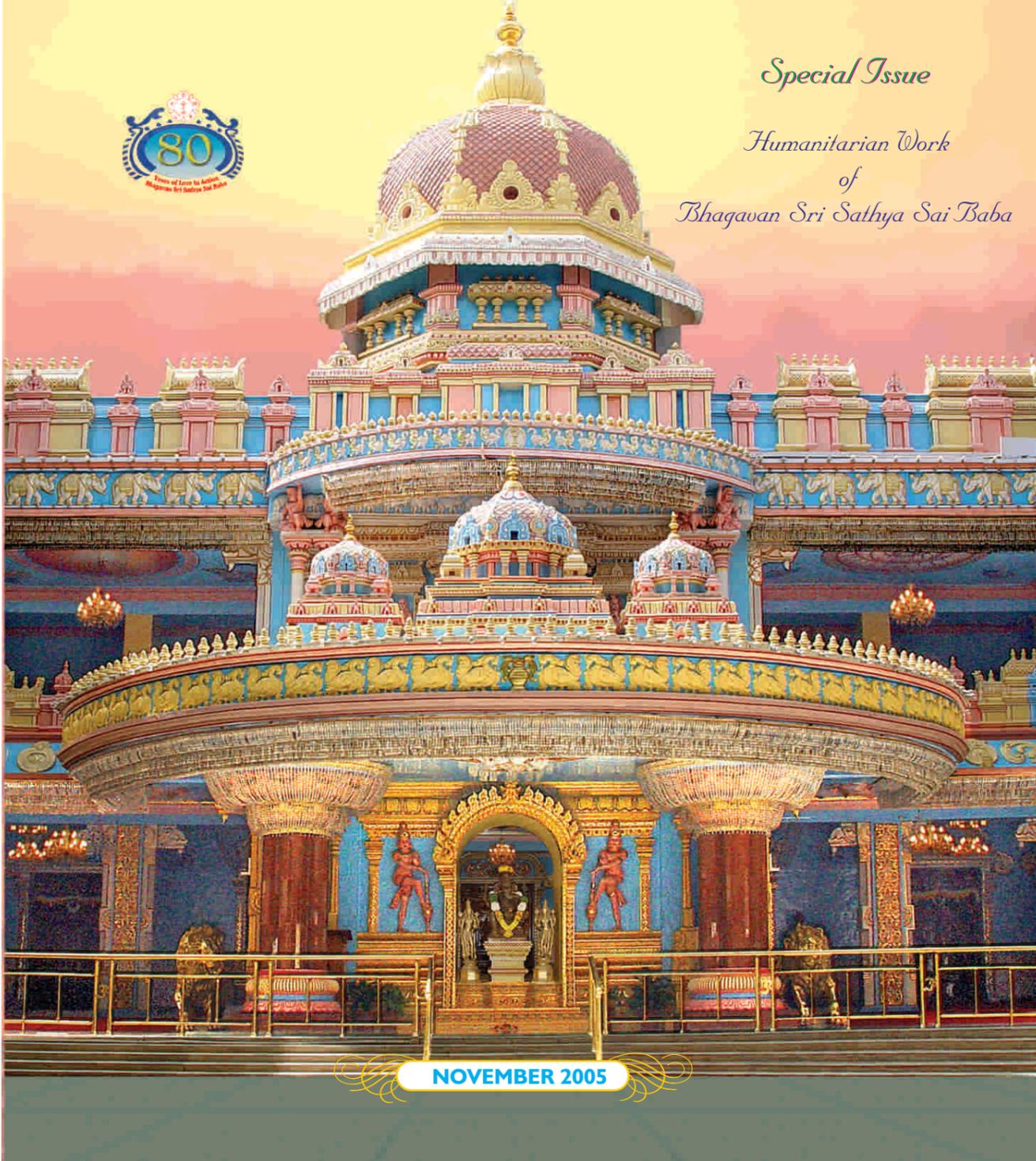




# Sanathana Sarathi

*Special Issue*

*Humanitarian Work  
of  
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba*



NOVEMBER 2005

# Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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*"Seva is the worship you offer to God in the heart of everyone".*

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## EXPERIENCING DIVINE GLORY

**M**AN has been trying to fathom the mystery of the universe and its creation since the dawn of human history. The Vedas, which are the most ancient texts of the world, also dwell on this subject in depth. According to the Vedas, the universe is as perfect and full as its Creator. The fundamental truth of the wholeness and fullness of the universe is stated in the following verse of "Isavasyopanishad":

*Purnamada Purnamidam Purnat Purnamudachyate,  
Purnasya Purnamadaya Purnameva Avashishyate.*

(That is full; this is also full. From the perfect fullness of Brahman came the perfect fullness of this universe, leaving perfect fullness as the remainder.)

Governed as it is by divine cosmic laws, the functioning of the universe is also absolutely perfect. It maintains perfect wholeness at the cosmic level as human organism demonstrates it at the microscopic level. Just as any malfunctioning in one part of the body evokes automatic reaction from the whole body, similarly, any disturbance in any part of the universe affects the whole of it and gives rise to spontaneous reaction. The consciousness that is immanent in man permeates the entire universe also. Individual consciousness of man is therefore closely linked with cosmic consciousness. When colossal changes occur in the total consciousness of mankind on earth, there occur drastic changes in the universe which tries to restore the harmony and equilibrium affected by these changes. Thus, the cosmic law which operates in the universe comes into action to correct the errors committed by the individuals constituting the cosmos. To save the world from chaos and destruction, divine forces intervene at such junctures. Saints, sages and seers are born on earth to bring about correction in the consciousness of man and avert massive disasters. However, at certain critical periods of human history, God Himself incarnates on earth in human form. In the vocabulary of Indian spirituality, these incarnations are called Avatars. They operate on much larger scale than the saints and sages, annihilate the evil forces, protect the righteous and re-establish Dharma on firm footing in the heart of man as Dwapar Yuga Avatar, Lord Krishna declares in the Bhagavadgita:

*Paritranya Sadhunam Vinashayacha Dushkritam,  
Dharma Samsthapanarthaya Sambhavami Yuge Yuge.*

(To protect the righteous people and to destroy the wicked ones, I incarnate from Age to Age to establish Dharma.)

Avatars promote goodness and human values and bring about large-scale transformation in the consciousness of man so as to restore Dharma to its pristine glory. The word Dharma here does not refer to a particular religion as it

is understood in the present sense of the term. It is the eternal religion of man and so it is called Sanathana Dharma. Sanathana Dharma has no founder unlike other religions of the world which are based on the lives of their founders. It is rooted in the Vedas which are eternal and timeless. Explaining the divine origin of the Vedas, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba says, "The Vedas have not emanated from any human individual. They are, in fact, words and sounds that have been uttered by God".

Bhagavan has declared that He has incarnated on earth for Dharma Rakshana and Veda Poshana (protection of Dharma and fostering of the Vedas). Bhagavan has therefore been promoting the teaching of the Vedas and exhorting mankind to adhere to truth, love, righteousness and honesty in life which will certainly reinforce Sanathana Dharma, raise the consciousness of man and restore balance, harmony and equilibrium of the universe. Sanathana Dharma is, in fact, the most precious gift to man by the Supreme Being who is called by different names, like God, Allah, Bhagavan, Paramatma, Brahman or Ishwar by different people of the world. Bhagavan has incarnated to fulfil His Divine Mission of protection of Dharma and redemption of mankind. He has emphatically declared: "The calamity that has come upon mankind will be averted. A new Golden Age will recur. I shall not fail. It is not the nature of Avatars to fail." To further emphasise His point, Bhagavan has declared on numerous occasions that He has come with full glory of God to accomplish the mission He has undertaken. To quote His words: "In My present Avatar, I have come armed with fullness of the power of Formless God to correct mankind, raise human consciousness and put people on the path of truth, righteousness, peace and love, leading to Divinity". There are millions of people from all parts of the world who have witnessed the effulgence of Divine Glory embodied in the human form of Bhagavan and have experienced the truth of His Divinity which He has been manifesting since His childhood.

80th year of the Advent of Bhagavan is a singularly significant occasion when we should reaffirm our faith in the teachings of Bhagavan and put them into practice in our lives, lest we should lose the rare opportunity. Jesus said, "Knock, and it shall be opened unto to you". Fortunately, we are living in an Age when God Himself is knocking at every door of human heart and declaring emphatically: "During no previous age did man have this unique chance. No organisation of this nature was established, no conference of this character was held in the presence of the Avatar and no opportunity was given then to derive Ananda (bliss) through such close association, through conversation and singing together. Undoubtedly, you are all singularly fortunate". In earlier centuries, the cataract of disbelief did not allow a large population to recognise the Divine Beings when they came in the forms of Jesus, Nanak, Mohammad, Rama, Krishna, Buddha and Zoroastra. Let's not become one of those doubting Thomases. Let's open the door of our heart when this rare opportunity is virtually knocking at our door.

Every Avatar is unique and His way of teaching is also unique. One of the uniquenesses of this Avatar is that He keeps Himself engaged in the service of mankind constantly at all times. In fact, no Avatar or prophet has worked so tirelessly to do the greatest good of the greatest number of people as Bhagavan. He does not make any distinction between Seva (selfless

service) and Sadhana (spiritual practice). In fact, He considers selfless service as the greatest spiritual practice. He declares, “Hands that Serve are Holier than the Lips that Pray”. Explaining the true meaning of Seva which makes a man deserving of God’s grace, Bhagavan says, “Though the service of humanity is holy, unless it is merged in the higher ideal of Madhava Seva (service to God), realising the Lord immanent in everyone, adoring the Lord in this person and that, there is no profit at all. One should have full faith in the divinity of man, and service should be offered in the uninterrupted contemplation of the Lord”.

Bhagavan has given the essence of His supreme teachings in the axioms like, “Manava Seva is Madhava Seva” (service to man is service to God), “Love All, Serve All”, “Help Ever, Hurt Never”. These are not mere words or empty slogans. He has put them into practice in His own life, and so He declares, “My Life is My Message”. Bhagavan is infusing these ideals in His students and devotees. At the same time, He is affording them the practical opportunities to put them into practice in their own lives. A doctor in His hospital sees Narayana (God) in his patient and serves him in that spirit. A student going to villages for Grama Seva (village service) and offering Bhagavan’s Prasadam (offering of love) to villagers at their doorstep identifies them with God and offers the Prasadam to them with humility and love. So, any act of service to mankind is, in fact, an act of realising the unity of mankind, which leads man to purity and divinity. Millions of Sai devotees engaged in service activities in all parts of the world attain this elevating experience of expansion of their heart, elevation of their spirit and transformation of their consciousness. All this is happening at stupendously large scale through a global network of Sai volunteers and devotees. Those who want, they can see this massive exercise in the transformation of mankind happening before their eyes. No individual in human history has done this act of mass-scale transformation and redemption of mankind through selfless service as Bhagavan is doing.

Bhagavan has provided succour to suffering masses as much by His Divine Love and immortal teachings as by His humanitarian work which is incomparable both in its quality and magnitude. The last eight decades of the life of Bhagavan are a saga of success of His Divine Mission. Hundreds of millions in all parts of the world have benefited from the humanitarian work of Bhagavan. This issue of “Sanathana Sarathi” is a humble attempt to provide a glimpse of this stupendous work done by Bhagavan and Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations in Bharat and overseas countries. May we all experience the Divine Glory of Bhagavan in its fullness!

— *Editor*





# HOLD ON TO THE PRINCIPLE OF ONENESS OF GOD

*If you keep chatting all through the day without doing any work,  
Do you think this is Sadhana?  
If you fill your belly thrice a day,  
Do you think this is Sadhana?  
If you spend the day in inactivity and the night in deep sleep,  
Do you think this is Sadhana?  
Is this for which God has created you?  
You while away all your time in this kind of routine,  
But this is not Sadhana.  
Do not waste your time in this manner.  
From this very moment, strive to know God.  
This alone is Sadhana.*

(Telugu Poem)

## Embodiments of Love!

**A**IR IS PRESENT AT ALL PLACES IN the world. It is above, below and all around us. The ancients called it a form of God. God is present everywhere. Though God is omnipresent, He cannot be seen. Only human beings can realise the Cosmic Person by constant contemplation. In fact, human life is the manifestation of divine power.

## Attain Purity of Heart

Divinity is immanent in every living being. The same Atma Tattwa (principle of Atma) is present not only in human beings, but in every living being in the world. But one has to have a pure and peaceful heart in order to realise this truth. Our ancients therefore counselled that one should contemplate on God at least twice a day, in the

morning and in the evening. By doing so, the heart will become pure and peaceful. The moment you attain the state of total purity, God will surely manifest before you. This should be your Sadhana (spiritual practice). It is not the practice of Dhyana (meditation) alone that can make God manifest before you. God is present as an indweller uniformly in human beings as well as in insects, birds and beasts. Suppose you ask, "Where is God?" the spontaneous answer would be that God is present in you. Many people undertake spiritual practices like Dhyana to find answers to such questions.

Sage Narada affirmed that God could be realised through the nine forms of devotion, namely, Sravanam (listening), Kirtanam (singing), Vishnusmaranam (contemplating on Vishnu), Padasevanam (serving His Lotus





Feet), Vandanam (salutation), Archanam (worship), Dasyam (servitude), Sneham (friendship), Atmanivedanam (self-surrender).

It is therefore necessary for man to remember God and think of Him at all times to experience Him.



*God incarnates on earth in different forms like Rama, Krishna, etc. Some aspirants observe differences between various forms of God. Since they try to identify God with a particular form, they entertain feelings of difference. By doing so, they make themselves distant from God and remain at the level of Jivas (bound souls) only. All such differences exist in the individuals only. God is only one. In fact, He is not different from you. He is in you. You are verily God!*



There is no one in this world in whose heart God does not dwell. Does it require meditation to visualise such an all-pervading and omnipresent God? There are many who teach different techniques of meditation today. However, meditation is meant merely to acquire purity of heart. Man undertakes many spiritual practices to attain purity of heart. Without attaining this purity, God cannot be realised. Hence, one has to strive to attain purity of heart. No Sadhana would help in realising God if one is devoid of purity of heart. Some people think that God gave Darshan to such and such person. But the truth is God never gives Darshan to people who have no purity of heart. Hence, if you wish to have God's Darshan, you must develop purity of heart. All kinds of spiritual practices are meant only to attain purity. Prayer to God is one of the most powerful spiritual practices to attain purity of heart. When you clean utensils repeatedly, they shine with added brilliance. Similarly, repeated prayer makes your heart shine with the brilliance of purity. The moment you attain purity, the omnipresent God will manifest right in front





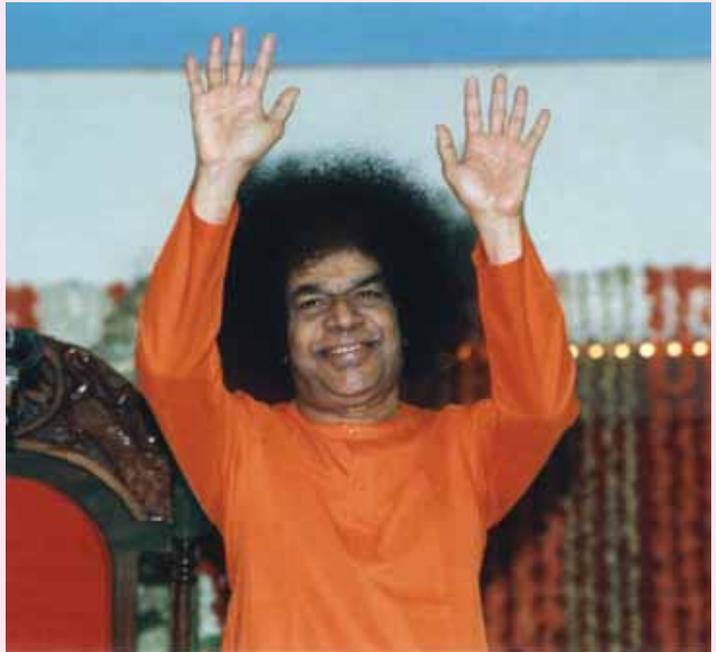


none other than Him in the entire universe. The same truth is contained in the declaration *Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti* (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names). For example, the number 1 is only 1. When you add three numbers to it, it becomes 4. Thus, we go on adding numbers to 1 and arrive at different numbers. However, the first number remains the same, namely, 1. So, 1 is the reality. This is what the profound declaration, *Ekoham Bahusyam* (the One willed to become many) states.

People often use two terms, Deva (Supreme Self) and Jiva (individual self). In fact, there is no Jiva at all! All are the embodiments of divinity only. Since people are not able to realise the immortal nature of the Atma residing in the physical body, they use the term death for the disintegration of their body. Atma has no death at all! It is immortal. Those who realise this truth, merge in God. For those who cannot realise the truth, Jiva remains as Jiva and Deva as Deva. The feeling of duality persists in them. What is the underlying meaning of the Vedic declaration, *Ekameva Adviteeyam Brahma* (God is one without a second)? Since there is no entity other than Brahman in this universe, it is declared thus. The Upanishads explain our true nature in Mahavakya (profound statement) *Tattwamasi* (That Thou Art). In another Mahavakya, they declare *Prajnanam Brahma* (Brahman is Supreme Consciousness). To whom does this refer? It refers to God only. Thus, all the Vedas and the

Upanishads proclaim the non-duality of Jiva and Deva. But people do not make any effort to realise this truth; they think God is separate from them.

God incarnates on earth in different forms like Rama, Krishna, etc. Some aspirants observe differences between various forms of God. Since they try to identify God with a particular form, they entertain feelings of difference. By doing so, they make themselves



*All human beings are, in fact, the reflections of omnipresent Divinity. Hence, consider every human being as Divine and worthy of highest respect. Though God is omnipresent, He assumes a particular form and serves human beings in many ways. Right from now onwards, realise this truth like the Gopikas that God is present in every being. When you develop such an attitude, you can see God anywhere and everywhere.*





distant from God and remain at the level of Jivas (bound souls) only. All such differences exist in the individuals only. God is only one. In fact, He is not different from you. He is in you. You are verily God! If it is not so, why should the Vedas declare *Tattwamasī*? You should develop the firm conviction that God and you are only one. When you attain such a firm conviction, you become one with God and experience the bliss of oneness within you. This oneness is most essential. So, develop intense yearning for oneness in your heart. This will enable you to experience your oneness with God. With number 1, you can make any number. Zero has no value, but when it is associated with 1, it gets value. This 1 is the hero. It is God. When you develop yearning for God, you will never have duality. For example, you keep a number of photos of Sai Baba in your Puja room. But in all the photos, you will find that the same God is photographed in different poses. When you realise the underlying unity of divinity, there will be no room for any confusion. Only then will you be able to realise the truth. Whatever I speak is the supreme truth (*loud applause*). Since you are not aware of this truth, you are unable to develop faith in it. This truth of oneness of God is propounded in all the scriptures. Develop faith in this truth. Do not get confused by those who doubt this truth. When you develop firm faith in the oneness of God, you will be able to realise the truth. One who is able to realise this truth will have no doubt. Therefore, make every effort to know the truth. Do not criticise anyone. Do not use harsh words against others. Praise and blame are of your own making; they are the creation of your mind. Do not consider anyone as your enemy. One who is your opponent today may become your friend

tomorrow. Do not consider anyone separate from you. All are friends.

### *Embodiments of Love!*

You are worshipping God and praying to Him with great love. Continue to love God and develop faith in Him. Then all your doubts will be cleared and you will be able to understand the nature of divinity in full. Never entertain doubts. Doubts imply duality, that is, the feeling of separation from God. In fact, God and you are one, not two. Everything is "I", "I", "I". Hold on to the truth *Ekameva Adviteeyam Brahma*. For example, how many hours does the clock show? Twelve hours. But in reality there is no twelve. When the hour's hand crosses twelve it again moves to one. Similarly, there is nothing that can be called second; everything is one. Develop firm faith in the principle of unity.

God is one. Develop firm faith in this principle. Do not observe differences between one form of God and another. Hold on to the principle of oneness of God. This oneness is the ultimate truth. Adhere to this supreme truth. Only then will you have the supreme experience of the oneness of God. If you are not able to develop faith in this principle, do not make it a matter of dispute and differences with others. Do not ever attribute duality to God. God is one, and only one. *Ekatvam Samajivatvam* (oneness is the fundamental principle of life). Therefore, develop firm faith in the oneness of God.

### **There is Bliss in Unity and Harmony**

(Holding a bunch of flowers in front of the audience, Bhagavan enquired): What is this? It is a bunch of flowers. There are a number of flowers strung together with the help of a thread, with the result that it has

*Continued on page 353 ...*



# GRAND DASARA CELEBRATIONS

**W**ORSHIP OF DEVI (DIVINE Mother) during Navaratri (nine sacred nights) in the form of Durga (embodiment of energy), Saraswati (embodiment of wisdom) and Lakshmi (embodiment of spiritual wealth) is one of the most important celebrations of Prasanthi Nilayam. Performance of Veda Purusha Sapthaha Jnana Yajna during this period adds immense spiritual significance to the celebrations. The culmination of the nine-day-long worship of Devi comes on Vijaya Dasami, the day on which Poornahuti (final oblations) is also offered at the completion of the seven-day-long Yajna. Another important feature of the celebrations is Grama Seva, a Yajna of service to mankind which is performed during this period. Soul-uplifting Vedic chants, study of sacred scriptures, talks of erudite scholars on spiritual subjects and above all Divine Discourses of Bhagavan fill the entire milieu with divine vibrations. Dasara was celebrated in this sacred manner at Prasanthi Nilayam during this year also.

