

# Sanathana Sarathi



DECEMBER 2010

# Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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Cover Page Photograph: Unity of Faiths

"If there is no unity and harmony between the wife and her husband, there is no use of undertaking spiritual practices like Japa, Dhyana (chanting, meditation), etc. When the wife follows her husband and the husband follows his wife, there is great happiness in the family. Strive to achieve such unity and harmony in your family. Then, your entire life will become happy and peaceful without any worries whatsoever."



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*Grand 85th Birthday function of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium.*

# THE END OF EDUCATION IS CHARACTER

PURE HEART IS THE TEMPLE OF GOD

*Students, Embodiments of Love!*



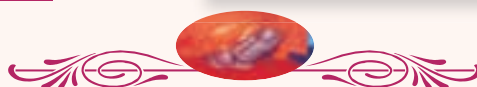
ALL OF YOU WANT SWAMI TO say at least a few words. You feel, "How nice it would be if Swami speaks for a few minutes"! However, I don't want to say much about the present system of education.

*This land of Bharat has given birth to many noble women like Savitri who brought her dead husband back to life; Chandramati who extinguished wild fire with the power of truth. Sita who proved her chastity by*

*coming out of blazing fire unscathed and Damayanti who reduced an evil-minded hunter to ashes with the power of her chastity.* (Telugu Poem)

At first, Chandramati was fear-stricken by the raging forest fire. She along with her husband and son was surrounded by flames of wild fire. Nobody could say how they were all of a sudden surrounded by the raging flames. This, in fact, was a divine play. Ultimately, when Chandramati utilised her power of truth and chastity, the fire was

***First and foremost, the youth should come forward to help each other. The end of education is character. If your character is good, then you can achieve anything in life. You may think, you have won gold medals, acquired high degrees and achieved name and fame. But if you lack character, these degrees are merely a piece of paper. It is most essential for you to safeguard your character. Only a person with good character is a truly learned one.***



extinguished in a trice. As Chandramati prayed, there was a heavy downpour. On one side, there was a raging fire and on the other side started a heavy rain, and ultimately the fire was completely extinguished.

### **Bharat is the Land of Women of Great Chastity**

Savitri was also endowed with great power of penance and chastity. She could even stop Yama (Lord of death) from taking her husband's life. She argued with Yama and told him, "The life of wife depends upon her husband and that of the husband on his wife. One cannot live without the other. So, if you want to take my husband's life, take my life also. Or else, spare his life. We are not separate from each other. It is my primary duty to safeguard my husband's life". Ultimately, Lord Yama had to revive Savitri's husband. Is there any country or region in this world where one can find a woman like Savitri who could bring her dead husband back to life? Such divine power is latent in every human being. Man should draw this power from within himself, which he can utilise not only for himself but for others also.

During those times, wife considered her husband as her very life and vice-versa. But, unfortunately, the situation is not the same today. In this sacred land of Bharat, many women like Damayanti, Savitri performed intense penance. They were all women of great chastity. But today we do not find such chaste women.

### **Develop Unity and Harmony in the Family**

A Pativrata (chaste woman) is one who considers her Pati (husband) as her very life and depends entirely on him. She does not talk back to her husband, and has not even

***Sita, Rama and Lakshmana lived together in the forest for almost fourteen years. But not even once did Lakshmana look at the face of Sita. What a pure-hearted person Lakshmana was! Whenever he had to talk to Sita, he talked to her with his head bent down. As he was such a noble person, he could enjoy the wealth of Rama's proximity. When Lakshmana fell unconscious in the battlefield, Rama said, "If I search, I may get a wife like Sita but not a brother like Lakshmana. I can bear separation from Sita but not from Lakshmana".***

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a little defect in her. She does not have any selfish desires. All that she does is for the sake of her husband. She would not even look at any male other than her husband. Only such a woman can be called a true Pativrata. But modern ladies do not follow their husbands. They do not listen to what their husbands say. When the wife follows her husband and the husband follows his wife and both lead a life of harmony, then the entire country will attain peace and prosperity. It is due to the differences between the husband and wife and disunity in the family that the country is subjected to one trouble after the other. Both husband and wife should develop perfect understanding and should adjust with each other. When the wife obeys the command of her husband and the husband fulfils the desires of his wife, then the future of the family will be safe and secure. If they act contrary to this, the family will be subjected to great suffering. Sometimes, both husband and



wife may conduct themselves in a decent manner when they are in their house. But when they go out of the house, they may indulge in all sorts of evils. This is not good. If there is no unity and harmony between the wife and her husband, there is no use of undertaking spiritual practices like Japa, Dhyana (chanting, meditation), etc. When the wife follows her husband and the husband follows his wife, there is great happiness in the family. Strive to achieve such unity and harmony in your family. Then, your entire life will become happy and peaceful without any worries whatsoever. All your worries are of your own making. They are not given by God. God is not at a distant place. He is immanent in man. You should have unwavering faith in this truth. Then not only the individual will be happy, but there will be happiness in society also. Pure heart is the temple of God. Therefore, develop love in your heart. Then you will attain everything in life.

There will be peace and happiness in the family when both husband and wife share the same views. A Pativrata is one who has no other thought of anybody or anything except that of her husband. A woman who leads her life with such unflinching faith in her husband can achieve everything in her life. When both husband and wife follow different paths, then there can be no peace and happiness in the family. You should not allow your mind to waver this way and that way. You should totally focus it on God. Contemplation of God is the basis to achieve unity and harmony in the family. When the wife prays to God, the husband will become a good person.



***Control your thoughts. This is the quality of a truly educated person. This is called educate. Along with education, you should also have educate. When you have educate, you will have everything – health, happiness, peace and prosperity. This is what I want you to understand. Everything will become good to you if you make your heart pure. At least from today onwards, take to the right path.***

Chaste women of yore like Sita and Damayanti had single-minded devotion towards their husbands. Sita was held captive in Lanka for ten months. But never even once did she look at the face of a male person. She spent all her time in the contemplation of Rama, sitting under a tree in Ashoka garden. She did not move out at all. As she was such a great chaste woman, she could prove her purity through Agni Pariksha (test of fire).



A Pativrata who strictly obeys the command of her husband can do anything. If she prepares food for her husband with saline water of the ocean, it will be changed into sweet water.

### **God Indwells all Beings**

God is only one, not two. He is the indweller of your heart. If you constantly contemplate on Him, you will also become God. Whomsoever you come across, consider him as the embodiment of divinity. Then only can you experience the principle of divinity. On the other hand, if you follow the vagaries of your mind and move about arbitrarily here and there, what can you achieve? When you go to your college, why should you look here and there and indulge in vain gossip? Focus your mind on the purpose for which you have come. Do your work without developing unnecessary contacts. Perform your duty in the family. There is nothing wrong in this. Nobody tells you to give up performing your worldly duties. Live in the world and perform your duties. But always treasure divine feelings in your heart.

Many people go to places of pilgrimage like Badrinath, Amarnath, Kedarnath, Bhadrachalam, Tirupati, etc., in search of God. They think that they can find God at such places. Oh foolish man! God is not somewhere else. In fact, you yourself are God. God is present in all. God is only one and He is present wherever you look for Him. He is in you, with you, above you, below you. God is beyond birth and death and indwells every being in the form of Atma. He is present in all human beings right from a child to an old man. The same God is present in an ant, a mosquito and in all birds, beasts and animals. Therefore, do not trouble

***A Pativrata is one who has no other thought of anybody or anything except that of her husband. A woman who leads her life with such unflinching faith in her husband can achieve everything in her life. When both husband and wife follow different paths, then there can be no peace and happiness in the family. You should not allow your mind to waver this way and that way. You should totally focus it on God. Contemplation of God is the basis to achieve unity and harmony in the family.***



yourself by going in search of God here and there.

Wherever you see, God is present there. Whomsoever you see, there is God in him. God has no different form. All forms are His. That is why the Vedas declare, *Sahasra Seersha Purusha Sahasraksha Sahasra Pad* (The Cosmic Being has thousands of heads, eyes and feet). When you sit for meditation, your mind wanders in all directions. You should not allow the mind to waver. Keep it always steady. Concentrate on the sound of Om. Then you will forget everything.

Since you are all young, I wish to emphasise this point. Do not develop opposition or differences among you. Controversies give rise to many troubles. These days some people marry not once, not twice, not thrice, but even four times. This is not good. This is the sign of a wavering mind. Be single-minded. Even if somebody makes you angry, do not fight with him. Understand that





by fighting with others, you actually harm yourself. Control your thoughts. This is the quality of a truly educated person. This is called educare. Along with education, you should also have educare. When you have educare, you will have everything – health, happiness, peace and prosperity. This is what I want you to understand. Everything will become good to you if you make your heart pure. At least from today onwards, take to the right path. If somebody tries to put you on the wrong path, do not pay any heed to him. If such a person comes to you and tries to start a conversation with you, do not even look at his face. Just ignore him and go away from him.

