



# Sanathana Sarathi

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# Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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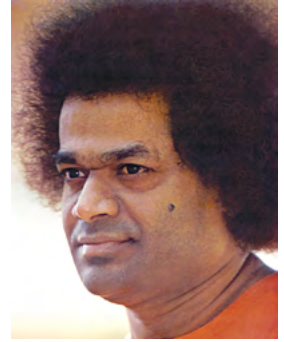
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*"Never consider God as someone  
separate from you. Give up the  
idea that you can visualise Him  
merely by worshipping Him.  
Understand that you are He and  
He is you. Offer yourself to God  
completely. That is the easiest way  
to attain Him."*



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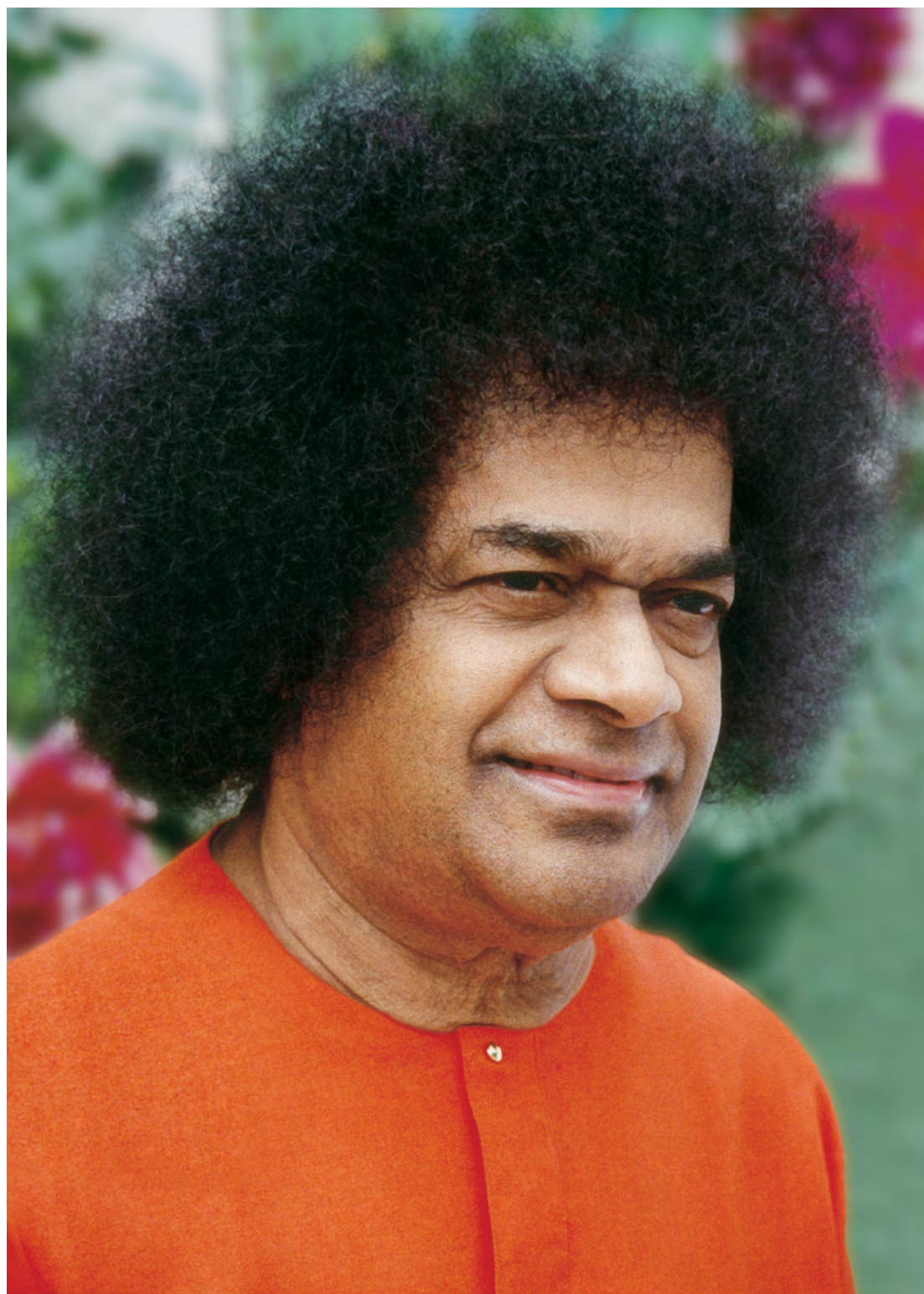
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AMRITA DHARA

BHAGAVAN'S DISCOURSE:  
5TH SEPTEMBER 1996: PART 1

## TURN YOUR VISION TOWARDS GOD

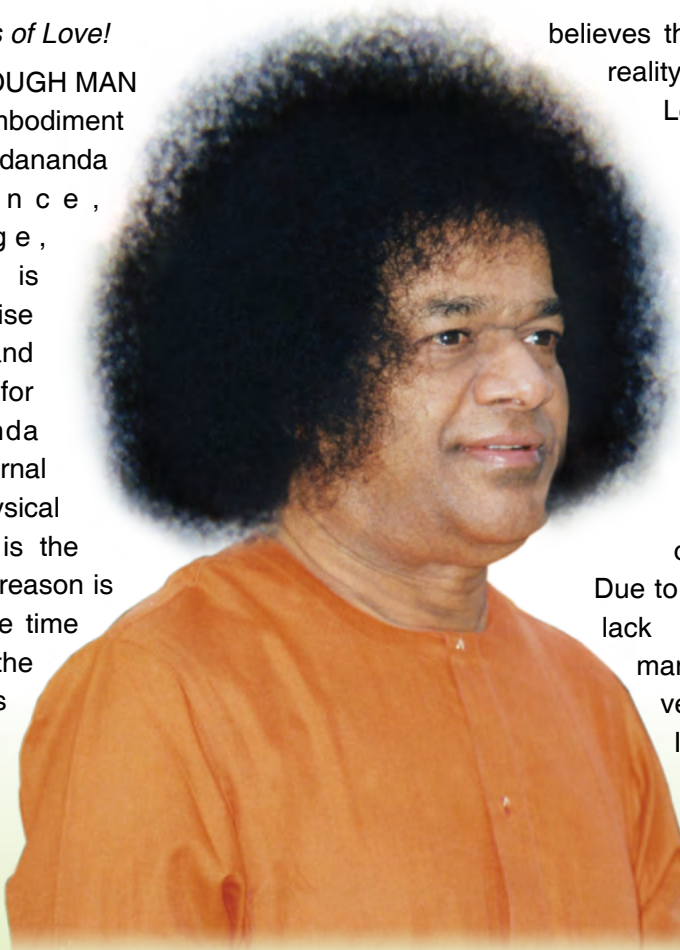
*One devoid of wisdom always thinks of the world, whereas a wise man always thinks of the Lord. The wise man attains the Lord, whereas the worldly man gets mired in worldliness. Listen, oh valiant sons of Bharat!*

(Telugu Poem)

NEVER THINK GOD IS SEPARATE FROM YOU

*Embodiments of Love!*

**E**VEN THOUGH MAN is the embodiment of Satchidananda (existence, knowledge, bliss), he is unable to realise this truth and searches for Satchidananda in the external and physical world. What is the reason? The reason is that he all the time thinks of the world, runs after worldly pleasures and thereby forgets his own true Self. He



believes this world to be the reality and forgets the Lord. This ignorance is the root cause of all his misery.