## **Veda Purusha Sapthaha Jnana Yajna**

On the morning of 4th October 2005, Veda Purusha Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba came to Bhajan Mandir of Sai Kulwant Hall and blessed the sacred Kalasha for commencing worship of Devi for the next nine days.

Mandir priest started the Puja after the blessings of Bhagavan. On the morning of 6th October, the Kalasha was taken from the Bhajan Mandir to Poornachandra Auditorium in a grand procession of Veda chanting Ritwiks (priests) who were led by richly bedecked Sai Geeta and Nadaswaram musicians. Veda chanting Institute students formed the rear of this procession. All the devotees and students thereafter flocked to Poornachandra Auditorium to witness the grand spectacle of the commencement of the Veda Purusha Sapthaha Jnana Yajna.

As soon as Bhagavan was seated on the Yajnashala, two priests started the process of producing sacred fire in the traditional way by rubbing one piece of wood over the other. Soon the fire was produced. Bhagavan blessed the sacred fire, after which it was



*Oblations being offered by the Ritwiks in the Yajna Kunda along with chanting of Vedic Mantras during the performance of Veda Purusha Sapthaha Jnana Yajna in Poornachandra Auditorium.*

placed in the Yajna Kunda. Soon after that, the priests started offering oblations in the Yajna Kunda along with chanting of Vedic Mantras. Another group of priests started chanting Krishna Yajur Veda. Veda students sitting on the rear of the Yajnasala also started Veda chanting while three elders on their right started Parayanam (devout study) of the sacred texts such as the Ramayana, Bhagavata and Devi Bhagavata. Another group of students also started the Parayanam of Devi Mahatmya. Simultaneously, chief priest and his wife started the worship of Devi, while another priest commenced Sahasralingarchana and another the Parayanam of Durga Saptashati. Besides, one priest started the performance of Surya Namaskar (worship of sun god). Thus, the whole atmosphere was filled with the sacred sound of Vedic Mantras and other sacred chants. The Yajna which started at 8.30 a.m. continued till 9.30 a.m., when Arati was offered to Bhagavan. Bhagavan then showered His blessings on all the priests. Starting from 6th October 2005, the performance of the Yajna and Parayanam of sacred texts continued for seven days.

On Vijaya Dasami, 12th October 2005, Poornahuti was offered by Bhagavan in Yajna Kunda to mark the completion of Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna. After Poornahuti, Tirtha (sacred Kalasha water) was sprinkled by Bhagavan on priests, students and devotees. In the end, Bhagavan blessed all the priests. One of the priests was fortunate to receive a gold ring which Bhagavan materialised for him.

### **Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha**

The proceedings of the Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha (assembly of scholars) commenced on the

afternoon of 6th October 2005 with the introductory speech of Sri Sanjay Sahni, Principal, Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, who introduced the speakers blessed by Bhagavan to share their views with the devotees.

*First Session:* Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak, Vice Chancellor of the Institute was the first speaker. Sri Gokak dwelt on the importance of Navaratri and explained the inner meaning of Devi worship. He lucidly dwelt on how we could attain victory over our mundane desires and inculcate virtues and knowledge of God. Thereafter, Dr. Deepak Anand, a faculty member of the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the Institute, shared his views with the devotees. Dr. Anand observed that our life itself could become a Yajna when the fire of pure love was lit in our hearts. Sharing some of his personal experiences, he emphasised that Bhagavan was pleased with us when we made our life a loving offering to Him. The last speaker of this day was Dr. T. Ravikumar, a faculty member of Brindavan Campus of the Institute. Dr. Ravikumar narrated some personal incidents to explain how Bhagavan granted him opportunities to experience His Divinity. After these speeches, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the devotees and declared that he would make all of them happy the next day by His Divine Discourse. Bhagavan then sang the Bhajan "*Prema Muditha Manase Kaho ...*", which all the devotees followed with great devotion. The programme came to a close at 6.15 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

*Second Session:* The second day's proceedings of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha commenced with a talk of Sri G.Srinivas Srirangarajan, a faculty member of the Prasanthi Nilayam



Campus of the Institute. Sri Srirangarajan quoted the Vedic axiom *Advaita Darshanam Jnanam* and said that seeing unity in the diversity of the universe was the main principle of Sanathana Dharma. The second speaker of the afternoon was Sri Shashank Shah, an M.Phil student of the Institute. Sri Shah observed that Bhagavan Himself is the Divine Mother who in the form of Saraswati is presiding over the Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha and in the form of Durga is presiding over the Yajna and in the form of Lakshmi He is distributing food and clothes to the needy people through Grama Seva. After these two speeches, Bhagavan blessed the devotees with His Divine Discourse. After a brief session of Bhajans, the programme came to an end at 6.05 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

*Third Session:* Sri Sanjay Sahni, Principal, Brindavan Campus of the Institute was the first speaker of the third day's proceedings of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha which started on the afternoon of 8th October 2005. Stressing the need for purity for progress on the path of spirituality, Sri Sahni observed that purity could lead an aspirant to imbibe Sattwa Guna (quality of serenity), which was the stepping stone to Nirguna Brahman (formless God). The next speaker, Sri Karthik Ramesh, a first year MBA student of the Institute, referred to Swami as Divine Mother and observed that godhood of mother and motherhood of God go together. The third speaker, Sri Sai Giridhar, a student of M.Sc. (chemistry), narrated the story of Nachiketa and remarked that we should take the path of Sreyas (goodness) in preference to Preyas (pleasure) to attain self-realisation as shown by Nachiketa. The last speaker of the programme was Sri Ajit Popat of the UK who narrated a few incidents to show

how Bhagavan's Divinity became manifest when devotees prayed with total devotion. After these speeches, Bhagavan showered His benedictions on the devotees by giving His Divine Discourse. After a brief session of Bhajans, the session came to an end at 7.00 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

*Fourth Session:* Prof. V.E. Ramamoorthy, a faculty member of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the Institute was the first speaker of the fourth session held on 9th October 2005. Prof. Ramamoorthy gave an illustration from his personal life and narrated some incidents from the life of some devotees to tell how Bhagavan gave him the experience that He is omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent God. The second speaker Sri Sanjay Mahalingam, a research scholar of the Institute, said that it was through self-effort of eradication of vices and inculcation of virtues like Vairagya (detachment), Viveka (discrimination), Mumukshutwa (yearning for liberation) that man could raise himself. This, he said, was the real meaning of worshipping Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati. Thereafter, Bhagavan blessed the devotees with His Divine Discourse (full text given elsewhere in this issue). The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.50 p.m.

*Fifth Session:* Fifth session of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha started on the afternoon of 10th October 2005 with the talk of Dr. Rajeshwari Patel, a faculty member of Anantapur Campus of the Institute. The speaker quoted the words of Bhagavan and said that Namasmarana (reciting the Name of the Lord) was like a lamp placed on the threshold of the house which illuminated both its inside and outside parts. Similarly, constant repetition of the Divine Name would illuminate our path in the world



and also our inner being, she added. The second speaker, Kumari Dipali Verma, a student of Anantapur Campus, referred to Bhagavan as the most compassionate and loving Divine Mother who had guided her at every step of her life since she came to Bhagavan with her father when she was just a child. In the end, Bhagavan blessed the devotees with yet another Divine Discourse in which He declared that there would be unity in the world and all the differences would disappear. Bhagavan exhorted the devotees not to give up the Name of Rama in any circumstances. He brought His Divine Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, “*Rama Rama Rama Sita ...*” The proceedings concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.30 p.m.

*Sixth Session:* Three learned speakers deliberated on the spiritual topics in the sixth session of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha. The first speaker was Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor of the Institute. The learned speaker described the glory of Bhagavan’s omnipotence and omnipresence through a few incidents. Referring to an incident of Bhagavan’s presence at two places experienced by a devotee, Dr. Venkataraman quoted the words of Bhagavan’s reply and said that the Creator of the universe can manifest in every part of it. The second speaker was Sri S.V. Giri, former Vice Chancellor of the Institute. Sri Giri referred to a Discourse of Bhagavan and explained the meaning of educare which helped a student to manifest his innate divinity. Dwelling on the importance of controlling the senses and the mind for spiritual progress, the learned speaker observed that man should receive illumination from the light of the soul. The last speaker of this session was Sri B.N. Narasimha Murthy, Warden of the Brindavan

Campus of the Institute. Referring to Bhagavan as Divine Mother, the learned speaker narrated how Bhagavan showered His love and compassion on him when he suffered from backache in the year 2000. Bhagavan, he said, had incarnated for the redemption of mankind but man should have yearning for it. At the end of these talks, Bhagavan delighted one and all by blessing them with His Divine Discourse. The session came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.45 p.m.

*Seventh Session:* The first speaker of the last session of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha on 12th October 2005 was Sri Ruchir Desai, a faculty member of Brindavan Campus of the Institute. Comparing Bhagavan with an affectionate mother who felt happy and satisfied when feeding and helping her children, Sri Ruchir Desai narrated an incident of Narayana Seva in Kodaikanal when after performing Narayana Seva in Sai Sruti, Bhagavan went out to distribute clothes and blankets to the needy. He exhorted all to follow the example of Bhagavan who has been making millions of His children happy day in and day out all His life by His various acts of giving. The second speaker was Dr. M. Sainath, a faculty member of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus. Dr. Sainath observed that man was the maker of his own heaven and his own hell. Quoting a Sloka (verse) of the Bhagavadgita, Dr. Sainath said that a man who imbibed virtues like desirelessness, purity, efficiency, detachment and renounced the feeling of doership in all his undertakings achieved success here and hereafter. Giving symbolic meaning of the divine pranks of stealing of butter by Lord Krishna, the last speaker,



*Continued on page 330 ...*



## SRI SATHYA SAI GRAMA SEVA 2005

**T**HE LIFE OF BHAGAVAN Sri Sathya Sai Baba is a saga of divine love and selfless service to mankind. It is therefore most appropriate to say that 80 years of His Advent are, in fact, "80 Years of Love in Action". Grama Seva is one of the shining examples of His love in action. It also affords a practical opportunity to His students and staff to see God in man and attain the experience of unity and divinity through selfless service by offering Bhagavan's Prasadam with love and humility to villagers at their doorstep.

This year also, Grama Seva was performed with the same spirit of love and selflessness like previous years. From the 4th to 12th of October 2005, thousands of students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam and the students of the three campuses of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning fanned

out to 145 villages, carrying the love of Bhagavan in the form of food, sweets and clothes to every household. Nearly 47,000 households with a population of over 2.7 lakh was thus served in the three Mandals of Puttaparthi, Kothacheruvu and Bukkapatnam.

On 4th October 2005, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.40 a.m. and blessed the Prasadam for distribution to villagers. Thereafter, Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students and staff circumambulated the Bhajan Mandir, received Bhagavan's blessings and departed from the Hall on their noble mission of Grama Seva. A group of 15 youth from the U.K. was also blessed by Bhagavan to participate in Grama Seva. It is appreciable that all of them came all the way from the U.K. specially to take part in Grama Seva with the blessings of Bhagavan. It was a heartening sight



to see the enthusiastic students, bearing all difficulties with a smile. Travelling in fifty specially arranged vehicles and chanting from the Vedas and singing Bhajans all the way to the villages, they made the atmosphere saturated with sacredness and serenity. Bhagavan Baba had blessed all those participating in this sacred Yajna with special dress including caps and T-shirts and it was a great sight to see them serving with utter humility with folded hands and "Sai Ram" on their lips. Later, it was experienced by them that on no day did they encounter shortage of any kind during the distribution process, even though, depending upon the rain and other conditions, the population of villages was subject to a quick change. Even those living under trees were not left out and were served Bhagavan's Prasadam. On the last day, i.e., 12th October 2005, the students and staff of Anantapur Campus distributed Prasadam to

the residents of Prasanthi Nilayam. It should be mentioned here that the students of Anantapur Women's College played a commendable role in preparing and packaging Prasadam overnight that made the distribution possible, so that the villagers received freshly prepared Pulihora (spiced rice) and Laddus before their lunch time the next day.

Grama Seva performed by Bhagavan's students and staff each year is an example to show to the world that if one truly loves God, one has to be sensitive to the needs of God in man and serve Him in the weak, the forlorn, the poor and the sick. Though the spirit of work is of utmost importance, through the example of Grama Seva Bhagavan is also conveying the important message that service should be imbued with an intelligent thought process and meticulous planning so that maximum benefit can be derived by the recipients from the resources utilised.

... *Continued from page 328*

Sri Jagdish Chandra, a student of M.Phil. programme of the Institute, said, "When God enters our life, He breaks the pot of our ego, tramples over it and then leaves His footprints for us to follow Him." Bhagavan, he said, was showing the path of redemption to mankind in a similar way. The proceedings of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha came to a close with this talk.

### **Bhakta Surdas: A Drama**

At the end of the deliberations of Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha, the drama "Bhakta Surdas" was presented by the students of the Brindavan Campus of the Institute on the evening of 12th October 2005, the sacred day of Vijaya Dasami. Embellished with soul-uplifting lyrics of this great poet saint of India, the drama picturised the main events of his life. Lively acting of



*A scene from the drama "Bhakta Surdas".  
(Inset) Exquisitely carved Krishna temple.*

the students, sweet music and magnificent sets made it a superb presentation, and a grand finale of Dasara celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam which concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.25 p.m.





# Sathyam Sivam Sundaram

*As devotees gather from far and near  
To hail the Avatar's 80th year –  
For the Avatar's supreme sacrifice for mankind,  
Thoughts of deep gratitude well up in the mind.*

*Attributeless and formless He defies all description,  
Far beyond the ken of any poetic imagination,  
Can words ever capture His beauty sublime –  
Sathyam Sivam Sundaram – His personality  
Divine?*

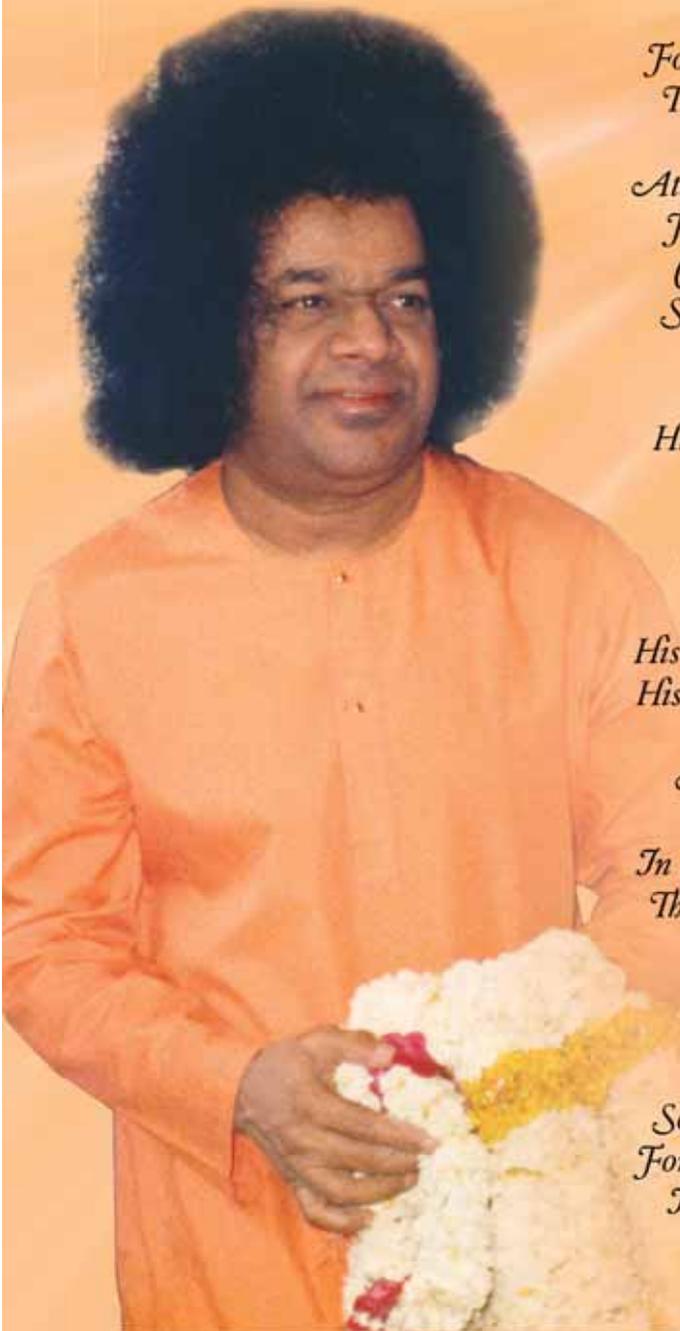
*His crown of black hair and orange robe aflame,  
Yes, He has come as SAJ once again,  
To save mankind which has gone astray,  
To guide, to protect and to show us the way.*

*His gaze, a downpour of compassion and kindness,  
His smile of love, warmth and motherly tenderness,  
His hand raised in Abhayahasta above –  
A constant assurance of His grace and love.*

*In this Kali Yuga to achieve victory in life's game,  
The solution is simple – it lies in His sweet name,  
'Sai Ram, Sai Ram' – this sacred refrain,  
Must sanctify the tongue again and again.*

*His form should be ever in our mind's eye,  
So that our thoughts are always centred on Sai;  
For remembering Him with each and every breath,  
Is the way to end this cycle of birth and death.*

– Ushaina & Sashaina Fanibunda



# TWIN TOWERS OF HEALING

Dr. A.N. Safaya

**D**ESIRE TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE about the Divine and its manifestations including the phenomenon of life in the living has been in the human mind since the beginning of human intellectual evolution. Along side it, there has been the urge for the practice of the art of healing the afflictions and injuries of the human form. The two have been together since eternity. The Vedas, which present the most ancient documentation on spirituality, amply exemplify the togetherness of thoughts on Divinity and the art of healing.

## The Principles of Arogya

It is therefore but natural that Bhagavan Baba emphasised the importance of human body and mind remaining in a state of good

prevention of bad health and avoiding unhealthy personal hygiene and unhealthy lifestyle. Every now and then, Bhagavan keeps on laying stress on the observance of good and healthy principles of personal hygiene, food, nutrition, and healthy lifestyle.

Bhagavan advocates the golden principles of Arogya (absence of ill health). Seva Dal volunteers of Sri Sathya Sai Samithis all over the country are spreading the awareness of these principles effectively and diligently. Under this programme of awareness, society is going on a steady march, at grass root level, towards a state of positive health for its members. This is how Sai Health Mission took its first step towards Arogya with the message that it was the foremost duty of man to keep his body healthy.



*Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, Prasanthi Nilayam.*



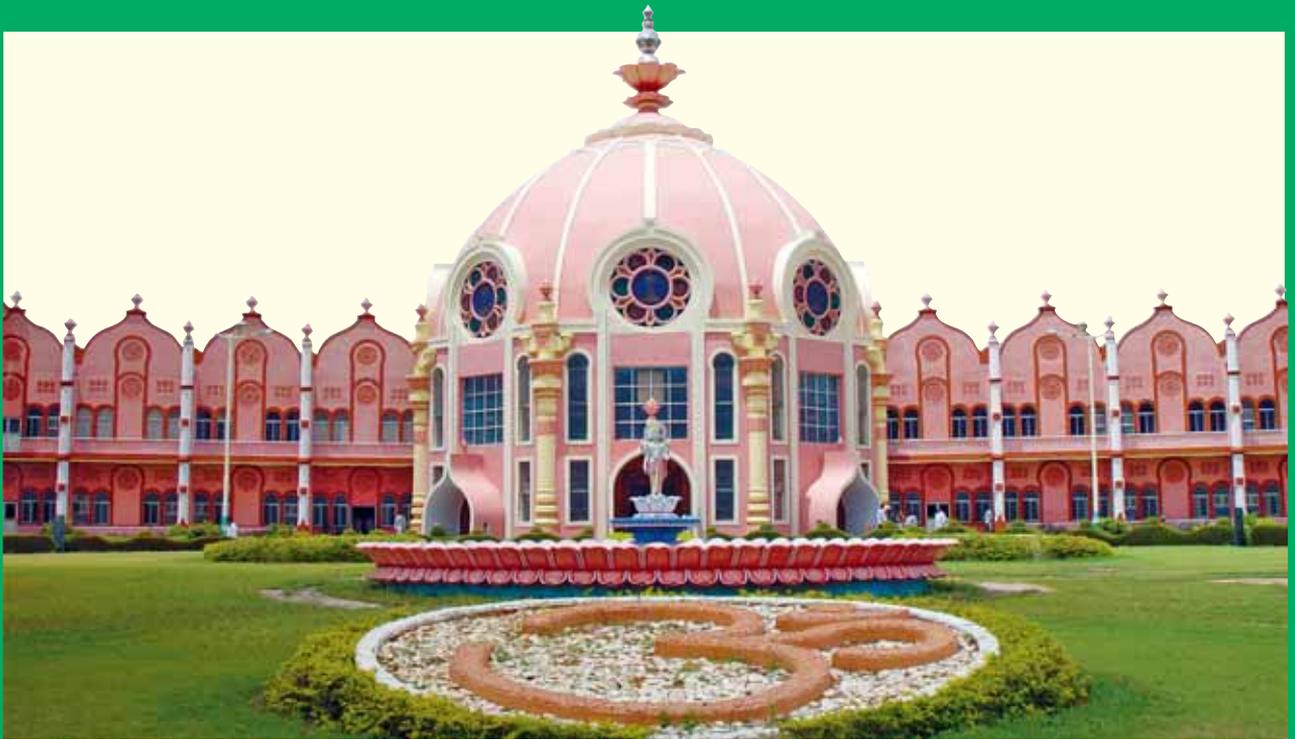
*Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, Whitefield, Bangalore.*

health to achieve the desired results when He initiated the Sai Seva Mission for the service of mankind. Advocating the importance of the awareness of Divinity and the practice of the principles of spirituality, He emphasises the need for the

## Sri Sathya Sai General Hospitals

The second step in the direction of treatment of disease, once it had occurred, was the establishment of two Sri Sathya Sai General Hospitals, one at





*Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthi Nilayam.*

Prasanthi Nilayam and other at Whitefield, Bangalore. These two general hospitals look after the patients of all general ailments, conduct tests, give treatment, drugs and do surgical interventions completely free of charge. Nearly one crore patients have been benefited by the services of these two hospitals since their inception years ago.

