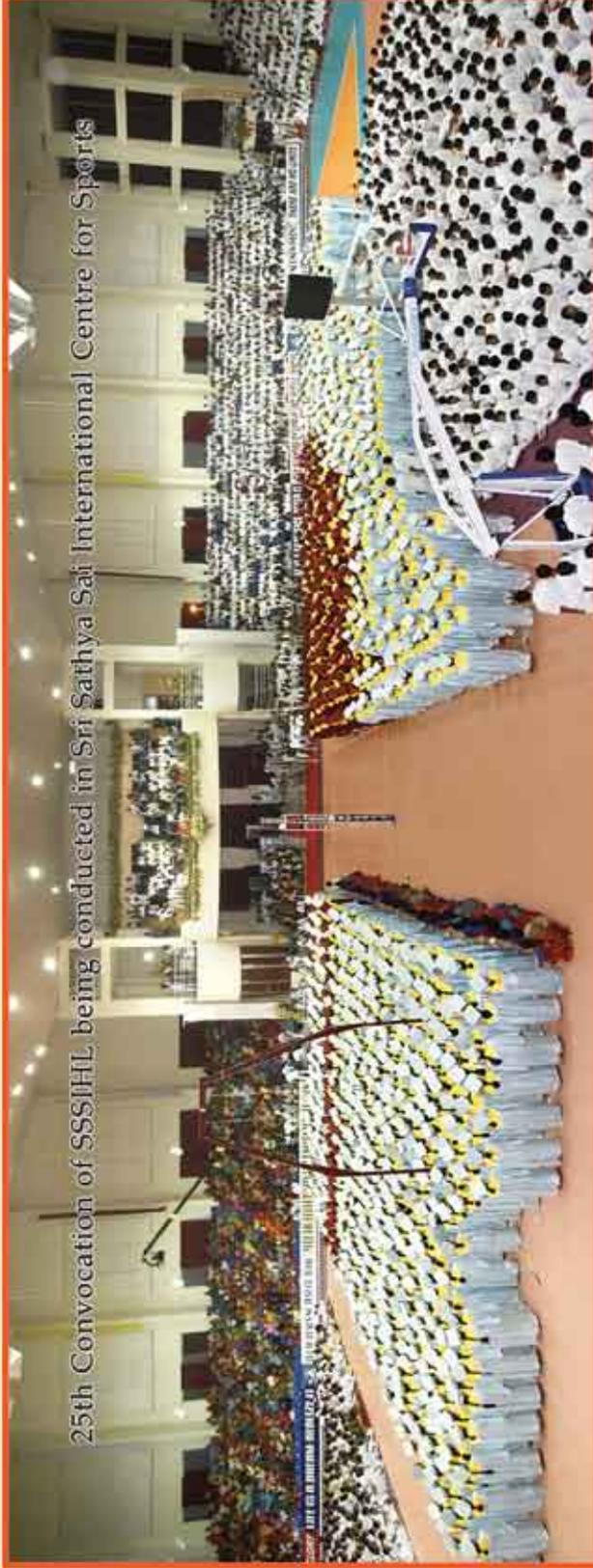
It is therefore appealed that those devotees / Sai Organisations who possess such materials may kindly send them to: The Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515 134, Dist. Anantapur (A.P.).
Email: editor@sssbpt.org

Convener
Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust

Panoramic view of Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports



25th Convocation of SSSIHL being conducted in Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports



SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING : ANOTHER PEAK OF GLORY

THE 25TH ANNUAL CONVOCATION of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, a deemed university instituted in 1981, was held in a glittering function held on 22nd November 2006 in the newly-built Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports, the biggest indoor sports stadium of India which envisages to provide sports facilities of international standard to sportspersons. The Chief Guest of the Convocation was Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the President of India. Other dignitaries who came to participate in this grand function included Sri Rameshwar Thakur, Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Sri T.N. Chaturvedi, Governor of Karnataka and Sri Vilasrao Deshmukh, Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

President Inaugurates Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports

The Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba arrived at the venue at 3.30 p.m. accompanied by the Chief Guest of the Convocation, Dr. A.P.J.

Abdul Kalam. The Chief Guest, Dr. Kalam first inaugurated the Institute's Commemorative Building which displayed the exhibits depicting the main events of its 25 glorious years. After taking a full round of the Commemorative Building along with Bhagavan, the Chief Guest came to the entrance of Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports and performed its inaugural ceremony.

On entering the indoor stadium, the Chief Guest and Bhagavan were greeted by the devotees and students seated in the stadium with a thunderous applause. As they took a full round of the stadium, the Institute brass band played joyous tunes. In the stadium, distinguished sportspersons and players of the teams participating in the inaugural function were introduced to them. They included cricket legend Kapil Dev, Olympic silver medalist Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, former badminton champion, Prakash Padukone, the basketball, badminton and volleyball teams and officials. After this, the ceremonial convocation procession of distinguished educationists and

dignitaries joined the Revered Chancellor and the Chief Guest. The inaugural function of the sports stadium began with the singing of National Anthem by the entire gathering.