### **Youth should Promote Unity and Solidarity**

Students should live with unity in all matters. But today unity has disappeared altogether. On the other hand, enmity is on the rise. You should achieve unity. When one student in the class secures high marks, other students start feeling jealous of him. This is not good because jealousy gives rise to hatred. There will be further divisions if politics enter educational institutions. Therefore, all students should live with unity and solidarity.

Unfortunately, there is no unity in the youth today. First and foremost, the youth should come forward to help each other. The end of education is character. If your character is good, then you can achieve anything in life. You may think, you have won gold medals, acquired high degrees and achieved name and fame. But if you lack character, these degrees are merely a piece of paper. It is most essential for you to safeguard your

character. Only a person with good character is a truly learned one.

When Ravana was taking Sita away to Lanka, she dropped all her ornaments in a bundle which fell on a mountain. Rama and Lakshmana, while going in search of Sita, were shown this bundle by Sugriva. Rama asked Lakshmana to see the ornaments and identify if they belonged to Sita. Then Lakshmana replied, “Brother! I never looked at the face of Sita and therefore I do not know whether these ornaments belong to her or not. I can recognise only the anklets as I have seen them while offering my obeisance at her feet everyday”.

Sita, Rama and Lakshmana lived together in the forest for almost fourteen years. But not even once did Lakshmana look at the face of Sita. What a pure-hearted person Lakshmana was! Whenever he had to talk to Sita, he talked to her with his head bent down. As he was such a noble person, he could enjoy the wealth of Rama’s proximity. When Lakshmana fell unconscious in the battlefield, Rama said, “If I search, I may get a wife like Sita but not a brother like Lakshmana. I can bear separation from Sita but not from Lakshmana”. Such was the strong bond of love between Rama and Lakshmana.

Students should also develop such unity, considering all as their brothers and sisters. All are human beings. All are the children of God. Therefore, you should live with unity without giving room to any differences. This is My message for you today.

**– From Bhagavan’s Benedictory Address in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on the occasion of 29th Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning on 22nd November 2010.**



85 Years of Divine Love



Devotees in Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium on 23rd November 2010.

## GAIETY AND GRANDEUR MARK BHAGAVAN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



MAMMOTH GATHERING OF devotees thronged Prasanthi Nilayam from all parts of the world to pay their tributes to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on His 85th Birthday and to participate in nine-day long celebrations from 15th to 23rd November 2010. Many functions formed part of these celebrations, wherein a host of dignitaries came to participate which included the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Union External Affairs

Minister, Sri S.M. Krishna, Union Minister of Heavy Industries, Sri Vilasrao Deshmukh, Union Minister of Power, Sri Sushilkumar Shinde, Union Minister of Steel, Sri Virbhadra Singh, Governor of Punjab and Administrator, Union Territory, Chandigarh, Sri Shivraj Patil, Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Sri K. Rosaiah, Chief Minister of Karnataka, Sri B.S. Yeddyurappa, Chairman of Tata Group of Industries, Sri Ratan Tata, Chairman of TVS Motor Company, Dr. Venu Srinivasan, Andhra Pradesh Minister of Tourism and Information and Public Relations, Dr. (Smt.) J. Geeta Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Sri M.K. Stalin, former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Sri Ashok Chavan, and a large number of other prominent persons.



*The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil and the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan with Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam.*

Many cultural and music programmes were organised during these celebrations. Besides the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning and Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music, many





*The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh with Bhagavan at Prasanthi Nilayam.*

renowned musicians and singers presented these programmes. They included Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and his sons Ayaan Ali Khan and Amaan Ali Khan, Sri Hariharan, Sri Suresh Wadkar, Sri Shankar Mahadevan, Sri Sikkil Gurucharan, Sri Abhishek Raghuram and Pandit Ronu Majumdar.

Many new schemes were launched by Bhagavan during these celebrations. Prominent among these was Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini, a unique scheme to provide value-based education to millions of children through electronic media in collaboration with Tata Consultancy Services.

As part of Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations, Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation organised the 9th Sri Sathya Sai World Conference in Poornachandra Auditorium and Sri Sathya Sai Organisations, India set up an exhibition in Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports on Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme which also included a pavilion exhibiting the service activities of overseas countries.

The entire township of Prasanthi Nilayam and its surrounding areas bore a festive look with beautiful decorations which included colourful buntings, giant hoardings with Bhagavan's photographs and messages and beautifully carved welcome gates on roads not only within Prasanthi Nilayam but on the entire road from Sri Sathya Sai Prasanthi Nilayam Railway Station to Prasanthi Nilayam Ashram. The railway station was also beautifully decorated with photographs and messages of Bhagavan. In addition to this, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of many States of

India erected replicas of famous religious places of their respective States in the Ashram premises. These included the Bahai Lotus Temple and Jama Masjid of Delhi, Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple of Tiruchirapalli (Tamil Nadu), Trayambakeshwar Temple of Nashik (Maharashtra), Somnath Temple of Veraval (Gujarat), Sri Govindaji Temple of Imphal (Manipur) and Mahakaleswar Temple of Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh). Special decorations with buntings, festoons, hoardings, cloth hangings and floral designs were done in Yajur Mandir, the abode of Bhagavan and Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the celebrations. The Birthday Function on 23rd November 2010 was however conducted in Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium which was also very beautifully decorated. Enchanting illuminations on temples, offices and buildings including Sai Kulwant Hall and Yajur Mandir presented a beautiful spectacle at night. Two giant LED screens were installed in Sai Kulwant Hall to enable devotees to watch the proceedings of the events conveniently.



Elaborate arrangements were made for boarding and lodging of devotees who came to Prasanthi Nilayam in hundreds of thousands to participate in these holy celebrations. Free food which included morning breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and night dinner was served free to all the devotees from 15th to 24th November 2010.

### RATHOTSAVAM

The sacred festival of Rathotsavam held every year on 18th November marks the auspicious beginning of Bhagavan's Birthday festivities. It is followed by Ladies Day on 19th November, Institute's Convocation on 22nd November and culminates in Birthday



*The sacred festival of Rathotsavam was held on 18th November 2010.*

Function on 23rd November. This year also, it was held on the same date, i.e., 18th November 2010 and celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm. After the worship of the idols of Rama, Lakshmana, Sita and Hanuman as well as that of Lord Krishna in the Bhajan Mandir by the Mandir priest, the idols were installed on beautifully decorated palanquins and were taken out in a grand procession. The procession led by Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students started from Sai Kulwant Hall at

10.15 a.m. On arriving at the Gopuram Gate, the idol of Lord Krishna was installed on a beautifully decorated chariot while the idols of Rama, Lakshmana, Sita and Hanuman were carried by Seva Dal volunteers. The procession slowly moved forward towards Pedda Venkama Raju Kalyana Mandapam in Puttaparthi village. Nadaswaram musicians, folk dancers, Veda chanting and Bhajan singing students formed part of this grand procession. The villagers in large numbers came to watch the procession. Many devotees broke coconuts before the idols and offered Arati to them with great devotion. On reaching the Kalyana Mandapam, the chariot with the idol of Lord Krishna was stationed there and Arati was offered to it. The palanquin carrying the idols of Rama, Lakshmana, Sita and Hanuman started its return journey to Sai Kulwant Hall at 11.00 a.m. in a procession which was led by the same groups of musicians and Veda chanting and Bhajan singing students. With the return of the idols in the Bhajan Mandir, the sacred festival of Rathotsavam came to its conclusion.

### MUSIC AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

A galaxy of renowned musicians paid their musical tributes to Bhagavan during His 85th Birthday celebrations. The first musical presentation was made by Sarod maestro, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan and his two sons, Ayaan Ali Khan and Amaan Ali Khan on the evening of 15th November 2010. The programme began at 7.15 p.m. after Bhagavan's Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall. At first, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan presented a solo piece which, he said, he was inspired to



compose specially for this sacred occasion. Thereafter, he rendered two compositions together with his two sons. The entire programme of Sarod recital was an ocean of rhythm and feast of melody and kept the audience spellbound for 30 minutes. At the conclusion of the programme, Bhagavan blessed Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, his two sons and their accompanying artistes and honoured them with shawls.

This was followed by a Carnatic vocal concert by Sri Abhishek Raghuram, a promising young musician of Chennai. Sri Raghuram sang two classical compositions in his rich sonorous voice and enthralled the audience for nearly 30 minutes. His vibrant vocal concert was indeed a sumptuous feast of Carnatic music. At the conclusion of his concert, Bhagavan blessed Sri Raghuram and his accompanying artistes and gave clothes and mementoes to them. He also materialised a gold chain for Sri Raghuram and put it around his neck with His Divine Hands. After distribution of Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan to the entire assembly of devotees in the hall, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 8.20 p.m.

