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# Sanathana Sarathi



# Sanathana Sarathi

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SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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**G.L. ANAND**

Cover Page Photograph: Mahabharata scene as  
portrayed in Bhajan Mandir, Prasanthi Nilayam.

*"Those who have love for God  
are endowed with morality.  
Morality is the very life-breath  
of man. Without morality, he is  
lifeless. The whole Jati (human  
race) will be doomed without  
Neeti (morality)."*



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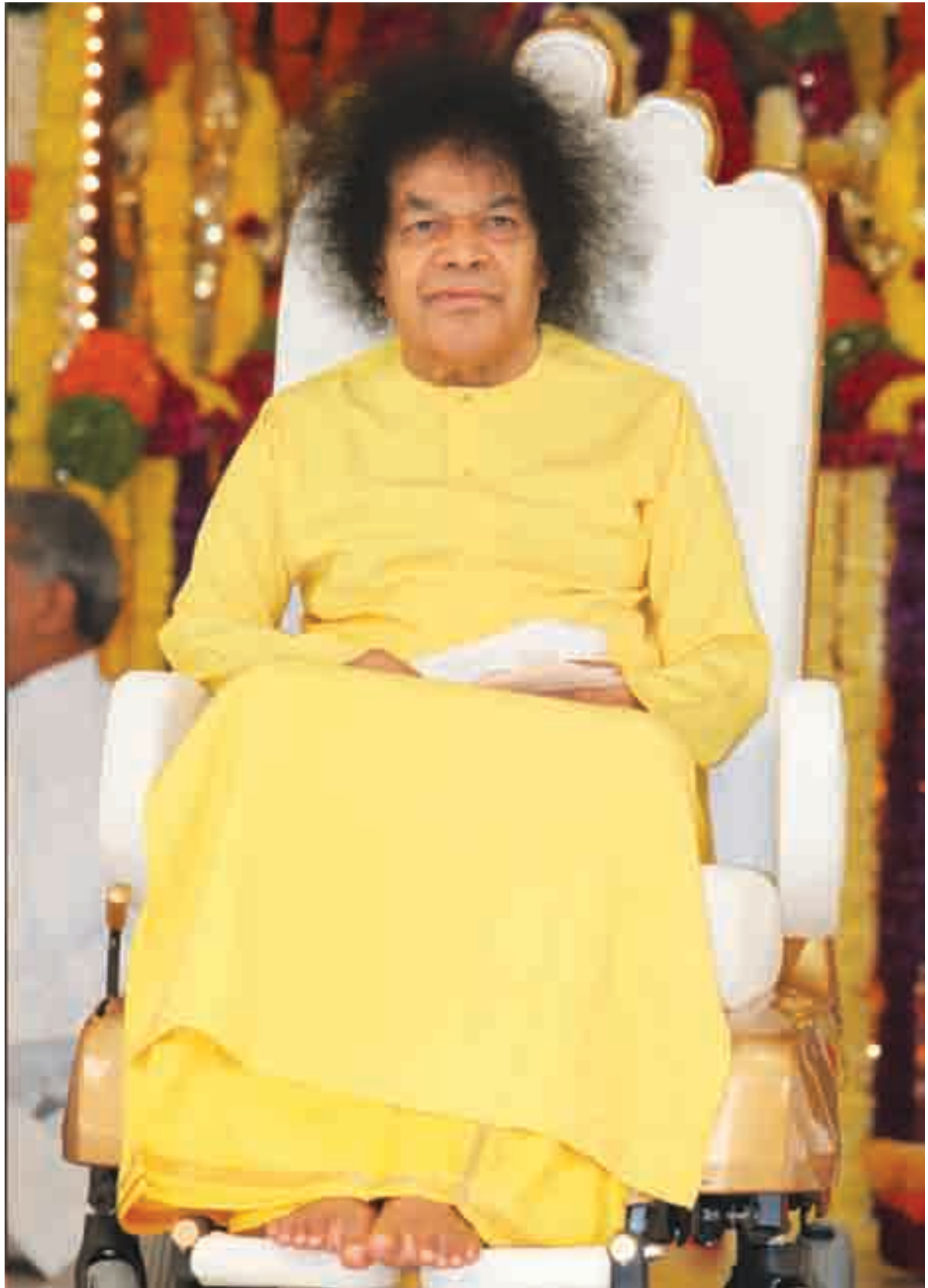
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# TRANSCEND THE SENSES AND BODY ATTACHMENT

*Gurur-Brahma Gurur-Vishnu Gurur Devo Maheswara;  
Guru Sakshat Param Brahma ...*

*(Guru is Brahma, Guru is Vishnu, Guru is Maheswara. Guru is  
verily the Supreme Brahman.)*

*(Sanskrit Verse)*

SOCIETY WILL PROTECT YOU WHEN YOU PROTECT IT

**T**HOUGH THE NAMES AND FORMS of God like Brahma, Vishnu, Maheswara are different, the divine power is one only. *All are one, be alike to everyone.* You think that Brahma is the creator, Vishnu is the sustainer and Maheswara is the annihilator of the universe. But it is not really so. It is the same God who is responsible for all these functions but you give Him the names Brahma, Vishnu, Maheswara and imagine that they are three different gods performing three different functions.

## **Society is a Part of Divine Principle**

Physical forms of people may appear to be different but the same divinity is immanent in all. You go by names and imagine that people are different from each other. But the real name of all is Atma. The Atma that is immanent in all is one only.

*Religions are many but goal is one.*

*Clothes are many but yarn is one.*

*Beings are many but Atma is one.*

*Castes are many but humanity is one.*

*(Telugu Poem)*

Man should observe three principles in life – Daiva Preeti, Papa Bheeti and Sangha Neeti (love for God, fear of sin and morality in society). He should realise that he is Jiva (individual soul) as well as Deva (God) and society is also an aspect of this divine principle.

***There are many subtle truths related to the principle of the Atma. These are contained in the Bhagavadgita and the Upanishads. The main truth propounded in the Upanishads is, "Oh man! Know thyself. When you know yourself, you will know everything." Therefore, one should make efforts to know oneself. Then you will understand that you are neither the mind nor the intellect nor the senses nor the subconscious mind.***





*First you have concentration, then contemplation and thereafter meditation. Therefore, you must have the practice of concentration before you do meditation. Meditation comes only after contemplation. Do not think that you will go into meditation the moment you sit with closed eyes. People do this type of artificial meditation but this is not meditation in the real sense of the term. Meditation is that in which you completely transcend your senses and body attachment and forget yourself.*

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Lack of fear of sin in man is the root cause of absence of morality in society. One bereft of morality is not a human being at all. So, for everything morality is very important. God loves all. If man has love in him, there will be certainly unity in society. People indulge in sinful deeds in spite of knowing that God can give them punishment. They have no fear of sin. If everybody has fear of sin, then there will be morality in society. If man lacks fear of sin, then there can be no morality in



society. Man today has limitless ego and he acts in an arbitrary manner. Everybody should enquire, "If I do this, what will happen? Whether I should do it or not?" You should see to it that you do not see what is evil, do not do what is evil and do not speak what is evil. You have to reap the consequences of your actions if not today, at least tomorrow. You may think that God has forgiven you for your sins but you will have to suffer the consequences of your actions some time or the other. It is also possible that results of all your evil deeds may come to you all at once.

If you want society to progress and prosper, you should always keep the welfare of society in view. There is no use of anything if there is no morality. A person who lacks morality cannot be called a human being. He is verily an animal. To tell lies, to do injustice to others and to indulge in wicked deeds is very bad. Lead your life keeping in view the three principles given by

God – Daiva Preeti, Papa Bheeti and Sangha Neeti. In fact, Bhakti, Jnana and Vairagya are meant to develop these three principles. One who lacks Neeti (morality) is worse than a Koti (monkey). Monkey is better than such a person. Those who conduct themselves without morality will never be respected in society. One who has morality will be respected by all. People will talk high of him, saying, "He is a good man. Do not put hurdles in

his way.” One without morality will be looked down upon as worse than a dog. Therefore, you should always diligently follow moral principles. Body is meant to perform good deeds. When you put this body to proper use, you will have a good mind. When you have a good mind, you can earn the love of God. The essence of Bhakti (devotion), Jnana (wisdom) and Vairagya (renunciation) is Daiva Preeti, Papa Bheeti and Sangha Neeti. They are like the three blades of a fan. You get cool breeze only when all the three blades rotate smoothly. You will not get the required benefit even if one of the blades is not in proper condition. In this world, people ask, “Why should we love God?” You should love God so that you have fear of sin and morality in society. Develop more and more love for God. A devotee always aspires for the love of God. To attain love of God, morality and fear of sin are very essential for everyone.