### Realise your True Nature

Though man is verily the embodiment of the Divine, he identifies himself with the world out of his foolishness. Due to this ignorance and lack of discrimination, man is forgetting his very humanness. In fact, Sat Chit Ananda is his very nature and very form. Just as rice grain is covered by husk, water

is covered by moss, the sun is covered by clouds, man's true nature of Satchidananda is covered by the veil of ignorance. Wherefrom has this ignorance originated? The moss that covers the water is born out of water, the clouds that cover the sun are born out of the sun. You see the rice grain when you remove the husk; you can see water when you brush aside the moss; when the clouds move away, you see the sun in the sky. Similarly, when the veil of ignorance is removed, man can realise his true nature, that is Satchidananda. What is this ignorance? The absence of Jnana (knowledge) is Ajnana (ignorance). In fact, Jnana and Ajnana are not separate from each other. Without knowledge, there can be no ignorance. Ajnana always follows Jnana like a shadow. Man today follows only the shadow but not the reality.

Here is an example that students can easily understand. When you face the sun as it rises in the east, your shadow will fall behind you. On the other hand, if you turn away from the sun and start walking towards the west, you will follow your shadow. No matter how much you try to overtake your shadow, your shadow will continue to move ahead of you. Similarly, when you turn your vision towards God, who is the very embodiment of Satchidananda, the shadow of ignorance will fall behind you and will not be visible to you. But man forgets God and turns his vision towards the world. He follows the shadow of ignorance which moves ahead of him. That is why the Upanishads exhort man,

***You have to experience oneness with God to attain Him. When is it possible? When you offer yourself to God completely, you become He and He becomes you. Then you realise "You and I are one". The same is stated by the Mahavakyas (profound statements): Tattwamasi (That Thou Art) and Aham Brahmasmi (I am Brahman). Only the one who offers himself to God completely can experience oneness with Him. Till such time, God is God and devotee remains a devotee.***

*Uthishta Jagrata Prapya Varannibodhat* (Oh man! Get up; be aware and awake! Go to noble men and learn from them the secret of attaining Divinity). Oh man, you are in the deep slumber of ignorance. You don't know in which direction you are travelling. You don't understand on which you are reposing your faith. In fact, you forget the truth and believe the untruth.

### **Experience Oneness with God**

In the dream state, man believes all that he sees in the dream and considers it to be true. A President or a Prime Minister may have a dream in which he sees certain things which he does not understand. While he is in the dream state, he has no awareness that he is the President or the Prime Minister and that he resides in a big bungalow. He may dream that he is





moving in a forest or doing shopping in the bazaar. So long as he is in the dream state, he considers all that to be true. Once he is awakened from the dream, he will remember that he is the President or the Prime Minister. Likewise, you are the embodiment of Satchidananda. You are the President, you are the Prime Minister, you are the master of everything. Because you are overpowered by the sleep of ignorance, you see this world and consider yourself to be a member of society in this world. But all this is a mere dream which is born out of ignorance. In order to get rid of this ignorance, you should make efforts to attain Jnana (wisdom). What is Jnana? *Advaita Darshanam Jnanam* (experience of non-dualism is wisdom).

People want to attain God, contemplate on Him and worship Him. But they do not realise that they cannot attain God by merely adopting these practices. So long as you contemplate on Him and desire for Him, it means God is different, you are different. You have to experience oneness with God to attain Him. When is it possible? When you offer yourself to God completely, you become He and He becomes you. Then you realise "You and I are one". The same is stated by the Mahavakyas (profound statements): *Tattwamasi* (That Thou Art) and *Aham Brahmasmi* (I am Brahman). Only the one who offers himself to God completely can experience oneness with Him. Till such time, God is God and devotee remains a devotee. When you mix sugar in water, sugar dissolves in it and becomes one with

it. Similarly, if you want to become God, you should offer yourself to God.

It is not possible to understand the principle of oneness so far as you have body consciousness. Atma is beyond the mind and the senses. *Buddhigrahyamatheendriyam* (the Atma is beyond the ken of senses and can be understood only by the intellect). Only when you transcend the mind and senses can you understand the principle of oneness. This is a tumbler. Consider that there is fruit juice in this tumbler. In fact, there is only water in it. I don't have the habit of drinking fruit juice. I am saying this only to give you an example. Though the fruit juice is present in the tumbler, the tumbler does not know its taste. You put a straw in this and suck the juice into your mouth. Though the juice passes through the straw, the straw also does not enjoy its taste. It is only when the juice reaches the tongue can you know its taste, whether it is sweet or sour. Similarly, our body is a tumbler in which the sweet juice of divinity is present. But the body is not aware of it. Senses are the straw through which we experience divinity. But the senses also do not know the taste of divinity. Intellect is like the tongue which experiences its taste. That is why Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, a great devotee of the Lord, extolled tongue in many ways.

*Oh tongue, the knower of taste! You are very sacred. Speak the truth in the most pleasing manner. Chant the Divine Names of Govinda, Madhava and Damodara incessantly. This is your foremost duty.* (Sanskrit Verse)



Oh tongue, you are very sacred as you can experience the taste of divinity. You are not satisfied by tasting ordinary sweet juice. But there is one juice which is most sublime and sweet. That is the Name of the Lord. Therefore, chant Govinda, Damodara, Madhava. Its sweetness never changes or diminishes. It enters your heart and saturates your entire life with sweetness.