Two well-known musicians offered their musical tributes to Bhagavan on 17th November 2010. The first musical presentation was a flute recital by Pandit Ronu Majumdar which the artiste started with a classical composition at 7.35 p.m. After this he played the famous Mira Bhajan "Payoji Mein Ne Ram Ratan Dhana Payo" (I have received a treasure of Rama's name). Finally, he played the Bhajan dear to Mahatma Gandhi, "Vaishnava Jana To Te Ne Kahiye Peera Parayee Jane Re" (One

who knows the pain of others is true devotee of Vishnu). It was a brilliant and absorbing recital which kept the audience spellbound for over half an hour. At the conclusion of his presentation, Bhagavan blessed the artiste and gave a shawl, clothes and mementoes to him. He also gave similar gifts to the artistes who provided musical support to him.

The second musical presentation was a Carnatic vocal recital by Sri Sikkil Gurucharan who made a brilliant start with a Thyagaraja Kirtan and followed it up by an equally absorbing recital in Tamil. The last composition which was dedicated to the divine glory of Bhagavan provided a splendid finale to his concert. At the conclusion of his presentation, Bhagavan blessed the artiste and gave a shawl, clothes and mementoes to him and his accompanying artistes. After distribution of Prasadam to all, the programme concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 8.30 p.m.

### SAI AVATAR: A DRAMA

As part of 85th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam presented an excellent drama entitled "Sai Avatar" on the evening of 18th November 2010. The students led Bhagavan to Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the presentation, in a grand procession when He came to the hall at 6.40 p.m. The procession was headed by the Primary School band and followed by Bhangra dancing and Veda chanting groups of students. As Bhagavan entered the hall, students in fancy dress standing on both sides of His route offered reverential welcome to Him. Bhagavan was escorted to the dais by two students holding colourful umbrellas and Bhangra





*As part of Bhagavan's 85th Birthday celebrations, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam presented an excellent drama on 18th November 2010.*

troupe. Meanwhile, a melodious song on the public address system offered welcome to Bhagavan. The drama commenced after Bhagavan was seated on the dais. It depicted the teachings of Bhagavan on the unity of all religions through presentation of the teachings of prophets and saints of all major religions of the world. By portraying the story of Upamanyu and Uddhava's dialogue with Gopikas of Brindavan, the drama highlighted the path of Bhakti as the easiest path for man's redemption. Embellished with beautiful songs and excellent dances of the students and supported by innovative use of video presentation of the relevant scenes and incidents, the drama was a grand success. Good choreography, excellent costumes and make-up added beauty to the drama. The drama which began at 7.00 p.m. came to a close at 7.50 p.m. with a sweet song on the glory of Bhagavan. At the conclusion of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the students, provided them the coveted opportunity of a prolonged photo session with Him and distributed clothes to them. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan

at 8.10 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan to all.

## **NINTH SRI SATHYA SAI WORLD CONFERENCE**

The 9th World Conference of Sri Sathya Sai International Organisation was held in Poornachandra Auditorium at Prasanthi Nilayam on 20th and 21st November 2010 as part of Bhagavan's 85th Birthday celebrations. The theme of the conference was "Sai Ideal Human Life – Sai Ideal Spiritual Organisation". Sri Sathya Sai International Organisation is represented in 126 countries and is divided into nine zones. About 450 delegates from 78 overseas countries attended the conference.

The programme began with welcome address by Dr. Michael G. Goldstein, Chairman, Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation and Prasanthi Council. Dr. Goldstein stressed that the purpose of human life was self-realisation. Quoting the example of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Goldstein explained to the audience as to how Gandhi inspired millions to take up the cause of common good. He concluded his inspiring talk with Bhagavan Baba's message of "Be, Do and Tell". The next speaker was Prof. David Gries, Chairman, Zone 1 of Sri Sathya Sai Overseas Organisation and webmaster of the International Sathya Sai Organisation website. He suggested that the participants of the conference should discuss the attributes of the organisation, the rules and guidelines for the members of the organisation and





*A section of the delegates to the 9th World Conference of Sri Sathya Sai International Organisation held in Poornachandra Auditorium on 20th and 21st November 2010.*

methods to improve public awareness of the organisation. The final speaker of the inaugural session was Dr. Narendranath Reddy, Director, Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation and Chairman, Sri Sathya Sai International Medical Committee. The speaker beautifully expanded the acronym www as work, worship and wisdom, the three main paths for self-realisation. Dr. Reddy concluded his inspiring talk with a message that everyone had to do selfless service, remembering that the source, path and goal was Divine Love and the service was done by God and to God. This was followed by study circles to discuss topics such as expectations of the Sai Ideal Spiritual Organisation, what can one derive from it and how one can contribute to it, the uniqueness of Sai organisations, attributes of Sai Ideal Spiritual Organisation and rules and guidelines of the organisation.

The second day of the conference opened with talks by two speakers. The first speaker was Sri Leonardo Gutter, member, Prasanthi Council. He emphasised the need for unity in the organisation and said that the members had a two-fold responsibility, the first

was to intensify the individual Sadhana (spiritual practice) and the second, to spread Bhagavan Baba's message of Pure Love. The second speaker, Dr. William Harvey, member, Prasanthi Council focused his talk on the mind being the key to either bondage or liberation. One must master the mind and become a mastermind, he observed. He also quoted Bhagavan Baba's ABC of life as Always Be Careful, Content, Cheerful and added DEFG denoting Do Not Ever Forget God. After the talks, the study circle groups continued their deliberations.

The facilitators of the study circle groups presented the ideas and suggestions of the delegates. All the study circles unanimously came up with the conclusion that the practice of Sathya Sai's teachings resulted in a happy and prosperous society. In this context, it was highlighted that in Indonesia, the President himself had recognised the contribution of Sri Sathya Sai schools to society and passed an order for all the schools in Indonesia to organise training and implement Sathya Sai Education System which was Education in Human Values and Education with Human Values. In his closing remarks, Dr. Michael Goldstein said that the Sai Organisation was formed to make one realise one's innate divinity through spiritual transformation. In order to achieve the objective, one should become an exemplar and light the lamp of love in everyone's heart.

### EXHIBITION ON SERVICE ACTIVITIES

On the occasion of Bhagavan's 85th Birthday celebrations at Prasanthi





*Bhagavan came to Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports to see the exhibition on Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme on 16th November 2010.*

Nilayam, an exhibition was set up in Sri Sathya Sai International Centre for Sports (Indoor Stadium) from 15th to 24th November. The exhibition depicted the service activities of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of various States of India under Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme and service activities of Sai Organisations of various overseas countries. Bhagavan came to see the exhibition on 16th November 2010. The exhibition contained one pavilion each of all the States of India, showing their service activities in the area of healthcare, education, tree plantation, Grama Seva, Narayana Seva, flood relief, disaster management, etc. There was a separate pavilion of the Technology Group which depicted organic farming, economical housing, water purification, solar energy, biogas energy, etc. The overseas pavilion showed the activities being undertaken by overseas countries like medical camps, disaster relief, water projects, healthcare, etc. Music and cultural programmes were organised daily during the course of the exhibition which depicted

the cultural heritage of various States of India. The exhibition was a great attraction for devotees who visited it daily in large numbers. A visit to the exhibition was really a very educative experience regarding the work being done by the Sai Organisations.

## BHAGAVAN'S BIRTHDAY FUNCTION

Bhagavan's 85th Birthday function was held in Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium, which was befittingly decorated for the grand occasion. While flags of various countries of the world fluttered on the railings of the galleries, large size photographs of Bhagavan with His main messages decorated the walls of the galleries in the entire stadium. An enchantingly decorated welcome gate was set up at the western end of stadium on which "85 Years of Love" was prominently displayed, highlighting the significance of the great event. Santhi Vedika presented an enchanting look with beautiful carvings all around and floral designs of various shapes and colours enhancing its beauty and charm.

Elaborate arrangements were made by the organisers for seating the massive throngs of devotees and entry to the stadium was opened at 2.00 a.m. on 23rd November 2010. The entire stadium was full to its seams by 5 o'clock in the morning. Three giant LED screens were set up at vantage points in the stadium to enable all the devotees to watch the proceedings of the grand event with convenience. Besides the mammoth





gathering of devotees, a large number of dignitaries came to participate in the celebrations. They included Union External Affairs Minister, Sri S.M. Krishna, Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan, Governor of Punjab and Administrator, Union Territory, Chandigarh, Sri Shivraj Patil, Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Sri M.K. Stalin, Union Minister of Power, Sri Sushilkumar Shinde, Union Minister of Steel, Sri Virbhadra Singh, Union Minister of Heavy Industries, Sri Vilasrao Deshmukh, Minister of Tourism, Information and Public Relations, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. (Smt.) J. Geeta Reddy, Chairman, Tata Group of Industries, Sri Ratan Tata, Chairman, TVS Motor Company, Dr. Venu Srinivasan and many others.