### **Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthi Nilayam**

The third step was to establish the twin towers of Sai Health Mission in the form of two Sri Sathya Sai Institutes of Higher Medical Sciences – one in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh and the other at Whitefield, Karnataka.

On the occasion of His Birthday on 23rd November 1990, Bhagavan made a momentous declaration of establishing a Super Speciality Hospital in Puttaparthi for highly specialised treatment of diseases of heart, kidney and eyes. As a consequence

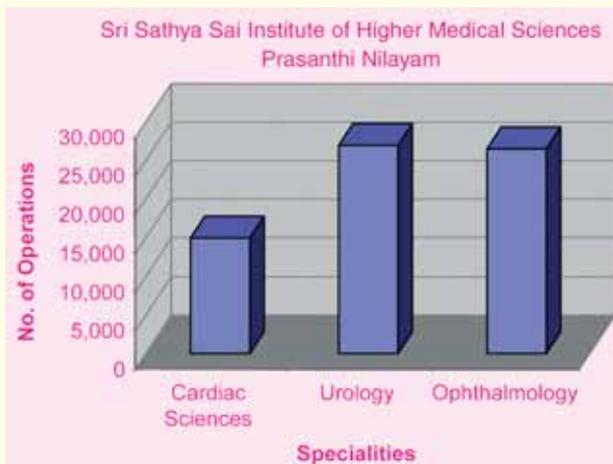
of this Divine Sankalpa of Bhagavan, Institute of Higher Medical Sciences was conceptualised, planned and built in a record time of six months. It was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of India, Sri P.V. Narasimha Rao on 22nd November 1991 and started functioning fully from that day. It has never looked back. Established in an architecturally and aesthetically beautiful building, which sits majestically in the centre of its sprawling lush green lawns, it lodges the specialities of cardiology, cardio-thoracic surgery, urology, ophthalmology, anaesthesiology, laboratory medicine, blood bank, bio-medical and general engineering services. The staff working in these departments is hand picked, well chosen with care and dedicated to the service of ailing patients. The equipment used in diagnosis and treatment of the patients is the latest and state of the art. All the parameters of functioning of the Super Speciality Hospital in all its branches

are highly satisfactory and of international standard. It is highly popular, well renowned and well known all over the world, and is open for treatment to all, irrespective of the distinction of caste, creed, colour, religion or country. All the diagnostic investigations, laboratory tests and the treatment including surgery are done completely free of cost to one and all, rich and poor!

### Service with Love and Humility

All this workload is shouldered by the hospital creditably and completely free of cost to the enormous number of patients it has served so far. All the treatment is given by the dedicated staff of doctors, nurses and technicians to each and every patient with humility and love, amidst spiritual environment, with the name of God on their lips. The hospital maintains very high standard of cleanliness, purity and discipline with the help of nearly 100 Seva Dal volunteers working round the clock.

Seva Dal volunteers are the dedicated devotees of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and come by turn from every State of the country under a laid down scheduled programme. They dedicate their Seva at the Divine Feet of Bhagavan Baba and work in the hospital in honorary capacity for varied intervals of time of few days to few weeks or months. This is an excellent example of community participation in the healthcare programme. Middle level management and the care of the equipment including its preventive maintenance is done by a group of Technical Officers who are highly skilled graduates and postgraduates from Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, a deemed university. Their dedication and diligence is responsible for nearly 100 per cent uptime of all the equipment of the Institute. This



*Operations done by the hospital  
since its inception till 31st July 2005.*

Institute of excellence has developed within typical rural environment and has been functioning in a purely rural setting since its inception. Of course, now an airport and a railway station have come up in close proximity, a great boon for the patients and their attendants. Patients of concerned specialities come from all over the country and are examined fully. Urgent cases are given prompt medical attention and those who can wait are put on waiting list and are called when their turn comes. Attendants of patients have a dormitory facility with a canteen attached.

### Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield

Bhagavan's infinite love and compassion for the suffering masses concretised in the establishment of yet another Super Speciality Hospital at Whitefield, Bangalore. It is, in fact, a second Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences. The Institute was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of India, Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on 19th January 2001. It is functional since then. The Institute is situated in a fully developed urban-cum-industrial setting, in fact,





*Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield, Bangalore.*

next door neighbour being the world famous International Technology Park. The palace-like architecture of the huge hospital building is breathtakingly impressive. This white brilliant jewel of a building sits pretty in the emerald green lawns surrounding it. It lodges the super specialities of cardiac sciences and neurosciences with all of their necessary support services. It has a bed strength of 333 which is looked after by highly dedicated, well qualified and experienced staff. Like the Institute of Higher Medical Sciences at Prasanthi Nilayam, this Institute also gives international standard treatment to its patients for the diseases of heart and brain completely free of charge. Patients are served by the staff, doctors, nurses and technicians with love, understanding and sympathy in keeping with Bhagavan's principles of loving selfless service.

The hospital is equipped with latest, state-of-the-art equipment; some of the systems for diagnosis and treatment are made available to patients for the first time in the country. A bigger team of Technical Officers keeps the equipment of the hospital in a state of perfect functioning at all times with practically no down time. They are supported by the Biomedical and General Engineering Departments. Though not connected directly with the treatment of patients, the workers of the support departments have thorough technical experience and knowledge to keep the hospital infrastructure and support services in ideal state of functioning in a manner which should serve as a model to other hospitals of the country.

The data and the indices of patient care are comparable to the data

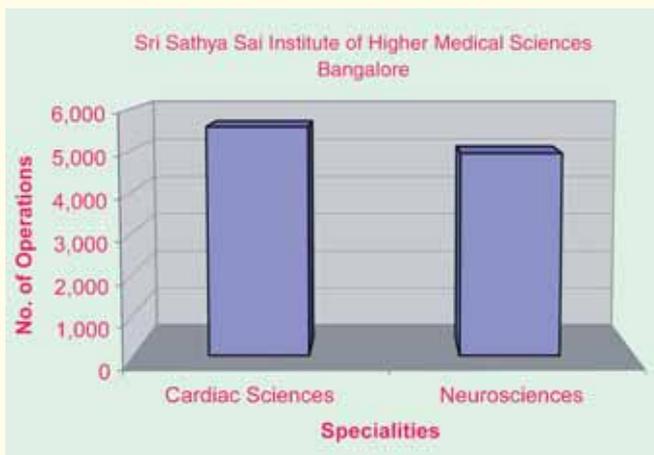


available from any other hospital at international level.

### Patient Counselling Service

A unique feature in the patient care process of the two Institutes is the Patient Counselling Service. This service has been introduced as a model project in Super Speciality Hospital at Whitefield. The consultants of the treating department of the Institute keep the patient under health surveillance after he is discharged from the hospital with the help of the volunteers of Sai Organisation.

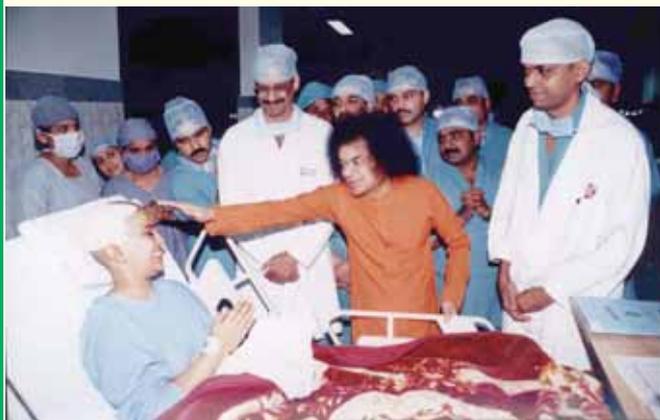
The counselling activities cover all the three phases of the hospital-patient contact period, that is, the pre-hospital phase, the hospital phase for which the patient is admitted for surgery or treatment and the post-hospital phase after discharge of the patient from the hospital. This arrangement ensures that the counselling continues at the locality of the patient's residence also. Counselling to every patient also includes spiritual counseling and offering suggestions on issues like faith, prayer, meditation and control of emotional stress, etc. Such a comprehensive counselling care is not only disease and person specific but is



*Operations done by the hospital since its inception till 31st July 2005.*

also holistic, and amounts to almost emotional adoption of the patient with a firm promise of help for his ailment. This is a distinct feature of the functioning of Sai Health Mission. The system is in operation in the State of Karnataka at present and is in the process of being extended to all other States of the country.

Our country has incomparably large population and has equally huge incidence of disease and ill health. We have no illusion that these Twin Towers of Healing will treat all the patients of the diseases of heart, brain, kidney and eyes and will wipe the tears of all suffering patient population. No, it will help only a few – a drop in a big ocean! But, these two Towers of Healing will serve as models for establishing such Institutes all over the country and all over the world. Such centres will provide state-of-the-art medical treatment through dedicated staff with love, understanding and compassion, free of cost and without any restriction of caste, creed, colour and country, like these two Institutes provide to every patient everyday.



*The Divine Healer, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba conferring His benedictions on a patient.*

**T**HE FORMAL EDUCATION SYSTEM developed over the last two hundred years in the West and now universally adopted is flawed. It fails to meet the real needs of the children, the family, the community or the nation. It was developed in

propounded by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. He gives equal importance to educational achievements and spirituality. He emphasises that education must give technical knowledge as well as skills to lead a balanced life. The children must develop insight and

*Dr. Pal Dhall*

## SATHYA SAI EDUCATION IN OVERSEAS COUNTRIES

*Sathya Sai Schools and Institutes have not been long established. They are already having significant positive impact on their communities, governments and education systems. It seems highly likely that their impact will go on increasing and in another decade or so they will transform education and herald a new era in which human values will permeate all institutions and all human enterprises.*

the industrial age and its main objective was to secure economic well-being of nations. It promotes inequality and competition and divides the world into rich and poor nations. Such an education with its emphasis on technical and academic achievements does not promote holistic development of the child. Crime, drug addiction, depression, anxiety, family tensions, violence, delinquency and suicides are on the increase in all the countries of the world. The natural resources are being freely exploited and the planet is reaching non-sustainability. Educationists agree that most of these problems could be solved if we reform education to meet its two goals – development of character and academic excellence. But they have not been successful in reforming education to attain both these goals.

### **Philosophy of Sathya Sai Education**

Sathya Sai educational institutions are based on the philosophy of education

understanding into their own life's purpose. They must develop a lively social conscience and serve society, and develop a strong identity with their family and culture, nation and humanity. Sathya Sai Schools are based on these central features of Bhagavan's philosophy. They aim at human excellence through developing all personality domains – physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual, and not just the intellectual. These schools do not charge any fees. They follow the mainstream government curriculum. In these schools, the culture is suffused with human values of peace, love, truth, right conduct and non-violence. There are now dozens of Sathya Sai Schools in overseas countries. Many of these schools were started in the 90's, and more and more are being established all the time. They are models of how human values can be integrated with the school curriculum to achieve the real aims of

education – character development and academic excellence.

Institutes of Sathya Sai Education were established to manage and oversee standards in the Sathya Sai Schools, to train teachers in Education in Human Values (EHV) and to form professional links (or partnerships) with government or private schools for EHV. They have the task of developing EHV programmes appropriate to their local culture, to create awareness and guide government schools to establish such programmes. The question arises as to what extent the Sathya Sai Schools and Institutes have succeeded in their avowed aims and objectives. What is the impact of Sathya Sai Education?

### **Impact of EHV on Children**

There is a global trend towards a materialistic culture based on technology and commerce. In this culture, television, rapid communication, mobile phones, internet, computers and CD players are important elements. Children's main entertainment is from watching TV, and a significant part of their time is spent with the computer, isolated from others. A lot of values, language and role models are based on what they watch on the TV. The programmes often glorify violence and are sensual. Children are, in general, more lonely now because the size of the family is smaller (with fewer children), and neighbourhood where the children can play with others is less safe. Moreover, both the parents work away from home and the time spent with the family has decreased. As a result of all these trends, children now have less well-developed social and



*Impact of EHV on children: Fijian Sathya Sai School children doing meditation.*

emotional skills. Their language is not anchored in values and their morality is weak. Many children have problems with concentration because they have become passive from watching too much television. The violence that they see on the television makes them fearful and indifferent to pain and suffering. In fact, they see war and violence as a part of everyday life from watching world events.

Sathya Sai Schools counteract these by giving children capacity of focus through silent sitting. Their discrimination is nurtured as also their problem-solving skills. Many techniques used in Sathya Sai Education give children good social and emotional skills and enhance their understanding of morality. Transformation of children is the main purpose of these schools.

People observe that when children from many schools are gathered together, those from Sathya Sai Schools are identifiably different. They are more disciplined, gentle, kind, friendly, and in general



have better social skills. Parents are the first to notice their children's transformation. Their children become more respectful, assume greater responsibilities, go to bed and rise early, do not watch as much television, are more attentive and focused, more interested in their studies, and more diligent with the tasks assigned to them. Several parents have commented that their children have become aware of wastage and are conscious of the need to recycle toys, clothes, paper and water. They say their prayers before eating and show respect for food. In a number of Sathya Sai Schools – Australia, Thailand, Africa, Latin American countries, Taiwan, parents have expressed delight to notice how their children are fresh and content when they come home from the school and believe that silent sitting, daily prayers, and vegetarianism promoted by the schools contribute to this. Some parents remark on the peace and harmony in the classrooms and have observed that the school atmosphere is conducive to learning; the teachers are dedicated, caring and good role models. Many parents move from other areas specifically to be close to a Sathya Sai School in order to enrol their children.

Experienced teachers who come to Sathya Sai Schools from government schools have noted that the children are eager to learn. They are loving, more friendly, caring and helpful to others. In the Australian Sathya Sai School, children were friendly even to a violent child, regarding him with affection. They are keen to look after the school, attending to cleanliness and tidiness and their honesty is obvious. In the Australian School when a newly enrolled child could not find his pencil, he said, "Someone has stolen my pencil". The other children looked with amazement at him and one replied, "But no one steals in this school". They take care not to

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*To date almost all of the 43 'at risk' adolescents who have attended the Sathya Sai U-Turn Training School in Australia have improved their educational performance. The local High School, the local Museum and the Municipal Council are now partners in this programme. Both the parents and the teachers recognise the U-Turn Training School as an institution to reclaim 'at risk' adolescents. Schools in Zambia, Thailand, Kenya, Nigeria, Malaysia and several Latin American countries have had similar experiences with EHV for adolescents 'at risk'.*

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damage books and computers. They are respectful towards the teacher. They trust the teachers more and are open in their communication, regarding the teacher as part of the family.

Similar results have also been seen in the government schools which have had EHV programmes introduced by the Sathya Sai Institutes. The Australian experience is a good example. In Australia, indigenous (Aboriginal) education has been a challenge to the government. Pouring in more and more money and creating better educational facilities did not provide a solution to the poor achievement levels, high dropout rates, and high educational failure in this community.

In one such school, a teacher noted that the attendance was poor, often only 5 or 6 children in a class of 30, and the children in the afternoon were not the same as the ones in the morning. There was hardly any discipline – the playground was a



place of fights. The school had litter all over and the windows were broken. The children had poor social skills, and educationally the school was a failure.

A new principal appointed in the school invited the Australian Sathya Sai Institute to establish a partnership in EHV in this school. The teachers were enthusiastic about the programme and implemented it diligently. The results are nothing short of miraculous. Two years later, research by one of the teachers at the school for a thesis tracked the progress of the children and the school culture. He found that the school was a clean and tidy campus. The children were focused and interested in their studies. They had developed good social skills and were now able to resolve their own differences; schools fights were rare. To solve their differences they either negotiated with each other peacefully or took their problem to a teacher rather than resort to fights. Academic levels are now at par with other comparable schools.

Education Queensland (the Government Department of Education) has located a research unit in this school. The school principal was "The Queenslander of the Year" and the teacher who had acted as the human values education coordinator in this school, recognised for her work, was chosen as one of the seven teachers in the State to receive "Teacher of the Year" award. This school is now regarded as a model for Aboriginal education.

Another success story is the Sathya Sai U-Turn Training School in Australia. This school runs programmes for



*Children and teachers of the Australian Sathya Sai Institute.*

adolescents, boys and girls in grades 7, 8 and 9 who are identified as 'at risk' of educational failure by their own Government High School. The High School refers 'at risk' adolescents to the Sathya Sai U-Turn Training School. Here they are exposed to human values through a programme based on the teaching of Bhagavan through the word "WATCH": watch your words, actions, thoughts, character and heart. The programme gives these adolescents social, emotional and moral skills, while the adolescents are engaged in blacksmithing, woodwork, leatherwork, sewing, painting and knitting. They work closely with the teachers. This builds their self-confidence and trust and they are transformed. To date almost all of the 43 'at risk' adolescents who have attended the Sathya Sai U-Turn Training School in Australia have improved their educational performance. The local High School, the local Museum and the Municipal Council are now partners in this programme. Both the parents and the teachers recognise the U-Turn Training School as an institution to reclaim 'at risk' adolescents. Schools in Zambia, Thailand, Kenya, Nigeria, Malaysia and several Latin American countries



have had similar experiences with EHV for adolescents 'at risk'. There seems little doubt that EHV is an excellent method for reclaiming adolescents who are heading towards educational failure.

### **Impact on Education System**

Because of the benefits both to normal and educationally challenged children, it is not surprising that EHV is being introduced or being contemplated for introduction into mainstream education in a number of countries. For example, in Kazakhstan, an Islamic country, EHV is being introduced widely into the government schools. In fact, it seems wherever there are favourable circumstances — open and receptive society, belief in God, general awareness of the need for values in education, generous donors (for Sai Schools) and good leadership in the Sai Organisation and Institutes — EHV is taking root and is being accepted by the government schools. Latin America is a good example. 40% of all Sathya Sai Schools are within Latin American countries. Eleven Sathya Sai Institutes are



*Sathya Sai School Pililla, Philippines.*

active in training teachers from government schools. In Chihuahua, with a population 1,25,000, EHV programme is being run in 35 schools. The Ministry of Education has set up its own Human Values Committee and is running its own courses in ethics and values. However, surveys by the local Sathya Sai Institute show that the teachers prefer the courses of the Institute as these are transformational.

In Thailand, the government regards the Sathya Sai School as a model of education for wide adoption. Following a seminar on Human Values in Education and Family in 2003 in Malaysia, almost 60 schools expressed interest in EHV programmes in their schools. In China, the government acknowledges the need for education reform to include an emphasis on values. Apparently, the widespread single child family there is producing a generation of self-centred children with poor social skills. These effects are being compounded by the rapid economic progress, which is heightening materialistic trends in that society. A Professor of Education in Guanzao is working on a phased introduction of EHV programmes into the



*Institute of Sathya Sai Education, Thailand.*

public school system – 6 schools at a time. He has had good results and is enthusiastic about the future of EHV in China.

In Sri Lanka, the Sathya Sai Organisation and the Institute held a seminar with the educators from the local universities and officials from the Ministry of Education in 2004. The Institute regards EHV as the programme that would spearhead education reform in the country.

### **Impact on Parents**

Parents become aware of Human Values through the newsletters and the parent link material that requests them to support their child by practising values at home. The community service that the children undertake through the school also influences the parents as also do the courses in human values for the parents that many Sathya Sai Schools run. In many Sathya Sai Schools, the children stage an annual event, a human values school play or a musical that the parents are invited to attend. In the Sathya Sai School in Australia, parents are actively involved in service to the school. Some take classes in art, yoga and music. The impact of all these activities is enormous. The parents become aware of their role in the values education of their child. Their relationships in the family improve and are spiritualised. In some cases, the children become values activists in the family, many times correcting even their parents.

### **Impact on the Community**

Sathya Sai Schools are acting as the nuclei for creating better understanding in communities divided by ethnic, political and religious differences. In Fiji, the division between the Pacific Islanders and the Fijians of Indian descent has been deep for generations resulting in serious political turmoil including an attempted coup.