Man today considers God to be different from him and worships Him. It is impossible to become one with God in this way even after many births and Yugas (aeons). Just as water becomes one with milk, the devotee should become one with God. There is no need to perform any spiritual practice like Japa and Dhyana (chanting and meditation) nor is there any need to read spiritual texts or go to a Guru. It is possible to become one with God only through love. That which preaches this principle of love is Vedanta. You may sing Bhajans for any number of years, but you cannot become one with God so long as you have the feeling that you are different from Him. You can only derive temporary satisfaction while doing Bhajans. That's all. God is the embodiment of divine Rasa (essence). Human heart is always filled with that divine essence. This is the teaching of the Upanishads. If you forget God, you become Neerasa (devoid of essence). In order to get rid of your Neerasa state, you have to take refuge in the embodiment of Rasa. Wherefrom does Neerasa originate? It originates from the feeling that you are different from God. The

divinity present in you is called conscience which is nothing but the principle of Atma. You have to make efforts to understand this principle. Ahamkara (ego) and Abhimana (attachment) are the two hurdles which prevent you from experiencing the divine essence present in you.

When Adi Sankara was on his victory march, he had a debate with Mandana Misra on the principles of Vedanta. Before the commencement of the debate, they had to appoint a judge to decide the winner. Sankara being Trikala Jnani (one who knows the past, present and future) knew the right person who could perform the duty of a judge. He said, "Mandana Misra, your wife Ubhaya Bharati is the right person to perform the role of a judge". See, what great faith Sankara had in the nobility and ability of Ubhaya Bharati! Normally wife always takes the side of her husband. But Ubhaya Bharati was not such a person. She was totally impartial. She did not observe any differences like mine and thine. That is why Sankara chose her as the judge. The debate went on for a long time and ultimately Mandana Misra was defeated. Ubhaya Bharati gave the judgement without any doubt or hesitation. The moment he heard the judgement, Mandana Misra took to Sannyasa (renunciation) without any delay in fulfilment of the condition of the debate. Ubhaya Bharati also followed suit as she was the Ardhangini (better half) of Mandana Misra. As you can see here, worldly path is different from spiritual path. One is Pravritti (outward) and the other is Nivritti (inward). Ubhaya Bharati proved



that Pravritti and Nivritti are inseparable and interdependent.

Once they took to Sannyasa, they started living separately. One day, Ubhaya Bharati was going along with her disciples to the river Ganga for taking bath in the river. On the way, she observed a Sannyasi who was relaxing, keeping a dried bottle gourd under his head. He was using this for storing drinking water, and hence he was preserving it carefully. Ubhaya Bharati saw this Sannyasi's attachment to the bottle gourd and said to her disciples, "Look! This man calls himself a Sannyasi, but he is attached to a bottle gourd which he is keeping under his head as a pillow". The Sannyasi heard this comment, but did not utter anything then. While Ubhaya Bharati and her disciples were returning from the river, he threw away the bottle gourd in front of them in order to demonstrate that he was not attached to it. Observing his action, Ubhaya Bharati aptly remarked, "I thought there was only one defect in him – Abhimana (attachment). Now I realise that he has another defect also – Ahamkara (ego). How can one with Abhimana and Ahamkara become a Jnani and Sannyasi"? Her comment was an eye-opener for the Sannyasi. He expressed gratitude to Ubhaya Bharati for imparting true knowledge of renunciation to him.

There is no difference between man and woman with respect to the attainment of Jnana (wisdom). Man and woman are different only in physical form. But there is no difference between them in the realm of knowledge. Similarly, there is no difference on the basis of caste, colour and race. That Sannyasi at once fell at the feet of Ubhaya Bharati and said, "Mother, as there is none to teach such profound truths, today Sannyasis do not understand what is true spirituality. Hence, from today onwards, you are my Guru".

Today we find Sannyasis performing various types of spiritual practices. What is the use of performing such external practices without deserving divine grace and compassion? Can you attain divine grace by merely performing spiritual practices like Japa and Dhyana? Are you in search of a path following which you become deserving of God's love? When you enquire on these lines, you will realise the truth at once.

*... to be continued*

(Please see Part 2 of this Discourse in the next issue.)

– **Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 5th September 1996.**

*Values for Education; Education for Life; Life for Love; Love for Man; Man for Service; Service for Spirituality; Spirituality for Society; Society for Nation; Nation for World; World for Peace.*

- Baba



## Annual Sports and Cultural Meet of Sri Sathya Sai Educational Institutions

# *Amazing Skills and Thrilling Adventure on Display*

## Morning Session of Sports and Cultural Meet

As Bhagavan's car with His beautiful photograph majestically moved into the stadium at 8.00 a.m., women's brass band of Anantapur Campus offered welcome notes. The procession consisting of motorbike squad, flag bearers squad and Veda chanting group of students was followed by slow march squad and men's brass band of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the Institute. As Bhagavan's car came near Santhi Vedika, the flag bearing squad of students made a canopy of flags. On reaching Santhi Vedika, a Veda chanting group of students offered a ceremonial welcome to Bhagavan with Poornakumbham and Vice Chancellor along with senior functionaries of the Institute offered salutations to Him.

Being the 90th year of Bhagavan's Advent, this year's theme for the Sports Meet was "White and Orange", signifying the eternal bond of love between students (represented by white) and Lord Sai (represented by orange).



*Canopy of flags by students as the procession nears Santhi Vedika.*

The first event of the Sports and Cultural Meet was campus-wise March Past, wherein each contingent filed past Santhi Vedika, saluting the Divine Chancellor. The Institute's flag was then hoisted, followed by the Sports Meet oath by all the participating students. Thereafter, the Sports Meet Torch was lit and carried to the top of the hill by the mascot "Pegasus", a pure white-winged stallion, to light up the Sports Meet Urn.

The first presentation of this year's Sports Meet was a lion dance, in which dozens of students dressed up as lions roared and jumped from high blocks, keeping rhythm to the beats of drums.



*Impressive lion dance by students.*

This was followed by acrobatics on German Rolling Wheels and daredevil motorbike stunts. All the performances by the students were an exhibition of perfect balance, coordination, skill, self-



*A student performing a daredevil motorbike stunt of jumping through a ring of fire.*

control, self-confidence and courage. This year, all the three men's campuses of the Institute (Prasanthi Nilayam, Brindavan and Muddenahalli), Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music and Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School (boys) performed as one unit.

After the exhilarating performance by the students of men's campuses, it was the

turn of the women students from College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, Whitefield and Anantapur Campus of the Institute to display their dexterity in performing dances, gymnastics and acrobatics. While the student nurses enthralled the spectators with a rhythmic and colourful Chinese fan dance, the Anantapur Campus students opened with a synchronised fitness drill – Bouncing Blues – employing gymnastics balls to the rhythm of workout music. Next, they presented aerial acrobatics, a very demanding gymnastic form comprising yogasanas at an altitude of nearly thirty feet. The Wonder Wings of Sai followed



*Show of dexterity and balance in aerial acrobats.*

next which was a mass drill using wing-like props, producing colourful ground patterns.