### **Bhagavan Arrives in Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium on Golden Chariot**

The proceedings of the Birthday function started at 8.00 a.m. with chanting of Vedic

hymns, which continued for one hour. This was followed by an enrapturing presentation by Sri Anil Kumar and students who described the glory and message of the Kali Yuga Avatar Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in poetry and prose. After this, Bhajans were started, in which the huge gathering of devotees participated with great devotion, saturating the entire stadium with sacred vibrations.

Clad in a sparkling golden white robe, Bhagavan came in a grand procession to the stadium on a golden chariot at 11.25 a.m. A large contingent of musicians, Veda chanting students and bands of schools and colleges formed part of the colourful procession. A galaxy of renowned singers sang a sweet welcome song, "Swagatam, Shubh Swagatam, Shubh Swagatam Bhagavan" as Bhagavan entered the stadium. They included Sri Shankar Mahadevan, Sri Hariharan,



*Bhagavan came to Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium in a grand procession on a resplendent golden chariot on the morning of 23rd November 2010.*



Sri Suresh Wadkar, Sri Sumeet Tappoo, etc. Bhagavan arrived at the Santhi Vedika at 11.45 a.m. After Bhagavan occupied the beautiful throne placed on the Santhi Vedika, the singers sang two group songs, describing the divine glory of Bhagavan and significance of the 85th Birthday celebrations. The programme of vocal music came to a close with the famous song, “Mahaprana Deepam Sivam Sivam” sung by Sri Shankar Mahadevan. As the music programme concluded, a helicopter hovered over the stadium and showered rose petals to the delight of the entire gathering in the stadium.

### **Talks on Bhagavan’s Glory**

After the music programme, a few speakers paid glowing tributes to Bhagavan for His stupendous humanitarian projects to alleviate the sufferings of the masses and for His spiritual programmes for the moral, ethical and spiritual uplift of mankind. The speakers were introduced by Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations. The first speaker to offer his tributes to Bhagavan was Union External Affairs Minister, Sri S.M. Krishna, who praised the work done by Bhagavan to provide water to Chennai and tribal and rural areas of many districts of Andhra Pradesh. Referring to the spiritual endeavours of Bhagavan, the distinguished speaker observed that Bhagavan had inspired millions of people in the world to redeem their lives. The next speaker was Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan, Governor of Andhra Pradesh. Referring to Bhagavan as the mother and father of the entire mankind, the distinguished speaker offered his obeisance to Bhagavan and prayed for His blessings.



*Bhagavan on elegantly bedecked Santhi Vedika in Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium on 23rd November 2010.*

### **Launching of New Projects**

Sri S.V. Giri, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning then spoke about the new project “Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini” and prayed to Bhagavan to inaugurate it. Elaborating on the significance of the project, Sri Giri observed that at present 80% of the student population of India mainly in rural areas had less access to education. The project envisaged to provide value-based quality education by best teachers through most modern technology to the children in rural areas in collaboration with Tata Consultancy Services. Thereafter, Dr. Ratan Tata, Chairman, Tata Group of Industries, offered the relevant software to Bhagavan who initiated the project by pressing a button.





*Sri Ratan Tata presenting the software to Bhagavan for launching the new project "Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini" on 23rd November 2010.*

Two other new initiatives that were being launched on this auspicious day were also announced by Sri V. Srinivasan. These were: Sai Net containing all information about the Sai Organisation of India in an integrated system and digital archives which would cover all activities of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations. It was also announced that free food would be offered to villagers along with medical services being provided to them through Sri Sathya Sai Mobile Hospital.

### **Speeches of Beneficiaries**

This was followed by speeches by some beneficiaries who actually benefited from humanitarian work of Bhagavan. The Mayor of Chennai, Dr. Subramaniam offered gratitude to Bhagavan for providing water to the people of Chennai and social welfare projects undertaken by the Sai Organisation of Tamil Nadu under Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme. Sri Suryanarayana Reddy of East Godavari district spoke about the supply of drinking water to tribal areas

by Bhagavan by constructing tanks and laying pipelines. Sri Lakshman Bhai from Rajkot, Gujarat described how Bhagavan helped the people of Gujarat after a massive earthquake of 2001 by sending food grains, medicines, clothes and articles of daily use to the affected people. Sri R.M.P. Rajendran from a village in Tamil Nadu described how Sai volunteers rendered immense help to people when Tsunami devastated the vast coastal regions on 26th December 2004. Another speaker, Sri Ravindranath Sahoo of Odisha, spoke about the work done by the Sai Organisation of Odisha in providing relief to the people affected by the

devastating flood in 2008. He conveyed deep gratitude to Bhagavan for constructing 700 houses for those who lost their houses in the flood. The next speaker was Sri Ijaz Ahmed, a taxi driver of Bengaluru. He described how his life was saved when Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospital of Bengaluru performed his heart surgery free of cost. The last speaker, Sri Rangappa of Anantapur district described how Sri Sathya Sai Mobile Hospital diagnosed his heart problem and sent him to Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospital, Prasanthigram where he was completely cured. The morning programme concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 1.10 p.m.

### **Prema Pravaham**

In the evening, Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium presented a grand spectacle with brilliant illuminations in the entire stadium. The welcome gate erected at the western end of the stadium was bathed in soothing lights of various colours, and all the statues of





*Bhagavan at enchantingly decorated Santhi Vedika while the students present the music programme "Prema Pravaham" on the evening of 23rd November 2010.*

prophets of various religions on the Hanuman Hill as well as the giant statue of Hanuman at the top of the hill brightened the entire milieu. Added to this were laser beams emitting green light in mid-air. Moreover, brightly lit adjoining buildings of Institute's Administrative Block and Sanathana Samskruti Museum provided a charming background. The lighting on the ornamental golden-hued Santhi Vedika was simply mesmerising.

Bhagavan came to the stadium clad in a resplendent yellow robe at 7.40 p.m. The programme began at 7.45 p.m. after Bhagavan was seated on the glorious throne on the Santhi Vedika. The programme was befittingly entitled "Prema Pravaham" (stream of love) and was presented by the students of Bhagavan, some of them working in various departments and some still pursuing their studies. It comprised in all seven songs, all of which were accompanied by matching visuals displayed on three giant LED screens which made the presentation effective and interesting. The first song described

Bhagavan as the fountain of Divine Love, the second described Him as Veda Purusha and the Embodiment of the Vedas, the third elucidated His role as World Teacher. Similarly, the fourth, fifth and sixth songs described Him as Ocean of Compassion, Helper of the Afflicted and Embodiment of Divine Glory. The last song, "Tu Pyar Ka Sagar Hai" described Bhagavan as the Ocean of Love which provided most befitting finale to this programme saturated with love and devotion, rightly described by the students as a programme of Love, for Love, with Love. At the end of the programme, Bhagavan blessed the students who participated in it. After this, there was a grand display of fireworks which brightened the entire sky with colourful sparkles of light. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 8.50 p.m. Thus concluded the grand and glorious celebrations of Bhagavan's 85th Birthday, the memories of which will surely be cherished by the devotees in the whole of their lives.



## STUDENTS SHOULD LEARN SELF-SACRIFICE AND ATTAIN SELF-REALISATION

*Praising the integral system of education of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Chief Guest of the 29th Convocation of the Institute observed in his Convocation Address, "Yours is a relatively young university... but it has already established its place as a centre of excellence... What makes it so unique... is that it also shows us a new way forward and adds a new dimension to the quest for learning. To paraphrase Baba's words, this is not a place simply to earn degrees. Its main... purpose is to help students cultivate self-knowledge and self-confidence so that each... student learns self-sacrifice and attains self-realisation"...*

**T**HE 29TH CONVOCATION OF Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (Deemed to be University) was held in aesthetically decorated and brilliantly glittering Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 22nd November 2010. The ceremonial

academic procession led by the brass band of the Institute came to the hall at about 11.00 a.m. The procession included the Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. J. Shashidhara Prasad,



*The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Chief Guest of the 29th Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning with the Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam. On the right side of the Prime Minister is the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan.*



three former Vice Chancellors, Members of the Governing Body, Trust and Academic Council of the Institute. Other dignitaries who joined this procession were the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan and Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Sri K. Rosaiah. Besides, many dignitaries attended the Convocation function. They included Governor of Punjab and Administrator, Union Territory, Chandigarh, Sri Shivraj Patil, Chief Minister of Karnataka, Sri B.S. Yeddyurappa, Union Minister of Steel, Sri Virbhadra Singh, Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Sri M.K. Stalin, and Chairman, Tata Group of Industries, Sri Ratan Tata.

At the outset, the Registrar welcomed the Chief Guest, Dr. Manmohan Singh by garlanding him. The proceedings of the convocation started with sacred Vedic chants by a group of students of the Institute. After this, the Revered Chancellor declared the convocation open on the request of the Vice Chancellor and pressed a button to unveil the plaque, 29th Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning.