The Sathya Sai School in Fiji is located near a local village; 40% of the children at the school are of Islander descent and the rest are of Indian origin. The children learn both Hindi and Fijian and the parents from both ethnic groups have reached levels of understanding never seen before. The Prime Minister observed in the Parliament that if politicians could follow the example of the children and parents in the Sathya Sai School, then all their problems would be solved!

In the Kesaju Sathya Sai School in Kenya, the local Imams, suspicious of the “free education” objected to their children praying with children from other religions. The Imams were invited to hold prayers in the school. Now the Muslims are accepting prayers of other religions. This has been deeply unifying for the community. Similar experiences are reported from some of the Latin American countries where Catholic nuns have run EHV in Catholic Schools. They have been able to convince Mother Superior and the Bishops that they do not see conflict between Bhagavan’s and Christ’s teachings.

Sathya Sai Schools in some instances have become useful resources for the local communities. Kesaju Sathya Sai School is located in a semi-desert area with poor water supply, and in conditions of drought the community used to lose some of its cattle due to lack of water. Bhagavan gave instructions where a borehole should be dug for water. The result is abundant sweet water for the school to grow its own food, and enough to establish a farm. The school has built a trough so that the cattle can have water even in drought. Imagine the gratitude of the local community.

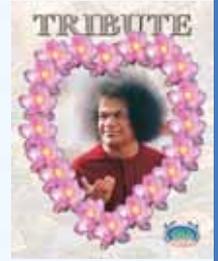
The African Institute in Zambia has developed a partnership with other

*Continued on page 375 ...*



# Books - New Releases

**Tribute:** A Souvenir in 80 gsm natural shade maplitho paper with spot lamination of front cover page with matt finish wrapper in 300 gsm art card to commemorate the 80th year of the Advent of the Avatar, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, containing five multicoloured photos of Bhagavan in 130 gsm art paper, with quotations of Bhagavan on the reverse side, six messages and 49 articles from Bhagavan's distinguished devotees from all over the world, narrating their personal experiences studded with mind-boggling miracles that reveal the shining facets of that Divine Phenomenon.



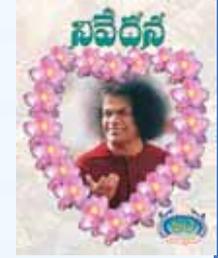
Pages 254 Size 20x28cms Price Rs.70/- (packing and postage extra).



**The Mission of Sathya Sai at a glance:** It is a fully illustrated pictorial book in 130 gsm art paper with full page multicolour pictures on the global mission of Bhagavan's Dharmasthapana (establishment of righteousness) now in operation in every field of human activity, especially under Education, Medical, Social Service and other humanitarian activities such as Drinking Water Supply, etc., aiming at the happiness, peace and prosperity of the whole world, supported by facts and figures relating to His unique institutions.

Pages 108 Size 20x28cms Price Rs.70/- (packing and postage extra).

**Nivedana (Telugu):** A garland of 32 articles from Bhagavan's distinguished devotees narrating their personal experiences and the transformation brought about in their lives by Bhagavan, printed in 80 gsm natural shade maplitho paper with cover in 230 gsm art card. Bhagavan's photos are printed in multicolour on the inner side of the wrapper as well as on two pages in 130 gsm art paper. It also contains six messages from eminent national leaders.



Pages 120 Size 20x28cms Price Rs.36/- (packing and postage extra).

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# BHAGAVAN BABA'S PHILOSOPHY AND METHODOLOGY OF EDUCATION WITH A FOCUS ON WATER EDUCATION FOR AFRICAN CITIES

**I**N THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED book "Water – the Elixir of Life", documenting many drinking water projects of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba during the last decade, we read: "Next to air, water is the element most essential to sustain human life. It is therefore no wonder that in ancient times, people in all societies revered water as a wonderful gift of God. Almost all major religions have an important place for water in their rituals; these involve cleansing, blessing, ablutions of various kinds and offerings accompanied by the pouring of water."

## **Water as a Basic Element**

According to the story of creation in the Bible (Genesis 1: V1-2), we are told: "In the beginning God created heaven and earth ..... the earth was without form

..... And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters". This shows the part played by water in the beginning and sustenance of life as perceived by Bible believers.

Truly, water is sacred and must be treated as such by all its users. Yet, there are billions of people on this planet to whom good drinking water is not available or accessible.

## **Sri Sathya Sai Water Supply Project India**

Responding to the dire needs of the people of the scarcity affected regions of Andhra Pradesh, Bhagavan declared in March 1995 that He was going to provide drinking water to the villagers who had been the victims of acute drinking water shortages for more than a century. Sri Sathya Sai Water Supply Project was thus started which has provided water to millions of villagers of



Anantapur, Medak, Mahboobnagar, East Godavari and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh during the last 10 years. It has also met the acute drinking water shortage of the city of Chennai in Tamil Nadu. All this was possible through the unlimited love and grace of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to all mankind. As He Himself says: "I am always ready to help you and serve you. You may belong to any village or any district ..... I do not have any feelings of difference – religious, regional or national. I do not go by the position of the people or the place to which they belong. All are the same to Me and I serve all equally". Bhagavan's example of His concern for the supply of water is being replicated by many countries of the world.

### **Water in African Cities Project**

There exist many dissimilarities in African countries in terms of size, water resources, water management styles, economic differentials, social and environmental norms related to water, etc. Yet their national goals and objectives are basically similar. They all have, as their main goal, the provision of adequate cost-effective and good water supply for all (the economic and social dimensions of water). In cognizance of the fact that these goals cannot be achieved in isolation, these countries have, as complementary goals, the maintenance of a good environment, avoidance of water wastage and pollution, prevention of vandalism and illegal connections; discouraging late or non-payment of water bills, non-tampering of water meters, prevention of water riots and water wars, eradication of corruption and enhancement of adequate sanitation and better hygiene practices through technical and regulatory measures.

*A country's sense of duty ought to be strengthened through Human Values Education towards the management of water and other resources which took billions of years to develop and yet, which would be diminished or exhausted within a relatively short period of time.*

In pursuit of their goals and objectives, the African cities have been using different strategies as leverages towards the realisation of their national goals. Overall, these strategies have not produced the desired results of reaching national goals and objectives. This is because of the absence of second tower that lays emphasis on the transformation of attitudes and behavioural patterns of water users and providers. UN-HABITAT have for a long time been searching for a tool or mechanism that will enrich and strengthen Water Education strategies in Africa.

### **Human Values Approach to Water Education in Africa**

The introduction of the water education initiative was preceded by an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) convened by UN-HABITAT in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Swedish International Water Institute (SIWI) in Johannesburg, South Africa from 30th April to 2nd May 2001. The meeting brought together international and regional experts on education, curriculum



development, urban development, water resources management and NGOs active in water education. The objectives of the meeting were to share information on the ongoing water problem in Africa, develop a broad consensus among all stakeholders with regards to the most effective strategy for introducing Water Education in African cities, agree on sharing of responsibility for project implementation by different partners and develop an action plan for the project implementation.

An important outcome of the Expert Group Meeting was the consensus acceptance of the paper presented by the Director of the African Institute of Sathya Sai Education (TAISSE) with the title “Water Education: A Human Values Approach” which was, in fact, a reproduction of Sri Sathya Sai Baba’s philosophy and methodology of Human Values Education in its pristine form. The recommendation arising therefrom was the pursuance of a Human Values Approach to introducing Water Education for African children and communities.

### **Understanding Water Education**

What is Water Education? From the point of view of the Human Values approach, Water Education is not just about water literacy (knowledge of the science of water, types, sources, uses, treatment, management and its associated problems, etc). These are, of course, important tangibles. However, Water Education is also about intangible things that are equally important. These include people’s perceptions of water, the level of their consciousness towards water usage, awareness of their civic responsibilities towards water, cultural beliefs and practices in relation to water. In short,



*There is no doubt that  
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba  
will forever remain a powerful  
role model in the provision of  
water to the less-privileged  
people of the world.*

it is about Human Values – about the country’s sense of duty, the obligations members have to each other, to the use of water itself and to future generations.

A country’s sense of duty ought to be strengthened through Human Values Education towards the management of water and other resources which took billions of years to develop and yet, which would be diminished or exhausted within a relatively short period of time.

There is, thus, a compelling need for the introduction of Human Values in Water Education as a complimentary to the existing technical and regulatory measures in water demand management. In this manner, Water Education will stand firmly on the twin towers of water literacy and Human Values – their understanding, commitment and practice.

The Expert Group noted that Water Education should aim at promoting a better understanding of water as a key social, economic and environmental resource and should facilitate the emergence of a new water management ethic on the continent. It is observed that the introduction and implementation of Value-based Water Education (VBWE) through formal, non-formal and informal channels of

learning, especially through the use of the curriculum is a promising strategy to bring about a positive and lasting change in attitude and behaviour towards water at all levels of society.

### **Value-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (VBWSHE)**

Having been inspired by the successful implementation of Bhagavan's Values Education programme at the African Institute of Sathya Sai Education (TAISSE), Ndola, Zambia, many countries in Africa today are involved in Value-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (VBWSHE) programme.

In 2002, TAISSE was contracted for two years by UN-HABITAT to implement the first phase of Value-based Water Education (VBWE) in six African countries. By the grace of Bhagavan, this was successfully completed in 2004. Impressed with the effectiveness of the values programme in the six African countries, the UN-HABITAT again asked TAISSE in 2005 to implement the second phase of the Value-based Water Education programme to include Sanitation and Hygiene Education, known as Value-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (VBWSHE) in twelve African countries. This Cooperation Agreement will end in 2007. This is indeed a major contribution of Bhagavan's education programme, which is essentially philanthropic in its nature, to the upliftment of the African continent.

### **Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Project Zambia**

Bhagavan's water projects in India have inspired Sai Education Trust (SET) of Zambia

to follow Sathya Sai Baba's example in the provision of drinking water to the poor. In a small way, the Trust, in May 2005, embarked on the task of providing free clean drinking water to disadvantaged townships surrounding Sri Sathya Sai School, Ndola, Zambia. Ten bore-holes ranging between 60 and 97 metres deep with submersible and hand pumps were drilled in five townships where people had been greatly disadvantaged for centuries past in terms of good drinking water. The sprouting out of water and the



*Children rejoicing at the first gush of water in Ndola, Zambia.*

simultaneous response of many children as expressed in their shouting and clapping was a moving experience.

There is no doubt that Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba will forever remain a powerful role model in the provision of water to the less-privileged people of the world.

Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust's  
Official Website: [www.srisathyasai.org.in](http://www.srisathyasai.org.in)  
Sri Sathya Sai Books & Publications Trust's  
Official Website: [www.sssbpt.org](http://www.sssbpt.org)



# EAT GOOD FOOD, HAVE GOOD COMPANY, FOSTER GOOD THOUGHTS

*In childhood, one develops absorbing interest in play and enjoys the company of one's playmates. In youth and middle age, one is engrossed in cultivating worldly relations and earning money. In old age, one repents for not having this and that; one still craves for money without contemplating on God even at that ripe age. In this way, man wastes his precious human birth.*

(Telugu Poem)

*Why waste your time in idleness?  
Time that is lost cannot be regained.  
Be aware before it is too late,  
Nobody knows what lies in the womb of future.*

(Telugu Poem)

*Embodiments of Love! Students – Boys and Girls!*

**I**F YOU FRITTER AWAY YOUR TIME IN vain pursuits, what for is your human birth? Have you ever pondered over what is going to be your fate? Time is the fundamental factor of human life. Man should realise its importance in his life. Don't waste time. *Time waste is life waste.* So, you should seriously enquire within yourself if there is any sense in wasting time. If you waste your precious time in young age, when will you work for your redemption? Having been born as human being, you should think about your redemption. You should therefore make proper use of your time right from your childhood.

## Perform Good Actions

Man has to perform Karma (action) in this Karmabhumi (field of action) from birth to death. In fact, human birth has been given to us to perform Karma. We are

therefore engaged in performing various actions all our life. But very few make any effort to enquire whether the actions performed by them are good or not. We should undertake only those actions which are noble and worthwhile. Only then does human life become purposeful. In fact, the goal of life can be achieved only when we undertake good actions, foster good thoughts and adhere to good conduct. The Bhagavadgita teaches us that we have right only to perform action and not to the fruit thereof.

*Man is born out of Karma,  
He lives and dies in Karma.  
Karma is eternal and everlasting,  
It has neither a beginning nor an end.*

(Telugu Poem)

Every action performed by man has a result. There will be a good result for a good action and a bad result for a bad action. This is the eternal law. When you partake of a mango, you will have the





belch of that fruit only and not that of a lime. In the same manner, your thoughts will be conditioned by the type of food you consume. *As is the food, so is the head. As is the head, so is God.* Thus, food, head and God are closely interrelated. Bad thoughts are not conducive to realisation of God. Hence, one should always cultivate good and noble thoughts. If you eat Sattwic (pure) food and cultivate Sattwic thoughts right from your

Dharma (righteousness), Santhi (peace), Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence). It is only when we cultivate and practise these five human values in our daily life that we will be entitled to be called human beings. A combination of Trigunas (three qualities), namely, Sattwa Guna (quality of purity and serenity), Rajo Guna (quality of passionate activity) and Thamo Guna (quality of sloth) constitutes the nature of man. Unfortunately, there is wide prevalence of Rajo Guna and



childhood, your entire life will run smoothly. Hence, you have to be careful about your food and head. If you wish to sanctify your human birth, you should not live like a bird, beast or animal. Having taken birth as a human being, one has to perform actions worthy of a human being. One has to conduct oneself as a human being. For this, one should foster human values. What are the human values? The human values are: Sathyā (truth),

*Parents have a great responsibility in teaching the children about the efficacy of Sattwic food and getting them accustomed to it right from their childhood. On the other hand, if the parents themselves prepare and serve Rajasic and Thamasic food consisting of meat, fish, etc., in their homes, how can they expect the children to develop Sattwa Guna? I am of the view that the children should abstain from Rajasic and Thamasic food and demand from their parents only Sattwic food.*

Thamo Guna in human beings today. Sattwa Guna has become a rare commodity. Hence, it is of utmost importance today that people are taught to cultivate Sattwa Guna, perform Sattwic actions so that they can attain the state of Sattwa (purity).

### **Sattwic Food Fosters Sattwic Thoughts**

*Embodiments of Love!*

You are now at the stage of childhood. This is the right age to





cultivate Sattwa Guna. The quality of your life at later stages will depend upon the qualities you cultivate now. What is the use of trying to cultivate Sattwa Guna at the fag end of your life when your body refuses to co-operate with you in your Sadhana? Hence, you must cultivate Sattwa Guna in your childhood itself. If man wishes to experience Manavatwa (humanness) and reach Daivatwa (divinity), Sattwa Guna is very essential. It is only when you consciously cultivate Sattwa Guna that you will be able to attain Sattwic state. You can never attain Sattwic state by indulging in Rajasic and Thamasic acts. Therefore, you should cultivate Sattwic qualities right from your young age. All our ancient sages and seers did their Sadhana when they were young and strong.

*Embodiments of Love!*

We eat a variety of items as food to sustain the body. But no one is making an enquiry whether the food he eats is proper or not; whether it is beneficial for him or not. You should always eat Sattwic food. By having Sattwic food, you will be able to cultivate Sattwic thoughts. And, by cultivating Sattwic thoughts, you will be able to undertake Sattwic actions.

Hence, you should partake of Sattwic food only. You may at times have a doubt that you may not get such Sattwic food. I do not at all agree with this view. Don't you get vegetables and edible green leaves in plenty? In fact, the moment you are born out of your mother's womb, you are surviving and thriving on your mother's milk or cow's milk. Is this not Sattwic food? Can you not live on a vegetarian diet consisting of vegetables, green leaves and cow's milk? Never eat the food which promotes Rajo Guna or Thamo Guna. Why should you cater to the dictates

of your palate and add condiments and spices to your food? It is only when you gradually reduce these ingredients for taste that you will be able to cultivate Sattwa Guna. Parents have a great responsibility in teaching the children about the efficacy of Sattwic food and getting them accustomed to it right from their childhood. On the other hand, if the parents themselves prepare and serve Rajasic and Thamasic food consisting of meat, fish, etc., in their homes, how can they expect the children to develop Sattwa Guna? I am of the view that the children should abstain from Rajasic and Thamasic food and demand from their parents only Sattwic food. One has to consciously cultivate the habit of eating only Sattwic food. When we lead our life in this Sattwic way, we will be able to cultivate Sattwa Guna. So, progress on the spiritual path is possible only when we eat Sattwic food.

**Good Company Develops Good Qualities**

*Embodiments of Love!*

All our senses are conditioned by the Trigunas (three qualities) which, in turn, are conditioned by the food we consume. Hence, if you start eating Sattwic food, undertake Sattwic actions and move about in the company of Sattwic friends, I am sure, you can transform yourselves into Sattwic individuals. It is the bad company and wrong food that are responsible for all your evil qualities. If you want to cultivate good qualities, you have to eat Sattwic food and keep good company. It is absolutely necessary that you should have Sattwic friends in youth and constantly move about in their company. It has been said, when you are in the company of good friends, you will have good thoughts.





*Good company leads to detachment;*

*Detachment makes one free from delusion;*

*Freedom from delusion leads to steadiness  
of mind;*

*Steadiness of mind confers liberation.*

(Sanskrit Sloka)

*Dear Students!*

If you develop bad qualities like anger, passion, envy, jealousy, etc., right from early age, your entire life will be spoiled. You are poisoning your minds with these evil qualities. My advice to the youngsters and students is: eat Sattwic food, cultivate Sattwic behaviour and keep the company of Sattwic people right from early age. I often observe that youngsters today join bad company the moment they enter school or college and continue to move about in bad company. As a result, they cultivate bad qualities, resulting in bad behaviour. *Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are.* Many times, students are not even aware of the subtle changes taking place in their behaviour towards elders, parents, teachers and society. They think that they are on the right track since they are pursuing education in a good educational institution. The education they are pursuing may be good, but the core of their heart is polluted due to bad company. Several bad thoughts arise in their mind even at young age. People often think that it is a natural phenomenon due to young age. I do not at all subscribe to this view. It is not a natural phenomenon at all. It is most unnatural. Since you are consuming bad food, you are having bad thoughts. Hence, first and foremost, give up bad food. Those who are devoted to Me must join good company. But you are joining bad company and, as a result, are developing bad thoughts.

*You are now at the stage of childhood.*

*This is the right age to cultivate Sattwa Guna. The quality of your life at later stages will depend upon the qualities you cultivate now. What is the use of trying to cultivate Sattwa Guna at the fag end of your life when your body refuses to co-operate with you in your Sadhana? Hence, you must cultivate Sattwa Guna in your childhood itself. If man wishes to experience Manavatwa (humanness) and reach Daivatwa (divinity), Sattwa Guna is very essential.*

Once bad thoughts enter your mind, none can drive them away. Hence, you have to cultivate good thoughts before bad thoughts enter your mind.

*Dear Children!*

Some parents are not so conscious about the future of their children. Either they are too busy pursuing their vocations or they are helpless in supervising their children's behaviour. But if you tread the right path, they will be most happy. On the other hand, if you are moving about in bad company, cultivating bad habits resulting in bad behaviour, they will be very sad. At the same time, they will be unable to share their distress and anguish with anybody. Hence, it is your foremost duty to keep your parents happy. If you want to make your parents happy, you should tread the right path. There are three aspects in human life which are interlinked – thoughts, behaviour and result. As are the





thoughts, so will be the behaviour and as is the behaviour, so will be the result. It is not possible to have good company if you entertain bad thoughts. Teachers expect good character from their pupils. How is it possible when the students move about in bad company, eat wrong kind of food and entertain bad thoughts? The end result is always bad in such a situation. While taking bitter food, how can you experience sweetness? Wrong food is the cause of bad thoughts.

### **Never Read Bad Books**

#### *Students – Boys and Girls!*

All of you should tread the right path. Even if your parents for any reason offer you Rajasic or Thamasic food prepared in the house, you should explain and convince them of the ill effects of such food, saying, "Mother! If you serve Rajasic and Thamasic food to me, I will only get bad thoughts. This is not conducive to good behaviour also." You should also convince them of the need to prepare and serve Sattwic food to all the members of the family. Not only should you eat Sattwic food, you should also read good books. Never read bad books. Bad books generate bad thoughts. Your entire life is dependent upon good food, good thoughts and good company. Associate yourself with good and pious people. All noble souls read good books and cultivated noble thoughts.

#### *Dear Students!*

You should not read all sorts of trash like cheap novels, stories, etc. Such trash will generate bad thoughts in you and pollute your mind. When you go to a library, you should read the biographies of great and noble people which will help you to cultivate good qualities and good thoughts. One reason for the pollution of young minds

and proliferation of bad thoughts in them is reading all sorts of cheap literature. In fact, it is only the mind that is responsible for good or bad thoughts. That is why it is said, *Manah Eva Manushyanam Karanam Bandhamokshayo* (mind is the cause for bondage and liberation of man). Unfortunately, in these days it is only bad books that have become popular. They hold great temptation for young people. Good books have become a rare commodity. A question may arise as to where one would get such good books. You go to good libraries of institutions committed to the moral and spiritual uplift of humanity. Many people are resorting to evil practice of writing bad books just for the sake of earning money. Bad books are spoiling the life of children. Therefore, you should read only those books which develop your character. Frequently, we come across people travelling in trains and buses purchasing worthless books available on the railway platforms and bus stands and reading them with absorbing interest. They may say that they are reading them for passing their time. They do not realise how harmful those books are in generating bad thoughts and polluting their minds. Hence, you must always select books that foster good thoughts and good character. Character is most important.