At the outset, the Chief Guest was welcomed by the Registrar with a garland and by the Vice Chancellor of the Institute by offering him a bouquet of flowers. A special welcome was



Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports enchantingly lit at night on the day of its inauguration on 22nd November 2006 by the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

offered to Dr. Ram Setty and Smt. Usha Setty by whose munificence this world-class indoor stadium had become a reality. Thereafter, the master of ceremonies, Sri Sanjay Sahni, Principal, Brindavan Campus of the Institute extended a warm welcome to all and expressed gratitude to the Revered Chancellor for providing to the students and sportspersons international standard sports facilities by building this indoor stadium. The Vice Chancellor of the Institute praised the spirit of sacrifice of Dr. Setty and his family and remarked that it was an act of their worship for Bhagavan. Dr. Setty, in his speech, expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for the Divine grace He had been showering on his family and also for giving his family this opportunity to play a small part in His Divine Mission. After this, Sri Kapil Dev offered a bouquet to Bhagavan and Sri Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore to the Chief Guest, Dr. Kalam. Sharing his thoughts with the huge gathering, Sri Kapil Dev said, "As a sportsman, I have only a few words. What I see here is a paradise for sportspersons." He hoped that with this facility of a world-class indoor stadium, sports would blossom in the country and sportspersons of India would break many records with the grace of Bhagavan. Before the programme of sports, a short video film, "Life is a Game" was shown on the giant screen, which underlined the importance of the spirit of sportsmanship in the game of life. The sports events began with a short gymnastics display by Greek and Swiss athletes on Roman Rings and Trampoline, and a presentation of rhythmic gymnastics by two women gymnasts. What followed



The Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Chief Guest, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and other dignitaries watching the volleyball match between India and Sri Lanka played in Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports on the afternoon of 22nd November 2006.

next was an exciting volleyball match between India and Sri Lanka. India convincingly won the match in two straight games.

Introductory Speech of the Vice Chancellor

The proceedings of the 25th Convocation of the Institute began at 5.35 p.m. with Vedic chants by a group of Institute students. The Vice Chancellor of the Institute, Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak gave his introductory speech after the Convocation was declared open by the Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. At the outset, Sri Gokak extended a warm welcome to Dr. Abdul Kalam, the Chief Guest of the Convocation and thanked him for inaugurating the indoor stadium. Sri Gokak pointed out that this Institute had been acknowledged the world over as the model of value-based education. He expressed gratitude to Bhagavan, the Revered Chancellor of the Institute, for giving to the world this system of education which transformed students into persons of sterling character devoted to the service of mankind.

After the introductory speech of the Vice Chancellor, the graduands were



presented to the Revered Chancellor, the customary oath was administered to them and degrees were conferred on them. Meritorious students were then awarded gold medals by the Revered Chancellor.

Convocation Address by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

In his Convocation Address, the Chief Guest of the Convocation, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam stressed the need for combining education with spirituality, value system and social responsibility. Quoting from a message of Bhagavan Baba, he said that national unity and social harmony were founded on spirituality.



Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the Chief Guest of the 25th Convocation of the Institute, delivering his Convocation Address in Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports on 22nd November 2006. The Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, watching the proceedings.

Dr. Kalam congratulated the students of the Institute for their great good fortune that they were receiving such an ideal education under the Divine direction of Bhagavan Baba. He added, "When I see you all, how fortunate you are, getting full-fledged education with two components: the combination of learning which will make you a lifelong learner

and value system derived from Prasanthi Nilayam presided over by Sri Sathya Sai Baba."

The distinguished speaker narrated the success story of three alumni of the Institute how their grounding in the value system imbibed in the Institute helped them to surmount all difficult situations in their professional life. "These examples", he said, "illustrate how the Prasanthi Nilayam environment has inculcated self-confidence in the students that wherever they go, they uphold human values."

Dr. Kalam narrated the story of the life of Imam Ghazali which his father had told him when he was a high school student to tell the graduating students how they could win the divine goodness when they were faced with temptations of the world.

The learned speaker advised the students to hear the voice of their conscience. He said, "Conscience is the light of the soul that burns within the chambers of our psychological heart. It is as real as life is. It raises the voice in protest whenever anything is thought of or done contrary to righteousness." He also advised the students to keep away from sinful acts and corrupting thoughts which destroy the conscience of man.

In conclusion, Dr. Kalam referred to the Divine Mission of Bhagavan Baba which was an ideal for all to follow. He said, "Giving drinking water to millions of people in hundreds of villages, conducting 15,000 open heart surgeries successfully, giving higher level of education with value system, and above all removing the pain of people psychologically and physiologically



with heavenly blessing and modern medicine is indeed a divine mission.”