#### **Vice Chancellor's Introductory Speech**

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. J. Shashidhara Prasad began his speech by extending a warm and cordial welcome to the Chief Guest, Dr. Manmohan Singh, whom he referred to as one of the most brilliant academicians and economists of our times. Quoting from a Discourse of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Vice Chancellor reiterated that the objective of the Institute was to provide such education to the students which not only enhanced their intelligence but also developed their character and purified their impulses and emotions so as to make

them shining examples of spiritual awareness. The Sai experiment, he said, had stood the test of time and the students passing out of the Institute were being regarded by their employers as men of highest integrity with concern for society and environment and with qualities of leadership, work ethics, time management, patience and perseverance.

Dwelling on the research programme of the Institute, the Vice Chancellor stated that the Institute was undertaking socially-relevant and community-oriented research and was planning for enhancing the research facilities further. In conclusion, he prayed to Bhagavan for His blessings to make each one in the Institute to play his role, however small, in His Divine Mission of redemption of the world.

#### **Graduands Presented to the Revered Chancellor**

After the introductory speech of the Vice Chancellor, Sri G.S. Srirangarajan, Controller of Examinations of the Institute, presented the graduands to the Revered Chancellor for award of degrees. Thereafter, the Vice Chancellor administered the customary pledge to the graduands. The names of the winners of gold medals for excellence in academic performance were then announced. They came one by one and received their gold medal from the Revered Chancellor. In all, 23 gold medals were awarded to the meritorious students. The Revered Chancellor also conferred the degrees of doctor of philosophy on seven doctoral research scholars.

#### **Prime Minister's Convocation Address**

The Chief Guest, Dr. Manmohan Singh offered his salutations to Bhagavan on



His 85th Birthday which, he said, coincided with convocation function, imparting special significance to this convocation. Referring to his coming to Prasanthi Nilayam in 1995 as the Chief Guest of the convocation, the distinguished speaker observed that the changes that had occurred here in the last 15 years were phenomenal and Prasanthi Nilayam had become an international township where people from all parts of the globe belonging to different races and cultures stayed together in unity which reflected the central idea of India, unity in diversity. It was what, he added, made our great nation unique.

Referring to the system of education being followed in the Institute under the guidance of Bhagavan, Dr. Manmohan Singh observed, *“This institution has consciously sought to amalgamate a system of formal education with wholesome development of character”*. He appreciated the endeavour of this Institute for structuring its curricular programme and project work with an awareness of duty and social responsibility and exhorted one and all to put the values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa into practice in their day-to-day life as taught by Bhagavan.

Referring to the humanitarian work done by Bhagavan with regard to supply of drinking water to hundreds of villages, free medical facilities and free education to thousands of beneficiaries and many other projects for the benefit of the masses, the Prime Minister said, “This is a commendable commitment, and a determination to alleviate the sufferings of the poor and the needy with a spirit of giving that is unfortunately all too rare. Such benevolence and philanthropy

should be an example to the many in our country who have the means, but are yet not able to emulate it”.

Before concluding his Convocation Address, the Prime Minister commended the students for having had the good fortune of spending these years of their lives in this Institute that enabled them to develop to their full potential, achieve academic excellence and imbibe time-tested values. He advised them that it was important for them to keep in mind the many around them who have not had the privilege that the students of this Institute enjoyed and help in whatever way it was possible, those who were less fortunate and less privileged than them.

#### **Revered Chancellor’s Benedictory Address**

Delivering His Benedictory Address, the Revered Chancellor of the Institute emphasised the need for unity in family which was the basis of progress of society. Referring to the commitment to truth, chastity and high character of great women of India, Bhagavan advised the modern men and women to develop noble character and maintain unity and harmony in the family and society. Bhagavan advised the students to cultivate the spirit of unity and develop good character. (Full text of Bhagavan’s Benedictory Address has been given elsewhere in this issue.) The convocation function came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 1.20 p.m.

#### **Twameva Saranam Mama: Convocation Drama**

On the occasion of the 29th Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning and 85th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the students of the Institute presented a drama entitled “Twameva



Saranam Mama” (you are my only refuge) on 21st November 2010.

The drama had an impressive start with a beautiful dance by a group of students in front of a magnificent Vitthala temple installed in the performing area. The ensuing scenes of the drama brilliantly highlighted the teachings of Bhagavan that God protects those who uphold Sathya and Dharma in their life and take refuge in Him with total surrender. This truth was depicted through the story of an

ordinary tailor whose earnestness in his profession and unswerving devotion to Lord Vitthala earned him the deservedness to attain the grace of the Lord who manifested before him and came to his rescue at a critical juncture in his life. The episodes of Sakkubai and Emperor Alexander befittingly reinforced this truth. Dexterous handling of the simple story made the drama very absorbing and kept the viewers glued to their seats during



*A scene from the Convocation Drama presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning on 21st November 2010.*

the entire length of its presentation. Superb direction, brilliant acting of the students, excellent sets, perfect choreography, good make-up and costumes made the drama an outstanding presentation. At the conclusion of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the cast and posed for group photographs with them. After a brief session of Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam to all, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.20 p.m.

### *The Real Subject of Study*

The aim of all study should be the cultivation of good qualities, the development of virtuous habits, the raising of the standard of values, of one's own self-respect. You say, 'they study' or 'he studies'. What really is the study? Years of study do not give any idea of the 'entity' that studies! The result of study does not reveal itself in character and virtue; the educated person is more prone to temptation and more addicted to evil habits and evil attitudes. The best that can be said of the learned is that they are efficient in the art of argument and cynical discussion and criticism. The real subject of study for man is the study of the means of ending birth and death.

*- Baba*



*Ladies Day Celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam*

## **PRESIDENT EMPHASISES THE NEED FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

*Emphasising the need for empowerment of women for the progress of the country, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil said, "Efforts to empower women through education, awareness and opportunities should continue". "Women representatives in the elected bodies in villages and towns should bring women-related issues to the forefront for their progress and overall improvement in the standards of living, besides opening more avenues of employment and productive work in rural areas", said the President while speaking on the occasion of Bhagavan's 85th Birthday and Ladies Day celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam on 19th November 2010.*



THE VENUE OF LADIES DAY celebrations was Sai Kulwant Hall, which was gorgeously decorated with fresh and unique floral arrangements. Bhagavan came to the hall in a grand procession led by Nadaswaram troupe, Veda chanting group of girls and bands of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School and Anantapur Campus of Sri Sathya

Sai Institute of Higher Learning. The function began with singing of National Anthem soon after the arrival of Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil on the dais in Sai Kulwant Hall after 12.00 o'clock. Other dignitaries present on this occasion were Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan, Governor of Punjab and Administrator, Union Territory, Chandigarh, Sri Shivraj Patil, Minister



*The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, speaking on Ladies Day celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on 19th November 2010.*



of Tourism and Information and Public Relations, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. (Smt.) J. Geeta Reddy.

### **President's Speech on Ladies Day**

In her welcome address, Smt. Chethana Raju, Managing Trustee of Sri Sathya Sai Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust, observed that women could reach great heights if they made use of opportunities as exemplified by the President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil. She then highlighted Bhagavan's vision for a better future for women and said that Sri Sathya Sai Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust was engaged in women's welfare and empowerment schemes, covering about 100 villages.

The next speaker was Smt. Mallika Srinivasan, Vice Chairperson, Tractor and Farm Equipment Ltd. (TAFE), and a Trustee of Sri Sathya Sai Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust. Quoting from a Discourse of Bhagavan, Smt. Srinivasan observed that the path of love and selfless service shown by Bhagavan was the only way to unite mankind into one family and to end the sufferings of man. Sri Sathya Sai Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust, she said, was making an endeavour to follow this path through its service activities to rural population.

The next speaker, Dr. Geeta Reddy observed that everything was possible by the grace of Bhagavan, and whatever she had achieved in her life was only due to Bhagavan's blessings and grace. Bhagavan, she said, has dedicated His life for the welfare of mankind and thus shown by His example the ideal of love and selfless service for all to follow.

After the speech of Dr. Geeta Reddy, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil addressed the gathering. Greeting Bhagavan on His 85th Birthday, Smt. Pratibha Patil emphasised the need for providing more opportunities to women to make them self-confident and self-reliant. Quoting the words of Swami Vivekananda on this subject, Smt. Pratibha Patil observed that the progress of the country depended upon the uplift of women.

Offering grateful thanks to Smt. Pratibha Patil for her participation in the Ladies Day celebrations and giving an inspiring speech, Dr. (Smt.) Hyma Reddy observed that peace in the world depended on the harmony of the family, for which education and empowerment of women was important and necessary.