### **Be Good, Do Good, See Good**

One should enquire what is good, what is bad, what is sin and what is merit. After knowing this, one should make efforts to do only that which is good. *Be Good, Do Good, See Good. This is the way to God.* If you lack these three, there is no use of performing any rituals, worship and chanting. *Sravanam* (listening), *Kirtanam* (singing), *Vishnusmaranam* (contemplating on Vishnu), *Padasevanam* (serving His Lotus Feet), *Vandanam* (salutation), *Archanam* (worship), *Dasyam* (servitude), *Sneham* (friendship), *Atmanivedanam* (self-surrender) are the nine paths of devotion. Out of these, hearing is the first and foremost. You should enquire what you are hearing is good or bad. When you yourself think that what you are hearing

is bad, then how can you put the same into practice? Today many people achieve success by resorting to untruth, injustice and evil ways. You may think that you are not going to reap the consequences of your sins immediately and who knows what may happen at a later date. Do not have such a misconception because the results may come this very moment or in the next. Therefore, every thought of man should be sacred; his every action should be sacred. One may have devotion but his actions may not be good. Therefore, it is necessary to perform good actions. You should make your mind pure by performing sacred actions. Purity is very essential. It will lead to the realisation of the Atma. People really do not know what is meant by the Atma. As there are numerous forms, you give names to them for identification. Nobody can say Atma has this or that form. *Nirgunam, Niranjanam, Sanathana Niketanam, Nitya, Shuddha, Buddha, Mukta, Nirmala Swarupinam* (It is attributeless, unsullied, final abode, eternal, pure, enlightened, free and embodiment of sacredness). With reference to the Atma, nobody has the right to say this is right and that is wrong because except your heart, nobody can know what is right and what is wrong.

When you realise the principle of the Atma, you will know that the same Atma is present in all. If there are a hundred pots full of water, you will find the reflection of the moon in all of them. Body is like a pot; it is bound to perish one day or the other. When the pot breaks, what happens to the moon? The moon does exist but you cannot see its reflection because the pot containing water is broken. Atma is present in each and every human being. You yourself are the witness of the Atma. Similarly, you are the witness of your mind and good qualities are the witness of your body.





*Man should observe three principles in life – Daiva Preeti, Papa Bheeti and Sangha Neeti (love for God, fear of sin and morality in society). He should realise that he is Jiva (individual soul) as well as Deva (God) and society is also an aspect of this divine principle. Lack of fear of sin in man is the root cause of absence of morality in society. One bereft of morality is not a human being at all. So, for everything morality is very important. God loves all. If man has love in him, there will be certainly unity in society. People indulge in sinful deeds in spite of knowing that God can give them punishment. They have no fear of sin. If everybody has fear of sin, then there will be morality in society.*

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### **There can be no Morality without Character**

We say, there should be morality in society. But there can be no morality without character. Therefore, you should uphold your respect and honour in society by developing character.

But today the situation is such that



nobody cares about having a good name in society. The only difference that you observe in society is whether one is rich or poor. *But money comes and goes. Morality comes and grows.* It is not desirable to crave for money and ephemeral worldly gains. You cannot say when you will lose your money. You will say, "I kept the money under my pillow. But I do not know who has stolen it." You cannot say when the money will come and when it will go. But there is no coming and going for the Atma. It is the eternal witness. Therefore, you should have faith in the Atma. One who has faith in the Atma will not be subjected to injustice and impropriety.

People listen to many discourses about devotion and faith. But what they hear from one ear goes out from their other ear. You should not be attached to anything that comes and goes. You say, "My mind, my Buddhi (intellect), my Indriyas (senses), my Antahkarana (inner instrument)." Then how can you identify yourself with them? You are not the mind; you are not Buddhi. It is Buddhi that discriminates. There is a book in

your hand and you say, "This is my book." But the same book may go into somebody else's hand in the very next moment. In the same way, money comes and goes. But it is morality that comes and grows. Money has a form and that is why it comes and goes. But

morality has no form. Man should develop morality for the progress of society and welfare of the world. Many politicians promise to promote goodness in society. But they only say and do nothing. They make all efforts to get votes but they do nothing for society. One who wants to transform society should have a pure heart. When your heart is pure, then everything will become good. But first and foremost is love for God. Only then can there be morality in society. If you want morality in society, first you will have to be good. Society is formed by individuals. Individuals should promote unity. Only then can they have purity. Purity cannot be attained by reading books or through Mantra (incantation), Yantra (mystic diagram) and Tantra (esoteric doctrine).

### **Love will Drive Away your Evil Qualities**

You sit for meditation. What do you do? You just close your eyes and sit. But what is your mind doing? It is wandering in all directions. This is no meditation at all. When your mind becomes steady without any wavering, then only can it be called meditation. First you have concentration, then contemplation and thereafter meditation. Therefore, you must have the practice of concentration before you do meditation. Meditation comes only after contemplation. Do not think that you will go into meditation the moment you sit with closed eyes. People do this type of artificial meditation but this is not meditation in the real sense of the term. Meditation is that in which you completely transcend your senses and body attachment and forget yourself. Only then will you attain the steadiness of mind.

Suppose a father has three sons. Though all of them want to earn money, yet each of them may have his own way of thinking.



***We say, there should be morality in society. But there can be no morality without character. Therefore, you should uphold your respect and honour in society by developing character. But today the situation is such that nobody cares about having a good name in society. The only difference that you observe in society is whether one is rich or poor. But money comes and goes. Morality comes and grows. It is not desirable to crave for money and ephemeral worldly gains.***



One of them may go into business, the second may set up a shop and the third may take up a job. Money can be earned by all these means. Means are different but the aim of all the three is the same. It is the type of means that will earn you merit or sin. However, unknowingly also you may commit some sins. Whatever sins you may commit, they will always haunt you and you will never be able to escape from their consequences. (At this point of time, there was a heavy shower of rain.)

Some time ago in Orissa, many houses were washed away due to floods. People were fear-stricken. From here, I sent a message to them that they should not worry; I would build new houses for them. Later, many of them came here by special trains to express their gratitude to Swami for providing new houses to them. I spent crores of rupees on building the houses and providing all help to them. I do not want any money. I want only your love.



Be happy. Develop morality and love. When you develop love, love itself will drive away all your demonic qualities.

### **Nobody can Escape the Consequences of his Actions**

Hanuman went to Lanka in search of Sita. Considering him as an ordinary monkey, Ravana questioned him using derogatory words, "Who are you? How dare you enter Lanka?" Using the same disparaging words of Ravana, Hanuman said to him, "I have come at the command of my master who has cut the nose and ears of your younger sister." At this, Ravana was furious and asked Hanuman, "How dare you address me in this derogatory manner? Nobody has so far dared to do so." Then Hanuman said, "All are demons here. So, they have not talked to you in this manner. But I am the servant of Rama. So, I have the right to talk to you in this manner." Ravana then ordered, "Set his tail on fire since tail is very important for a monkey." Hanuman started contemplating on the name of Rama because it was only the name of Rama that could protect him. Meanwhile, all the demons came and surrounded Hanuman as his tail was wrapped in clothes, dipped in oil and set on fire. With his burning tail, Hanuman started jumping from one house to the other, thereby setting the entire Lanka on fire. Beautiful and palatial buildings studded with precious stones went up in flames within no time. All the inhabitants of Lanka were fear-stricken and started asking each other, "Where can we go now when all the houses are set on fire?" Mandodari also came and sat outside as her mansion along with all valuables was reduced to ashes. All the residents of Lanka came to Mandodari and said, "Mother! Many

people of Lanka have lost their lives due to the sins committed by your husband. Therefore, you should advise your husband to follow the correct path so that all are protected."

Whatever actions you perform, you will have to reap their consequences accordingly. Therefore, you should develop morality and imbibe human qualities. You should have love for God so as to develop human qualities and morality. When there is morality in society, all will be protected and no harm will come to society.

*Everyone has to face the consequences of his actions, whoever he may be.*

*No one can know what lies ahead for him in future.*

*But this much is sure that everybody has to reap the consequences of his actions.*

(Telugu Poem)

When the food becomes stale, there is no use keeping it any longer because it will become more and more stale. You may hide sins from society but you cannot hide anything from God. Therefore, do not try to hide anything. If you can do good to others, do it. Otherwise, keep quiet. At least, do not harm anybody. Cause no harm to anyone by your thoughts, words or deeds. The consequences of your actions will come to you sooner than later. There may be some delay but you cannot escape these consequences.

### **Everything is God's Property**

There are many subtle truths related to the principle of the Atma. These are contained in the Bhagavadgita and the Upanishads. The main truth propounded in the Upanishads is, "Oh man! Know thyself. When you know yourself, you will know everything." Therefore,

*Continued on page 240 ...*



# Guru Purnima at Prasanthi Nilayam

**A** HUGE GATHERING OF DEVOTEES thronged Prasanthi Nilayam from all parts of the world to pay homage to their Sadguru Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on the holy festival of Guru Purnima. Many devotees from overseas countries came in groups and paid their homage to Bhagavan through music and cultural programmes. Bhagavan showered His benedictions on the devotees and blessed them with two nectarine Discourses.

## Bhagavan's Divine Discourse

The celebrations had a glorious start with an illuminating Discourse of Bhagavan on the eve of Guru Purnima, on 6th July 2009. On this day, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 5.40 p.m. and showered the bliss of His Darshan on the devotees in jam-packed hall. After Darshan, Bhagavan gave His Discourse, exhorting the devotees to observe three cardinal principles – Daiva Preeti, Papa Bheeti and Sangha Neeti (love for God, fear of sin and morality in society) to redeem their life. Bhagavan observed that without love for God, man would have no fear of sin and consequently there would be no morality in society. Therefore, first and foremost man should develop love for God. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue.)