As soon as Dr. Kalam was seated in his chair after delivering his Convocation Address, Bhagavan materialised a gold ring with nine gems and gave it to him.

Benedictory Message of the Revered Chancellor

After the Convocation Address of Dr. Kalam, the Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba gave His Benedictory Message reiterating

His assurance that He would take care of all the burdens of man if he surrendered to Him. (Full text of Bhagavan’s Benedictory Message has been given elsewhere in this issue.)

In the end, there was a brief programme of fusion music presented by renowned artistes Mandolin U. Srinivas and U. Rajesh to the accompaniment of the distinguished percussionist Sri Anandan Sivamani. The grand Convocation function of the Institute came to a conclusion at 7.55 p.m. with the singing of National Anthem by the entire gathering.

SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Deemed University accredited by NAAC at A⁺⁺ level)

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

TeleFax: (08555) 287239 Website: www.sssih.edu.in E-mail: registrar@sssih.edu.in ; admission@sssih.edu.in



Sathya Sai Mirपुरi College of Music

Admission Notice

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning offers the following courses under the auspices of the Sathya Sai Mirपुरi College of Music in Prasanthi Nilayam (for boys). The admissions will be made for the Academic Year commencing from June 2007.

FULL-TIME COURSES

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

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

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

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

Application forms will be available from **1st December 2006 to 28th February 2007.**

Admission to the above Courses will be on the basis of Admission Test and Interview which will be held in May 2007, at Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh.

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

Registrar

NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

POLAND

THE DUBENINKI AND ZYTKIEJMY regions of Poland bordering Russia are economically disadvantaged regions in the country. The efforts of the Sathya Sai devotees to help these people through a free medical camp last year was rewarded manifold this year when devotees sought to conduct a similar medical camp again. Last year, 30 Sai volunteers including three doctors saw 210 patients and at the same time renovated a house, ran a Bal Vikas programme, conducted a workshop for women and organised a beautiful Christmas programme for 200 impoverished people. In response, this year the local authorities provided the Sai devotees with a school bus to transport patients from nearby villages and gave them an entire school building to conduct the camp. From 5th – 9th July 2006, 90 Sai volunteers from Poland, Germany and Ukraine combined their efforts to see 400 patients in five days. During the camp, Sai young adults looked after 90 local children, teaching them EHV. In addition, a group of volunteers undertook the task of building a home for one of the poorest families. As the home was being built, the family including a five-year-old child helped the Sai volunteers. At the end of the day, the family had tears of joy and appreciation as they were able to provide a home for themselves and for their ailing patriarch who was transported from a nearby hospital. Many villagers said: “We thought that God had forgotten us, but He sent us angels.”

ARGENTINA

For the first time in Argentina, a one-day seminar was organised for public health



Sai young adults imparting human values to children of an impoverished region of Poland.

professionals on 9th August 2006. The seminar covering the topic of loving, compassionate healthcare and quality of life was organised by the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation and co-sponsored by the Institute of Neurobiology and the Secretary of Science and Technology. The meeting was attended by 70 health professionals. In his opening remarks, the Director of the Institute of Neurobiology observed that this was the first time such an approach to modern medicine was being taken and he thanked the leadership of the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation for it. Other speakers reiterated that paying attention to the mind and spirit of the patient complements the role of modern medicine and helps the patient. The example of such pioneering work in healthcare by Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences in India was cited. This was followed by a description of the work done by the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation in Argentina with particular reference to weekly medical camps run in villages. All participants expressed a sense of gratitude to the Sathya

Sai Baba Organisation for the renewed approach to healthcare with attention to the body, mind and spirit.

U. S. A.

In Southern California, devotees from the Sathya Sai Centres of Arcadia, Glendale, Hollywood, Los Angeles, Lakewood, Lomita, Torrance and Upland gathered together on 9th



In their attempt to bring joy in the life of physically and mentally challenged children, many Sai Centres in the U.S.A. joined together to organise a fun-filled picnic on a beach for these children and shared their love with them.

September 2006 at the Dockweiler Beach to share the love of Sai with over 60 children with physical and mental disabilities. This annual loving service provides memorable joy not only to the children but also to their parents.

Each year, among the Sai volunteers, young adults constitute a major working group who, with their energy, charm and devotion to Bhagavan, are easily able to bring a smile to the children. This year, the day began with a special welcome to all the children with a garland for each. They were then escorted to the picnic site. Children and Sai devotees shared in activities like swimming, building sand castles, collecting sea shells, playing beach volleyball and baseball. A delicious lunch and dessert was followed by a

music programme in a tent in which everyone participated. At the end of the day, the children were safely sent off to their homes in a bus. The children felt the love and joy of Bhagavan percolating through the devotees' words and actions. It is in selfless service to the needy that Bhagavan's presence is often felt and surely on that day, everyone felt the omnipresent grace of Bhagavan.