The morning session of the Sports Meet 2015 concluded with Arati at 10.10 a.m.

### **Evening Session of Sports and Cultural Meet**

It was the turn of the army of tiny Hanumans from Smt. Easwaramma English Medium School, Prasanthi Nilayam



to welcome Bhagavan to Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium for the evening session of Annual Sports and Cultural Meet 2015. The brass band of the Brindavan Campus of the Institute accompanied Bhagavan's car to the Santhi Vedika.

The little Hanumans were the first to perform in the evening session. Presenting the theme "Way to Ananda", the tiny tots danced with dexterity, making synchronised



*Tiny tots dressed as little Hanumans making synchronised dance movements.*

dance movements. Bhagavan's teaching "Bend the Body, Mend the Senses and End the Mind" was beautifully brought out by the exquisite dance movements by the little ones.

Next the students from Sri Sathya Sai Primary School offered a series of performances which included a colourful dance sequence, gymnastics, bunny drill dance, drill with maypole, ribbon drill with pots on head, a LED light show and a grand final song. The performance highlighted the tireless efforts the teachers and students had put in to match the props, dresses, formations, dance sequences and



*Eye-catching colourful dances by Primary School students.*

music. On the whole, it was an outstanding presentation.

Continuing their superlative morning performance, the students from the men's campuses including their juniors from Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School presented an hour of entertainment which



*Students from the men's campuses and Higher Secondary School performing Bhangra Dance.*

included Dandia Dance of Gujarat, Bhangra Dance of Punjab and Panduranga Vitthala Dance of Maharashtra.

This was followed by spectacular floor gymnastics, display of martial art forms of Tai Chi, Karate, Stick Karate, Nunchaku and a brilliant spectacle of dance with



national themes, saluting the motherland Bharat.

When darkness enveloped the stadium after sunset on the western horizon, the students came up with a dazzling performance, using LED lights stitched to their clothes. They made wonderful formations, both on the ground and in the air using bungee ropes.

A dazzling display of fireworks followed by Arati at 7.20 p.m. marked the end of one of the most colourful sports and cultural meets held in the Hill View Stadium.

### **Musical Treat by Brindavan Brass Band**

Devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall were treated to a delightful musical treat by the brass band of Brindavan Campus of the Institute on the evening of 12th January 2015. The scintillating programme started with a western composition, “Limbo Rock”, followed by a piece on the beauty and grandeur of Brindavan, the abode of the Lord in Whitefield, Bengaluru. Devotees were then treated to a couple of Prasanthi

Bhajans, before the programme concluded with a refreshing western piece.

### **Music Visual Programme by Anantapur Students**

The students of Anantapur Campus presented an exhilarating Music Visual programme depicting the unity of different faiths on the evening of 13th January 2015. The skit, interspersed with visuals from different religions and their founders, began with Adi Sankara’s immortal composition, “Chidananda Rupa Sivoham Sivoham” (I am the embodiment of the blissful Siva). Visuals showing the teachings of other religions – Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Sikhism, Judaism, Jainism and Sufism were supported on the centre stage by students in colourful costumes pertaining to each religion with live songs and chanting of hymns. The climax of the programme was the projection of Bhagavan’s “Religion of Love” which underlined the unity of all faiths and the divinity of man. The prayer “Om Tat Sat Sri Narayana Tu” and the song “Maitreem Bhajata” sung by Smt. M.S. Subbulakshmi



*Band music by Brindavan Campus students.*



*Presentation on the unity of all faiths.*

sent the audience into raptures. On the whole, the programme beautifully highlighted the fact that although different religions spoke differently about God, the end of all religions was the cultivation and practice of pure, selfless love.

### Valedictory Function

The valedictory and prize distribution function of the Annual Sports and Cultural Meet was held on 14th January 2015. A special dais was set up alongside the decorated Samadhi of Bhagavan and a beautiful chair was placed on it for the Divine Chancellor of the Institute. Glittering trophies, cups and prizes were displayed on the dais.

The morning programme commenced with a grand procession of the brass band of Prasanthi Nilayam Campus from Yajur Mandir to Sai Kulwant Hall, accompanied by the flag bearing and Veda chanting squads. At the outset, Sri Sanjay Sahni, Director, Brindavan Campus of the Institute, highlighted the significance of Makara Sankranti. Sri Sahni also highlighted the theme of this year's Meet, "White and Orange". This was followed by talks of four students who spoke how Bhagavan was the ever-present guide and protector throughout the practice and during the events.

In the prize distribution event that followed, Divine Chancellor's trophies were awarded to the institutions – Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Smt. Easwaramma English Medium High School, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, College

of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music and the four campuses of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, namely, Anantapur, Muddenahalli, Brindavan and Prasanthi Nilayam. Winners of individual events were thereafter awarded prizes.

Bhagavan's Divine Discourse was then played on the public address system. In His Discourse, Bhagavan touched upon the significance of Sankranti and exhorted the students to develop character and devotion to God, avoiding talking ill of others which, He said, was a great sin. He concluded the Discourse with the Bhajan, "Prema Mudhita Manase Kaho..." Bhajans followed with an interlude of brass band offering by the students.

### Sri Sathya Sai Avatara Rahasya: A Drama

A stimulating drama entitled "Sri Sathya Sai Avatara Rahasya" (mystery of Sai incarnation), marked the grand finale of the Annual Sports and Cultural Meet. The drama scripted the journey of life – muddled with inner foes – and how the Almighty descends in various forms from time to time to help annihilate these inner foes.