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

If you wish to cultivate good thoughts and good behaviour, you must read good books. Many students today consider it a fashion to read cheap literature that is available at a low price, with the result that cheap thoughts and cheap behaviour are generated in them. They run after books and trash distributed free of cost. They woefully lack the sense of discrimination to judge whether such





books are good or bad. They will, however, realise the consequences of their action after their minds are totally polluted. Then it will be too late for them to retrace their steps. It is only through good books that good thoughts and good behaviour can be cultivated.

*Dear Students!*

There are many other important things to be taught to you in these three days which will

*... Continued from page 324*

assumed the form of a bunch. Though the flowers are of different variety, the thread that holds them together is only one. The same principle has been explained in the Vedas as *Ekameva Adviteeyam Brahma*. This example demonstrates unity in diversity. When you refer to a single person, you say he is an individual. When you refer to a number of persons, you call them a group. Though there is a vast difference in the terms we use while referring to a single person and a group of persons, there is a fundamental unity underlying this group. That unity is divinity, which should never be forgotten. Unfortunately, people today tend to look at the apparent diversity, ignoring the underlying principle. Take, for example, the Pandavas. Who were they? The five Pandava brothers were the sons of Kunti. In the worldly sense, they are five in number. But on the level of spirituality, they are one. Atma Tattwa in all is the same. You may not be able to understand this principle of oneness of divinity now. But if you keep thinking about it constantly and deeply, one day this truth will become manifest before you. (Bhagavan showing a handkerchief to the audience) This is a handkerchief. There are many threads woven together in it. Since the threads

enable you to cultivate noble thoughts and tread the right path.

(Bhagavan brought His Divine Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, "*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin ...*")

**- From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on the occasion of the inauguration of Bal Vikas children's Festival of Joy on 22nd October 2005.**

are woven into warp and woof, it has assumed the form of a handkerchief. Cloth is one though the threads are many. So, one should recognise the principle of unity in diversity. We find many students gathered in this hall. Each one appears to be different. But they are all the students of Sri Sathya Sai College. In this way, we should see unity in diversity.

(Bhagavan sang the Bhajan, "*Govinda Krishna Jai...*", and continued the Discourse)

*Dear Students!*

When you all join together and sing in one voice, you attain bliss. You should develop this unity and oneness in every aspect of your life to experience bliss. I am extremely happy to see all of you here (*loud applause*). I attend to a number of tasks and participate in a number of programmes right from early morning till evening. But I remain happy and cheerful all the time. Is it possible for anyone to be blissful all the time? Praise and blame are mere vocal expressions of others' feelings. I have nothing to do with them. I do not entertain any feelings of difference at all.

*All are one, be alike to everyone.*

**- From Bhagavan's Dasara Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 9th October 2005.**



# AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE OF BAL VIKAS MOVEMENT

*A glorious chapter was added to the Bal Vikas movement of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba when thousands of Bal Vikas students, Bal Vikas Gurus and former Bal Vikas students came to Prasanthi Nilayam to meet together and seek guidance and blessings of Bhagavan for its further expansion and qualitative refinement.*



*A scene from the musical "The Glory of Sathya Sai" presented by the Bal Vikas children from 18 States of India on the evening of 22nd October 2005.*

ORGANISED BY SRI SATHYA SAI Seva Organisation of India as part of 80th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan, the programme was held on three separate dates for administrative convenience. First of all, the function entitled "Festival of Joy" was held from 22nd to 24th October 2005 in which more than 3,000 Bal Vikas children from all parts of India took part. On 25th and 26th October 2005, an All India Conference of Bal Vikas Gurus was organised in which more than 2,500 Bal Vikas Gurus from all the States of India were participants. Finally, an All India Conference of former Bal Vikas students was held on 28th October 2005 in which nearly 2,000 former Bal Vikas students took part.

## **The Festival of Joy**

The inaugural function of the "Festival of Joy" was held in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on the morning of 22nd October 2005. On this occasion, Sai Kulwant Hall was beautifully decorated with buntings, festoons, banners and flowers. Special decorations were made on the dais with fresh roses of various colours which looked very attractive.

**Inaugural Function:** After coming to the dais amidst chanting of Vedic hymns and sweet welcome songs by Bal Vikas children, Bhagavan graciously inaugurated the function by lighting the sacred lamp. At the outset, Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation gave an introductory speech. Sri Srinivasan observed that this was a unique event being held at Prasanthi Nilayam in which thousands of Bal Vikas children were taking part, some of them having come from such distant places as Sikkim, Assam and other north-eastern States. This was followed by brilliant speeches by three Bal Vikas children. The first speaker was Kumari Shweta of Karnataka who expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for giving this great movement of Bal Vikas to children for their all-round development and total transformation. The next speaker was Master Pranav Shyam Bhat of Maharashtra, who made a fervent plea for spreading the message of love, service, truth and kindness to the



entire world as part of 80th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan. The last speaker was Master Arithro of West Bengal who reminded the students and devotees that the main message of Bhagavan was love, which all should imbibe in their heart.

In the end, Bhagavan blessed the children with His illuminating Discourse (full text given elsewhere) and exhorted them to eat good food, foster good thoughts and keep good company. The inaugural function of the "Festival of Joy" which started after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall at 9.00 a.m. came to a close at 11.15 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

*The Glory of Sathya Sai:* On the afternoon of 22nd October 2005, a grand musical offering was made by the Bal Vikas children to their Beloved Bhagavan. More than 300 children, both boys and girls, from 18 States of India made this grand presentation which portrayed the life, message and glory of Bhagavan in 24 selected songs in Hindi, Telugu and English. The children gave a superb performance by their brilliant dances set to sweet musical tunes of melodious devotional songs. Perfect choreography and flawless direction made it a grand offering of a musical tribute to Bhagavan by the Bal Vikas children representing the whole of India. As a grand finale to this presentation, a replica of the spaceship descended in Sai Kulwant Hall, which added joy and liveliness to this programme. The extra-terrestrial beings from the spaceship told that God had descended on the planet earth, and they had come to pay their homage to Him. They exhorted the residents of earth to utilise this golden opportunity by putting His teachings into practice. The residents of earth



*Children dressed as extra-terrestrial beings coming out of the spaceship, a replica of which was shown in Sai Kulwant Hall during the programme "The Glory of Sathya Sai".*

then assured them that they would follow Bhagavan's teachings. At the end of this programme, there was a brief session of Bhajans which were led by Bal Vikas children. Then there was distribution of Prasadam. The programme came to a close at 6.15 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

*Religions and Rituals:* A very educative and illuminating programme about the tenets, rituals and customs of five major religions of the world, viz., Hinduism, Christianity, Judaism, Zoroastrianism and Islam was presented by the Bal Vikas children of Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Kerala, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh respectively on the morning of 23rd October 2005. The programme portrayed the underlying unity of all religions in spite of their different customs and rituals and conveyed the central message of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's teachings: "There is only one religion, the religion of love". The programme which started after the





*Scenes from the programme on tenets, customs and rituals of major religions of the world.*

arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.25 a.m. came to a close at 10.40 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

*Sai Prema Dhara*: A stream of divine love flowed to its brim in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on the evening of 23rd October 2005 when the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School presented a magnificent cultural programme entitled “Sai Prema Dhara” in the Divine Presence of their Beloved Bhagavan.

Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 4.45 p.m. amidst chanting of sacred Vedic hymns

and a beautiful welcome song by the students. The programme began with the theme song and dance by the children at 5.10 p.m. Thereafter unfolded the saga of unbounded love and grace of Bhagavan through depiction of various episodes related to His childhood days, which kept the audience spellbound for next one hour or so. The presentation was made interesting through a dialogue between two students dressed as Prof. Kasturi and Dr. Hislop, two old devotees of Bhagavan. Excellent acting of the children, perfect choreography, well chosen devotional songs, appropriate dialogues, brilliant costumes and make-up, thrilling music and scintillating dances by children were the hallmarks of this wonderful presentation. Fast movement of the scenes and excellent video support on the screen spoke volumes about the superb direction of the programme. Bhagavan sat through the entire presentation, blessed the children in the end and posed for photographs with them. This most enchanting programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.30 p.m.



*A scene from the drama “Sai Prema Dhara” enacted by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam.*

*Heritage Sports and Games of Rural India*: Rural India came alive in Sai



*Bal Vikas children displaying heritage sports and games of rural India.*

Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam when Bal Vikas children of West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Maharashtra presented an absorbing display of some rural sports and games, namely, Daria Bandha, Dariya, Top and Karra Samu, Puchhi and Atya-Patya, respectively. The programme which commenced at 9.30 a.m. on 24th October 2005 kept the viewers spellbound for nearly half an hour as all the teams demonstrated exceptional skill in the performance of these games and sports which form a rich cultural heritage of Bharat.

*Talks by Bal Vikas Children:* This programme was followed by talks of three Bal Vikas children, Master Shivadeep Hans of Haryana, Master K. Mukund of Andhra Pradesh and Kumari Chandani of Gujarat. Showing an exceptional grip on his subject of talk, Shivadeep explained the teachings of Bhagavan. Thereafter, Kumari Chandani gave an absorbing narration of some of the childhood Leelas (divine play) of Bhagavan. In the end, K. Mukund

explained how Bhagavan is inculcating values in children like a doting mother and guiding their path like a caring father.

*Children's Expression of Love for Bhagavan through Devotional Songs:* The morning programme on 24th October 2005 concluded with three devotional songs by the Bal Vikas children. Brilliant dance performance of the children coupled with sweet songs full of devotion and set to divine music made a befitting devotional offering of the children representing all parts of India to their Beloved Bhagavan. The songs and dances were followed by Bhajans which were also led by Bal Vikas children. The morning programme came to a close at 10.45 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

This unique gathering of thousands of Bal Vikas children from all parts of India was an important milestone in the history of Bal Vikas movement. It was an excellent opportunity for the students to live with their peers from other parts of India and get acquainted with the rich culture of Bharat.

*Drama on Tulsidas and Kanakadas:* The Bal Vikas children of Tamil Nadu presented a drama on the life of two great poet saints of India, Sant Tulsidas and Bhakta Kanakadas in the evening on 24th October 2005. The programme commenced with a devotional song in prayer to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the universal teacher of mankind. The first part of the drama portrayed the life of Tulsidas and the second, the life of Kanakadas.

Beautiful dances and acting of the children supported by appropriate commentary and sweet devotional songs effectively





*A scene from the drama on Kanakadas. (Inset) A scene from the drama on Tulsidas.*

depicted the life stories of these two poet saints and brought forth the teachings of Bhagavan on the efficacy of Nama Sankirtan (singing the glories of God) as the primary means of man's redemption in Kali Yuga. The programme which began at 5.45 p.m. came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.40 p.m.

### **All India Bal Vikas Gurus Conference 2005**

The All India Conference of Bal Vikas Gurus was held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 25th and 26th October 2005, in which more than 2,500 Bal Vikas Gurus from all the States of India participated. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba inaugurated the Conference and blessed the participants with His Divine Discourse in the Inaugural Session.

*Inaugural Session:* The Inaugural Session of the Conference was held on the morning of 25th October 2005. Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the Inaugural Session, at 8.00 a.m. amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras. After coming to

the dais, Bhagavan graciously inaugurated the Conference by lighting the sacred lamp at 8.10 a.m. The proceedings of the Conference after its inauguration by Bhagavan began with Veda chanting and a song on the theme of Bal Vikas by Bal Vikas Gurus.

Before the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan, two speakers addressed the participants. The first speaker was Smt. Sarla Shah, All India Education Coordinator. Smt. Shah informed the audience that Bal Vikas, started by Bhagavan in a small way in 1969, had now become a big movement with 11,000 Bal Vikas classes with 2 lakh 18 thousand Bal Vikas children in India. Smt. Shah added that it had also achieved qualitative advancement by adopting the concept of educare which was bringing about total transformation in children. The next speaker was Sri Nimish Pandya, Member, Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Maharashtra. Sri Pandya observed that Bal Vikas was a precious divine gift of Bhagavan to Bal Vikas Gurus, through which they could communicate their divine love in a most beautiful way to Bal Vikas children. Quoting an axiom of Bhagavan, Sri Pandya stated that it was love which could bring peace and happiness in the home, society, nation and world.

Thereafter, Bhagavan blessed the participants with His Divine Message which provided valuable guidelines for the deliberations of the Conference. Bhagavan exhorted the Bal Vikas Gurus to understand and practise educare which was concerned with the knowledge of the soul. Bhagavan observed further that



instead of gathering information from books, one should know one's true identity by asking oneself, "Who am I?" This, Bhagavan said, was true knowledge. After Bhagavan's Discourse, there was chanting of Vedic Mantras for about half an hour. The Inaugural Session of the Conference came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.45 a.m. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

**Plenary Sessions:** After this, Plenary Session of the Conference was held in Poornachandra Auditorium. Bhagavan graced the occasion by His Divine Presence during the deliberations of the Plenary Session on 25th October 2005. The venue of Plenary Sessions on 26th October 2005 was also the same. In the Plenary Sessions, the participants deliberated on various subjects concerning the concept and practice of Bal Vikas, which included: Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas as a Milestone in the Divine Mission; Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas – a Way of Life; Unity of Thought, Word and Deed; Unity, Purity and Divinity; Importance of Thought Management; Character and Habits; Integration of Five Techniques (silent sitting, story telling, group singing, group activities, prayer); Guiding Posts of Bal Vikas; Role of Bal Vikas Gurus; Role of Parents in Bal Vikas; Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas as the Core of Divine Mission of Bhagavan.

*Valedictory Session:* The Valedictory Session of the Conference commenced in Sai Kulwant Hall after the arrival of Bhagavan at 3.50 p.m. on 26th October 2005. At the outset, Sri Nimish Pandya presented the summary of proceedings of the morning session held in Poornachandra Auditorium. Thereafter, he introduced the speakers who were blessed by Bhagavan to speak in this session.

The first speaker was Dr. Usha Nair, a Bal Vikas Guru from Madhya

Pradesh. Dr. Nair dwelt on the effect of Bal Vikas on rural children and gave instances how Bal Vikas had brought about transformation in them. The next speaker was Smt. Nimmi Kanwar, All India Joint Education Coordinator. Smt. Kanwar paid tributes to Mother Easwaramma and expressed gratitude to Bhagavan who is the guiding spirit of the Bal Vikas movement. She then placed the recommendations of the Conference at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan for His blessings.

The next speaker was Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak, Vice Chancellor, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning who observed that Bal Vikas was a very important component of educare which helped the child to manifest his divine potential. The last speaker was Smt. Jayashree Bajaj who observed that it was expansion of love that could give us the realisation of divinity in the entire creation and make us realise our innate divinity and unity of all mankind. At the end of her speech, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the speaker and materialised a gold chain and a ring for her. This brought a spontaneous applause from the participants and devotees. The deliberations of the Conference ended with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.30 p.m.

### **First National Conference of former Bal Vikas Students**

The First National Conference of former Bal Vikas students was held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 28th October 2005 after the conclusion of the Bal Vikas children's meet and Bal Vikas Gurus Conference held on earlier dates.

On the morning of 28th October 2005, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 9.15 a.m. and blessed the participants and devotees with His Divine Darshan. After coming to the dais, Bhagavan





# BABA: THE RESERVOIR OF GENEROSITY AND DRINKING WATER PROJECTS

R. Kondal Rao

**A** UNIQUE FEATURE OF THE Divine Mission of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is massive humanitarian work which has benefited millions of people in all parts of the world. As part of this Mission, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust under the benign guidance of Bhagavan established educational institutions and medical institutions and hospitals for the service of mankind. As an extension of this, Bhagavan desired to provide pure drinking water, which is important for the survival of mankind. The emphasis was on providing pure drinking water to the needy poor, who suffer due to chemical impurities in water such as excess fluoride.

As a first step in this direction, a National Fluorosis Seminar was held in Puttaparthi in 1994 under Bhagavan's guidance. Administrators, scientists, engineers and voluntary organisations representing different fields attended this seminar and discussed measures to be taken to provide pure drinking water to the people. Bhagavan gave the message that provision of pure drinking water was to be taken up as a mission as many parts of the State of Andhra Pradesh suffered from scarcity of water and excess fluoride in ground water. Anantapur is one of the districts affected by excess fluoride in ground water.

Bhagavan suggested to the then Prime Minister of India, late Sri P.V.

Narasimha Rao during his visit to Prasanthi Nilayam on 22nd November 1994 at the time of the Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning about the need to take measures for providing pure drinking water to the areas in Rayalaseema region which suffered from scarcity of water. Bhagavan also suggested that rivers like Krishna, Tungabhadra should be harnessed to quench the thirst of Rayalaseema people and that major rivers should be interlinked. Bhagavan declared, "If there is constraint of funds, I will provide the funds, even up to 200 crore rupees for fulfilling the needs of the people".

## **Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Supply Project, Anantapur District**

It is in this context that Bhagavan Baba initiated a massive drinking water supply project in Anantapur district in 1995. This is now known as Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Supply Project. I feel blessed for having had the great privilege of being closely associated with this project.

It was Bhagavan's direction that schemes with reliable sources of water should be taken up even if the cost is substantial. It was a challenging task to provide drinking water to about 730 villages suffering from scarcity and excess fluoride. Pipelines were laid to a length of about 2500 km within a span of about one year.

The project was taken up in right earnest. Bhagavan created a special team for its efficient and quick





*Slow Sand Filters at Bukkarayasamudram 1 Headworks.*

execution. The work was entrusted to Larsen & Toubro Limited, a company which had the expertise in construction and project management and most importantly, devotion to Bhagavan.

It is the good fortune of the people of Anantapur district that Bhagavan Baba provided sufficient funds for the execution of such a massive drinking water project which was completed in record time by His grace.

Bhagavan was keen that the quality of work should be of a high order and that details like sand bedding under the pipes should be taken care of. Bhagavan's generosity knows no bounds and His love is as vast as His creation. Bhagavan makes no distinction between rich and poor, urban and rural. During the execution of the schemes, many representations were made to Swami for providing drinking water to additional towns and villages. In response to such representations, Swami directed that towns like Anantapur, Dharmavaram should be included. The scope of Bhagavan's project got extended and the cost of the project was about 300 crore rupees.



Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Supply Project started in March 1995 on war footing and became a reality when Bhagavan inaugurated the first phase of the project covering about 150 villages. The drinking water scheme to Anantapur town was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister on 18th November 1995 and pumping main to the Peddakotla - Puttaparthi line by the then President of India on 23rd November 1995 (70th

Birthday of Bhagavan). The entire scheme was commissioned after stabilisation period and pure drinking water was supplied to about 730 villages from November 1996. By Bhagavan's grace, drinking water is now being supplied to all these places without any dislocation. The magnitude of the project can be gauged from the following figures: No. of villages covered 731, population benefited 9 lakh (ultimate design 12 lakh), project cost about 300 crore rupees, length of pipes 2500 km, overhead reservoirs 268, ground-level reservoirs 149, summer storage tanks 8, infiltration wells 20, booster stations 56, borewells 280.

Out of the 731 villages, 451 are covered by comprehensive schemes and the balance 280 villages by individual borewells as sources. Water is taken from assured sources like Tungabhadra canals, Penna Ahobilam balancing reservoir, Chitravathi river and infiltration wells in Penna and Hagari rivers.

To ensure proper maintenance of the completed schemes, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has formed an autonomous board, namely, Sri

Sathya Sai Drinking Water Supply Board. Bhagavan's grace continued even during the maintenance phase of the project. Bhagavan allowed the use of materials from the Central Trust for maintenance, which helped in the supply of drinking water to all the villages.

### **Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Project for Mahaboobnagar and Medak Districts**

After completion of the project taken up in Anantapur district, Bhagavan desired to provide drinking water to the people of two drought-stricken districts in Telangana region. The result is the implementation of drinking water projects in Mahaboobnagar and Medak districts at a total cost of about 60 crore rupees covering nearly 150 villages in Mahaboobnagar district and 179 villages in Medak district.

### **Sri Sathya Sai Ganga Canal Project for Chennai**

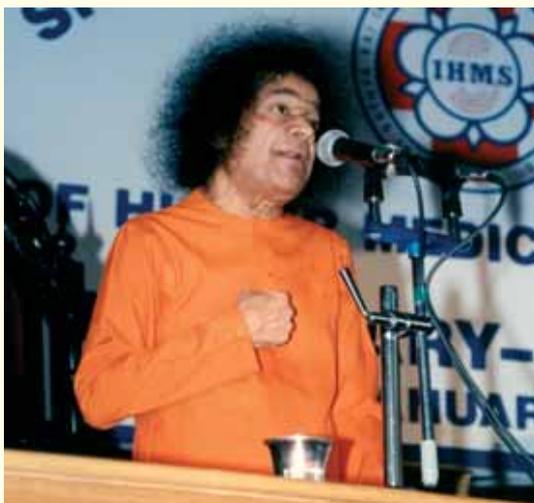
During the year 2002, Bhagavan announced that He would provide drinking water to Chennai, which had been suffering from acute shortage of drinking water with continuous droughts. The city's population is



*Intake well at Parevula in River Krishna – Makthal (Mahaboobnagar). Comprehensive Protected Water Supply Scheme (in the background).*

about 5 million now and the projected population for the year 2021 is 6.75 million. The water supply is presently maintained at about 250 mld (million litres per day) for the city. Various alternatives to provide drinking water to Chennai were examined and it was finally decided to facilitate provision of drinking water from Krishna river at a cost of about 200 crore rupees by improving Telugu Ganga Canal.

Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, under the benign guidance of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, took up the scheme of improving the



*“I have decided to work towards bringing drinking water to Chennai, no matter how difficult and costly the task is.” Thus, Bhagavan made the announcement during the course of His Discourse on the First Anniversary of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, (Whitefield), Bangalore.*

existing infrastructure of Kandaleru Poondi canal system through which the agreed quantum of 12 tmc of water at Tamil Nadu border could be conveyed. This scheme was not only to ensure full quantum of water being conveyed to Chennai city but also help irrigation of 3 lakh acres of land in Nellore and Chittoor districts of Andhra Pradesh. This was one of the most important schemes taken up on humanitarian grounds, which enabled supply of adequate drinking water to Chennai city, significant sections of its population being under the category of urban poor. The entire scheme was taken up at the request of Government of Andhra Pradesh to improve Kandaleru Poondi canal, which is now renamed as 'Sri Sathya Sai Ganga Canal' by the Government of Andhra Pradesh as a mark of respect to Bhagavan.

### **Sri Sathya Sai Drinking Water Supply Project for East and West Godavari Districts**

Bhagavan's mission to provide water to the poor continues and as a result, a major project covering about 500 habitations in tribal areas and uplands of East Godavari and West Godavari districts has been taken up at a cost of nearly 100 crore rupees.

The upland and backward areas of East Godavari, which are mainly inhabited by tribals and poor people, depend mostly on borewells and streams for their drinking water needs. The borewells are getting dry and water levels are going down year after year due to excessive usage of ground water. Further, the natural stream waters are bacteriologically unsafe and require treatment. Further, borewell water contains excess iron in some pockets.



*21.75 mld Treatment Works in progress at Hukumpeta in West Godavari district.*

It is proposed to provide drinking water to about 220 habitations covering a population of about 2.30 lakh, with provision for expansion for another 1 lakh population in East Godavari district. In West Godavari district, it is proposed to provide drinking water to its 220 habitations covering a population of 4.70 lakh. The surface water will be filtered through treatment plants and supplied to various habitations through pipelines. Two sources have been selected for drinking water. One is the Godavari river and the second Pamuleru, which is a tributary of Godavari and flows throughout the year.

The details given above concerning different projects convey the range and scope of work relating to drinking water supply by Bhagavan. There has been no parallel effort of this nature by any other charitable organisation. Bhagavan's is indeed a unique effort.

It is a great blessing of Bhagavan that I have had the opportunity of being associated with these projects as a designer and also as part of the execution team.



# GLOBAL SAI HEALTH MISSION

*Dr. Narendranath Reddy*

**I**N A HISTORIC LETTER DATED 25TH May 1947, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, at the tender age of twenty, stated: "I have a task: To foster all mankind and ensure for all of them lives full of bliss. I have a vow: To lead all who stray away from the straight path again into goodness and save them. I am attached to a work that I love: To remove the sufferings of the poor and grant them what they lack."

Putting this resolute declaration into practice, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has been working incessantly to bring about the joyous experience of compassion and love to all mankind all over the world. While the work of Bhagavan has spanned social upliftment, education, healthcare and spirituality, it is the immeasurable impact He has had in each of these fields that sets His work apart. What follows is a small description of the expanse of His Healthcare Mission over the last fifty years.

## **Sai Ideal Healthcare**

While there can be many hospitals for the poor, Bhagavan believed that free healthcare, like free education and water, is an inalienable right of every individual. The public healthcare projects began when Mother Easwamma suggested to Bhagavan to start a hospital for the poor. Thus began the mission. Baba laid the foundation stone of the first free Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital in Puttaparthi on 23rd November 1954. The five-room hospital with 8 beds was inaugurated on 4th October 1956. Soon this hospital began treating as many as 200 patients daily.

Bhagavan visited the hospital often and even looked after the patients Himself. In nearly 50 years since, Bhagavan's Healthcare Mission has blossomed into a vast global system delivering free healthcare in several countries practising the principles of Sai Ideal Healthcare as taught by Bhagavan.

Healthcare implemented by Bhagavan has always been universally accessible, state-of-the-art modern medicine and delivered with immense love, patience, altruistic care and compassion. His Healthcare Mission involves thousands of healthcare professionals in the world who espouse His philosophy and work under His direction so that:

1. State-of-the-art healthcare is made available to all people.
2. Economic considerations do not prevent anyone from receiving the highest benefits of healthcare.
3. Healthcare is delivered with love and compassion.
4. Healthcare includes treatment of the body, mind, and spirit.
5. Prevention is a primary focus.

What began in 1956 as 8-bed Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, Puttaparthi is now a 100-bed hospital. Today the hospital serves people from distant villages. Specialists from the world over come here for an experience of selfless service and love. To the villagers it is state-of-the-art healthcare next door. Besides the hospital in Puttaparthi, Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, Whitefield near Bangalore was started in 1976. This hospital has in its three-decade history treated over 2.20 million cases from as many as 2,100 villages.

In addition, Bhagavan has built two major Super Speciality Hospitals, one each in Puttaparthi and Bangalore,



delivering tertiary healthcare. The hospitals of Bhagavan are a shining example of how ideal healthcare should be provided even to the poorest of poor patient with love and compassion without any charge whatsoever.

Inspired by Bhagavan and with His blessings, Sri Sathya Sai Heart Hospital, Rajkot, Gujarat was set up by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Gujarat in 1998. This is the only hospital of its kind in Gujarat and the surrounding States offering quality healthcare services absolutely free to the weaker sections of society.

Besides, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations have conducted 39,500 medical camps all over India from 2003-2005 in which 5.2 million patients have been seen. The Organisation also runs 24-hour blood donation services which have received 28,625 donors in the last two years. In several cities 387 dental camps have been conducted in which 53,256 patients have been seen and treated. Bhagavan has also inspired 1983 eye camps serving 146,780 patients, leprosy camps which served 1060 patients and multispecialty camps including polio, diabetes and school health camps.

Veterinary camps are also held regularly, and to date a total of 388 veterinary camps have been conducted in which 34,811 animals have been treated.

### **International Delivery of Sai Ideal Healthcare**

From its humble beginnings in India, Bhagavan's Healthcare Mission has now achieved global proportions. In order to facilitate international activities with sustained energy and enthusiasm, an International Medical Committee was set up with Bhagavan's blessings. These international activities can be broadly



*Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has said that the duty of the physician is not only to treat with love and compassion but to educate patients in healthy living and thus prevent frequent visits to the physician and hospitals. Besides this, a task was undertaken to educate healthcare professionals in the principles and significance of Sai Ideal Healthcare. The first step in this task was the International Medical Conference organised in September 2005.*

classified under Ongoing Healthcare Delivery, Disaster Relief, Medical Camps and Healthcare Services, Disease Prevention and Health Education.

### **Ongoing Healthcare Delivery**

**Sri Lanka:** A hospice built by the Sathya Sai Organisation of Sri Lanka has been in operation since 2002 to provide loving, compassionate care for terminally ill cancer patients. As one enters the hospice precincts one sees the gleaming white dome of the attractive Sarva Dharma shrine. Since its inauguration, 65 patients have been looked after in the hospice.

**Philippines:** A periodic monthly clinic is run in the Philippines where about 100 patients are seen each month. In addition to general medical care and health screening, acute cases are referred to local hospitals and the expenses for some of the



*Cancer Hospice built by the Sathya Sai Organisation of Sri Lanka.*

140 patients are seen each month for diagnosis and treatment.

**Ghana:** Since 1978, the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation has been organising a medical camp every Friday in Ghana and has treated about 5,000 patients since its inception.

**Zimbabwe:** For the last 14 years, a home is voluntarily run to help the HIV victims by a Danish couple who have been Sai devotees for many years. Many

orphans who are the victims of the HIV epidemic are served with Sai love in this home.

**Indonesia:** For the last five years, a continuing effort to provide free surgeries to the poor has been undertaken in Indonesia. As of September 2005, 313 free surgeries have been performed for hernia, lymphoma, cancer and heart disease. The Sathya Sai Organisation has provided free vaccination for hepatitis-B since 1997 for 11337 children. Free clinics are conducted in Jakarta and Medan on a daily basis providing treatment to 150 patients everyday.

**El Salvador:** For the last 13 years, a regular free medical clinic is operated by the Sathya Sai Organisation in El Salvador, where nearly 12,000 patients have so far been treated.

**Mexico:** Since January 2001, the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Mexico has been running a medical dispensary, entirely free of charge in one of the poorest and most populated neighbourhoods of Iztapalapa district in Mexico City. To date, it has provided healthcare to more than 20,000 patients

**Guatemala:** For the past 8 years, a free medical clinic is conducted 4 times a week in the premises of the Sai Centre in Guatemala.

**South Africa:** In 1984, a blood donation programme was initiated by Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of South Africa. After 21 years, they are still actively conducting the blood donation drive and on an average 10,000 pints of blood are donated each year. Between 2003 and 2005, 30 medical camps were held and 1,620 eye glasses were distributed after screening 2,700 patients.

**Africa:** With the blessings of Bhagavan, 3,244 cataract surgeries had been preformed until September 2005 in Nigeria, Mombasa, Ghana, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

**Abu Dhabi:** A free Sai medical clinic is operational on all Sundays and alternate Fridays offering services like medicines, annual physical check-up and laboratory tests. There are also regular medical camps every month serving approximately 100 patients.

**New Zealand:** In New Zealand, 8 medical camps were organised from March 2004 to July 2005 focusing on disease prevention, education and health screening.

**USA:** In Northern California, USA, a free medical clinic was opened on 8th January

2005. This is called the Ashland Free Medical Clinic and is entirely run by volunteer staff. About 12-15 patients are seen every Saturday for a variety of ailments and treatment is provided to the patients free of charge.

### Disaster Relief

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has been organising effective worldwide emergency relief from natural disasters occurring in several countries. Relief has been organised for victims of earthquakes in South America, tsunami in Asia, hurricanes in the USA and conflict-torn regions of the world.

In December 2004, the world was shaken by the devastation caused by the Asian tsunami. Soon after, the damage was assessed through personal visits by Dr. Reddy, Dr. Goldstein and scout teams. Relief was delivered within a few weeks. Support was delivered to deep and secluded areas of countries that were not readily accessible to several non-governmental organisations. Several teams from the USA, Canada, Argentina, Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines and the UK worked in places that were worst hit by the disaster to provide immediate and follow-up relief. About 30,000 consultations in various specialties, 800 cataract surgeries, grief counselling to thousands of people and 7000 pairs of eye glasses were provided.

The Overseas Sathya Sai Organisation had also provided quick response and medical help after the earthquakes of Talpetate, El Salvador in 2001 and the February, 2004 earthquake in Karangasem village of East Bali.

In the USA, the recent hurricanes Katrina and Rita had swept the States of Louisiana and Texas in a rage of one of the worst natural disasters in American history. The two States had several million

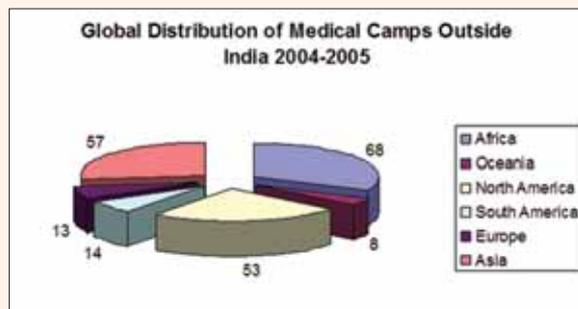


*Healthcare Mission of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has blossomed from a free hospital in India to span several continents actively delivering free state-of-the-art medical care and primary prevention with love, compassion and a patient-centred approach.*

people displaced and turned into refugees overnight. The Sathya Sai Organisation of the USA responded swiftly and organised medical and emergency relief.

### Medical Camps and Healthcare Services

In addition to disaster relief, the Overseas Sathya Sai Organisation has conducted free medical camps and charitable healthcare services in several countries. The global reach and magnitude of this effort has drawn wide support and appreciation from local media and dignitaries.



A total of 336 medical camps were conducted in the last 12 months when 77,000 patients were seen spanning the world from Argentina to Zambia, in 30 countries and 6 continents. The camps



*Tsunami relief activities undertaken in Sri Lanka.*

provide primary care, internal medicine, paediatrics, obstetrics-gynaecology and specialties like cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology and ophthalmology. Patient education is offered for heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, asthma and smoking cessation. Thus, the medical camps serve an essential role in the Global Sai Health Mission by providing easily accessible healthcare to the poor and needy.

In order to combat the spread of malaria, Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Kenya has embarked on a remarkable mission called "Sainet Project" to provide mosquito nets to the high-risk people such as pregnant women and children below 5 years of age.

### **Health Education and Dissemination of Sai Ideal Healthcare**

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has said that the duty of the physician is not only to treat with love and compassion but to educate patients in healthy living and thus prevent frequent visits to the physician and hospitals. Besides this, a task was undertaken to educate healthcare professionals in the principles and significance of Sai Ideal

Healthcare. The first step in this task was the International Medical Conference organised in September 2005. This conference was unique and the first of its kind in the world to focus on delivering medical care with love, compassion and empathy.

Bhagavan's message to the healthcare profession is clear. Healthcare delivery must be patient-centered and suffused with compassion, love and genuine concern for the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of the patient. It is remarkable that this holistic approach to healthcare delivery was mirrored in the Medical Conference from its initial conceptualisation to the final valedictory closing. The delegates took this message and experience to their homeland and, through

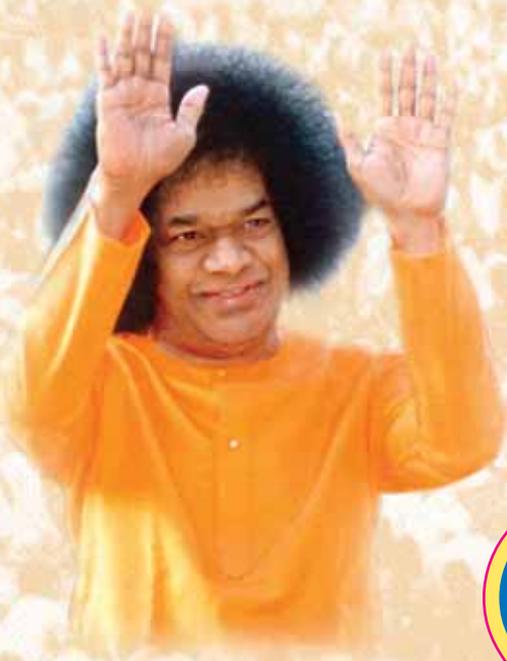


*Sainet Project of Kenya is the first of its kind to combat the menace of malaria.*

their own example, will serve as beacons and examples of Bhagavan's teachings.

Healthcare Mission of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has blossomed from a free hospital in India to span several continents actively delivering free state-of-the-art medical care and primary prevention with love, compassion and a patient-centred approach.





# 80 Ways to Serve Mankind

## Helping the Less-privileged Sections of Society

1. Organising Narayana Seva by distributing food and clothes to needy people.
2. Organising free food centres for needy people.
3. Providing Amruta Kalasham (bag of food items) to needy families.
4. Providing rugs and blankets during winter season to poor people.
5. Providing Sai Protein to meet the nutritional needs of poor people.
6. Organising systematic poverty alleviation schemes for the most needy sections of society by adopting needy families.
7. Organising Grama Seva in villages for conducting programmes of total village uplift.
8. Providing training and means of self-employment to needy people.
9. Providing training and efficient tool kits to plumbers, electricians, carpenters and other trained professional workers to make them self-reliant.
10. Organising self-help groups in villages for maintaining sanitation and for constructing public utility conveniences like approach roads, water storage tanks, bus shelters, etc.
11. Constructing houses / shelters for those who are without shelter.

12. Providing help in repairing of houses for those who live in dilapidated or unsafe houses.

13. Setting up orphanages to take care of destitute children.

14. Setting up old age homes for old people.

15. Organising visits to old age homes to help aged people.

16. Providing drinking water to people in scarcity affected areas by digging wells and setting up water supply schemes in rural and remote areas.

17. Providing electric supply to remote areas which are still without electricity.

18. Organising cleanliness drives in villages.

19. Adopting villages for village uplift programmes.

20. Providing the services of agricultural scientists to farmers at their doorstep to improve the agricultural yield.

21. Conducting mass marriages to save on wasteful expenditure on marriages.

22. Organising rehabilitation programmes for homeless street children.

23. Providing tricycles to physically challenged persons to make them mobile.

24. Conducting Seva camps during religious fairs for providing sanitation, medical aid and guidance to pilgrims.

25. Conducting youth camps to guide the youth on the path of Seva and spirituality.

*Seva without the idea of the self is the very first step in the spiritual progress of man.*

*Seva is the primary means through which the heart is purified.*

26. Conducting youth camps to provide training in disaster management.

27. Organising disaster management during calamities like floods, earthquakes, etc., for saving lives of people.

28. Organising relief measures for the rehabilitation of victims of disasters.

29. Setting up small-scale village industries for providing employment to villagers, especially the housewives to utilise their spare time and increase the income of the family.

30.. Providing electronic devices like iCARE developed by Sathya Sai Organisation of Arizona (U.S.A.) to help the visually challenged persons to read books and to identify people.

31. Helping the villagers to make water safe for drinking by chlorination of wells and water tanks.

32. Setting up agricultural institutes for training the children of farmers in better techniques of farming.

33. Providing value-based education to students for proper use of water and other natural resources so as to avoid wastage.

34. Organising tree plantation drives for planting more trees to combat deforestation.

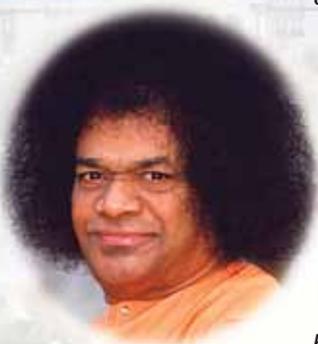
35. Conducting surveys in villages for providing need-based services to the villagers.

36. Organising Bhajans, meditation and lectures in jails for the reformation of the inmates.

## Healthcare for all

37. Conducting health check-up camps and organising health education meets to prevent the spread of diseases.
38. Putting up health education exhibitions to provide guidance to people on health education.
39. Organising medical camps for providing free medicare to under-privileged sections of society in villages, urban slums and remote areas.
40. Setting up free homoeopathic, ayurvedic and allopathic dispensaries to dispense medicines to needy people.
41. Setting up hospitals for providing free medical treatment to less privileged sections of society.
42. Setting up hospices for terminally ill patients like the one set up by the Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Sri Lanka.
43. Organising malaria eradication programmes like the Sainet Project started by the Sai Organisation in Kenya.
44. Organising visits to spastic homes to help spastic children.
45. Setting up leprosy home for rehabilitating lepers and providing treatment to them.
46. Setting up schools for deaf and dumb children for their rehabilitation.

*One single act of service offered to the God whom you visualise in another is worth all the years of yearning for God.*



47. Providing hearing aids and spectacles to needy people.
48. Providing artificial limbs to needy physically challenged people.
49. Organising medical help and counselling to mentally challenged people.
50. Setting up schools for the visually challenged.
51. Monitoring and improving the health and nutritional needs of expecting mothers.
52. Providing health check-ups in schools and colleges for students.
53. Organising special medical camps for drug de-addiction and freedom from bad habits like smoking.
54. Visiting hospitals and distributing gifts with humility and love to patients on various festive occasions.
55. Conducting free veterinary camps for treating domestic animals in rural areas.
56. Providing the services of livestock experts to villagers at their doorstep for improving the health of the livestock, and for the eradication of diseases of the livestock.

## Education for all

57. Setting up schools, colleges and other educational institutions for providing free value-based education to students.
58. Conducting literacy classes to eradicate illiteracy in rural areas, urban slums and other backward areas.
59. Providing scholarships, books and other teaching and reading material to needy school children.

60. Conducting free coaching classes for helping needy students.

61. Constructing buildings for schools in villages with the help and cooperation of villagers.

### **Moral and Spiritual Regeneration of Mankind**

62. Conducting Bal Vikas classes for providing education in human values to children.

63. Conducting seminars to provide value-orientation to school and college teachers.

64. Conducting interfaith meetings to foster love and harmony between followers of different religions.

65. Conducting summer courses on Indian Culture and Spirituality to spread awareness about Bharat's cultural and spiritual heritage.

66. Setting up forums of professionals like lawyers, professors, businessmen, doctors to provide value-orientation to professionals.

67. Setting up exhibitions to spread the teachings of Bhagavan on social service, village uplift and for spreading the values like Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema, Ahimsa in society.