A free medical camp was conducted in Pineland, Texas on 15th July 2006. The camp was conducted in the Harvest Way Church by 120 Sai volunteers including nine physicians. During the day, 263 patients were seen. The small town was ravaged by Hurricane Rita and to surmount logistical difficulties, several Sai volunteers travelled to Pineland the day before the camp to set up the facility. The Seva began with a universal prayer chanted



A free medical camp was conducted by 120 Sai volunteers including nine physicians in the Harvest Way Church, Pineland, Texas where health screening and medical help was provided to patients on 15th July 2006.

by the pastor of the church. In addition to routine health exam, patients were directed to separate booths where health screening for diabetes, hypertension, obesity, vision, dental health, scoliosis and mammograms were used for breast cancer screening.



Health education was provided on diet, physical activity, meditation and emotional and developmental disorders. Some other volunteers visited local nursing homes where they talked and gave company to the elderly. Both the volunteers and the patients felt a sense of peace that they were in the hands of the Lord.

CANADA

A public meeting was held in Toronto on 26th May 2006 on the topic of "Science and Spirituality." The meeting was addressed by Sri Anil Kumar, a faculty member of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, and attended by about 600 people. In his talk, Sri Anil Kumar quoted Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and said that while science was conditioned and limited to the senses, spirituality rose above the physical senses. Science, he said, was regarded as an experiment while spirituality was an experience and urged the scientists to understand the full significance of human life. On 27th May 2006, Sri Anil Kumar performed the ground breaking ceremony of the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre of Scarborough. The ceremony began at 6.00 a.m. with prayer to Bhagavan. About 1,000 people attended the event including Hon. George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long Term Care and Hon. Derek Lee, Member of Parliament and Sri Bal Balkisson, Member of Provincial Parliament. All four dignitaries addressed the audience on this occasion. In his keynote address, Sri Anil Kumar noted the significance of loving service and said that the Sai Centre would be a beacon of Service, Adoration and Illumination. Hon. George Smitherman said that he was confident that with so much love among the devotees, the Sai Centre would form a strong support for the

Province of Ontario. In a separate address to the youths on 24th May 2006, Sri Anil Kumar extolled the virtues of an inspiring teacher and observed that he provided the avenues for lifelong learning by integrating human values with education. He said that Sri Sathya Sai Baba is the teacher of teachers and His Life is His Message. About 320 youths from Canada attended the meeting. The talks were well received, providing a clear message to live a life guided by human values.

On 3rd June 2006, the Sai Centre of Edmonton embarked on a city beautification programme. Two sets of flower beds and 600 trees were planted along a ravine near the Sathya Sai Centre. The trees were provided by the city while the flowers, labour and love were from the Sai devotees.

UZBEKISTAN

Tashkent, widely regarded as one of the oldest and most beautiful cities of Central Asia, is the capital of Uzbekistan. British Blues singer Dana Gillespie who is a Sai devotee visited Tashkent from 5th to 9th October 2006. During this time, she visited an orphanage in Tashkent, participated in two public appearances and paid homage to the tomb of Prophet Daniel in Samarkand. On 6th October 2006, a public meeting was held at the Guzari Café. About 80 people attended this meeting. The keynote speaker was Sri Steen Piculell. He spoke on the Divine message of the Sai Avatar and His mission. He also elaborated on the importance of human values. On 7th October 2006, a concert was held at the Music Palace in Tashkent. The concert hall with a capacity of 450 was nearly full. The melodious songs in the concert were interspersed with recapitulation of Dana's experiences with Bhagavan and her love for Sai. At the



end of the concert, the Director of the Music Palace was stunned by the performance and love for Swami. Many people in the audience who were not familiar with Swami showed interest in knowing more about Bhagavan.

U. A. E.

On 22nd September 2006, the Abu Dhabi Sai Centre conducted their second annual workshop on SSEHV in the auditorium of Zayed University. A total of 190 teaching faculty from 10 schools, three colleges and two universities took part in this workshop. The workshop was inaugurated by Sri C.M. Bhandari, Indian Ambassador to the U.A.E. Professor Reynolds McPherson, Chancellor



Abu Dhabi Sai Centre organised their second annual workshop in the auditorium of Zayed University, Abu Dhabi on 2nd September 2006.

of the Abu Dhabi University, awarded the speakers and participants with the graduation certificates. The one-day workshop included discussions on topics such as tradition and family values, human values in education and society, dynamic parenting with human values and integration of human values with undergraduate level curriculum.

Human values theme songs were written and sung by SSE students. The programme was regarded as a success with the universities inviting the Sathya Sai Organisation for future workshops in their campuses.

– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

B H A R A T

Andhra Pradesh: As part of Grama Seva, Ranga Reddy district renovated the Hanuman temple in Rukumpally village, distributed Amruta Kalasams (food provisions) to 15 poor families, distributed new clothes to 85 persons, and dresses to 108 Bal Vikas children. The district presented one DVD player, one mega phone and two sewing machines to the Kerelly Community Centre. This district conducted a veterinary camp in Thummalapally village, treating 788 cattle for different ailments. It conducted a medical camp, treating 500 patients and distributed biscuit packets and Sai Protein food to 90 students on 15th and 16th October 2006 in Thummalapally village.

Kadapa district started giving midday meals to selected 10 people on permanent basis at Vainpally town.

Vijayanagaram district conducts Narayana Seva for 200 poor people on every first Sunday of the month in Kothavalasa village. It serves midday meals to 12 selected helpless people daily in Kothavalasa village. It also provides 10 kg rice and 1 kg Dhal to 65 selected people every month in this village. The district conducted a free medical camp in Srungavarapu Kota village, treating 189 patients. It also conducted a veterinary camp, treating 254 cattle and 157 goats in Veerabhadra Peta village on 18th October 2006.

West Godavari district gave new clothes to 36 Blind Home Children, new



dress and fireworks to 250 children in Juvenile Home on the occasion of Deepavali festival at Eluru and carried out Narayana Seva during Dasara in many units.

As part of Grama Seva, Srikakulam district carried out village sanitation, chlorination of wells and homoeo medical camps in 9 villages. The district came to the rescue of fire victims of Rushikudda village by giving utensils, 10 kg rice and new clothes to each of the 22 families affected by the accident. The district conducted free medical camps in a tribal village, Polla treating 346 patients, in Vatapayan village, treating 265 patients, in Amudalavalasa, treating 318 patients, and in Rama Rai, treating 195 patients.

Assam, Manipur and N.E. States: The spacious Marar Park of Nagaon in Central Assam teemed with activity where 978 boys and girls from 48 schools, their parents and teachers assembled on the morning of Sunday, 5th November 2006 to participate in the on-the-spot painting competition organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Nagaon. In keeping with Swami's ideals, no entry fee was charged and art papers were provided to all the participants. The park was tastefully decorated with Bhagavan's messages hanging from trees. An unmistakable aura of Swami's love permeated the cool November morning's atmosphere. Started in 1997 with just 8 participants, this endeavour of Nagaon Sai Samithi to attract youngsters to wholesome pursuits in the fields of art and culture and reach out to diverse sections of the people with Swami's message has indeed made great strides.

As part of Sri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi of Agartala organised its 4th Gita

Recitation Contest, 2006 for children (Class I to Class X) on 16th August 2006 at the ONGC Auditorium. 298 students from different schools of Agartala took part in this contest. Winners were awarded trophies and merit certificates. In the evening, a beautiful cultural programme on the life of Krishna was presented by Bal Vikas students. A special Bhajan was also organised till midnight.

Bal Vikas Day, 2006 was organised on 10th September 2006 at the historic Kangla Hall, Kangla, Imphal by the Imphal West district Samithi in collaboration with Khurai



Bal Vikas children presenting cultural items on Bal Vikas Day held at Kangla Hall, Kangla, Imphal on 10th September 2006.

Samithi and Mantripukhri Samithi. More than 400 devotees including Bal Vikas children, Bal Vikas Gurus and invitees attended the function. The celebration started at 10.30 a.m. It concluded at 3.30 p.m. with the presentation of gifts and mementoes to Bal Vikas children.

Gujarat: Bal Vikas is a unique gift of Bhagavan. It is bringing about spiritual awareness in children and their parents. Keeping this in mind, a programme was carved out for a period of seven days from 1st November throughout the State. Many programmes were organised during this period.

An elocution competition was organised for Bal Vikas children. More



than 200 children participated in it. Subjects such as "Importance of Namasmarana", "My Favourite Saint", "God is Love, Live in Love", "How I Get Inspiration from Prasanthi Nilayam", "Importance of Discipline in Life", etc., were chosen on the basis of Bal Vikas groups. Some districts arranged Veda chanting competitions to create awareness in students. About 50 students participated in this event. In all units, children who had good voice were encouraged to lead Bhajans in the Bhajan Hall on Thursdays. More than 200 children participated in spiritual games competition. These games develop power of discrimination so as to know what is good and what is bad.

Bal Vikas rallies were held on 5th November 2006 in all districts. Duly decorated floats carried children with placards, on which Bhagavan's



Bal Vikas rallies were held in all the districts of Gujarat on 5th November 2006, creating awareness in people about the teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

messages were painted in attractive colours and background. The parents of participating children also joined the procession from beginning to end. Sai Bhajans and

Veda chanting were carried out in the rally by the children and parents which surcharged the atmosphere and attracted the attention of the public.

A Vedic mathematics scholar offered his services to teach Bal Vikas children for six days. In addition to elementary knowledge of Vedic mathematics, he taught how to do three or four digit multiplication in three to four seconds. More than 150 children in various age-groups and their parents took advantage of this unique opportunity.