Using the metaphor of an attorney's fight for justice in the Royal Supreme Court of Almighty, the drama highlighted through several episodes the ascent of man to God, to the point of saying, "I am

*continued on page 13...*



From our Archives

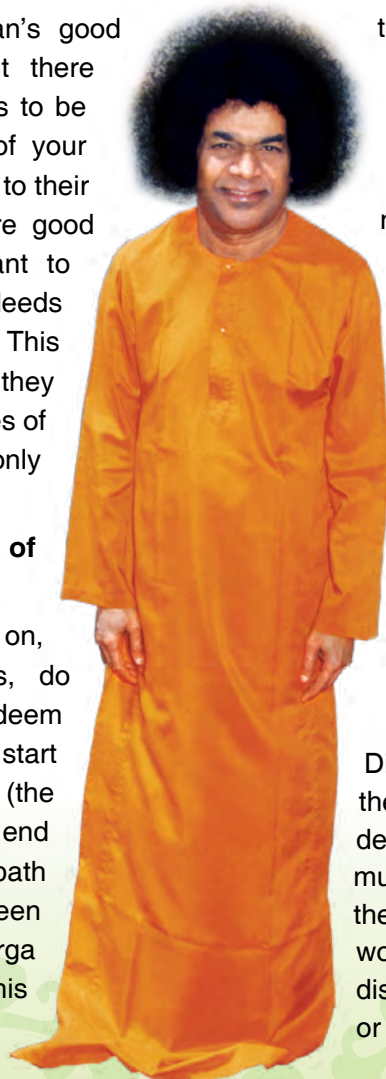
# CHERISH AUSPICIOUS THOUGHTS ON SIVARATHRI

MAKE YOUR LIFE A SAGA OF LOVE

**G**OD HAS PROVIDED everything for man's good in the world. But there is one condition that has to be observed. The results of your actions will be according to their nature, whether they are good or bad. Men today want to reap the fruits of good deeds without performing them. This is impossible. Nor can they escape the consequences of their evil actions. God is only a witness.

## Follow the Path of Goodness

At least from now on, develop good thoughts, do good actions and redeem your lives. You have to start with the Karma Marga (the path of action), and end with Jnana Marga (the path of knowledge). In between there is the Upasana Marga (the path of worship). This is the path you have



to follow today. For this, you have to get the conviction that God is omnipresent. When you have that conviction, you will not indulge in falsehood or practise deception; you will not abuse others or cause harm to them; you will acquire all virtues. This is the purpose of observing Sivarathri as a sacred night. The night vigil should be dedicated entirely to the contemplation of God.

Develop the firm conviction that God is within you and that you are Divine. Love is God and God is love. Live in love and make your entire life a saga of love.

All are embodiments of the Divine Spirit. But because of their submergence in worldly desires, they are leading mundane existence. Experience the Divine in all your activities. In worshipping God, do not make distinctions between one name or form and another. All names –



Rama, Krishna, Govinda are Divine. Some fanatics adoring the name of Vishnu will not like to utter or even hear the name of Siva at all. Such an attitude should be given up. You must regard the entire cosmos as the embodiment of the Divine.

### **Experience Divine Consciousness on Sivarathri**

To worship one name and revile another is not true devotion. Many devotees today are narrow-minded and sectarian in their attitude. There are some who go about glorifying the Name of Rama and collecting money in Rama's Name. No quarter should be given to such commercialisation of the Divine Name. Do not lend your ears to such preachers. Recognise that the Divine dwells in all beings. Love all. Realise that the essence of Divine Names is the same. Chant the Name of the Lord in this spirit. When you perform Bhajans in this way, you will realise the oneness of all mankind.

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*...continued from page 11*

I". Illustrating this profound truth, scenes changed from Rama's time to Krishna's and 'beyond', bringing the sum and substance of the quintessential truth that the cosmic creation is His Viswarupa and He alone descends in myriad forms to help man ascend to the Supreme Reality. The programme ended with a group song by the entire cast, singing with love to Beloved Bhagavan.

In community singing, all have the feeling of oneness.

Sivarathri is an auspicious night. On this night, of the 16 aspects of man, fifteen are merged in man's divinity. One aspect remains. It is an easy and convenient time for experiencing the Divine. If at least on this one night, the senses are kept under control, one is bound to experience the Divine. If on this night, all bad thoughts are kept out and the mind is concentrated on the Name of the Lord, it will experience the consciousness of the Divine. During the twelve hours of this night, if all the senses are kept under control and the mind is wholly concentrated on the Supreme, that alone constitutes Jagarana (spiritual vigil). If such a vigil is observed by even one in a million, that is enough. Seek to observe such a pure, holy and divine vigil this night and experience divine bliss.

— **Excerpted from Bhagavan's Sivarathri Discourses**



*Drama on the ascent of man.*

## *Effulgence of Divine Glory*

# GO BEYOND FORM TO THE FORMLESS

ON 6TH JANUARY 1963, SWAMI came to Guindy Mandir (Chennai) and witnessed the Abhishekam (ceremonial bathing) of Shirdi Sai as it was Vaikuntha Ekadasi day. While leaving, He told me to go over to Alwarpet and join the devotees, who would be going to Mahabalipuram along with Swami. By the time I reached there, Swami's motorcade had already left! With very great disappointment, I returned to Guindy.

Next day (7th January 1963), on my way to college, I went for Swami's Darshan. Swami showed me, on a silver plate, two silver idols of Lord Vishnu and Lord Krishna about 6 inches in height and tested me by asking to take whichever idol I liked. He said, they were manifested at Mahabalipuram, the previous day. When I had left my house in 1962, I had lost all my possessions including the idols of Lord Venkateswara and others given by Swami. When I reported this sad event, Swami said, "Why are you attached to forms and photos that are perishable? Attach yourself to the Imperishable. Go beyond form to the Formless". So, I repeated this advice of Bhagavan and He immediately said that He was testing me! I felt happy that I had passed one test of Swami. He



*Bhagavan in Guindy Temple.*

took a beautifully carved small gold Amrita Kalasha (pot containing ambrosia) and gave me manifested Amrita (taken the previous day at Mahabalipuram) with a tiny gold spoon from the silver plate. His abundant love brought tears in my eyes!

– Excerpted from “Lokanatha Sai” by Ms. M.L. Leela.

# THE ADVENT OF SHIRDI SAI BABA

*Madhuri Naganand*

*Conferring a rare boon on Devagiriamma, Lord Siva said, "Amma, I came here to test you and Devi Parvati answered your prayer. We both are pleased with your devotion. I assure you that I will be born as your second son". As soon as Lord Siva uttered this boon, they both disappeared.*

**S**RI SHIRDI SAI AND HIS LEELAS are known by now to the world. Many questions are asked as to when he was born, who his parents were and where he came from.

We also know that when Shirdi Baba left his body, he said to his devotees who were present at that time and were very close and dear to him that after he gave up his form at Shirdi, he would be born in Andhra Pradesh after eight years. And his proclamation has come true; he re-incarnated after eight years as Sathya Sai Baba.

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai of Puttaparthi has spoken of His Shirdi Swarupa (form) on many occasions. He has given proof of His previous birth and people have experienced His existence in both the forms.