## Sai Yuga Swarna Yuga: A Drama

After the Discourse of Bhagavan, Sai Youth and Bal Vikas children of Tamil Nadu staged a very absorbing drama. The opening scene depicted Lord Krishna telling Sage



*On the eve of Guru Purnima, on 6th July 2009, Bal Vikas children and Sai Youth of Tamil Nadu presented an excellent drama in Sai Kulwant Hall. The picture shows a scene from the drama.*

Vyasa that he should not worry about the ills of Kali Yuga since many sages and apostles would be born in this Age and He Himself would also reincarnate to uplift and redeem mankind. Subsequent scenes depicted the coming of saints, sages, apostles and prophets on earth to show mankind the path of redemption. They included Zoroaster, Lao Tse, Buddha, Jesus, Mohammad, Adi Sankara, Ramanujacharya, Madhwacharya, Guru Nanak, Kabir, Chaitanya, Mira, Purandaradasa and Kanakadasa, many of whom predicted the Advent of Sri Sathya Sai Baba as the Avatar of Kali Yuga. The song and dance in the concluding scene depicted the joyous celebration of the Advent of Sai Avatar ushering in Sai Yuga as Swarna Yuga (Golden Age). Embellished with sweet thematic lyrics and scintillating dances of children, the drama not only explained the teachings of all the faiths of the world but also depicted their essential unity as taught by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Appropriate commentary,



meaningful dialogues, excellent costumes and make-up, perfect choreography, superb direction and fabulous sets added to the value of the drama. At the end of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the cast and posed for group photos with them. After the distribution of Prasadam, Arati was offered to Bhagavan at 7.30 p.m., marking the conclusion of the day's programme.

### **Felicitation of Senior Functionaries**

On the auspicious day of Guru Purnima, on 7th July 2009, Bhagavan filled the hearts of hundreds of thousands yearning devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall with bliss when He blessed them with His Divine Darshan at 10.00 a.m. Sacred Vedic chants, blowing of conches and sweet Nadaswaram notes welcomed Bhagavan when He came to the hall in a sparkling yellow robe. After completing His Darshan round, Bhagavan came to the verandah where huge cakes were placed amidst fabulous decorations. Bhagavan graciously lighted candles on the cakes and performed the cake cutting ceremony.

On this holy day of Guru Purnima, Bhagavan felicitated four senior functionaries who served in Bhagavan's institutions with total dedication. They were: Sri A.V. Appa Rao, Controller of Finance, Accounts and Stores, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthi Nilayam; Prof. M. Nanjundaiah, Controller of Examinations, Sri Sathya Sai University; Sri A.V. Sathyanarayana Murthy, Senior Engineer, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences and Prof. A.V. Lakshminarasimham, Registrar, Sri Sathya Sai University. At the outset, Sri Anil Kumar, a faculty member of the university, paid glowing tributes to these functionaries by way of introduction and called upon Sri Appa



*On the auspicious day of Guru Purnima, Bhagavan felicitated four retiring functionaries and showered His blessings on them.*

Rao and Prof. Nanjundaiah along with their wives as well as Prof. Lakshminarasimham and Sri Sathyanarayana Murthy to be seated on the dais. All of them were thereafter garlanded amidst a loud applause of devotees.

Two speakers addressed the gathering on this occasion. The first speaker was Dr. A.N. Safaya, Director, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram. Thanking Sri Appa Rao for the valuable help he rendered at the initial stages of the hospital, Dr. Safaya stated that Sri Appa Rao not only managed the accounts of the hospital without even a single blemish but also compiled the book of rules which became a standard reference for other hospitals also. He also praised Sri Sathyanarayana Murthy for maintaining the air conditioning system of the hospital with exemplary promptness and efficiency. The next speaker, Prof. Vishwanath Pandit, Vice Chancellor, Sri Sathya Sai University, praised Prof. Lakshminarasimham as a reputed teacher, a distinguished scientist and an able administrator who held the post of Registrar of the university with great responsibility, firmness and humility. Prof.

*Continued on page 249 ...*



# STUDENTS SHOULD SET IDEALS FOR OTHERS

## FOCUS YOUR MIND ON THE PRINCIPLE OF THE ATMA

SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, WOMEN HAVE been performing their duties, serving their husbands, praying to God and observing high moral principles in their life. In this country Bharat, honour is considered more valuable than life itself. But, today, in the name of freedom, people are imitating western culture. In Bharatiya culture, decent dress, vermilion mark on the forehead and proper hairstyle are very important for women. But women today have given up their dress code and have started wearing pant and shirt like men after getting their hair cut. This is totally against Bharatiya culture. Since ancient times, Bharatiya culture has been held in high esteem and it has been a source of joy for all. But such a sacred culture is being forgotten today. Not only men and women but students are also affected by this modern trend. Students are supposed to conduct themselves with dignity and honour, secure high marks and make their parents happy. Not only to their parents, they should give happiness to society also.

### God has no Form

What are the reasons for the ills of modern society? The reasons are man's lack of love for God, fear of sin and morality in society. You may forget God but God will never forget you because God is in you. It is very difficult to know God. No one can say what is

God and where He is. You think that God has a form but, in reality, He has none. If you question God, "Who are You? What is Your name?" He will reply, "*Aham Brahmasmi* (I am Brahman). It is because of your delusion that you ask Me who I am. I am Brahma (God) and you are in Bhrama (delusion). As you identify yourself with the external form, you are unable to realise the truth contained in the axiom, *Daivam Manusha Rupena* (God is in the form of a human being)." You attach great



***Destroy all your evil qualities such as pride, ego and wickedness. When you drive away all these evil qualities, you will become a pure human being. Wherefrom does humanness come? It comes from your heart. Here, the heart is not referred to the physical heart but the spiritual heart which is free from all blemishes. Like fragrant air, your purity should spread everywhere. You should share with others the pure thoughts and pure feelings that emanate from you. Whatever you do, it should be helpful to others. Help Ever, Hurt Never.***





*The principle of love is present in all. When people develop love, then there will be no conflicts in the world. Therefore, you should develop love. Never resort to untruth under any circumstances. If you follow untruth, you will never be able to develop love. Therefore, always adhere to truth. Develop love at all times. You can develop love only by following truth and righteousness. These two qualities are most essential for man. This is the essence of all Upanishads.*

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importance to the body but, in fact, this body is only like a bag, which contains many subtle organs like mind, intellect, subconscious mind and ego. All these organs are present in you. You think that these are all associated with the body but in fact it is not so. Though they are within the body, they do not belong to the body. However, when all these leave the body, it cannot remain even for a moment; it becomes useless and is burnt on a pyre. Therefore, do not put your faith in the body.



All of you worship Krishna, Vishnu, Siva and many other deities. Where have these forms come from? They are only the creation of artists like Ravi Varma. Whatever pictures such artists make, you consider them as pictures of God. When you see the picture of Krishna, you consider it as the form of Krishna. No, no, it is only a symbolic representation of Krishna. Who is Krishna? Krishna is divinity in human form. Whichever form you attribute to divinity, contemplate on that form. When you worship that form, your mind may waver quite a bit in the beginning. One-pointed focusing of the mind on a particular form is called concentration. When you practise concentration, the wavering of the mind may somewhat reduce. That is the state of contemplation. In contemplation also, there is some wavering of the mind. When the mind becomes totally steady, then only can you call

it meditation. Gradually, you forget yourself. That is the state of Samadhi (superconscious state) in which you transcend all forms. Then you will experience the attributeless Atma. If you merely sit with closed eyes, it is not meditation.

### **See your Reflection in All Beings**

God is one and He is the only reality. There is no second. When you think of Him as Krishna, He will manifest before you in the form of

Krishna. When you think of Him as Vishnu, He will manifest as Vishnu. But all these forms are your own imagination. They do not correspond to the reality. It is all your mind's work. You think God will manifest before you when you undertake spiritual practices like worship, rituals, Yajnas and Yagas (sacrificial practices). It is only your imagination. Your mind is the cause of this imagination. You should continue your Sadhana till you transcend the mind. Mind is always indulging in imagination. You should go beyond the mind. You should focus only on the Atma. It has no form. You should understand that the formless and attributeless Atma is the only truth. It pervades the whole universe.

*The creation emerges from truth and merges into truth,*

*Is there a place in the cosmos where truth does not exist?*

*Visualise this pure and unsullied truth.*

(Telugu Poem)

Wherever you see, truth is present there. Divinity is the life force that is immanent in all beings including insects, birds and animals. Therefore, whomsoever you come across, you should offer your salutations to him. What does it mean? It is not the person to whom you offer your salutations but to the Atmic principle present in him. Hence, even if you come across a mad person, you should offer your salutations to the Atma present in him. Except God, there is no other entity in the world. *Ekameva Adviteeyam Brahma* (God is one without a second). *Ekatma Sarva Bhutantaratma* (one Atma dwells in all beings). When you fill a thousand pots with water, the reflection of the sun is seen in all of them. Does it mean that there are different suns in all the pots? No. The sun is only one. All bodies are like pots. It is the same Atma that is reflected in all

of them. Everything is reaction, reflection and resound. You hear the echo of your voice. You see your own reflection in a mirror. You should therefore see your own reflection in all beings. If you love someone, it means you are loving yourself. If you hate someone, it means you hate yourself. You think everything that happens is done by God. In fact, you yourself are the cause of everything. If you hate or love someone, God has nothing to do with that. God is always steady, pure, selfless, changeless and attributeless. It is your ignorance if you imagine that God has attributes. Therefore, do not attribute any particular form to God to worship Him. Focus your mind on the principle of the Atma present in you and consider it as your God.