68. Conducting Pallaki Seva (palanquin processions) and Nagar Sankirtan in villages, towns and cities for the spiritual regeneration of people.

69. Spreading awareness about the need of values in society through Ratha Yatra, seminars, conferences, etc.

*The highest Sadhana is to transform love into service.*

*Seva is the blossom of Prema.*

70. Organising cultural activities like dramas, Burra Katha to spread values among people.

71. Holding exhibitions and seminars on Sathya Sai Parenting to educate the parents how to inculcate values in children.

72. Setting up Sathya Sai Human Values Institutes to train human values teachers.

73. Conducting Bhajan classes and Bhajan centres.

74. Conducting spiritual retreats and Sadhana camps for the spiritual advancement of people.

75. Conducting functions like Mass Upanayanam to initiate children on spiritual path.

76. Conducting Yajnas for the welfare of the world and promoting the teaching and learning of Vedas by setting up Vedic schools and honouring Vedic scholars.

77. Publishing books and magazines and producing films to make people aware of the humanitarian work of Bhagavan.

78. Producing serials on the Life and Message of Bhagavan for broadcasting to educate people about the ideals of Bhagavan like "Love All Serve All".

79. Producing ACD's VCD's, DVD's on the teachings of Bhagavan to spread values in society.

80. Holding meetings at local, national and international levels to propagate the ideals of morality, ethics, spirituality taught by Bhagavan.



# Do not Forget the King of Kings

Chinna Katha

ONCE THERE WAS A KING WHO ruled over his kingdom with great prudence. All his subjects enjoyed peace and happiness. However, he became proud, and thought that he was a great ruler, and peace and happiness that prevailed in his kingdom were the result of his power and capability.

Once a great man came to the capital city of his kingdom. For quite some time, this noble soul immersed the entire populace in bliss and thrill with his sermons. The people also expressed their gratitude to him by honouring him in a proper manner. Gradually, his name and fame reached the ears of the ministers of the kingdom. They thought of taking him to the king's court to honour him. They placed their proposal before the king who gave his consent. The ministers went to this noble man and invited him to the king's court with great reverence and humility. The noble man said to the ministers, "I have nothing to do with the king. I do not need anybody's charity. I have no desire to go the king's palace either." But the ministers prayed to him with great supplication and took him to the king's palace with proper honour.

They made him sit on a befitting seat in the king's court. After some time, the king entered the court amidst welcome

hails of minstrels. All the ministers, army commanders, poets and singers stood up and offered their salutations to the king. But this great man kept sitting on his seat with eyes closed. Then the court dancer entered and performed her dance. Thereafter, the court singers sang songs. Applauding the performance of the dancer and the singers, everybody was immersed in joy and thrill. Only this great man remained still with his closed eyes. The indifference shown by this man enraged the king. Perceiving it as an act of



*The king ordered that the great man should be arrested and beheaded before sunrise the next morning.*

dishonour to the king, he ordered that he should be arrested and beheaded before sunrise the next morning.

Soon this shocking news spread in the entire kingdom. Grippled by surprise, fear and awe, people exclaimed in anguish, "What has happened to the king that he has awarded this terrible punishment to a noble man! Surely, one's intellect becomes



perversed when the time of his destruction approaches." The noble man was the only one who remained unperturbed by this news. He had the same smile on his face as before; no trace of agitation or anger was visible on it. Even when you cut a fragrant tree with an axe, it will give fragrance only.

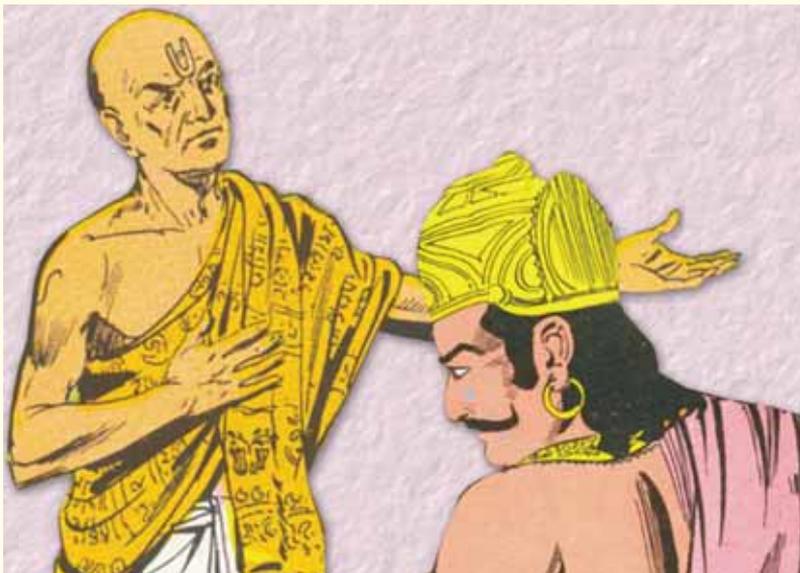
The king however had no sleep after awarding this punishment to the noble man. He therefore thought of talking to him to set his doubts at rest. So, he sent his guards to bring him. When the noble man came, the king asked him, "What was the reason for you to keep sitting without showing even a little respect to the king? Does not this act of yours show dishonour towards me?" The noble man replied with due serenity, "Oh king! You have awarded the punishment of beheading me for showing indifference towards you for a minute or so. But, do you realise that you have been showing indifference to God, who is the king of kings, for such a long time? Didn't you think that only you were responsible for the peace and

*... Continued from page 342*

agencies to bring water both to the school and to the local community in Ndola.

Almost all the Sathya Sai Institutes around the world are involved in training the local teachers in Human Values Education. The teachers who go through such programmes of the Institute realise that human values cannot be taught, but only demonstrated by the teachers by their own example. They have to practise the values and transform

happiness in your kingdom? Is this not your pride? Is this the way to show respect to God? Have you ever thought what type of



*The great man told the king that he had been showing indifference towards God who is the king of kings.*

punishment God may have decided to award you?"

This was an eye-opener for the king. He realised his mistake and shed tears of repentance that due to his pride he had forgotten God who is the basis of everything. He expressed his gratitude to the noble man and honoured him in a most befitting manner.

themselves, their schools and their communities.

Sathya Sai Schools and Institutes have not been long established. They are already having significant positive impact on their communities, governments and education systems. It seems highly likely that their impact will go on increasing and in another decade or so they will transform education and herald a new era in which human values will permeate all institutions and all human enterprises.



*Boys' Hostel, Sathya Sai Vihar, Alike*

*Value-based Education in Practice*

## SRI SATHYA SAI LOKASEVA EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

**B.N. Narasimha Murthy**

**A**MONG THE EDUCATIONAL institutions which have religiously put into practice the ideals of value-based system of education set forth by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, two institutions of Karnataka State can be ranked as most outstanding. These are: Sathya Sai Vihar, Alike and Sathya Sai Grama, Muddenahalli. Founded by a great visionary and selfless Tapasvin (man of penance), late Sri Madiyal Narayan Bhat, these two institutions became a part of the Divine Mission of Bhagavan when He accepted them by a deed of registration during His visit to Sathya

Sai Grama, Muddenahalli on 14th August 1978.

Under the umbrella of Bhagavan's divine grace and direct guidance, the two centres flourished very rapidly, and now they impart value-based education to over two thousand students from all over India. The centres, which also have hospitals, agricultural farms, dairies, a publication division and an orphanage, are manned by a group of 60 Tyagajeevis (men of sacrifice) who were inspired by the ideals of self-sacrifice and selfless service to mankind by their mentor, Sri Narayan Bhat whom they



lovingly called Anna (elder brother). They accepted the vow of lifelong celibacy and dedicated their life to Lokaseva (service to mankind). When these institutions were accepted by Bhagavan Baba, all of them rededicated themselves to the Divine Mission of Bhagavan. They are bound by a sense of brotherhood and they live together in the Ashram named Prem Kutir on the campus. Their oath-cum-prayer given to them by their illustrious mentor runs thus: "Oh Lord Sathya Sayeeshwara, grant us the divine strength to build up a mighty organisation of dedicated missionaries who offer themselves completely as messengers in Your great mission of establishing Dharma in the world. This life of ours filled with Your love is dedicated at Your Lotus Feet for achieving this glorious ideal!"

### **Sathya Sai Vihar, Alike – the Little Garden of the Lord**

Sathya Sai Vihar in Alike is situated in a valley surrounded by hills. The location is

reflect God's grandeur and munificence. The sky above reveals the infinity and eternity of truth. In their unifying experience, you can see the face of God in the trinity of Truth, Goodness and Beauty. Once a saint who was living in the Himalayan mountains was brought to Sathya Sai Vihar by his disciples. After staying for a day there, he exclaimed, "Men go to the Himalayas in search of God, but your Anna has brought Himalayas down to this place!" God in the form of Bhagavan Baba has graced these institutions in Alike with His visits twice – in 1979 and 2001. During His first visit Bhagavan stayed on the campus for one day in the beautiful Mandir specially built for Him with great love and devotion.

Sri Sathya Sai Lokaseva Junior College, which was started in 1972, with science, commerce and arts sections is one of the premier institutions in the State. It is affiliated to the Board for Pre-University Education in Karnataka. In recent years, the college has

garnered limelight by securing 100% results in the State-level public examinations and very high ranks in the Common Entrance Tests conducted by the State Government for selecting students to engineering and medical colleges. The principles of Sri Sathya Sai Educare are integrated into the process of education here and 'integral education for total development of the student' is the motto. Most of the students reside in the

hostel attached to the college and a few day scholars from the local villages also attend the college. Needy students are provided free food by the institution.



*Sri Sathya Sai Lokaseva Vidya Kendra, Alike.*

breathtakingly picturesque and the campus reminds you of the Gurukulas of ancient India. The beauty of the place and the goodness of the people living there



A fully residential boy's school affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi was started in 1984. The school admits boys to sixth standard and imparts education till tenth standard.

An orphanage located in Sathya Sai Vihar houses about 100 destitute children drawn from very poor families and orphans with the objective of educating them and moulding them into cultured citizens of the country. These children also attend the educational institutions run by the Trust.

Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital which provides free medical care to all those who come to its portals from the surrounding villages was inaugurated in 2002. During His divine visit to Sathya Sai Vihar in 2001, Swami declared that He would establish a 'Superior Hospital' there. A spacious building which looks more like a temple than a hospital was built on the top of a hill overlooking the campus within a year. Baba Himself arranged for the construction of the building and provided all the equipment and instruments required for the hospital.

Sri Sathya Sai Vocational Training Centre provides training in computer processing and printing to the needy villagers free of cost. The Kannada Monthly – "Sanathana Sarathi" – is printed here. The publications division of the Trust has also published more than thirty books in Kannada on the life, work and teachings of Baba.

Shiva Nilaya, a spacious and well-furnished guest house, serves the needs of the visitors to the centre. A very well-maintained and vast agricultural farm and a dairy form an important part of the centre.

*Under the umbrella of Bhagavan's divine grace and direct guidance, the two centres flourished very rapidly and now they impart value-based education to over two thousand students from all over India completely free of any charges. The centres which also have hospitals, agricultural farms, dairies, a publication division and an orphanage are manned by a group of 60 Tyagajeevis (men of sacrifice) who were inspired by the ideals of self-sacrifice and selfless service to mankind by their mentor, Sri Narayan Bhat whom they lovingly called Anna.*

### **Sathya Sai Grama – a Land of Penance**

The centre at Muddenahalli which is located at a distance of seven kilometres from the main road between Puttaparthi and Whitefield was christened by Swami Himself as 'Sathya Sai Grama' in 1973. It nestles in the sylvan surroundings at the foot of the reputed hill station – the Nandi Hills.

Sathya Sai Grama is a sprawling campus of over a hundred acres filled with thousands of trees and plants, dotted with majestic buildings. The centre has the proud privilege of receiving Swami on its hallowed grounds 27 times in the last three decades. When He stepped on this land for the first time on 14th August 1978, Swami looked around admiringly and said, "This is a Tapobhumi – a land of penance!"



Anyone who visits the campus experiences the powerful spiritual vibrations pervading the place. Prema Deepa – the light of love – was the name given by Bhagavan to the Mandir here; it is an exquisite piece of Indian temple architecture situated almost on the highest spot in the campus. It was inaugurated by Bhagavan on 15th August 1994. Encircled by an ornamental garden, it has now become a place of pilgrimage for devotees.

More than eight hundred students study in the educational institutions in Sathya Sai Grama. Out of them, 700 boys drawn from all over India reside in the hostels, and others come from eight villages around the campus. These villages have been adopted by the centre for their all-round development. The alumni association of the educational institutions at Sathya Sai Grama – the ‘Children of Sathya Sai’ – are doing commendable work in these villages with the objective of transforming them into model villages worthy of emulation.

Sri Sathya Sai Lokaseva Composite Pre-University College, which was started as a high school in 1973, was upgraded in 1982 with the addition of



*Bhagavan blessing the devotees of Sathya Sai Grama, Muddenahalli during one of His visits.*

important feature of these educational institutions. The students have won accolades in sports, games and athletics in State level competitions. The vast agricultural farms and a modern dairy which occupy the western side of the campus lend a heavenly charm to the place.

One important and very encouraging development in Sathya Sai Grama is

Pre-University section in commerce. A science section will also be added from the next academic year. The magnificent building of the college was declared open by Swami in February 1987. The college is reputed for its excellent results in the S.S.L.C. and P.U.C. Public Examinations and effective education in human values on the basis of the Sathya Sai ideals.

Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Kendra is a Central School with classes from sixth to tenth standard. It is a fully residential school started in 1998.

A beautiful auditorium and a modern dining hall adorned with sculptural embellishments are an added attraction in the campus. Sprawling playgrounds and good sports facilities are another





*Sri Sathya Sai Lokaseva Composite Pre-University College, Muddenahalli.*

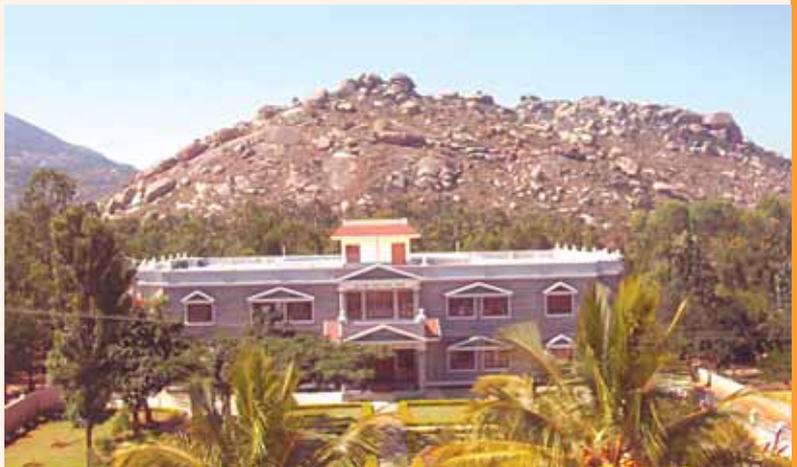
that some of the alumni have joined the centre as Tyagajeevis. It augurs well for the fulfilment of the grand vision of the founder of the institutions, Sri Narayan Bhat, regarding their contribution to the divine mission of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

### **Role Models of Integral Education**

If one wants to see how values are integrated with studies in schools and colleges, one should see the functioning of these two institutions because seeing is believing. The entire environment in both the institutions is saturated with values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa as taught by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Both the students and teachers are shining examples of morality, ethics and spirituality in practice. In fact, these two institutions present a model which all educational institutions of the

country can emulate to give value-based direction to our system of education.

Let me complete this article on these very unique institutions of Bhagavan by recalling a revealing incident that happened in July 2003 at Brindavan. Bhagavan had called for interview, a group of students and teachers from Sri Sathya Sai Lokaseva Junior College at Sathya Sai Vihar. Those were the students who had secured the highest ranks in the engineering and medical entrance examinations in the State. For the first time in the history of the State, students from the same college had secured first rank in both the engineering and medical entrance examinations. When I submitted this good news to Bhagavan, He said joyfully, "It is not history; it is His story!" We can look forward to His story unfolding with each passing day bringing peace and joy to mankind!



*Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Kendra, Muddenahalli.*

## EASWARAMMA WOMEN'S WELFARE PROJECT

Chethana Raju

**R**ECOGNISING WOMEN'S CENTRAL role in society, the Easwaramma Women's Welfare Project seeks to help in the development of women in a holistic manner by understanding and supporting the different roles which they play in life, be it daughter, mother or breadwinner. It is a well-known saying, "Give a man bread and you feed him for a day, teach him to farm, and you feed him for life." Along these lines, we felt our sisters in the villages would be better served by the acquisition of skills; the goal being self-support and independence. Powered by the idea of sustainable development, this philosophy motivated the adoption of a Welfare Project to first address the need for a woman's financial security. Before the Project launch, a survey was conducted in the surrounding villages, identifying the most deprived and impoverished women in the area. Their economic condition and whether they had some basic or no skills were all points taken into consideration before selection for the Project.

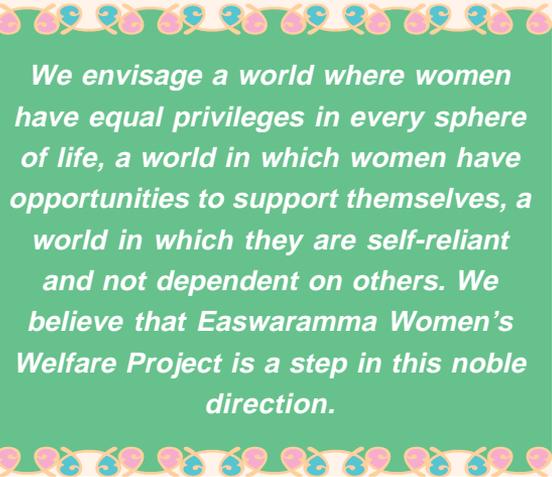
### **A Step towards Making Women Self-reliant**

On 19th November 2004, on Ladies Day, Bhagavan officially inaugurated the

Easwaramma Women's Welfare Project by unveiling a plaque. On 19th July 2005, the Project facility for these women was graciously inaugurated by Bhagavan within Prasanthi Nilayam. The Project is already producing a large number of products and has started marketing them initially through local outlets in the Ashram. The proceeds of the sales will be spent on remuneration for the women and will also go towards charitable projects in the villages.

Once the products are identified, trainers are engaged to teach the women how to make these items. When they are proficient at their tasks, one or two women in the group are trained to interact with suppliers and customers. In addition to providing women with a skill that is a lifelong source of income, this Project will also have socially beneficial effects. As an income earner, a woman's self-esteem and her respect in society increases. Speaking on women, Swami has said, "All

women should be provided with opportunities to become self-reliant". The Project seeks to translate this into reality. A major step was taken to expand and organise the work of Easwaramma Women's Project when Bhagavan



*We envisage a world where women have equal privileges in every sphere of life, a world in which women have opportunities to support themselves, a world in which they are self-reliant and not dependent on others. We believe that Easwaramma Women's Welfare Project is a step in this noble direction.*



*Making women self-reliant under Easwaramma Women's Welfare Project.*

graciously established Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust on 18th February 2005.

### **Mother and Child Project**

Recently, another dimension has been added to the Easwaramma Women's Welfare Project by initiating Mother and Child Project. This project was started after conducting thorough research at grass root level by visiting a large number of villages as well as by assessing the needs of expecting mothers from Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, Puttaparthi. As a result of this, two requirements have been recognised as vital. One is for maternal and infant care, which has given rise to the Mother and Child Project. The central role that the mother plays as "the Guru of the children ... and the upholder of spiritual values" has been emphasised by Swami many a

time. Recognising the importance of her health and well-being for society, the Mother and Child Project strives to support her during this crucial stage in her life.

Visits to the General Hospital, Puttaparthi showed that the general health condition of some of the pregnant women coming in for care is a cause for concern. Many come in for deliveries with extremely low haemoglobin levels, far below the international recommended level for delivery. Lack of proper nutrition is one of the main causes for this deficiency.

They often come to the hospital at a very late stage, which significantly increases the chances of complications. Regrettably, some are unable to come because of the considerable journeying distance and / or monetary constraints. Therefore, the Mother and Child Project aims to provide medical care



*Providing mother and child care at the doorstep of villagers.*

for pregnant mothers and infants in the villages. Bhagavan, in His infinite grace, has provided a fully-equipped ambulance which can be utilised for on-the-spot medical treatment. The two objectives



of the Project, medical and educational, are pursued side by side. The medical care is dispensed in a regular manner, over a significant period of time, in keeping with the Project's goal of sustainability. The voluntary team of doctors, nurses and Seva Dal members visit each village throughout the year. Records of all mothers and children are maintained systematically so that their health condition can be monitored on a continuous, long-term basis. These records prove to be invaluable resource for the next team of doctors to assess the follow-up care.