## Rare Boon of Siva and Parvati

It is learnt that Shirdi Baba appeared in Shirdi at the age of 16 in the year 1854. So, the Shirdi Avatar took birth in the year 1838. His parents Gangabhavadya and Devagiriamma were noble and God loving couple who were Niyogi Brahmins of Bharadwaja Gotra (lineage) in the village called Pathri in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra. It was a very small village. Devagiriamma was a great devotee of Goddess Parvati, always worshipping Parvati and always engrossed in divine thoughts. Gangabhavadya would always worship Easwara (Siva). They were wealthy but did not have any children. Both of them were earnestly engaged in praying to their Ishta Devata (chosen deity) to bless them with a child.

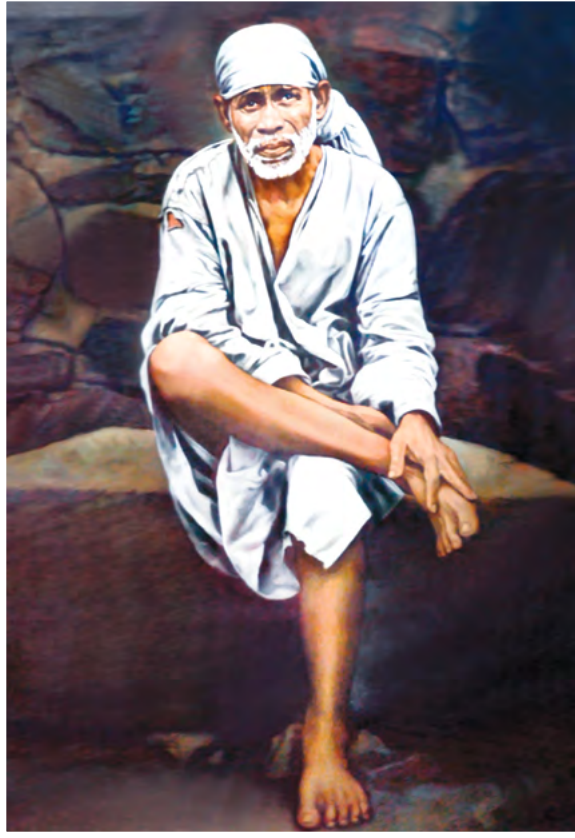
It was on the fourteenth day of Shukla Paksha (bright fortnight) of Ashada month. Late evening, on that day Gangabhavadya was informed that the river Godavari was overflowing and the villagers needed his help. So, without wasting any time he gathered a few village people to help the needy to cross the river by boat to a safer place. He told his wife that he would return home late.





Devagiriamma was all alone in the house waiting for her husband to return. After some time, she heard a knock on the door. Thinking that her husband had returned, she ran and opened the door. Seeing an old man, a stranger, she was taken aback. The old man said, "Amma, I am very hungry. Can you please give me some food to eat"?

The couple's caring and loving nature was to help, respect and serve anyone who came to their doorstep. She thought she would keep her husband's share of food for him and offer her share of food to the old man. She served him on a leaf as per tradition, told him to take rest in the verandah of their house and bolted the door from inside. But after five minutes, the old man knocked at the door again. He said, "Amma, I am very tired and my legs are aching; I am not able to sleep. Can a lady massage or press my legs?" Devagiriamma was shocked on hearing this strange request. She thought very



intensely whether Goddess Parvati was testing her. She went to the Puja room and prayed, "Oh mother of the universe, why are you testing me like this? You have to help me pass this test." As there was no one in the house she went through the back door to ask for help from another lady from the village as there were some ladies who would do this kind of work. She went to a few houses with

the request of this strange old man. She also offered them a handsome reward in return for this service. But everybody said they did not have time and they were busy.

Devagiriamma was very sad and she came back home. She did not speak to the old man but went to her prayer room. She closed the door and went on praying intensely with her pure heart to Mother Parvati that the old man should not feel disappointed as it was her duty to fulfil his desire. But being a married woman, her duty was to serve her husband. She was in great distress. Soon, she heard somebody



knocking on the back door of her house. As she opened the door, she saw a lady there. This lady said, "Amma, you called me in the evening but I couldn't come as I was busy. But now I can do whatever work you give me as I have time".

Now one must realise the power of prayer and its reward. Devagiriamma was very happy that Goddess Parvati had answered her prayer. She took the lady to the front door of her house and requested her to fulfil the desire of the old man by massaging his aching feet. She shut the door with great relief.

The old man and the lady looked at each other and smiled as the old man was none other than Lord Easwara himself and the lady was Mother Parvati. They knocked on the door again. Devagiriamma opened the door and saw Lord Easwara and Devi Parvati at her doorstep in their true forms. She could not control herself. With great joy and reverence she fell at the feet of the Divine Couple. Goddess Parvati said, "I am pleased with your devotion. Today I give you a boon: You shall have a son who will continue your lineage and a daughter so that you get the Punya (merit) of Kanyadana" (giving daughter in marriage).

Conferring a rare boon on Devagiriamma, Lord Siva said, "Amma, I came here to test you and Devi Parvati answered your prayer. We both are pleased with your devotion. I assure you that I will be born as your second son". As soon as Lord Siva uttered this boon, they both disappeared.

## Incarnation of Shirdi Sai Baba

When her husband came home, Devagiriamma narrated her divine experience to him. She said, "Last night, both Lord Easwara and Devi Parvati manifested and appeared before me; I saw them, spoke to them, I had their Darshan (sight), Sparshan (touch) and Sambhashan (interaction)". Gangabhavadya just dismissed all this, saying she must have had a dream. How could Devi Parvati and Lord Parameswara manifest! Then he wanted to know about the boon granted by them, but could not believe it. The Lord can assume any form, but people fail to recognise Him. Gangabhavadya had devotion but succumbed to his ego and delusion. He thought, great Rishis performed severe Tapas (penance) but could not have Darshan of the Lord and Devi. How is it possible that they manifested before an ordinary woman? Though she tried her best to convince him, he did not believe her.

Time went by, and Devagiriamma gave birth to a girl and a boy. Gangabhavadya was now forced to believe his wife's experience. As time passed, his wife conceived again. In her ninth month, Gangabhavadya felt detached from everything in life. He told his wife, "Lord Easwara and Devi Parvati have given you their divine Darshan, but I am not fortunate. I am leaving the Grihastashrama (family life) and going to the forest". And in distress he left home. Devagiriamma was shocked but could not stop him. She left her children with trusted neighbours,



and went in search of her husband. Before she could join her husband, she developed labour pains and gave birth to a baby boy. Holding the baby in her hand, Devagiriamma was in a dilemma whether to attend to the newborn or go in search of her husband as a dutiful wife. She opted for the latter course. She wrapped the baby in a cloth, left him in a safe place and went in search of her husband.