### **Morality is the very Life-breath of Man**

When you put a step forward, there is God in it. When you look at something, there is God in it. It is the same current that makes the bulb shine, fan rotate and mike function. God is the divine force that makes everything function. When you put off the main switch, all the electrical gadgets stop functioning. God is like the main switch. When you forget God, it amounts to forgetting everything. Therefore, always love God. Kill the demons of your evil qualities. Strive for the progress of society. Who can develop society? Only those who have good qualities can develop society. Those who have love for God are endowed with morality. Morality is the very life-breath of man. Without morality, he is lifeless. The whole Jati (human race) will be doomed without Neeti (morality). What is Jati? People think, Jati is community. But it is not so. Jati denotes human race. This is its real meaning. Jati does not refer to any particular caste. It refers to humanity as a whole. You say, "I am a Brahmin, you are a Vaisya, he is a Kshatriya, you are a

Sudra”. This division of people into various castes is your own creation. It is not given by God. What God has given is only one thing and that is love. When you develop love in you, then you will love everyone. When you don't have love in you, you will hate others and become distant from them. But this is not good. *Love All, Serve All.* You will achieve great progress when you preserve this truth in your heart. Those who perform good deeds, help others and do not cause any harm to the poor, only such people are truly endowed with morality. It is not good if you respect a few and ignore others.

### Consider All as One

The entire universe is the creation of God and every being is the embodiment of divinity, including small insects. Do not observe any difference between Cheema (ant) and Brahma. Thyagaraja propounded the same truth, “*Cheemalo Brahmalo Siva Kesavaadulalo Prema Meera Velasi Unde Birudhu Vahinchina Rama Nannu Brovara*” (Oh Rama! In Your pure and unsullied form of love, You indwell all beings from an ant to Brahma as also in Siva and Kesava. Please be my protector too). Therefore, God is present in every being. Do not hate or deride anybody. Do not quarrel with anybody. When you lead your life in such a manner, you will be able to realise your Self. You say, “I, I, I”. What does ‘I’ mean? It means ego. So long as you have ego, you will



*When you fill a thousand pots with water, the reflection of the sun is seen in all of them. Does it mean that there are different suns in all the pots? No. The sun is only one. All bodies are like pots. It is the same Atma that is reflected in all of them. Everything is reaction, reflection and resound. You hear the echo of your voice. You see your own reflection in a mirror. You should therefore see your own reflection in all beings. If you love someone, it means you are loving yourself. If you hate someone, it means you hate yourself.*

not be able to understand your reality. When you cut the ‘I’ from the middle, it becomes cross (†). Cross symbolises cutting of ego. When you cut your ego, you rise to the level of divinity. If you have the feeling of ‘I, mine and thine’, it will develop duality in you. Duality is not correct.

The Upanishads do not approve of it. All



the Upanishads teach oneness of the principle of Atma. The principle of Atma is without any differences. Body has been given to you to lead your life in this world and to discharge your duty. Duty is God. Perform your duty. After marriage, you have a wife. Wife has to be treated as wife. But in the realm of the Atma, all are females. You say, "He is my son, he is my son-in-law." This relationship is of your own making. Truly speaking, nobody is your son and nobody is your son-in-law. It is you who create differences but in reality there are no differences. Therefore, consider all as one. The Ramayana also states this principle of oneness.

*Welcome to all for Rama's wedding;  
together we shall witness the joyous  
scene.*

*Many have gathered already,  
decked up in all their finery.*

*With necklaces the ladies are adorned  
of jewels pure and gleaming.*

*Rama shall tie the knot today  
to beautiful Sita, oh what a fine match  
they make!*

*Father Janaka has made ready bounteous  
feasts.*

*All learned sages are assembled with  
Vasishtha presiding.*

*Oh, what a multitude has assembled  
to rejoice, hearts with joy overflowing!*

(Telugu Poem)

Who is Rama? One who pleases everyone is Rama. When you get happiness from the Atma within you, you become Rama. Sita symbolises the Atma and Rama, the Paramatma (God). Therefore, the marriage of Sita and Rama symbolises the union of Jiva (individual soul) and Deva (God). When the marriage of Sita and Rama took place, all the people of Ayodhya came to see

this marriage. After the performance of the marriage of Sita with Rama, Viswamitra went to his dwelling place. Not only did his name Viswamitra denote friend of universe, he actually was so. He imparted knowledge to everyone.

So many of you have gathered in this hall. What is the purpose for which you have come here? You have come to see this form. Any number of people may come here but their vision is focused only on this form. Whatever you do, do it for the sake of attaining God's love. In this regard, I wrote a song: *Sathya Dharmamu Santhi Premalato Nee Nitya Jivana Yatra Saginchu* (Perform the journey of your life adhering to the principles of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema). Truth is permanent. Truth is one, not two. Similarly, Dharma is one; it is the image of Sathya. When Sathya and Dharma come together, peace manifests there. Peace is not something available outside in the bazaar. Outside you get only pieces. When you have peace, you do not hate or hurt anybody. Then only you develop love.

The principle of love is present in all. When people develop love, then there will be no conflicts in the world. Therefore, you should develop love. Never resort to untruth under any circumstances. If you follow untruth, you will never be able to develop love. Therefore, always adhere to truth. Develop love at all times. You can develop love only by following truth and righteousness. These two qualities are most essential for man. This is the essence of all Upanishads. All the Upanishads teach the same truth in different ways. The sum and substance of all the teachings of the Upanishads is that the principle of divinity is one. *Ekameva Adviteeyam Brahma* (God is one without a second). God is one, not two. It is due to your delusion that you see duality.

You should never give scope to such





delusion. You will have true devotion when you do not have even a trace of delusion.

### **Man is Important, not Money**

Many beggars come to a rich man. Some ask for food, some for clothes, some for money and some for house. They are all beggars. In the same way, if you beg this and that from God, you become beggars. You should not beg anything from God. God is in fact in you only. He will give you whatever you require. You need not beg anything. Today everybody in this world has become a beggar. Politicians beg for votes. They give notes for votes. They win elections by buying votes. This world is all the drama of beggars. Society is ruined and polluted because of such beggars.

Today there is pollution, pollution, pollution everywhere. There is pollution in water, pollution in food and pollution even in air. If you want to buy milk, that also is polluted. So, everything has become polluted today. Nowhere there is anything pure. Even pure water is not there. It has also become polluted. You are aware that the river Ganga comes down from Rishikesh. In our country Bharat, the Ganga is revered as mother. But people are polluting such a sacred river also. If a Brahmin stands in the Ganga to perform worship, he may find even human limbs flowing with water. Similarly, everything is being polluted. Students should develop pure mind to get rid of this pollution. Then only will they become the emancipators of the country. Pure mind is that which is without any doubts, unsullied, steady and selfless.

What is the use of merely acquiring so many degrees? There are so many who are sitting unemployed in their houses after getting degrees. In what way are they benefited by their degrees? The subjects they have studied in their degrees are totally unrelated to their day-to-day life. They strive hard to earn



*Whichever form you attribute to divinity, contemplate on that form. When you worship that form, your mind may waver quite a bit in the beginning. One-pointed focusing of the mind on a particular form is called concentration. When you practise concentration, the wavering of the mind may somewhat reduce. That is the state of contemplation. In contemplation also, there is some wavering of the mind. When the mind becomes totally steady, then only can you call it meditation. Gradually, you forget yourself. That is the state of Samadhi (superconscious state) in which you transcend all forms. Then you will experience the attributeless Atma.*



money with the help of these degrees. They do not make any efforts for anything higher in life. Wherever you go, money is being considered all important. If you want to travel by bus, you need money. If you want to have coffee, for that also you need money. Even for water, you need money. If you want to go to a temple, even then you need money. All this world has become a playfield of money. But what is important is man and not money. You will attain everything if you protect humanness. All problems arise if you lack humanness. You are yourselves responsible for all these problems.

### **Humility and Obedience are the Hallmarks of a Student**

It will be good if our students put into practice what they have learnt in this university and set a high ideal for others. All of you should lead your lives with humility and obedience.

Destroy all your evil qualities such as pride, ego and wickedness. When you drive away all these evil qualities, you will become a pure human being. Wherefrom does humanness come? It comes from your heart. Here, the heart is not referred to the physical heart but the spiritual heart which is free from all blemishes. Like fragrant air, your purity should spread everywhere. You should share with others the pure thoughts and pure feelings that emanate from you. Whatever you do, it should be helpful to others. *Help Ever, Hurt Never*. If you imbibe these two qualities, everything will become good for you. Then only will you become a student in the real sense of the term.

Students today indulge in hurting others. It is not good if you do not help others. You are not a student at all if you do not develop humility and obedience. These are very essential for students. But today educated people have become highly egoistic. They are proud of their Ph.D. degrees. What does Ph.D. mean? The letter 'p' stands for person,

... *Continued from page 231*

one should make efforts to know oneself. Then you will understand that you are neither the body nor the mind nor the intellect nor the senses nor the subconscious mind. You say, "She is my wife, he is my son, he is my son-in-law, she is my daughter." All these worldly relationships are merely your illusion. They do not really belong to you. They belong to God. Everything is God's property. Nobody has any right over anything. People unnecessarily fight with each other and waste their time. *Time waste is life waste*. You should understand that by wasting time you are really wasting your life. When you develop this understanding, then only will you be able to know the reality.

'h' for help and 'd' for divinity. Hence, one with Ph.D. degree is the person who helps others and attains divinity. On the contrary, if he does not help others, then the letter 'p' will denote that he is a Papi (sinner). Howsoever high education you may acquire, you should always remain humble and modest and should respect your parents. Even if your parents are too poor to provide two square meals to you in the house, you should still love them. Your mother brings you up bearing so many difficulties. If you forget such a mother, it is a great sin. Your father also looks after you and helps you in every way. Therefore, never forget and forsake your parents. Love them till your last breath. That is the true quality of a student. Serve your parents and satisfy them. You will find fulfilment in life only when your parents are satisfied.