A team of six doctors performed dental check-up of Bal Vikas children and their parents. More than 160 children and their parents benefited from this service.

Kerala: A three-day centralised camp on Veda teaching was held at Thiruvananthapuram on 15th, 16th, 17th September 2006. 54 trainers, who are engaged in teaching the Vedas in the Sai Organisation, attended the camp and formulated uniform policy. Sri Sathya Sai Veda Pathasalas have already started teaching the Vedas.

Mahila Vibhag (ladies wing) is concentrating on the 'Mother and Child' programme. They are also arranging parenting sessions. They have now adopted visually challenged girls students in colleges to help them in their studies.

In Ernakulam district, Sai Youth have been serving HIV positive patients for the last one year. Medical camps, counselling, distribution of Sai protein, Sadhana camps, Bhajans are some of the other activities undertaken by the Sai Youth.

Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh: Gora Kanhari and Jalda are two villages inhabited by the tribals of Bega community. A team of nine prominent doctors and two





A total of 3,150 villagers benefited from the medical camps held in the tribal villages of Kanhari and Jalda by Sai volunteers and doctors.

paramedicals came from Jabalpur to hold medical camps with the help of two local doctors and six local paramedicals and 30 Seva Dal volunteers (22 gents and 8 ladies) in these villages. Patients were examined and free medicines, proteins and vitamins were distributed. A total of 3,150 villagers benefited from these camps. Besides 1,000 blankets and 750 sweaters were distributed to the expectant mothers and other deserving persons. The Collector and local medical authorities extended help by providing three ambulances for bringing the patients from distant places. Narayana Seva was also performed for over 3,000 persons at both the places after they were medically examined and given the medicines. The medicines were provided through the good offices of Sri Sathya Sai State Trust.

Salua is a small village with a population of 700 persons in Kanhiwara tehsil, Seoni district. The village is situated at a plateau on the bank of a small stream which lies much below the level of the village. There are about 150 acres of land owned by 40 agriculturist families. There is only one Kharif crop during the year dependent on the

rains only. 75% of the village population are tribal labourers who are always in search for employment.

A few devotees of Sri Sathya Sai Samithi of Kanhiwara thought of making a small irrigation project so that the land which is otherwise quite fertile can get water, which will bring more crops and give employment to the labourers also.

The project was started on 12th October 2005. A stop dam and an intake well on the stream were constructed and water was lifted with the help of an electric motor. A non-return valve was also provided. 3,000 ft long



A lift irrigation scheme formulated by Sri Sathya Sai Samithi of Kanhiwara for village Salua in Seoni district provided water for irrigating 150 acres of land.

pipeline was laid, with the help of which the water was transported from the well to the other end of the village where



a small canal already existed. Through the canal, the water could flow by force of gravity to irrigate the fields. A 300 feet road was also constructed. Nearly 250 villagers, men, women and children worked day and night to complete the project, which was inaugurated by the State President on 30th January 2006. A small pump house and a small Ganesh temple were constructed on the style of Prasanthi Nilayam architecture. Nearly 7,000 villagers from surrounding villages participated in the inaugural ceremony. All of them were served food. The whole atmosphere was surcharged with festivity. A regular Bhajan Mandali now exists in the village. The villagers are confident that with the blessings of Bhagavan, they will be able to lead a happy life.

Orissa: In order to supply safe drinking water to people, 76 water samples were collected from adopted villages and Sri Sathya Sai schools, and these were tested in Orissa State Public Health Laboratory. Presence of fluoride was detected in five samples and accordingly steps are taken to install water purifiers at these places. 431 plastic filters have been supplied and five online connections will be installed in different districts of the State. In the adopted village Tumkela of Rourkela Samithi in Sundergarh district, a permanent safe drinking water tank is under construction.

A grand programme of Seva was conducted for 41 days at Ambodala, Rayagada district from 9th August 2006 to 15th September 2006. During these 41 days, as many as 41 service activities were carried out which included medical camps, Bhajans, programmes for Bal Vikas students and Gurus, Narayana Seva, distribution of clothes, tree plantation and Veda chanting.

Sai Youth and other members of Bhubaneswar, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur and Cuttack served the flood-affected people of Kendrapara and Cuttack districts by reaching villages even by walking miles with the load of food and other materials on their head in neck deep flood water. Flood victims numbering 2,033 benefited from this Seva. Service to affected people was provided from 2nd September 2006 to 18th September 2006. Medical camps and veterinary camps were organised in flood-affected areas of Kendrapara and Cuttack districts.

Seva is the manifestation of love. The expression of love is seen in the adoption of three slums by Rourkela Samithi in Sundergarh district where 500 leprosy patients have been rehabilitated. They stay with their family members in a happy and healthy atmosphere. Sai devotee doctors and doctors of I.G.H., Rourkela dress the wounds of patients, feed them medicine and provide health education



Rourkela Samithi provides safe drinking water to slum areas inhabited by leprosy patients. The Samithi has adopted three slums where 500 leprosy patients have been rehabilitated.