After Devagiriamma left the child and went in search of her husband, a pious Muslim Sufi Fakir and his wife, who were passing by, heard the cry of the baby. Seeing the newborn abandoned with no one around to attend to, they decided to take the baby home as they had no children. They brought up the baby as their own child. As the child grew up, they noticed that he could speak in detail on religious scriptures. They realised his divine nature and found that he was not an ordinary child.

### **In the Hermitage of Sage Venkusa**

As the boy grew up, he started visiting temples and mosques. He would go to Hindu temples and preach verses from the Quran and would go to mosques and preach the Bhagavadgita and other religious scriptures, proclaiming “Sabka Malik Ek” (There is only one Master - God). People in the village were disturbed by this strange behaviour of the young boy. When they tried to stop him, he silenced them with his sparkling replies and arguments which baffled them. Meanwhile, the Fakir succumbed to his heart ailment. The villagers then complained about young

Baba's misbehaviour to his mother who by now had got tired of these complaints every other day. Finding it hard to handle these complaints, she decided to leave Baba in a Gurukula and took him to Sage Venkusa's hermitage. When they arrived in the hermitage of the sage, he was teaching his pupils Surya Namaskara and Aditya Hridayam (prayers to sun god).

After the class was over, Baba and his mother offered their salutations to the sage. As soon as the sage saw Baba, he rushed towards him with folded hands to receive and welcome him, saying that he had been waiting for him. He told the mother that this was no ordinary child. The mother acknowledged what the sage said and expressed her wish to leave Baba under his care. The sage assured her that he would take care of the child and she could leave him in his hermitage. The mother left the hermitage after advising Baba to always obey his Guru.

Next morning, the students repeated the lesson on Surya Namaskara taught to them by the sage the previous day. But they chanted the Slokas (verses) wrongly, while young Baba recited all verses without a mistake. Sage Venkusa was very happy and asked Baba wherefrom he had learnt this. Baba answered that he heard the sage teach his students on his arrival in the Ashram. Sage Venkusa asked the other students to emulate Baba. As the sage developed special love for Baba and gave him the privilege of attending to his personal needs, the other students became jealous of him.





As the bond of love between the sage and Baba grew stronger, other students' jealousy towards Baba increased more and more. Knowing their feelings, the sage advised them to give up jealousy and hatred towards their school mate. However, the Guru's advice fell on deaf ears. One day, after the Guru had retired, the boys picked up a quarrel with Baba. In the ensuing quarrel, one of the students threw a brick at Baba which hit him on his head. As Baba fell down with his head bleeding profusely, the boys ran away. On hearing great commotion, the sage came out and saw Baba bleeding. He placed his head on his lap, wiped the blood from his forehead, took a white cloth and tied it around his head (as Shirdi Baba always wore).

### **Baba in Shirdi**

After this incident, Baba took the brick with him and left the Ashram. While Baba wandered in the forest, a Muslim named Chand Patil came in search of his lost mare. On enquiring, Baba told him that he would find it at a particular spot. On finding the mare, Chand Patil came to thank Baba. On seeing Baba, Chand Patil could not withstand the glow and radiance emanating from Baba's face. He realised Baba's divinity and invited him to a marriage which was to take place in his family in the small village called Dhoop

Gaon (presently called Dhoop Kheda). Baba willingly went with Chand Patil. He also accompanied the marriage party which went to Shirdi. On reaching Shirdi, Baba went towards Khandoba temple on the outskirts of Shirdi. On seeing Baba, the priest of the temple named Mhalsapati welcomed him addressing him as "Ya Sai" which means "Come Sai". With great love, Baba asked Mhalsapati why he called him by that name. Mhalsapati replied that unknowingly he uttered these words as Lord Khandoba inspired him to address him as "Sai Baba". Sai means mother and Baba means father.

The villagers who first recognised Baba's divinity on his arrival in Shirdi were Mhalsapati, Baijabai, Kote Patil, Madhavrao Deshpande and a few others. After wandering in the forest for some time, Baba moved into a dilapidated mosque on the request of these villagers. He referred to this mosque as Dwarakamayi where he resided till his end.

He left his body on 18th October 1918, which the Hindus celebrated as Vijaya Dasami and the Muslims observed as Muharram.


– **The author, Smt. Madhuri Naganand, is a Trustee of Sri Sathya Sai Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam.**

*Sacrifice means something more than giving up of wealth, gold and material objects. Evil qualities like hatred, jealousy, wrath and malice which have become ingrained in man over many lifetimes should be discarded.*

**- Baba**

# CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

## A Soul-stirring Carnatic Music Concert

 CARNATIC MUSIC CONCERT comprising specially composed devotional songs on Bhagavan was presented by the noted singer Smt. Sai Swaroopa Iyer from Hyderabad on 28th December 2014. Commencing her concert with a Sankirtan “Chitravathi Nadi Teerana” (on the banks of Chitravathi) at 5.00 p.m., the singer next presented a composition on Mother Easwaramma “Mana Sayeeswarku Janminchu” (Easwaramma gave birth to Lord Sai) and followed it up with a couple of compositions in various Ragas, concluding her concert with a Mangalam song “Jaya Mangalam Subha Mangalam” (all auspicious to Sai). The singer along with her accompanying artistes were felicitated at the conclusion of this soul-stirring concert. Bhajans followed next which concluded with the Bhajan “Hari Bhajan Bina” sung by Bhagavan. Arati at 6.20 p.m. marked the end of the programme.

## ALUMNI MEET 2015

A large number of alumni of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music, Sri Sathya Sai Primary School and Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning came to Prasanthi Nilayam from all parts of the world to offer their gratitude to Bhagavan who moulded their lives with loving care under His personal supervision in their

formative years. Recounting their nostalgic memories of Bhagavan’s love, the grateful alumni paid their homage to Bhagavan through talks, music presentations and cultural programmes held on 30th and 31st December 2014 and 1st January 2015.

## Sri Sathya Sai Sangeeta Vibhavi

The alumni of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music, Prasanthi Nilayam were the first to offer their tributes to Bhagavan. Starting their instrumental music presentation entitled “Sri Sathya Sai Sangeeta Vibhavi” (a musical offering to Sathya Sai) at 5.00 p.m. on 30th December 2014, the alumni enraptured the audience in Sai



*Instrumental music by Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music alumni.*

Kulwant Hall by their rendition of Carnatic music compositions of old masters and popular devotional songs including a Mira Bhajan “Payo Ji Mein To Rama Ratan Dhan Payo” (I have attained the jewel of Divine Name) for nearly one hour.