– **From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in the auditorium of Sri Sathya Sai University, Prasanthi Nilayam on 4th June 2009.**

First and foremost, develop love for God. Secondly, have fear of sin. Thirdly, protect morality in society. When you protect society, society will protect you. Today what you have to understand is the principle of Brahman. God has no name and form. He is attributeless, unsullied, final abode, eternal, pure, enlightened, free and embodiment of sacredness.

Many children have come from Chennai. They are going to make a presentation. Let us now see that. I will talk to you tomorrow again.

– **From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on the eve of Guru Purnima, on 6th July 2009.**



# CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

## PILGRIMAGE OF DEVOTEES OF GODAVARI DISTRICTS

**M**ORE THAN TWO THOUSAND devotees including 950 Girijans (tribals) came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh on 27th, 28th and 29th June 2009 to express their gratitude to Bhagavan for providing drinking water to the people of this region and for bringing about transformation in the villages and tribal areas through Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme launched by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Andhra Pradesh in the villages of these districts.

### Tribal Dances by Youth and Bal Vikas Children

On 27th June 2009, a group of these devotees and Bal Vikas students presented excellent dances in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The programme started at 4.30 p.m. after Bhagavan's Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall. At the outset, Dr. Bhaskar Rao, an ardent devotee of Bhagavan from this region, dwelt upon various measures being undertaken by the Sai Organisation for the welfare of Girijans and development of villages. Dr. Rao stated that out of 432 villages of this region, the Sai Organisation had adopted 44 villages in the first phase and Seva Dal volunteers of the Sai Organisation were working untiringly for the all-round development of these villages. After the speech of Dr. Rao, various groups of Seva Dal volunteers carrying name plates of



*Groups of youth from East and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh showcased the cultural heritage of Girijans by performing an array of tribal dances on 27th June 2009.*

the villages served by them came before the dais and offered their salutations to Bhagavan. This was followed by an array of tribal dances by various groups of youth to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Girijans inhabiting these two districts. Besides, Girijan Bal Vikas children performed thrilling dances to the tune of sweet songs describing the glory of Bhagavan as the Avatar of Kali Yuga who has incarnated as the saviour of mankind and redeemer of the noble. At the conclusion of these excellent dances, Bhagavan blessed the dancers, posed for group photos with them and distributed clothes to them. After distribution of Prasadam, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.20 p.m.

### Uppongipondi Godavari: A Musical Dance Drama

On 28th June 2009, Sai Youth and Bal Vikas students of these two districts presented a musical dance drama entitled "Uppongipondi Godavari" (ebullient Godavari) in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Through





*The drama “Uppongipoindi Godavari”, studded with exhilarating dances of children, highlighted the transformation brought about in the lives of villagers by the humanitarian work of Bhagavan.*

powerful dialogues, devotion-filled songs, thrilling music and exhilarating dances of the youth and children in their colourful costumes, the drama highlighted the teachings and glory of Bhagavan who has not only brought about transformation in the lives of villagers and tribals by providing drinking water to more than 400 villages of these two districts, but has also touched the lives of poor and needy by providing medical, educational and social welfare facilities in these villages. The drama commenced at 5.35 p.m. with the theme song “Uppongipoindi Godavari” and came to a conclusion at 6.25 p.m. with an excellent portrayal of Bhagavan’s teachings and glory through a Burra Katha (a folk art form of Andhra Pradesh). This was followed by Bhajans by the Bal Vikas children of these two districts. At the end of the programme, Bhagavan blessed the participants, posed for group photos with them and distributed clothes to them. He also materialised a gold ring for one of the organisers. After distribution of Prasadam, Arati was offered to Bhagavan at 6.55 p.m. which marked the conclusion of this excellent programme.

### **Integrated Village Service Centres**

On 29th June 2009, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 4.50 p.m. After Bhagavan

was seated on the dais, two devotees, a lady and a gent, representing the Girijans of the region expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for the measures undertaken by the Sai Organisation under His guidance for the upliftment of poor Girijans. While the gent devotee expressed his views in a short speech, the lady devotee sang a sweet song to express her feelings of devotion and gratitude to Bhagavan. Bhagavan showered His grace on the lady singer and materialised a gold chain for her amidst a loud applause of devotees.

This was followed by a speech by Sri P. Vardhana Rao, Education Wing Coordinator for East Godavari district, who briefly listed out the services being rendered by the Sai Organisation for the all-round development of the villages adopted by it. Stating that the Sai Organisation had constructed four Integrated Village Service Centres in this region, Sri Rao prayed to Bhagavan to give the keys of these centres to the designated persons who had done appreciable work for the welfare of Girijans. Bhagavan then graciously handed over the keys of these centres to these fortunate devotees and showered His blessings on them. Bhajans led by university students followed this. Meanwhile, Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to the entire congregation in Sai Kulwant Hall. The programme which started at 5.00 p.m. after Bhagavan’s Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall came to a close at 6.00 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

### **ASHADI EKADASI AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM**

Devotion-filled music and cultural programmes for four days, from 1st to 4th July 2009, marked the celebration of Ashadi Ekadasi at Prasanthi Nilayam. More than



2,000 devotees came from various parts of Maharashtra and Goa to celebrate this most sacred festival of these States in close proximity with Bhagavan.

### **Veda Chanting by Maharashtra and Goa Youth**

On the morning of 1st July 2009, the first day of these celebrations, Bhagavan was welcomed with Poornakumbham amidst Veda chanting by the youth and Bal Vikas children of Maharashtra when He came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 9.00 a.m. Clad in the traditional dress



*Bal Vikas children and youth of Maharashtra and Goa offered traditional welcome to Bhagavan with Poornakumbham and Veda chanting on the morning of 1st July 2009.*

of Vedic Pandits, a group of these youth and children led Bhagavan to Sai Kulwant Hall in a grand procession. At 9.15 a.m., Bhagavan lighted the sacred lamp on the dais to mark the inauguration of Ashadi Ekadasi celebrations. For nearly one hour, Bhagavan listened to the chanting of Vedic hymns by the youth, both boys and girls, of Maharashtra and Goa who were seated in front of the dais. The perfection in rhythm and intonation of these Vedic chants by the youth earned the admiration of



one and all and suffused the entire milieu with sacred vibrations. At 10.00 a.m., Arati was offered to Bhagavan to mark the conclusion of this excellent demonstration of Veda chanting.

### **Vocal Devotional Music Concert**

On the evening of 1st July 2009, devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall had a sumptuous musical feast of devotional music when Smt. Kalapini Komkali, a veteran Hindustani classical singer, presented her devotional music concert in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Daughter and disciple of celebrated Hindustani classical singer, Pandit Kumar Gandharva, Smt. Komkali not only inherited Gwalior Gayaki (style of singing) from her illustrious father but his musical genius also, which she exhibited in the concert presented by her. The concert was a beautiful medley of the compositions of Mira, Kabir, Gorakhnath and Tukaram, and all the songs she sang were those sung by her illustrious father Pandit Kumar Gandharva, as she announced in the beginning. The concert which started at 5.10 p.m. after Bhagavan's Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall kept the audience spellbound for nearly one hour and came to a close at 6.05 p.m. At the end of the concert, Bhagavan blessed the artiste, gave a silk Sari to her and materialised a gold chain for her. He also distributed clothes to the artistes who provided instrumental support to her. After a brief session of Bhajans, the programme concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.30 p.m.

### **An Odyssey into Rhythm**

This excellent programme of innovative Indian classical ensemble comprising a unique blending of tabla, instrumental and vocal music was presented by renowned tabla maestro Pandit Suresh Talwalkar on 2nd July 2009 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan.

Elaborate lighting and sound system on a high stage in Sai Kulwant Hall was set up for this unique presentation which began at 5.40 p.m. after Bhagavan's Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall. The singers sang three compositions perfectly blended with instrumental music which created an enthralling effect on the audience. At the conclusion of this musical concert, Bhagavan blessed Sri Talwalkar and his accompanying artistes and posed for group photos with them. All the artistes were also honoured with shawls and clothes were distributed to them. After the distribution of Prasadam, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.45 p.m.

### **Maharashtra Bhakti Gatha**

On the holy day of Ashadi Ekadasi, i.e., 3rd July 2009, the Bal Vikas students and ex-students of Maharashtra and Goa presented a colourful and devotion-filled programme "Maharashtra Bhakti Gatha" (saga of devotion of Maharashtra) in Sai Kulwant Hall which was befittingly decorated on this occasion. Bhagavan's arrival was heralded by blowing of conches by a group of Maharashtra youth when He came to the hall at 5.15 p.m. On coming to the dais, Bhagavan graciously inaugurated the programme by lighting the sacred lamp at 5.30 p.m.

The programme began at 5.45 p.m. with a song in praise of Lord Vitthal and a dance by Bal Vikas children. The hall reverberated with sacred chants of "Jai Jai Vitthal, Jai Hari Vitthal" when the traditional palanquin was brought to the performing area of the hall amidst singing and dancing by the Varkaris (pilgrims) and Bal Vikas children. What followed this was a galaxy of dances by Bal Vikas children and singing of Marathi Abhangs by the singers on the stage suffusing the entire milieu with devotional fervour which is the distinctive feature of the sacred land of Maharashtra, thanks to the galaxy of its illustrious saints like



*Devotional fervour marked the programme "Maharashtra Bhakti Gatha" which was presented in Sai Kulwant Hall on 3rd July 2009, on the auspicious day of Ashadi Ekadasi.*

Tukaram, Ramdas, Gyaneshwar, Namdev, Gora Kumbhar, Sakku Bai and many others. At this stage, children dressed as these saints entered the performing area. In conclusion, Bhagavan's visit to Pandharpur, the sacred abode of Lord Vitthal which is visited by all devotees on the day of Ashadi Ekadasi, was highlighted and a Bal Vikas student showed to Bhagavan the pictures of that visit.