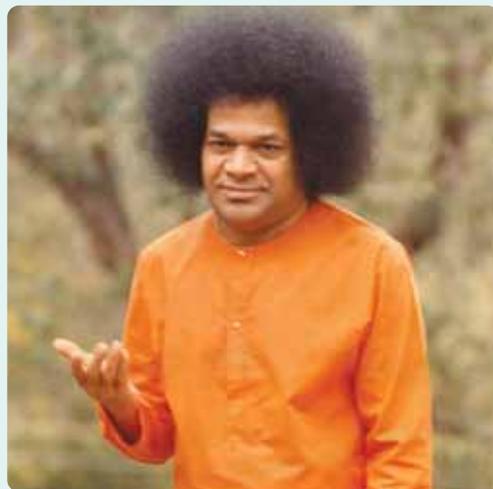
Each mother-to-be receives a Sari and a special kit for mother and baby as a token of Bhagavan's love and blessings. The kit provides the mothers with important supplements such as iron and folic acid. High protein nutritional supplements are also distributed regularly. As for the delivery itself, only emergencies are advised to go to the hospital. The traditional practice of home-deliveries with the central role of Dhais (midwives) is encouraged and made increasingly hygienic with the training of these Dhais and the supply of sterilised kits that assist in safe deliveries.

Once the baby is born, it is welcomed into the world with a fresh set of clothes, regular health check-ups and full immunisation. Immunisation is done for major locally-prevalent diseases including polio, measles, mumps, hepatitis-B and tuberculosis. Nutritional supplements are also regularly given to the infants. In conjunction with the treatment, the doctors conduct educational talks for mothers. Advice is given on a variety of practical matters, i.e., available good foods for pregnancy, post-natal and infant care, and handling of emergency cases.

We envisage a world where women have equal privileges in every sphere of life, a world in which women have opportunities to support themselves, a world in which they are self-reliant and not dependent on others. We believe that Easwamma Women's Welfare Project is a step in this noble direction. One of the Mission statements of Bhagavan Baba is: "I am attached to the work that I love: To remove the sufferings of the poor and grant them what they lack". We pray that we all become humble instruments in His Divine Mission!

*The first lesson in Seva has to be learnt in the family circle itself. In this limited group, which is well-knit, one must engage in loving service and prepare for the wider Seva that awaits outside the home.*

- Baba





**Administrative Building  
Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning**

*Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning*

## **A BEACON LIGHT OF INTEGRAL EDUCATION**

*Sanjay Sahni*

**S**RI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF Higher Learning is the visible manifestation of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's vision of education which is not only an important means for the transformation of mankind, but also a panacea for the ills that are afflicting it today. More particularly, it is a precious gift of Bhagavan to the youth whom He is moulding to become shining examples of ethical and spiritual awareness to make them the torchbearers of moral regeneration and spiritual reawakening of the world. The Institute has evolved the integral system of education which lays as

much emphasis on inculcation of values as on achieving academic excellence. Come 2006, the Institute, a deemed university, will be celebrating its silver jubilee. The birth of the university represented a significant milestone in the glorious unfolding of the Divine Mission of Bhagavan whose watchword, "the end of education is character" forms the main objective of all its activities. From a humble beginning in improvised premises to be acclaimed today 'as the crest-jewel of higher education in India', the Institute has come a long way. On 22nd November 1981 this deemed university was



inaugurated by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Y.V. Chandrachud at Prasanthi Nilayam, and Bhagavan bestowed on it a unique honour by accepting to become its Chancellor.

### **Divine Vision of the Revered Chancellor**

The spirit behind all its achievements is the Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who from the very beginning chartered its course by His Divine

established just to prepare you for earning degrees. The main purpose is to help you to cultivate self-knowledge and self-confidence, so that each one of you can learn self-sacrifice and earn self-realisation. The teaching of university curricula and the preparation for presenting you for the university examinations and the award of university degrees – these are only the means employed for the end, namely, spiritual uplift, self-discovery and social service through love and detachment.”

Again, while speaking at the Brindavan College on 31st March 1974, Bhagavan revealed, “Do not be under the impression that you and I have come together only now, since you study in this college; you have come to Me for the sake of far higher triumphs, as a consequence of merit acquired in many previous lives. You and your teachers are destined to achieve tremendous tasks under My guidance, in the execution of the Mission on which I have come.”

Another milestone was reached in the history of the Institute when on Vijaya Dasami day after the Poornahuti of the Veda Purusha Sathaha Jnana Yajna on 8th October 1981, Bhagavan announced that from that day the colleges at Prasanthi Nilayam and Anantapur would be raised to the status of the campuses of the new university.

### **Evolution and Growth**

It was Prof. V.K. Gokak, the first Vice Chancellor of the university, who gave a concrete shape to the vision of Bhagavan. In 1982, the Institute launched its Five Year



*Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Anantapur Campus.*

vision. While laying the foundation stone of the Sri Sathya Sai College for Women at Anantapur in 1969, Bhagavan declared: “It is indeed deplorable that education of the spirit has been totally neglected while attention is devoted to the training of skills and for gleaning and garnering information... My Sankalpa is to provide the youth with an education which, while cultivating their intelligence, will also purify their impulses and emotions and equip them with the physical and mental disciplines needed for drawing upon the springs of calmness and joy that lie in their own hearts.”

In another Discourse to the students and staff of this college in August 1974, Bhagavan observed, “This college has not been



*Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Brindavan Campus.*

Integrated courses and PG courses in the sciences and humanities. The same year, the Brindavan College became the third campus of the university. I recall how Prof. Gokak outlined before us, first year UG students then, the grand vision of the academic education in the Institute. To inculcate in students a wide and liberal mental outlook, education in the university was envisaged as a pyramidal structure. The pyramid has a wide base and accordingly the students in the undergraduate courses would begin with the study of languages and awareness courses along with their respective courses in core areas. At the end of the second year, the languages would drop off and the science students would start specialising in their area of interest. This would continue into the PG, after which the student would choose a narrow niche for undertaking research. In 1984, Bhagavan started the Ph.D. programme with the intention of preparing His future teachers. Many doctorates have now joined the university as faculty.

In 1986, the MBA and B.Ed. programmes were launched. Many MBA and PG alumni have gone on to man Bhagavan's institutions in the Ashrams, hospitals, schools and colleges. Others have made their mark in the wide world. Other courses got added in subsequent years: B.Sc. (Hons.) 1992; B.Com. (Hons.), M.Tech. (1993); M.A. (Economics) (2001); M.Phil (2004).

Many academic reforms and innovations were adopted by the Institute right from its inception. It has a merit-based open admission policy enabling students from all over the country to seek admission to various courses, irrespective of income, class, creed, religion or region, making it truly national in character. Education is provided to students free without any fees whatsoever, in sharp contrast to the rapid commercialisation of education elsewhere.

### **Sri Sathya Sai Integral Education**

The Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has given the Institute its philosophy of integral education and has been inspiring and guiding the



*Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam Campus.*

administrators, teachers and students of the Institute since its inception in the practice of this philosophy. According to Bhagavan, “One should have the head of Sankara, the heart of Buddha and the hands of Janaka”. An integrated personality is a harmonious synthesis of a discerning intellect, a compassionate heart and efficient hands; it is a beautiful combination of nobility and ability. Nobility without ability is useless to society and ability without nobility is dangerous to it. Spiritual education is the basis of integral education. This is what Bhagavan calls educare. Ultimately, all education should converge into educare.

Integral education aims at the all-round development of the human personality – the physical, the intellectual, the emotional and the spiritual. Acquisition of knowledge when supported by its proper utilisation leads to skill; the harmony of knowledge and skill leads to balance of mind which is the basis for spiritual insight. The surest sign of spiritual insight is the blossoming of true love in the heart, springing out of recognition of the oneness of all existence.

The university is a modern Gurukula combining the best of the past and the present. All the campuses of the Institute are wholly residential. The students reside in the hostels along with the Warden and a band of resident teachers carefully hand-picked by Bhagavan. Character moulding is a twenty-four hour endeavour and the Institute could not be

*The birth of the university represented a significant milestone in the glorious unfolding of the Divine Mission of Bhagavan whose watchword, “the end of education is character” forms the main objective of all its activities.*

otherwise. The key to success in community living in the hostels, which represent a mini-India, is understanding and adjustment. Mutual tolerance and courtesy, sacrifice and service to fellowmen, civic sense and social sensitivity – the blessings of community living under the watchful eyes of committed teachers are immense. The daily routine in the campus is designed with the guidance of Bhagavan



*Display of courage, skill and balance in the Annual Sports and Cultural Meet.*

and has multifarious activities to foster the development of integrated personalities.

Prayers before sunrise and at bedtime, before meals and at the commencement of classes in the Institute help the students to still their minds and periodically reconnect to the Divine who is the source of all succour and energy. Spiritual talks in the college and hostel, the value-based Awareness Course, the spiritual study circle sessions and above all exposure to the divine influence of Bhagavan strengthen the moral and spiritual fibre in the student's personality. Since 1990, a number of summer courses in Indian Culture and Spirituality were organised for the benefit of all students.

Physical culture is encouraged through participation in jogging, games, sports and yoga in the mornings. The objective of physical culture is physical fitness, though annual competitions are organised to spot and nurture sporting talent. The Annual Sports and Cultural Meet on 11th January is an important event in the academic calendar of the Institute and represents the expression of students' love for Bhagavan manifesting in the form of breathtaking sporting feats and aesthetically delightful programmes, charming one and all.

While co-curricular activities in literature, music, dance, drama and other fine arts along with harmonious community living foster emotional balance and self-reliance in students, social service activities instil in them self-confidence, humility, dignity of labour and helpful nature apart from nurturing their talents. Service in the kitchen

and dining hall, cooperative stores, dispensary, maintenance, audiovisual department, garden and myriad other areas is undertaken by the students under the guidance of their teachers. The annual Sri Sathya Sai Grama Seva in the villages around Puttaparthi during Dasara celebrations and initiated by Bhagavan in 2000 is a great educational experience for the students and staff of the university.

### **The Crest-jewel of Higher Education**

At the first Convocation of the Institute on 22nd November 1982, the late legal luminary Sri Nani Palkhiwala observed, "This Institute is a tribute to the great organising genius of its founder, Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Without His initiative and inspiration it would have been impossible to found an institution of this character. We are witnesses to a great event in the history of our country. This deemed university is a memorable experiment in the moral and spiritual regeneration of India. It stands for nothing less ... This Institute aims at becoming a nation-builder."

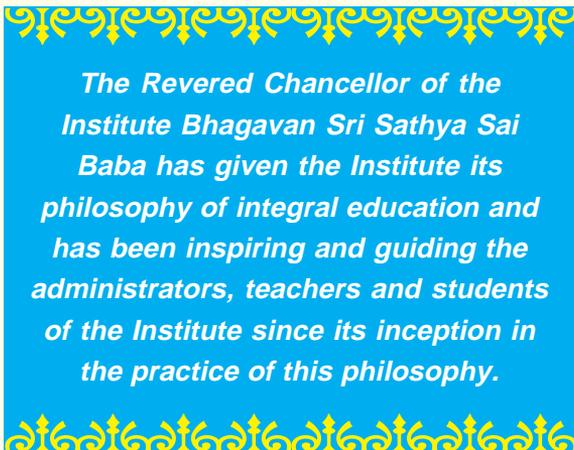


*Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, President of India with Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, in the ceremonial procession in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on the occasion of the 21st Convocation of the Institute in 2002.*

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, President of India declared at the Institute's Convocation in 2002, "The purpose of real education is to initiate a learning process that transforms students into good human beings with knowledge and value systems. Is value education possible? Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning has given an answer in the affirmative."

In December 2002, the Peer Team of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), which is set up by the University Grants Commission to assess and accredit higher education institutions, visited the Institute and reported, "The Peer Team puts on record its appreciation for providing the members of the Team the opportunity to spend time with the Institute faculty and the students so as to develop a thorough insight into the higher education process of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, particularly the integral higher education interwoven in the blueprint and design of higher education products. This made us realise that there is a way to correct our already degrading university education system in India, if we decide to do so."

The Peer Team feels that this Institute stands out as a crest-jewel among the university education system in the country and this model is worthy of emulation by the institutions of higher learning in the country and elsewhere, so that these benefits would be reaped fast and on the widest possible scale."



NAAC granted accreditation at the A++ level to the Institute for five years in 2002-03 placing the Institute in the highest bracket of Indian universities.

I would like to conclude with the following experience of an alumnus of the Institute. He was facing a job interview and the Managing Director of the company, who was on the interview panel, enquired, 'I understand that you are a student of Sai Baba's college. I have heard that Sai Baba creates and gives rings, necklaces, etc., to his devotees. What has He given you?' Spontaneously, the boy replied, "Sir, I am a village boy. Today, this village boy is sitting and talking with so much confidence to the M.D. of one of India's most prestigious research based companies. The confidence that you see in me is Sai Baba's gift to me."

Faith in oneself and faith in Divinity is truly the quintessence of education at the Lotus Feet of our Beloved Bhagavan.

*Desire breeds wishes. Wishes cause birth and also death. When man is devoid of desire, he need not go through birth and death. The next birth is the result of unfulfilled desires in this life and is determined by them. Those who have no trace of desire for material objects can achieve the awareness of the Atmic reality.*

- Baba

# 80th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THE WORK CONTINUES

### Community Service

#### Indonesia

The world's second largest earthquake since year 1964 (8.7 Richter scale) struck Indonesia on 28th March 2005. Responding to the massive disaster at Nias Island, North Sumatra, the Sai Study Groups of Jakarta and Medan despatched a total of 14 cartons consisting of 25 items of medicines and medical equipments to the victims in April, 2005. One of the cartons containing 202 boxes of Vaccine ATS was delivered urgently to the general hospital in Gunung Sitoli (capital city



*Relief material being given by Sai Study Groups for the earthquake victims of Indonesia.*

of Nias Island). Many schools were badly damaged and children were left with no books or stationery to resume their study. Responding to this situation, Sai groups organised distribution of stationery and

books on 18th June 2005 to Primary and Junior High School in Yayasan Budi Bhakti at Gunung Sitoli. Large quantities of writing pads, books, pencils, pens, rulers and erasers were supplied to the school children. On 3rd July 2005, food and other items were distributed to 320 families. Each family received 5 kg of rice, 8 packs of instant noodle, 1 piece of bath soap and 2 pieces of cloth.

### Medical Camp

#### Nepal

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 80th Birthday is being celebrated in Nepal with grandeur and devotion. Sai centres in Nepal are organising various programmes to mark this important event. In order to facilitate dissemination of Swami's message, Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Nepal has been conducting outreach activities in rural areas devoid of any Sai centre or Sai group. As part of this, a medical camp along with Sai Darshan Exhibition and a talk programme was organised in Trishuli, a remote hilly town on 27th August 2005. Altogether 12 doctors and 10 paramedics rendered services to 500 patients. Two of those patients who were seriously ill were transported to a better equipped hospital in Kathmandu and their treatment was sponsored by the Sai devotees. This was first such combination of avenues in Nepal for spreading Bhagavan's message of love through medical camp, exhibition and talks.



## Public Meeting

### Germany

A regional Sai Public Meeting for the *Rhine-Main-Aerea* in Germany was held in Wiesbaden on Saturday, 18th June 2005 at Velvets, Black & Light Theatre. The attendance was approximately 160 people with 25% non-Sai devotees.

The first speaker Gabriele Göbel, National Coordinator of Germany, highlighted five of the main teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, viz., unity of all religions, divinity of man, five human values, the programme of ceiling on desires and service to mankind (Seva). The speaker also described the grand service projects of Bhagavan and elaborated on the declaration of Bhagavan "My Life is My Message" in detail. The next speaker Petra von Kalinowski, described how the social values of the past 100 years in Germany underwent some radical changes in course of time. She emphasised how the practice of the five eternal human values is essential for all cultures and religions of all nations.

Finally, Prof. Dr. Martin Mittwede, University of Frankfurt, an eminent scientist in the field of Comparative Religion spoke about "Spirituality in Times of Change". He emphasised that great religious leaders of all ages expressed spirituality in the unique way of their century and fulfilled the spiritual desire of mankind of their age. In this sense, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba gives expression to the spiritual aspiration of our time which generally accepts a multiplicity of creeds and religions. This multiplicity is nothing but natural, and so Sai Baba's main teaching deals with the unity of different faiths. At the end of the programme, the film

"His Work" was greatly appreciated by all present and copies were available at the book display in the hall.

– Prasanthi Council

## B H A R A T

**Andhra Pradesh:** A newly-built Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Seva Sadan was inaugurated at Vijayawada on 16th September 2005 for helpless old women and orphans.

Mahaboobnagar district constructed a mini water tank at Venkatamma Banda Thanda village which was inaugurated on 9th September 2005 to facilitate the drinking water supply to the Girijanas of the village.

**Bihar and Jharkhand:** Baidyanath Dham sacred pilgrimage is performed during the entire month of Shravan (July – August) by lakhs of devotees from all over India and Nepal. They undertake a very arduous barefoot 108 km long trek through a rough terrain to carry the holy Ganga water from Sultanganj to Lord Siva Temple at Baidyanath Dham.

As the devotees carry the holy Ganga water in pots slung through a bamboo over the shoulders and walk barefoot, they suffer sole and toe injuries and straining of feet and legs. The shoulders also develop problems. The tired pilgrims called Kawarias come to the camp set up by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Bihar and Jharkhand where Seva Dal volunteers massage their legs and shoulders, provide first aid and medicines, give hot foot bath in saline water and offer hot tea to them. They are served by specially trained Sai Youth who provide this service for 30 days every year. About



2,000 pilgrims are served daily. The camp is running since 1981. Its 25th anniversary was celebrated this year.

**Jammu and Kashmir:** For the first time in the history of the State, keeping in view the prevailing disturbed conditions, Sai Youth conducted Narayana Seva on 7th September 2005 at the Ziyarat of Hazrat Sultan-UI-Arifeen R.A. Sahib, Nowhatta, Srinagar where 150 food packets were served to needy persons. Similar Narayana Seva was conducted near Baba Reshi Ziyarat at Gulmarg on 25th September 2005 where 250 food packets were distributed among needy persons. In the month of August 2005, food and fruits were served to about 1550 pilgrims who were due to proceed for Amarnath Yatra.

**Rajasthan:** Autorickshaw drivers generally suffer from respiratory ailments and eye



*Narayana Seva being conducted by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Jammu and Kashmir at the Ziyarat of Hazrat Sultan-UI-Arifeen R.A. Sahib, Nowhatta.*

sight problems. 23 Seva Dal volunteers and 6 medical experts of Bikaner Samithi organised a medical camp on 21st August 2005 at Bikaner. 205 drivers and their 15 family members were administered medical check-up and free medicines. One sticker with photos of Shirdi Sai and Sathya Sai and their divine messages was pasted on each autorickshaw for the benefit of travellers.

## SAI INSTITUTIONS IN THE SERVICE OF MANKIND

As part of the Divine Mission of Bhagavan, all the State Sathya Sai Seva Organisations are engaged in Seva activities to cater to the needs of less-privileged sections of society. They have also set up a large number of Seva institutions in pursuance of Bhagavan's ideal of "Love All, Serve All". The description here provides only a glimpse of this massive Seva work.



*Sri Sathya Sai Navalayam, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. This magnificent building is built in an area of 20 acres and provides multifarious services to needy people.*



*This school in Mylaram Thanda in Nalgonda district was built as part of Gurukula Seva Yajnam programme of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Andhra Pradesh. It has so far constructed 25 new school buildings and renovated 75 old buildings under this programme.*

*Sri Sathya Sai Heart Hospital, Rajkot. Set up by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Gujarat in 1998, the hospital renders free treatment for heart disease. Total OPD beneficiaries till date are 46,922. Total number of surgeries performed to date are over 800. Besides this hospital, the Sai Organisation is running nearly 30 free medical centres / dispensaries in the State to provide medicare with love to needy people.*



*Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Agriculture and Biotechnology, Aksa, Malad, Mumbai. Set up by Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Maharashtra, the Institute offers to unemployed rural youth a comprehensive training course, which includes training in modern and scientific methods of agriculture and biotechnology, post-harvest technology, water management, medicinal plants and herbal medicines, education in human values, etc.*

*Inaugurated by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Salem Community Centre is engaged in Seva activities in Salem district of Tamil Nadu.*

*Other main centres of Seva set up by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Tamil Nadu are Mahalakshmi Nagar Community Centre in Kancheepuram district, Sai Niwas, Perambur and above all Sundaram, Chennai. There are at present 36 such community centres in the State which provide services of medicare, educate and sociocare to needy people.*





*Sri Sathya Sai Community Centre, Kodankara, Thiruvananthapuram district. This is one of the centres under Deenajanoddharana Project undertaken by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Kerala. There are at present 15 centres in different parts of Kerala for old people and destitute children. It has constructed 81 houses for needy families. It has also adopted 2,000 families for help in all respects.*

*Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Golaghat, Assam. Set up by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Assam, Manipur and N.E. States, the school provides value-based education to children.*



*Seva Dal volunteers constructing a village road. Many villages near Kanpur have been adopted by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal, providing needed services to the people of these villages. The Sai Organisation is also engaged in providing medical aid and food in leper colonies near Dehradun.*



*Seva Dal volunteers of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of West Bengal ready to go for Seva work.*

*Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Bihar and Jharkhand engaged in Seva activities.*



## *Showering Ananda is My Task*

Do not count and calculate what Puttaparthi Sai Baba gives. I do not give in order to attract you to Me; I give only to fill you with Ananda (bliss). Showering Ananda is My task. I do not want you to extol Me; I shall be satisfied if you rely on Me. The mysterious and indescribable superpower has come within reach. It will never engage itself in any task without fruit.

*- Baba*

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