Sai volunteers have been trained to dress and clean the wounds of leprosy patients. They perform this service lovingly.

tips. Apart from treatment and care, safe drinking water on regular basis, dresses, blankets and food packets are given to them with love on festive occasions. 15 Sai active workers (ladies and gents) have been trained by doctors to clean and dress the wounds of leprosy patients and they have lovingly taken up the sacred Seva.

Sickle cell anaemia and thalassaemia are genetic diseases that cripple thousands in western Orissa. On 17th September 2006, State President, Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Orissa inaugurated a centre for identification, counselling and treatment of people affected by the above two main diseases, to which 7 specialist doctors are attached. The district health administration has also assured needed help for the patients through blood bank.

After the State-level Conference of Sai devotee doctors on 23rd April 2006, 81 doctors so far have given written consent to form a network of holistic helpline of doctors throughout the State which is proposed to be launched in December 2006 under the fold of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Orissa.

A seminar on “Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Universal Teacher and His Message

– Educare” was held on 8th September 2006 in the premises of Purusottam Engineering College, Rourkela of Sundergarh district, in which 450 engineering students, all faculty members, Principal of the college and Vice President of the Institute participated. They were thrilled to learn the message of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

A Seminar on “Seva Experience” was conducted by the Sai Youth of Cuttack on 25th October 2006 for the students of three leading colleges of Cuttack city and Youth members of villages who actively participated in the multifaceted service and cultural module programme, Barnali. In all, 239 youth joined the seminar. This seminar was highly inspiring for youth. It focused on academic, behaviour and personality excellence.

Tamil Nadu: The festival of Ramzan was celebrated in Chennai on Tuesday, 25th October 2006. Muslim brothers and sisters



Soft drinks being served to Muslim brothers on the festival of Ramzan by Sai Youth in Chennai.

assembled in large numbers in mosques and other popular places in the morning and broke their fast after Namaz. Island grounds in Chennai is one such popular place, where special arrangements were made for Namaz.

About 2,000 Muslim brothers assembled at this place and offered their prayers.



Sai Youth of Chennai Metro (north and south districts) offered soft drinks to Muslim brothers to end their fast. The Sai Youth also exchanged Eid Mubarak greetings by wishing and embracing the Muslim brothers. Similar Seva activity was undertaken in a mosque in K.K. Nagar, Chennai by Sai Youth of Chennai Metro West district. 15 members participated in this Seva and distributed orange juice to around 1,000 Muslim brothers. This unique Seva is being performed over a decade in Chennai.



Sai Youth of Chennai Metro distributed 1,500 blankets to needy people on footpaths, streets and old age homes as Bhagavan's 81st Birthday gift.

Sai Youth of Chennai Metro (north, south and west) districts distributed 1,500 blankets to old people living on the streets in and around Chennai and a few old age homes as a part of Seva on the occasion of Bhagavan's 81st Birthday. Sai Youth went round the city in batches during night hours and gave the blankets to those who were sleeping without proper clothes on the footpaths or the streets, irrespective of their caste, creed or community. These people were informed that the blankets were Bhagavan's Birthday gift to them. Each and every recipient was surprised by this

unexpected and most appropriate gift as it was the need of the hour. They expressed their delight and gratitude in their own way. They were all emotionally moved. Sai Youth who participated in this Seva experienced boundless bliss. They profusely thanked Bhagavan for giving them this noble opportunity of rendering the Seva of blanket distribution. Blankets were also distributed to the inmates of three old age homes.

ANNOUNCEMENT

With the blessings of Bhagavan, the Board of Directors of Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation has been expanded as follows:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1) Dr. Michael Goldstein | - | Chairman and Director |
| 2) Sri H.J. Dora | - | Director |
| 3) Sri Anil Gokak | - | Director |
| 4) Sri A. Ramakrishna | - | Director |
| 5) Dr. Narendranath Reddy | - | Director |

- Dr. Michael Goldstein

How Strange this World is!

CHINNA KATHA

A YOUNG MAN, IN HIS EFFORT to acquire the knowledge of many spiritual subjects, used to meet everyday his Guru who lived outside the village. One day, he kept listening to the talk of



The young man's father, mother and wife started crying loudly, considering him dead.

his Guru on some important spiritual questions for a long time. Meanwhile, it became dark. So, the Guru asked his disciple to stay that night in the Ashram. But the disciple said, "Oh revered Guru! I must reach my house at night. My mother, my father and my wife will be very much worried by my absence. All of them love me very much. If anything untoward happens to me, they will end their life. Therefore, I have to go."