Referring to Bhagavan's visits to Dharmakshetra, Mumbai, the Bal Vikas child asked Bhagavan if those moments could come alive again. Bhagavan was obviously pleased with this beautiful way of inviting Him to Dharmakshetra, called the child near Him and materialised a gold chain for him. At this golden moment, the programme came to a happy conclusion with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 6.50 p.m. Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to all in the end.

### **Sant Gajanan Maharaj: A Dance Drama**

On 4th July 2009, the Bal Vikas children of Navi Mumbai portrayed the life story of Sant Gajanan Maharaj, a great saint of Maharashtra, by staging the dance drama of the same name in Sai Kulwant Hall as part of Ashadi Ekadasi celebrations. Commencing at 4.25 p.m.



*A scene from the drama "Sant Gajanan Maharaj" presented by the Bal Vikas children of Navi Mumbai on 4th July 2009.*

after Bhagavan's Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall, the drama presented various episodes from the life of this great saint who first appeared as a young lad at Sheogaon in Maharashtra in 1878, spent the next 32 years of his life sojourn in spreading the message of unity, kindness and devotion, chanting the Mantra "Gani Gana Ganath Bothey" constantly and ultimately merged in Lord Vitthal at Pandharpur. Excellent choreography, appropriate costumes, elaborate props, excellent stage management and brilliant dances of children contributed to the success of the presentation. Bhagavan sat through the entire presentation, blessed the cast at the end of the drama and posed for group photos with them. After distribution of Prasadam, the programme came to a close at 5.25 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

### **MUSICAL PRESENTATIONS BY DEVOTEES OF BRAZIL AND INDONESIA**

On the evening of 8th July 2009, devotees from two overseas countries offered their musical homage to Bhagavan. First, the devotees from Brazil presented their

programme of devotional music which started with chanting of Om three times followed by the recitation of "Ganapati Prarthana" (prayer to Lord Ganesh) in Sanskrit by the entire group. What followed this was an exquisite feast for the soul in the form of devotional songs



*The devotional music programme presented by the devotees of Brazil on 8th July 2009 was virtually a feast for the soul.*

in Portuguese including two Hindi Bhajans "Manasa Bhajare Guru Charanam" and "Hara Hara Sai Maheswara", which were rendered with total perfection of tune and rhythm.

After this excellent vocal music presentation by the Brazilian devotees, a group of Indonesian devotees presented a unique programme of instrumental music, using musical instruments made of bamboo. Although they rendered only



*A marvellous display of musical talent by the devotees of Indonesia on their musical instruments made of bamboo. The presentation was made on 8th July 2009.*



three pieces, yet they won the hearts of one and all by the marvellous display of their musical talent. The programme that started at 5.20 p.m. after Bhagavan's Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.15 p.m. Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to the entire assembly of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall in the end.

### **DEVOTIONAL MUSIC BY AFRICAN DEVOTEES**

As part of Guru Purnima celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam, Sai Africa Adult Choir represented by Nigeria presented an enrapturing programme of devotional music on 9th July 2009 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Though this was the first musical presentation of this choir before Bhagavan since its foundation in 2008, the choir



*Sai Africa Adult Choir won accolades by their first presentation at Prasanthi Nilayam on 9th July 2009.*

won unbounded grace of Bhagavan and admiration of the audience in Sai Kulwant Hall. The choir comprising 25 gents and 14 ladies sang devotional songs drawn from five African countries, viz., Nigeria, Ghana, Congo Brazaville, South Africa and Zaire in various African languages. Besides, they sang one English song and two Hindi Bhajans. The first Bhajan was "Narayana Sai Narayana" which was led by a lady singer while the second

"Guru Baba, Guru Baba" was led by a gent singer, both of whom showed total perfection in tune and rhythm. The programme which started at 5.30 p.m. after Bhagavan's Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall came to a close at 6.45 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Bhagavan sat through the entire presentation, showered His profuse love and blessings on the singers in the end, distributed clothes to them, gave mementoes to them with His Divine Hands, provided the rare opportunity of Padanamaskar to all and posed for group photos with them. He also materialised a gold ring for the conductor of the choir.

### **PILGRIMAGE OF DEVOTEES OF MEDAK DISTRICT**

More than 2,000 devotees came from Medak district of Andhra Pradesh to Prasanthi Nilayam on a pilgrimage from 17th to 19th July 2009 to express their gratitude to Bhagavan for showering His Divine benedictions on the people of this district through various cultural, spiritual and service-oriented programmes organised by the Sai Organisation of this district. The Sai Organisation of this district made two presentations in Sai Kulwant Hall to pay their homage to Bhagavan.

The first presentation was made on 17th July 2009. The programme began at 5.30 p.m. after Bhagavan's Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall. At the outset, Sai Organisation of this district organised distribution of various implements to deserving beneficiaries to provide means of employment to them. These items included agricultural implements, wet grinders, sewing machines, kits and stalls for selling various items, iron boxes, water purifiers, phone boxes, cycles, etc. The total number of beneficiaries was 85. As their names were announced, they came one by one, offered their obeisance





*On 17th July, the Sai Organisation of Medak district distributed implements to selected beneficiaries and presented a programme of devotional music.*

to Bhagavan and received the item earmarked for them.

After this, ladies and gents singers of the district presented a bouquet of devotional songs at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan which was appropriately named “Hridaya Kusumanjali” (offering of flower of heart). All the songs were rendered with heart full of devotional feelings both by ladies and gents singers and immersed the entire gathering in devotional fervour. The entire programme was well rehearsed, well planned and well rendered which kept the audience spellbound for more than one hour. At the end of the programme, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the singers and distributed clothes to them. He also materialised a gold chain for a child. After the distribution of Prasadam, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.45 p.m.

### **Devudunnadu: A Musical Dance Drama**

On 18th July 2009, the Bal Vikas children and youth of Medak district presented a musical

dance drama “Devudunnadu” (God is Now Here) which not only depicted the existence of God on earth but also gave a clarion call that He is present in human form at Prasanthi Nilayam. Commencing at 5.35 p.m. with a song and dance of Bal Vikas children as invocation to Lord Ganesh, the drama portrayed the story of a youth who denied the existence of God and was ultimately transformed when he came to know the divine glory of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Embellished with immortal poems composed by Bhagavan, the drama was an



*A scene from the musical dance drama “Devudunnadu” presented by the youth and Bal Vikas children of Medak district on 18th July 2009.*

uplifting, elevating and illuminating experience. Thrilling music, scintillating dance of the children and excellent choreography added to the value of the drama. At the conclusion of the drama, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the cast, posed for group photos with them, gave them the rare gift of Padanamaskar along with clothes and mementoes with His Divine Hands and made them blissful by conversing with them. After Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan.

*Giving and forgiving – by these alone can we fill our life with love. By getting and forgetting, selfishness grows. Forgetting the favours taken from others is the prime reason for growing selfishness. Hence, in order to develop love in us, we should go on giving and forgiving.*

*– Baba*

## The Master and Disciples

EVERYDAY, DISCIPLES OF Ramakrishna Paramahansa went to Kolkata from Dakshineswar by boat to purchase provisions and fruits. One day, it was the turn of Brahmananda. He sat in a corner of the boat, contemplating on his Guru. A city dweller recognised Brahmananda as the disciple of Ramakrishna. Pointing his finger at him, he started telling the other travellers in the boat, "Look here! He and his Guru have no work to do. This Ramakrishna is spoiling all the youth of Kolkata." In this way he criticised his Guru. Poor Brahmananda felt very sad because he had to hear the criticism of his Guru. But he had no courage to refute the statement of the person who mocked at his Guru. As he was gentle by nature, he remained silent shedding tears. On returning to the Ashram in the evening, he reported to his Guru what happened in the boat. Ramakrishna

Paramahansa angrily said, "It is a great sin to remain silent on hearing the criticism of the Guru. Is this your devotion for your Guru?"

Vivekananda was hearing all this. Next day, it was the turn of Vivekananda to go to Kolkata. When he got into the boat, a person in the boat started criticising Ramakrishna and his disciples, as usual. At once Vivekananda got up, went to that person and said to him in a threatening tone, "I will not tolerate if you say one word more against our Guru. I will throw you into the river. Be careful."

At this, there was a great commotion in the boat. The boatman turned to the person who criticised Ramakrishna and said, "Sir, I pray don't say anything more." Pointing towards Vivekananda, he added, "This man is capable of doing what he has said." All became silent and remained seated where they were. On reaching the Ashram, Vivekananda told



*Ramakrishna Paramahansa chided Brahmananda, "What! You kept quiet when your Guru was being criticised in public!"*



*"If you say one word more against our Guru, I will throw you into the river", threatened Vivekananda.*

his Guru all that had happened in the boat. Ramakrishna Paramahansa became angry and said, "Fie on you! What is this? You wear ochre clothes and at the same time you are full of anger and resentment. It is unbecoming of you."

Vivekananda could not understand the meaning of what his Guru said. He approached his Guru with humility and obedience and said, "Swami! Yesterday, you told Brahmananda that it is a sin to remain silent on hearing the criticism of Guru. Isn't it so? But today why are you talking in this manner when I have

opposed the person who criticised my Guru? Kindly clear my doubt."