### **Mahishasura Mardini: A Dance Drama**

These talks were followed by a vibrant dance drama entitled "Mahishasura Mardini" (annihilator of demon Mahishasura) by Bal Vikas children of Tamil Nadu. The drama



*Bal Vikas children of Tamil Nadu performed a dance drama "Mahishasura Mardini" as part of Ladies Day celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.*



provided the befitting finale to the programme by showing the victory of the Divine Mother over the forces of evil. The programme came to a close with singing of National Anthem by all at 1.10 p.m.

### **An Excellent Dance Programme**

On the evening of 19th November 2010, an excellent music and cultural programme was presented in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The first item

concert with a superb rendering of “Vatapi Ganapatim Bhaje”, the talented singer followed it up with a judicious mix of classical pieces and popular songs which included a Mira Bhajan, “Pyare Darshan Deejo Aaj”. The concluding composition “Brahmamokkate Parabrahmamokkate” earned the enthusiastic response of the audience and provided a grand finale to this brilliant concert. In fact, the entire concert



*Students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Hyderabad performed a vibrant dance on the occasion of Ladies Day on 19th November 2010.*

of the programme was a dance performed by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Hyderabad. The dance began with a tiny tot dancing on a clay pot rhythmically with classic gestures. This was followed by girls dancing on brass plates holding lighted lamps. In the end, girls danced to the tune of the Bhajan, “Brahmanda Nayaka Baba”. Scintillating music, deft foot movements and gestures of the dancers and excellent choreography made the dance absorbing and enrapturing.

### **Carnatic Vocal Music Concert**

This was followed by a Carnatic vocal music concert by the reputed singer Smt. Sudha Raghunathan. Starting her

was a sumptuous feast of devotional music which kept the audience spellbound for nearly one hour. At the conclusion of her concert, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the artiste and gave her a beautiful Sari. He also blessed the artistes who provided musical support to her and gave clothes to them. A brief Bhajan session followed this. After distribution of Prasadam, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 8.50 p.m.

### **Mass Marriages Function**

A grand function was held at Prasanthi Nilayam to conduct 95 mass marriages on 17th November 2010 as part of 85th



Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan. The venue of the function was Sai Kulwant Hall which was tastefully decorated with colourful buntings, festoons of different shapes and designs, cloth hangings and floral designs which created a festive environment. The couples along with their parents came to Sai Kulwant Hall in a magnificent procession at

Hindu marriage threads) and the organisers distributed them to the bridegrooms which they had to tie around the neck of their respective brides, marking the completion of the marriage. At the auspicious time of 11.59 a.m., the bridegrooms tied the Mangal Sutras around the necks of their respective brides while the priest chanted the relevant



*In a mass marriages function held on 17th November 2010 in Sai Kulwant Hall, 95 mass marriages were performed as part of 85th Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan.*

11.30 a.m. The organisers promptly seated all at their allotted places where they had already placed all items for worship and performance of rituals. The brides and bridegrooms were wearing the bridal dress, which Bhagavan gave them on the previous evening with His Divine Hands. The priest started the chanting of relevant Vedic Mantras for the performance of rituals soon after the couples, their parents and relatives occupied their seats. Accordingly, the couples performed the rituals. Meanwhile, Bhagavan blessed the Mangal Sutras (sacred

Mantras and Nadaswaram musicians played auspicious notes. After this, the couples poured Akshatas (sanctified rice) on each other's head as a mark of auspiciousness. Finally, they garlanded each other. After the completion of these rituals, a large number of gifts were distributed to the couples. Thereafter, Bhagavan went into the rows of the couples and blessed them all. This grand function came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 12.55 p.m. Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to all in the end.



## THE CARDIOLOGIST OF ALL CARDIOLOGISTS

**S**RI RAMABRAHMAM, A CLOSE devotee of Bhagavan, had the good fortune of serving Swami personally. He had hypertension and was under treatment. Swami had entrusted the work of monitoring his blood pressure to me. He was on M dopa tablets. One day, Swami asked me to check his blood pressure which was high. So, I was asked to change his medicine. He said that Serpasil was a better drug, but the patient refused to take the new medicine as he thought that the old medicine suited him well.

On one occasion, Swami asked Ramabrahmam to stay with Him at the Raj Mata's bungalow. Swami sat next to him and gave him half a tablet of Adelphane. His blood pressure came down to normal. Swami told him that with just half a tablet his blood pressure was under control. After sometime, however, he felt restless, and started saying that he wanted to go to his room. In spite of Swami making him drink some juice and comforting him, nothing happened; he came back to his room. Before he left the bungalow, Swami told him to call me and get his blood pressure checked. When I went and checked his blood pressure, it was normal. I asked him, "Why did you come away? Swami was taking care of you. What a chance! Swami knows better than me". Once again, he went to Swami and Swami told him, "See, what did I tell you? She has sent you back to Me".



*Sri Ramabrahmam with his Divine Master,  
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.*

A few days later, Swami left for Puttaparthi. Before leaving Brindavan, Swami came to see Ramabrahmam. Swami told him to take bed rest and not to come out of the house. Swami also told him that food would be served there only to him, and blood pressure would be checked periodically. Swami told me to take care of him and told Smt. Ratanlal to take care of his food and other requirements. Both of us were attending on him. Swami had kept two men attendants to be with him day and night and to help him

whenever necessary. One month was over. No change. His blood pressure was normal throughout with Adelphane tablets only. He was resting all right.

One day, Ramabrahmam asked me what his blood pressure was. I told him it was normal. Then he said, "I have been simply lying down since so many days. I am all right. I want to get up and go out; at least move about". We told him that we had to get Bhagavan's permission for him to move out of his room. He requested me to get Bhagavan's permission.

I personally went to Puttaparthi with reports and a letter given by the patient to Bhagavan. I gave everything to Bhagavan. Next day, when Swami came on Darshan rounds, He scolded me not only for leaving the patient and coming to Parthi but also for telling the patient that everything was normal. Swami told me that his heart condition was not all right. If He had to send him to a cardiologist,

and if he (the cardiologist) were to disclose the condition to him, Ramabrahmam would get worried, and that would worsen his heart condition.

Ramabrahmam had requested Bhagavan to permit him to go to his place as he was feeling all right. Swami immediately sent a telegram, asking him not to move out of his room. I returned to Brindavan and, as before, we continued to attend on Ramabrahmam. After two months, when Swami came back to Brindavan, He went to his room, saw him and told him that he was all right. He took him in His car and told me that I could relax at that point. He had taken over the care of the patient. Afterwards, Swami kept him in His Mandir till Ramabrahmam's death. What a blessed soul! He was under the care of the Supreme Cardiologist – the Cardiologist of all cardiologists.

– Excerpted from the book "Divine Doctor" by Dr. N. Shanthamma

**SRI SATHYA SAI HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL  
PRASANTHI NILAYAM – 515134, (A.P.)**

**Ph.: 08555-289289, E-mail: ssshss@gmail.com, Website: www.ssshss.org.in**

Admission to **Class I (Boys and Girls)** and **Class XI (Boys and Girls)** of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Vidya Giri, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515134, Anantapur Dist., (A.P.) will take place in **June 2011**. It is an English medium, wholly residential school.

Prospectus and Admission Forms can be had from the Principal from **01-01-2011** by paying **Rs 50/-** either by cash or through Demand Draft drawn on **State Bank of India, Puttaparthi Branch** (code no: 2786) in favour of the **Principal, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School**, with a self-addressed cover (size 15 cm x 24 cm) with **Rs. 20/-** stamps affixed.

Last date for issuing the forms is **15th February 2011** and the last date for receiving the filled in forms at this office is on or before **1st March 2011**.

Only students coming from English medium classes should apply.

Age limit for 1st Standard in between **5 ½ years** and **6 ½ years** as on **30-09-2011**.

Age limit for 11th Standard should be below **16 ½ years** as on **30-09-2011**.

**Note:** You can download the Application Form through our website: **www.ssshss.org.in**

– *Principal*

# CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES



TWO-DAY INTERNATIONAL conference on “Cardiovascular Diseases – the Sathya Sai Model” was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences (SSSIHMS), Prasanthigram on 25th and 26th October 2010 at the hospital premises. A galaxy of eminent cardiologists



*Bhagavan graced the international conference on “Cardiovascular Diseases – the Sathya Sai Model” by His Divine Presence and also saw a presentation by Dr. Sudhanshu Bhattacharya, a famous cardiovascular surgeon.*

and cardio-thoracic surgeons from around the world took part in the conference in an endeavour to share breakthroughs in the field of cardiovascular care, with a focus on administering efficient cardiac care in tune with Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba’s direction that free healthcare, like free education and drinking water, was an inalienable right of

every individual, irrespective of race, religion, caste, creed, economic status and nationality. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba graced the conference by His Presence on 25th October 2010. He also saw a presentation on “Redo CABG – Do’s and Don’ts” by the famous cardiovascular surgeon, Dr. Sudhanshu Bhattacharya.