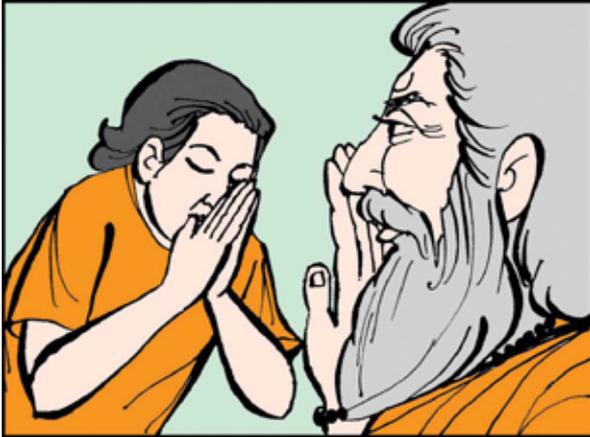
The Guru heard all this and sent him home, saying, "Oh dear son! Take this pill. After reaching home, put it in your mouth and drink some water. You will become like a dead man for some time, but you will be able to hear all

that transpires around you. Then you yourself can know who is saying what."

The young man came home and did as instructed by the Guru. Seeing him lying unconscious, all the inmates of the house started crying loudly, considering him dead. Their neighbours also came there to sympathise with them. After some time, the Guru also entered their house on the pretext of coming this side for some work. After hearing everything, the Guru said, "I will bring him back to life. But do what I say." All the people in the house told the Guru, "Swami! We will surely do what you ask us to do." Then the Guru said, "See! In order to bring him back to life, one of you should be prepared to die. After chanting a Mantra (incantation), I will sprinkle water on him from my Kamandalu (a water pot) and he will get up." Saying this, the Guru first asked the mother of the young man, "Amma!



The Guru asked the young man's mother, father and wife in turn if any of them was prepared to die to bring him back to life. But none was prepared for it.



“Swami! Now I have understood the real import of worldly life,” said the young man to his Guru.

Are you prepared to die for your son?” The mother replied, “Swami! I have other children to look after. Who will take care of them when I die? What will happen to them when I am no more?” Then the Guru put the same

question to the young man’s father. He said, “I have the responsibility for the maintenance of the entire family. Isn’t it? How can I die?” Thereafter, the Guru asked the young man’s wife. “Dear daughter! For a wife, her husband is everything. Isn’t it? I think, you will have no objection to die for his sake.” The wife said, “I am the only daughter of my parents. They will be very sad if I die.”

Meanwhile, the young man’s father said to the Guru, “Oh revered Guru! My son was so very dear to you. Isn’t it? Why don’t you die? We will construct a good Samadhi (tomb) for you and will worship you with great devotion and dedication.” All this talk opened the eyes of the young man. He got up immediately and said to his Guru, “Swami! Now I have understood the real import of Samsara (worldly life). I will go with you to the Ashram and spend the remaining part of my life there.”

NOTICE

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences (SSSIHMS) - Prasanthigram is currently having Cardiology, Cardio Vascular Surgery, Urology, Plastic Surgery, and Ophthalmology & Orthopaedics as fully functional departments.

DIALYSIS AND RENAL TRANSPLANTS ARE NOT UNDERTAKEN PRESENTLY.

All services in this hospital are offered completely free of cost to one and all by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

All the patients are treated only on “first come first served” basis only.

To avoid inconvenience, patients desiring treatment in any of these departments are requested to take prior appointment by post or email. The existing copies of medical reports if available may be sent to the hospital to expedite the process.

Address for communication:

P.R.O.

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Prasanthigram

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Email: adminpg@sssihms.org.in

Phone: +91-8555-287388 ext. 508

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Director

SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING



(Deemed University accredited by NAAC at A⁺⁺ level)

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TeleFax: (08555) 287239 Website: www.sssih.edu.in E-mail: registrar@sssih.edu.in ; admission@sssih.edu.in

Admission Notice

Admission for the Academic Year commencing from June 2007
will be made for the following Courses:

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

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

Anantapur Campus (for Women): B.A., B.Com.(Hons), B.Sc.(Home Science), B.Sc.(Hons) in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biosciences; B.Ed., M.A.(English), M.A.(Telugu), M.Sc.(Home Science) with specialisation in (a) Food Science & Nutrition and (b) Food Technology.

Eligibility for Admission:

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

Postgraduate Courses: 10+2+3 pattern of study. A First class (minimum of 60% marks in aggregate in all the three years of study) in respective degrees with 50% in General English and in case of M.Sc.(Home Science) – B.Sc.(Biosciences) and B.Sc.(MPC) candidates are also eligible to apply.

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

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

M.Tech.(Applied Optics): A First class (60% and above) both in the first degree and M.Sc.(Physics)/B.E./B.Tech. levels of examination with a background in Optics and Electromagnetic Theory.

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

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

Admission to all the above courses will be on the basis of Admission Test and Interview which will be held in May 2007, at Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh.

Application form along with Information Handbook will be available from 1st December 2006 to 28th February 2007.

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

Registrar