Ramakrishna said smilingly, "My dear! It is not possible to give the same type of teaching to everyone. The teaching should be suitable for the person for whom it is meant. Brahmananda by nature is very gentle and mild. He needs to have some manliness. Teaching should be imparted in accordance with the situation. That is why I chided him yesterday. You are by nature a very high-spirited person. You need such a teaching which will make you serene and sober."

Vivekananda understood the inner meaning of his Guru's teachings.

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... *Continued from page 233*

Pandit further stated that Sri Sathya Sai University had a unique record of holding the examinations and declaring the results on time, the credit for which went to Prof. Nanjundaiah. He also praised Prof. Nanjundaiah for introducing the semester system and grading system, which other universities were still trying to evolve. At the conclusion of this grand felicitation function, Bhagavan offered silverware to all the four functionaries. He also gave silk Saris to Smt. Nanjundaiah and Smt. Appa Rao. Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was then distributed. The morning function came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 11.30 a.m.

### **Bhagavan's Guru Purnima Message**

On the evening of 7th July 2009, Bhagavan blessed the huge congregation of devotees with His blissful Darshan and Divine Discourse. After coming to the dais in Sai Kulwant Hall, Bhagavan invited Smt. and Prof. Nanjundaiah, Smt. and Sri Appa Rao, Prof. Lakshminarasimham and Sri Sathyanarayana Murthy to be seated on the dais. Soon

after this, Bhagavan materialised a gold coin each for Smt. Nanjundaiah and Smt. Appa Rao. In His Discourse, Bhagavan praised the work done by these functionaries with total devotion, remarkable efficiency and exemplary selflessness. Showering His blessings on all of them, Bhagavan added that all Sai institutions had earned a great name and fame at national and international levels due to the dedicated work of functionaries like them. Bhagavan emphasised that students should serve their parents and please them; only then could they earn respect in society. Women, He said, should take proper care of their children and bring them up in an ideal way. Laying great emphasis on the importance of emulating the ideals set by elders, Bhagavan exhorted the students to follow the path shown by them to come up in life.

After Bhagavan's Discourse, there was a brief session of Bhajans. Meanwhile, Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to all. The programme came to a close with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 7.50 p.m.





*Effulgence of Divine Glory*

## THE UNREAD LETTER

“**y**OUR LETTER HAS NOT reached me yet, but I have read it already. You posted it to Madras, not knowing that I have come back here. I was near you when you wrote it. Your mother must now be very much better; is it not?” This is what Baba wrote to a devotee, some years back. He is Sarvantaryami (indweller of all); He is in all places, at all times.

Our letter may not reach Him. Even when it reaches Him, He need not open it and read the contents! One day, I happened to be in His room when the post came. When He dropped on the floor one letter unread and unopened, some newly-arrived person muttered, “Swami, You have not read that letter. It may be some tale of misery.” Baba smiled and said, “No, no. It is a tale of joy. He says that a son has been born to him. But he is worried that the baby was born with frontal teeth.” Then, He told us the whole story with the envelope in His hand.

“A Vaisya couple from a village in Telangana had come on a pilgrimage to Puttaparthi a year ago. They prayed that they may be blessed with progeny. I gave the man an apple and asked him to share it with his wife. He took it in his hand and examined it. Finding some marks on the skin, indicating that it might have been bitten by a rat or so, he asked Me what it was, evidently nervous about eating it. I told him that they both could eat it. “Only, the baby will have two frontal teeth at birth. Don’t worry,



I said.” He has now written that the child has been born and, (here, Swami tore open the envelope, took out the letter and turning over the lines showed us the very sentence) he has asked Me whether any Santhi ritual has to be performed to alleviate what he fears to be a calamity!”

Looking at that sentence, we stood amazed, in the resplendent Presence of Bhagavan. Baba is Sarvajna, Sarvasakshi, Sarvantaryami (omniscient, eternal witness, indweller of all).

*N. Kasturi*

**“Sanathana Sarathi” June 1960**



# INTERNATIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC CONFERENCE

**S**RI SATHYA SAI INTERNATIONAL Orthopaedic Conference was held at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Puttaparthi from 10th to 12th July 2009. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was offered traditional welcome with Poornakumbham amidst Veda chanting when He came to the Institute at about 4.00 p.m. on 10th July 2009 to inaugurate the conference. Soon after His arrival, He came to the conference hall and inaugurated the conference by lighting the sacred lamp. Bhagavan then saw the exhibits displayed in the gallery of the Orthopaedic Department. The exhibition contained 52 posters, which depicted the statistics of the department, several case reports of those who received operative care in the department and also the activities of other departments in the hospital. Arati was offered to Bhagavan when He left the hospital at 4.45 p.m.

The proceedings of the conference attended by more than 150 delegates commenced at 5 p.m. on 10th July. The faculty consisted of three very eminent orthopaedic surgeons from abroad, Dr. Leo Whiteside of U.S.A., Dr. Ian Learmonth and Dr. John Skinner of U.K., five very highly reputed orthopaedic surgeons from India and three from SSSIHMS. Dr. R. Varadachari, Chairman of the Department, introduced the faculty, followed by inaugural address by Dr. A. N. Safaya, Director of the hospital. Besides the topics discussed in the conference on "Advances in Arthroplasty" which was the theme of the conference, Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Chairman, Sri Sathya Sai International Medical Committee,



*Bhagavan lighted the lamp to inaugurate Sri Sathya Sai International Orthopaedic Conference on 10th July 2009.*

spoke on "Sai Ideal Healthcare and Sai Global Health Mission".

A state-of-the-art live surgery – "Cementless Total Knee Replacement", which is the first of its kind in India (symmetric porous condylar knee), was performed on 11th July by Dr. Leo Whiteside. Dr. Ian Learmonth performed the "metal on metal" Cementless Total Hip Replacement (ceramic on metal) on 12th July.

On the afternoon of 11th July, all the delegates assembled in a special enclosure in Sai Kulwant Hall. Bhagavan went into their rows and showered His blessings on them. Bhagavan also spoke to all faculty members. The conference came to an end at 1.30 p.m. on 12th July when a ceremonial function was held and the Orthopaedic Department honoured all the 11 members of the faculty.

All the delegates and faculty members were deeply touched by the love and compassion of Bhagavan and also by the serene atmosphere prevailing in the Ashram.

*— Baba*



# NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

## SRI LANKA

**S**RI SATHYA SAI ORGANISATION in Sri Lanka carried out a massive service project to alleviate the suffering of those housed in refugee camps in the north and east areas of the island. There are five refugee camps in these locations with approximately 2,20,000 people, mostly from the Mannar, Killinochi and Mullaithivu districts. By Bhagavan's grace, access was granted to the Sai medical teams to serve these people. Two medical camps were conducted over six days,



*Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Sri Lanka provided medical aid to more than 5,000 patients through two medical camps held by it in the refugee camps in the north and east areas of the island.*

during which approximately 5,000 patients were seen. The first medical camp was held from 29th to 31st May 2009 and the second from 6th to 8th June 2009. Approximately, 40 volunteers including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, first aid practitioners, volunteers and youth took part in these camps. Sai volunteers constructed a 20-bed temporary hospital with a tarpaulin roof to care for

the sick. In addition, mobile clinics were held to help patients who could not get to the main hospital. Patients with complicated or serious illnesses were referred to nearby general hospitals. Free medicine and nutritional supplements were dispensed as needed. Patients received follow-up care, and patient education was provided at the medical camp. Fruit, infant milk powder, biscuits and sweets were distributed to thousands of children. Many patients required special medicines for ailments such as heart disease or epilepsy. Sai volunteers collected such prescriptions, purchased the medicines and distributed them to the patients. For several months, the Vavunia Sai Centre has also been distributing essential food items for hundreds of expectant mothers and small children. Sai Seva volunteers and Sai Youth stayed at the Vavunia Sai Children's Home for the duration of the project. The Sai Centre of Vavunia lovingly provided meals and a place to rest after a long day's work to doctors and other volunteers.

## OMAN

On 9th and 16th April 2009, the Seventh Sai Open Essay Writing and Poster Making Competition with the theme 'Spreading the Light through Human Values' was held in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. The objective of the competition was to spur young minds to contemplate on the human values of truth, peace, love, right conduct and non-violence. The event took place at the Indian Schools of Al-Ghubra, Sohar, Salalah and Nizwa. Around 3,100 students from 200 Oman Government, Omani Bi-lingual, International and Special Education schools registered to participate in this annual event.



*“Spreading the Light through Human Values” was the topic of the essay writing and poster making competition organised by the Sai Organisation of Oman in cooperation with the Ministry of Education on 9th and 16th April 2009. More than 3,000 students took part in this annual event of the Sai Organisation.*

Senior officials from the Ministry of Education inaugurated the event at the different locations which was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Education, principals, teachers and guests from large corporations. More than 200 Sai volunteers provided help in conducting the event.