In his welcome address to the conference, Director of SSSIHMS, Dr. A.N. Safaya said that SSSIHMS was a model established by Bhagavan. “This hospital is in its 20th year. When it is viable in this remote village of India, then this model can be emulated all over the world”, Dr. Safaya said. “Why cannot the richest countries in the world do something like this?” he asked. Dr. Safaya also deliberated on the essential element of human care while administering healthcare. “Treatment should not be like giving a penny to a beggar, but like a rose to God,” he observed.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Angelo Thomas Pezella, Director and founder of the International Children’s Heart Fund, U.S.A. emphasised that apart from food, water, clothing and shelter, the basic needs also include education, transportation, safety, empowerment, respect and recognition. Dr. Pezella added that everyone in this world had a right to adequate standard of living that would ensure his well-being as well as that of his family.



Renowned Indian cardiac surgeon, Dr. P. Venugopal, in his keynote address, dwelt on his experience of working on the SSSIHMS project and how Bhagavan Baba had guided the project team at every step. "The general consensus was that a project of this size and magnitude from construction, completion and commissioning could not be executed in seven months," he said while referring to the deadline Bhagavan Baba had put on the completion of the project. Dr. Venugopal, however, said that he had felt differently and had committed to Bhagavan that completion and commissioning of the project was indeed possible with Bhagavan's blessings. "Initially, we ran into many roadblocks but at the end of every roadblock stood Swami and He made the impossible possible. He got into the bottom of every aspect from medical processes to equipment, from training to principles and guidelines," he said. "Swami was a doctor, midwife and mother, all rolled into one when it came to delivering His precious baby – the hospital", he said.

Providing an overview of Sri Sathya Sai Global Health Mission, Dr. Narendranath Reddy said that society of today was caught up in www – wealth, wealth, wealth. Rather, society should be imbued with another set of www – work, worship and wisdom. Looking back at Puttaparthi, Dr. Reddy said that some 60 odd years ago, no facilities were available at Puttaparthi, but now the face of Puttaparthi had undergone a complete transformation due to the 'Love in Action' of Bhagavan Baba. Dr. Reddy also highlighted the efficient role played by the Seva Dal volunteers of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations in providing relief and care across the world.

The two-day conference was divided into 10 sessions, in which many eminent cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons shared their experience through various symposia and presentations on topics, which include congenital heart disease, vascular heart disease, coronary artery disease, heart failure, cardiac aneurysms, preventive cardiac care, new vistas in cardiac care among others. Prominent among them who participated in these symposia and made their presentations included Dr. Navin Nanda, an internationally renowned cardiologist and a pioneer in the field of echocardiography, currently President of the International Society of Cardiovascular Ultrasound; Dr. William Novick, paediatric cardiac surgeon, Founder and Director of the International Children's Heart Foundation; Dr. Valluvan Jeevanandam, Professor of Surgery and Chief of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery, University of Chicago Medical Centre, Chicago, Illinois and Dr. Miguel Ronderos, Paediatric Interventional Cardiologist, Chief of Service of Paediatric Cardiology at Infantile Foundation Cardio in Bogota, Colombia

In her concluding remarks at the end of the conference, Dr. Neelam Desai, Head of Department of Cardio-thoracic and Vascular Surgery at SSSIHMS, Prasanthigram observed that while the delegates had been exposed to many advanced technologies and new treatment options for cardiovascular diseases during the conference, all would be missing a golden opportunity if they did not carry along the divine wisdom from Bhagavan. "Swami says that the road to divinity is through service... Dedicating even one day a month or some free procedures a month will go a long way in helping the needy," she said. Referring to an





interview with Bhagavan, Dr. Desai said that Bhagavan had emphasised the fact that the main causes behind diabetes and heart disease were mental anxiety, jealousy, envy and competitiveness and also hurry, worry and hurry. "The preventive aspect of cardiac care also has to be given importance so that in future conferences, we should be able to say: last year we did 2-3 surgeries and not 200-300 surgeries", she said.

### **To Be is to Serve**

A cultural programme entitled "To Be is to Serve" was presented in Sai Kulwant Hall on the evening of 25th October 2010 which was watched among others by the delegates to the conference. It showcased



*On the occasion of the international conference on "Cardiovascular Diseases – the Sathya Sai Model", a cultural programme entitled "To Be is to Serve" was presented in Sai Kulwant Hall.*

the main features that made Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences a unique service institution which has provided since its inception in 1991 loving healthcare totally free of cost to millions of needy people without any distinction of caste, creed, class, race, religion and nationality. The programme presented by the doctors of the Institute described the experiences of patients,

hospital staff and Seva Dal volunteers to elucidate how Bhagavan's hospitals like His other institutions were verily the temples of transformation for the beneficiaries as well as the staff working in these institutions. The programme came to a close with a group song "Charon Disha Mein Hai Chhayi Bahar" (there is spring in all directions) which recapitulated the teachings of Bhagavan on service.

### **PILGRIMAGE OF KARNATAKA DEVOTEES**

More than 2,000 devotees including youth and Bal Vikas children from Karnataka came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from 29th October to 1st November 2010. During the course of their stay, they presented excellent cultural programmes. On 29th October 2010, Bal Vikas students of Karnataka led evening Bhajans, soulful rendition of which touched the hearts of devotees who followed them in chorus.

### **Karishye Vachanam Thava: A Drama**

On 30th October 2010, Sai Youth of Karnataka presented a drama entitled "Karishye Vachanam Thava" (follow divine command). The drama had a very impressive start with a Yakshagana scene which made the introduction of the drama very attractive. What followed this elucidated the teachings of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on ceiling on desires and importance of human values in man's life. This was depicted through the story of three youth, one of whom was very ambitious and took to unscrupulous means to make easy money, the second was a Sai Youth who adhered to good thoughts, good words and good deeds and the third, an alumnus of Sri Sathya





*During their pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam, Karnataka youth presented an excellent drama which showcased the teachings of Bhagavan on ceiling on desires and importance of human values in the life of man.*

Sai Institute of Higher Learning who looked at his job as service to society and strictly adhered to honesty, selflessness and self sacrifice in workplace and life. The dialogue between the three youth was interspersed with meaningful episodes from the lives of Adi Sankara, Bhishma and Vibhishana, Ramakrishna and Vivekananda, Ashoka and Buddha which illustrated the teachings of Bhagavan and showed the path of morality, ethics, devotion and discrimination to modern misguided individuals who endanger the very fabric of society by their greed, dishonesty and selfishness. The drama was a superb presentation from all aspects, be it acting, direction, costumes, make-up, songs, music or technical quality. The ingenious use of LED screen and lighting system added to the grandeur and beauty of the drama. The concluding scene beautifully showcased the stupendous humanitarian work of Bhagavan with regard to education, healthcare and service to society. The drama which began at 6.40 p.m. came to a close at 7.40 p.m. with a thunderous applause of the devotees as an expression of their appreciation of

the drama. At the conclusion of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the youth and provided them the opportunity of a prolonged photo session with Him. He also materialised a gold chain for the youth who enacted the role of the alumnus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.50 p.m. after distribution of Prasadam to all.

### **Drama by Bal Vikas Children of Karnataka**

On 1st November 2010, Bal Vikas children of Karnataka presented a dance drama entitled "Satsankalpameva Jayate" (only good endeavours bring victory) which portrayed the life story of Dhruva, the child devotee



*Bal Vikas children of Karnataka presented a drama on 1st November 2010 which portrayed the life story of Dhruva who won the grace of God by intense penance in his childhood.*

of God, whose devotion, determination and penance at tender age earned him the grace of Lord Narayana and His consort goddess Lakshmi, who manifested before him and granted him the boon of immortality. Soulful devotional songs, excellent music, perfect choreography and good acting of the



children, especially the child who played the role of Dhruva, made the drama a praiseworthy endeavour. At the conclusion of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the children and gave them the coveted opportunity of a prolonged photo session with Him. He also materialised a gold chain for the child who played the role of Dhruva. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end. The drama which commenced at 6.20 p.m. after Bhagavan's Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.25 p.m.

### GRAND DEEPAVALI AND GUJARATI NEW YEAR DAY FUNCTION

Grandeur and gaiety marked the celebration of the sacred festival of Deepavali at Prasanthi Nilayam. This being the Gujarati New Year Day also, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Gujarat organised a beautiful cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall on 5th November 2010. The programme began after Bhagavan inaugurated it by lighting the sacred lamp on the dais at 7.25 p.m.

#### Radhiyali Gujarat: A Folk Dance

The first item of the programme was a vibrant folk dance presented by the youth



*The youth of a village named Rajupura adopted by Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Gujarat presented a folk dance on 5th November 2010.*

of a village named Rajupura which was transformed into an ideal village full of peace, progress and prosperity after Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Gujarat adopted it for all-round development under Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme. The youth depicted the prosperity and development of the village and showcased the cultural heritage of Gujarat as well as its great progress in all fields through a meaningful song and Radhiyali dance, a form of famous Garbha dance of Gujarat.