### **BRAZIL**

The 12th Latin American Sri Sathya Sai Youth Conference, attended by 210 participants from various countries in Central and South America, took place in Mendes, Rio de Janeiro, from 9th-12th April 2009. The venue was a previous monastery and a seminary college, sacred Christian symbols of which further added to the spiritual atmosphere of the meeting. The theme of the conference was ‘The Moment is Now’. Topics covered included ‘Sai Leadership’, ‘Mind, Body and Atma’, ‘Loving God in Our Daily Lives’ and ‘Your Life is My Message’. The conference included workshops, devotional singing,



*More than 200 participants from various countries in Central and South America attended the 12th Latin American Sri Sathya Sai Youth Conference held in Mendes, Rio de Janeiro from 9th to 12th April 2009.*

speeches by youth and elders, short plays and videos. National Youth Coordinators reported on key projects, such as Sai Youth support for Sri Sathya Sai Education in Human Values in schools and communities, medical camps and other projects in their respective regions. Sri Sathya Sai World Youth Conference held at Prasanthi Nilayam in July 2007 was the inspirational model for this zonal conference. A total of 13 task groups were formed, with each group responsible for specific activities, such as service, Bhajans, multimedia, Veda chanting, cultural programmes and other activities.

### **GREECE**

For the past 10 years, Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Greece has been organising an annual spring celebration at the Institution for Chronic Illnesses in Agia Barbara, in the Aigaleo area of Athens. This year, this event was held on 17th May 2009. Many Sai volunteers participated in hosting the event. They brought home-made delicacies, fruit juices, balloons, flowers and artwork





*Volunteers of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Greece visited the Institution for Chronic Illnesses in Athens on 17th May 2009 to serve the patients.*

drawn by SSEHV children. Patients were escorted to the reception area where tables were decorated with flowers and balloons. Some volunteers decorated patient rooms with Swami's quotes and flowers, while others cared for patients by feeding them, changing soiled or wet clothes and entertaining them. The volunteers visited about 50 patients who could not move from their rooms. With gratitude to Bhagavan, all patients enjoyed the warmth and love of the volunteers.

On 4th April 2009, volunteers of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Greece visited families and distributed food and clothing at St. George's shelter in Athens. On 11th April 2009, volunteers visited the homeless in Perama, Athens, and distributed food and clothing. A paediatrician visited 11 families and examined 14 children and adults. Used laptop computers in perfect condition were donated to two children who excelled academically, as well as to an unemployed person. In addition, Sai volunteers continued their weekly private math tutoring for children and their regularly scheduled visits to several institutions

for the chronically ill and a home for the disabled.

## SERBIA

Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Serbia organised a national retreat in the alpine town of Divcibare, in which 62 people from Serbia, Slovenia and Croatia participated. The theme



*Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Serbia organised a national retreat in which 62 persons from Serbia, Slovenia and Croatia took part. The theme of the retreat was "Mother Earth, Father Heaven."*

was "Mother Earth, Father Heaven," which aimed at raising awareness about our planet and our divine origin. Presentations were made on 'Mother Earth', 'Gratitude' and 'The Male and Female Principle'. Workshops on 'Love My Uncertainty' and 'Self-Realisation' were also held. Two plays entitled 'The Meaning of Life' and 'Vragomet' were enacted.

– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

## BHARAT

**Assam:** A new Sai Centre has been built in Gogamukh on a plot of land donated by a local devotee. Gogamukh in the district of Dhemaji is in the extreme north-east of Assam bordering the State of Arunachal Pradesh. It is a flood prone area and is mainly inhabited by plain tribal communities. On 6th June 2009, the devotees of Lakhimpur, Bihpuria,





Naharlagun, Itanagar and that of the host Samithi, Gogamukh assembled in the newly-built Sai Centre premises and conducted a Yajna (sacrificial ritual) and Laksharchana (reciting the name of Bhagavan one lakh times). On this occasion, a Bhajan session was also conducted. The devotees of Lakhimpur and Harmoty offered 102 mosquito nets to the deserving poor families. The devotees also decided to construct five pucca wells in five different suitable places during Bhagavan's 85th Birthday celebrations.

**Delhi:** The love of Swami flows to His beloved children in Arjun Park village in Najafgarh area of West Delhi which is a below poverty line colony. Free medical camps are held on a fortnightly basis by the Sai Organisation doctors of various faculties, which have benefited nearly 2,000 people of this village. Free clean drinking water is also being provided to 25 families of this village under Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme (SSSVIP). A high capacity water filter was installed in this village which gives 1,000 litres of clean drinking water to these families.

Matiyala village in Dwaraka area is another village adopted under SSSVIP where fourteen poor families are being provided minimum ration required by them like wheat, rice, sugar, etc., every month. This activity is going on since January 2009. A bus fitted with complete dental equipment visits this village as often as required. All procedures like filling, removing, medication, etc., are provided to the patients. Most of the senior citizens of the village have been checked and operated upon for cataract / glaucoma. This is a properly arranged programme. Patients are taken to a very specialised eye hospital and treatment is given.

**Himachal Pradesh:** A State-level Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Training Programme was

held at Anand Vilas, Shimla from 12th to 14th April 2009. More than 300 Bal Vikas Gurus from all parts of Himachal Pradesh participated in it. The participants evinced keen interest in the new innovations and teaching techniques demonstrated during the meeting sessions. These participants later organised Sri Sathya Sai Education Awareness Programme in the month of May 2009 for one week in their respective areas.

In Himachal Pradesh, medical camps are organised usually at centres of village complexes. Doctors go from village to village, and many a time from door to door to provide medical services to needy people. In the months of May and June 2009, 14 medical camps were held in different districts in the remote villages like Indora, Chhota Bengel, Rajpur, Pippliwalla, Amboa, Shiva Sanog, Nog, Kiaraea, etc. In these camps, 4,700 patients were checked up and free medicines were distributed as per the prescription given by the doctors. Besides, 173 cataract operations were conducted successfully and 183 animals were treated at three veterinary camps. The villagers from far-flung villages who could not bring their animals at the camp site were provided this facility at their doorstep. Bhajan singing and Narayana Seva formed regular features of all medical camps.

**Jammu and Kashmir:** Cleaning of various temples and religious places is being done throughout the year in a scheduled manner. A special feature of this year was the cleaning of Mata Khir Bhawani Temple at Tula Mula, Srinagar on 24th May 2009. The whole temple premises along with holy Kund (tank) was cleaned by the Seva Dal volunteers of the Sai Organisation. Besides cleaning, Narayana

Seva was organised and Prasadam in the form of Khir (sweet rice pudding)



was served to the visiting devotees on this occasion.

**Kerala:** Malappuram district has adopted 25 Adivasi (tribal) children – 13 boys and 12 girls in May 2009. On 1st June 2009, they were



*Sai Organisation of Malappuram district adopted 25 Adivasi (tribal) children in May 2009. The photo shows the children in front of their hostel.*

taken to the school for the first time. They are staying now in two hostels run by the Sai Organisation of the district. This project was highly appreciated and widely covered in the press.

The techno group of the Sai Organisation has taken up the care of cows attached to various temples. Under the guidance of this group, the temples have started growing grass scientifically. Sabarimala, Guruvayoor and Ettumanoor temples are covered under this scheme at present.

**Rajasthan:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Rajasthan organised Sanathana Sarathi golden jubilee “Journey with Sai” and “Manava Seva Madhava Seva” exhibition from 21st to 27th June 2009 at Prasanthi Vidya Mandir, Kota which was nicely decorated with lights. The exhibition highlighted the work of Bhagavan for mankind and His visits to various

places in India and East Africa. Additionally, it depicted Bhagavan’s teachings of universal love and education in human values. It was inaugurated at 7 p.m. on 21st June 2009 by Sri K.M. Tandon, Vice President of Shriram Fertilisers and Chemicals. Sai devotees of Kota along with their family members were present on this occasion. It was kept open for general public from 6 to 9 p.m. everyday. Newspapers and local TV channels covered the same.

The exhibition was divided into 18 sections, which included Journey with Sai, Sarva Dharma Mandir, Unity is Divinity, Creator and Creation, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Our Great Indian Culture, etc. A special counter was set up for the sale of Sai literature and subscription for Sanathana Sarathi in Hindi and English. Seva Dal volunteers gave their services in all the 18 sections and offered heartfelt thanks to Bhagavan Baba for giving them this opportunity. Arati was performed everyday after 9 p.m. Many intellectuals and eminent citizens of Kota visited the exhibition and expressed their strong desire to have Darshan of Bhagavan. Nearly 2,000 visitors were benefited from this exhibition. Devotees of Kota felt it a great blessing of Bhagavan for



*Sanathana Sarathi golden jubilee “Journey with Sai” and “Manava Seva Madhava Seva” exhibition was held at Kota, Rajasthan from 21st to 27th June 2009.*



choosing them for the work of organising this unique exhibition.

**Tamil Nadu:** A free diabetes awareness and screening camp was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Tamil Nadu at Sai Sruthi, Kodaikanal on 13th and 14th June 2009. A 32-member team of diabetologists, ophthalmologists, dieticians, diabetes educators, technicians, nursing staff and pharmacists rendered this service with the active support of Seva Dal volunteers, both ladies and gents. A total of 715 persons were screened, out of which 13 were found to be

new cases of diabetes. Medicines were issued free of cost.

A meeting of former Bal Vikas students was held on 14th June 2009 to review the activities conducted by them. Smt. Vidya Srinivasan addressed the participants. Justice V. Ramasubramanian, sitting judge of Madras High Court, who is former Bal Vikas student, gave an inspiring speech on this occasion.

Chennai Metro West District provided a pure drinking water plant to village Vengadu near Chennai under Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme. The plant was installed on 21st June 2009.

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### *God is the only Director*

You should think that man is an ordinary being in the drama of world created by God. Every man is an actor and has a role to play. God is the only director. He will give all the instructions. Every person should act within his role and limits. He should not overact. That is why we should know that each one of us is an actor in the drama of God. There is nothing that cannot be achieved with God's grace. There is no place without God. We fail to see Him because we do not have the eyes of love.

*– Baba*

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