#### The Child is the Father of Man: A Drama

This was followed by a drama "The Child is the Father of Man" which portrayed the purity and innocence of children through the story of a child Krish whose purity and goodness led him to find a soul mate Giridhar, a student of Sri Sathya Sai School, with whose help



*The drama "The Child is the Father of Man" showcased the purity and innocence of children which made them dear to God and earn His grace.*

he brought about the transformation of his elders. The play gave the message that instead of accumulating secular knowledge, power and wealth man should develop the innocence and purity of a child to attain God's grace and bring about peace, progress and prosperity in the world. At the conclusion of the programme, Bhagavan blessed



all the participants, posed for group photos with them and distributed clothes to them. After distribution of Prasadam to the entire assembly of devotees, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 8.20 p.m.

### **Grand Display of Fireworks**

A fine and colourful display of fireworks in Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium on the evening of 6th November 2010 added new splendour and magnificence to Deepavali celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam. Bhagavan was offered a reverential welcome when He came to the stadium at 5.45 p.m. in a grand procession comprising Bhangra dance,

over a number of places in the performing area and the adjoining hill started the display of fireworks, which virtually lighted up the entire sky on this dark night and filled the stadium with the deafening sound of bursting of crackers as if giving the loud message of victory of light over darkness. To add joy to the celebrations, a group of students performed a vibrant dance in front of Santhi Vedika which enraptured one and all. This show of light and sound continued for nearly half an hour, and concluded in an equally grand manner when a lighted message “85 Years of Love” was displayed gloriously on a high stand in the centre of the performing area as a curtain raiser to 85th Birthday celebrations of



*Deepavali, the festival of lights, became all the more glorious at Prasanthi Nilayam when a colourful display of fireworks was made in Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium on 6th November 2010.*

Veda chanting and Nadaswaram groups of students. Thousands of students lined the route of Bhagavan with lighted candles in their hands which presented a grand spectacle in the twilight hours of this auspicious day. On arrival at Santhi Vedika at 5.55 p.m., Bhagavan lighted the sacred lamp to inaugurate the programme. The display of fireworks and bursting of crackers started when Bhagavan pressed the remote controlled button. After this, various groups of students spread

Bhagavan. The students who participated in this display finally came in front of the Santhi Vedika and expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for His loving and gracious presence. This grand display came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.35 p.m.

### **BAL VIKAS ALUMNI MEET**

As part of Bhagavan's 85th Birthday celebrations, Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Alumni



Meet was organised at Prasanthi Nilayam on 7th November 2010, wherein about 2,000 former Bal Vikas students came from all parts of India to pay their tributes to Bhagavan and express their gratitude to Him for providing spiritual training to them and moulding their life through Bal Vikas classes. Besides the former Bal Vikas students, about 200 Bal Vikas Gurus and 22 present Bal Vikas students participated in this meet.

presented two group songs captivating the entire audience with their melody and soulful rendition. The last item of the programme was instrumental music presented by 22 present Bal Vikas students. This was truly a divinely-inspired musical presentation which provided a virtual feast for the soul. At the conclusion of the programme, Bhagavan blessed the students and appreciated their performance. After distribution of Prasadam



*About 2,000 Bal Vikas alumni came to Prasanthi Nilayam to participate in Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Alumni Meet on 7th November 2010.*

The programme was inaugurated by Bhagavan at 6.30 p.m. by lighting the sacred lamp on the dais. After introductory speeches highlighting the significance of Bal Vikas in the modern world, the alumni presented a group song expressing their gratitude to Bhagavan for His grace and benedictions. This was followed by talks by three alumni, a judge, a doctor and a teacher. All of them expressed their gratitude to Bhagavan for providing Bal Vikas education to them which helped them to overcome all difficulties in life and shaped their success in their profession and daily life. Thereafter, former Bal Vikas students

to all, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.30 p.m.

### **GLOBAL AKHANDA BHAJAN**

Global Akhanda Bhajan held simultaneously in all parts of the world for 24 hours has great importance as an annual feature of Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations. Millions of devotees participate in this sacred event without any discrimination of caste, creed, faith and nationality which demonstrates a unique spiritual unity of man at global level unparalleled in the spiritual history of mankind.

At Prasanthi Nilayam, it assumed added importance since Bhagavan Himself inaugurated it and surcharged it with divine vibrations by His Divine Presence. On 13th November 2010, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of the Akhanda Bhajan, at 6.05 p.m. amidst chanting of Vedic hymns by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. On arriving at the dais, Bhagavan lighted the sacred lamp at 6.20 p.m. amidst a loud applause of devotees to inaugurate the Akhanda

devotion, suffusing the entire milieu with sacred vibrations. The Bhajan continued throughout the night of 13th November in this sacred manner, affording the opportunity to a large number of devotees to derive spiritual benefit by their participation in it. Besides the students, groups of singers from Ashram departments and hospitals took turns in the night to lead Bhajans.

On the afternoon of 14th November 2010, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 5.35 p.m. and showered His blessings on the



*A section of devotees and students taking part in the Akhanda Bhajan held in Sai Kulwant Hall on 13th and 14th November 2010.*

Bhajan. Immediately after this, the students commenced the Bhajan with chanting of Omkar three times. The Bhajan was then led alternately by the boys students of two campuses of the Institute at Prasanthi Nilayam and Brindavan and the girls students of Anantapur Campus. A huge gathering of devotees followed it in chorus with great

Bhajan singing devotees and students. The Bhajan concluded in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan with offer of Arati to Him at 6.15 p.m. Prasadam of tamarind rice and sweet rice was offered to the entire gathering of devotees and students in the end. Thus, concluded this event of great spiritual significance at Prasanthi Nilayam.

The mind is the background for the world. If thoughts and activities of the mind are sound, healthy, non-violent, filled with love, morally harmonious, then peace is near at hand and Brahman (Supreme Reality) can be attained.

— Baba

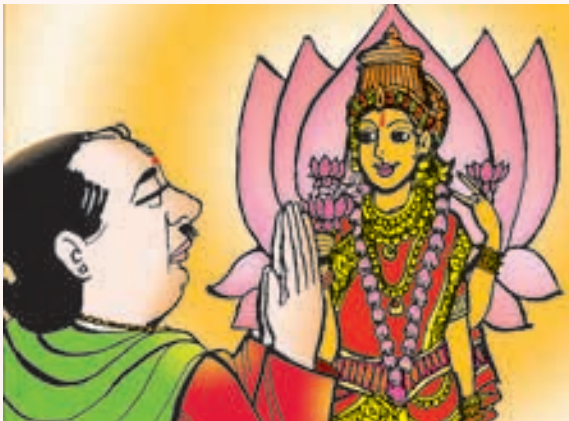
# Experiencing God's Grace

Chinna Katha



ONCE A DEVOTEE STARTED praying to goddess Lakshmi with the desire to become wealthy. He prayed with full dedication for many years to win the grace of the goddess. One day, Lakshmi manifested before him and asked him, "What do you want?" "Mother,

started producing sound with her anklets and bangles. On hearing this, a thought flashed in his mind, "What is wrong if I see the jewellery the goddess is wearing, all of which I would be able to possess on reaching home"? And he looked back to see this. Then, what happened? Goddess Lakshmi



*Goddess Lakshmi manifested before him and offered him all her jewellery.*

I want you only," he replied. "All right, I will come with you with all the jewellery I am putting on. You walk before me; I will follow you to your house. On reaching your house, I will give you all my jewellery. But you should observe one condition. You have to move and look forward only. Do not look back. If you look back, I will stop where I am."

The devotee strode the way to his house with great joy and enthusiasm. He was in a great hurry as to when he would reach home and get all the jewellery of the goddess. After walking some distance, goddess Lakshmi



*As the devotee looked back against the command of the goddess, he lost the great opportunity of possessing the jewellery of the goddess.*

stopped then and there. The devotee wept bitterly and repented. What did he get by his reckless haste? Shouldn't have he followed the command of the goddess? He earned the grace of the goddess after undergoing great hardship, but could not experience it.

God's grace is available to man at all times. But it is essential for man to have the earnestness to experience it. He can earn the deservedness only when he develops this earnestness.



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## *Chant the Name of God*

To reach the presence of the source of bliss, that is, God, you must tread the footsteps of the great saints and seekers, like Jayadeva, Gauranga, Mira, Ramakrishna and others. Practise their teachings, follow their example. The path of dedicated activity, of surrender to the Highest, of incomparable love towards the Embodiment of Prema – that is the sweetest path, giving joy at every step. Hari Nama (the Name of the Lord) which all seekers had on their tongue is described by them as sweeter than all the sweet things put together.

*– Baba*

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