## Innovative Presentation of Primary School Alumni

Alumni of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School offered their homage to Bhagavan on 31st December 2014. The first item of the programme was a talk by one of the alumni. The speaker was Ms. Bharatilakshmi, a former faculty of Primary School and an award winning teacher. Paying glowing tributes to Bhagavan, the speaker related her interesting journey unto Swami and drew the conclusion that “Sai is Everything”, which was the theme of Alumni Meet 2015.

Three short skits followed next, illustrating the themes of the efficacy of Veda chanting and their universal



*Primary School alumni offering their tributes to Bhagavan.*

application, importance of sense control and significance of selfless service, self-sacrifice and self-surrender.

The final item of the programme was a very innovative presentation on the Ramayana. While the story of the Ramayana was narrated by a popular Telugu song, it was illustrated on the screen with beautiful

Ramayana scenes, and embellished with Bhagavan’s Discourses on the Ramayana. The presentation concluded with the assertion that Bhagavan’s Primary School imparted values-based education under His direct guidance like the Gurukul system of education propounded in the Ramayana.

## Musical Offerings of Institute Students and Alumni

The New Year Day 2015 had a special significance this year as it coincided with the holy day of Vaikuntha Ekadasi, when the doors of heaven are believed to be open. On this auspicious morning, two musical offerings were made to Bhagavan with deep devotion. The first offering was



*Band music by Institute students.*

a musical symphony by the brass band of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, which consisted of a fusion number and a mix of classical instrumentals including the famous number “Where Do I Begin?” This was followed by a scintillating instrumental offering by the Institute alumni using mainly flute, saxophone, tabla and mridangam. The alumni offered a garland of songs including Bhajan tunes, fusion music and a Thyagaraja composition.





## Band Music and Video Presentation by Institute Alumni

The evening session began at 5.00 p.m. with a procession of alumni holding flags and escorting the palanquin of Bhagavan. This was followed by a musical offering of alumni band. Beginning their presentation with a Stotra (verse) dedicated to Lord Siva, the alumni followed it up with Bhajan tunes, concluding it with the Bhajan “Bolo Narayana Jai Jai Vitthala” (hail Lord Vitthala, the incarnation of Lord Narayana). A unique video presentation followed next. The presentation with old footages coupled with commentary and clips of Bhagavan’s Discourses portrayed the formative years of Sathya Sai Avatar and His Divine Leelas in the Old Mandir.

## Premabandham: A Drama

Illustrating the inspiring story of the transformation of a student who joined Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning and its hostel, the drama depicted real life incidents in the hostel which led to the transformation of the student who in the end became an ideal student through loving guidance of Bhagavan. The story



*A scene from the drama “Premabandham”.*

of this process of transformation narrated by Lord Narayana to Hanuman, Narada, Jambavan and Ganesh in the background of Vaikuntha was presented with a mix of video and real acting which made it all the more absorbing. It also included a beautiful Siva dance to the tune of the Bhajan “Bho Shambho Siva Shambho Swayambho” (Lord Siva who is self-born). The alumni in conclusion poured out their heart in the evergreen Prasanthi song “Humko Tumse Pyaar Kitna” (how much we love You, Lord) dedicated to Bhagavan.

## ALL INDIA CONVENTION OF BAL VIKAS ALUMNI

A two-day All India Convention of Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Alumni and Group III Students was held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 3rd and 4th January 2015, in which Bal Vikas students and Gurus from all over India came to participate.

## Proceedings of the Convention on 3rd January 2015

The programme on 3rd January 2015 began at 4.50 p.m. with thrilling tunes of devotional songs by the girls and boys bands of Andhra Pradesh and Alike (Karnataka) respectively. After this, Bal Vikas girls students from the State of Odisha recited Vedic hymns. Thereafter, Bal Vikas students offered a bouquet of devotional group songs at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan.

Inaugural Address by Sri Nimish Pandya, All India Vice President of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, followed next. Referring to Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas

as a unique institution in the world, Sri Pandya expressed gratitude to Bhagavan who started this movement which, he said, had now spread in all parts of the world. He also appreciated the dedication of Bal Vikas Gurus who were moulding thousands of children and giving them a new direction in life.

Thereafter, three Bal Vikas alumni delivered short speeches on the topic “My Journey to Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas”, describing their wonderful journey of self-transformation. They were Pankaj Dwivedi from Madhya Pradesh who spoke in Hindi, Puja Sengupta from West Bengal who spoke in English and Saurabha from Uttar Pradesh who spoke in Hindi. After these three speeches, a former Bal Vikas student and now a famous medical professional from Puducherry, Dr. Sadasivan addressed the gathering, recounting how Bal Vikas shaped his life and brought success in his profession. After these speeches, a book titled “My Journey through Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas” was released. This was followed by a felicitation ceremony, wherein Bal Vikas alumni working in Bhagavan’s institutions in Prasanthi Nilayam, Anantapur and Whitefield were honoured for their dedicated service in the Divine Mission of Bhagavan.

There were two excellent devotional music presentations by Bal Vikas alumni from Kerala and West Bengal after this. The last item of the evening programme was a thrilling devotional music presentation by a former Bal Vikas student. Beginning

her music concert with a Sufi song, the singer kept the audience spellbound with her fine rendition of devotional songs, and concluded with the evergreen number “Dama Dam Mast Kalandar”.

### **Proceedings on 4th January 2015**

The programme on the concluding day, 4th January 2015, began at 8.20 a.m. with an enrapturing band display by the Bal Vikas band of Alike who played



*Band music by Bal Vikas band of Alike.*

the tunes of two Bhajans, “Akhand Jyoti Jalao” (light the eternal lamp) and “Govinda Krishna Jai” (hail Lord Govinda). A procession of Bal Vikas Gurus and some dignitaries then entered Sai Kulwant Hall carrying the “Wand of Transformation”. A mass invocation to Mother Sai followed next when all students sang the invocation song “Akhand Jyoti Jalao”. Thereafter, a Bal Vikas girl student from Pune elaborated on the significance of wand of transformation, saying, “Bhagavan’s love is the magic wand the students should hold on to restore the glory of Bharat”. The ceremony of administering Bal Vikas oath to passing out students followed next. As the students stood up in the hall,



Smt. Kamala Pandya, Deputy National Bal Vikas Coordinator, administered the oath to them. A young alumna from Bengaluru Sri Avinash Vasudev spoke next. Referring to Bhagavan's declaration, 'if you take one step towards Me, I will take hundred steps', the speaker observed that Bal Vikas was this first step in the life of Bal Vikas students.

Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, thereafter delivered the Keynote Address. Referring to Bal Vikas as the protective armour of the students, the distinguished speaker observed that it protected the children from many temptations of the world. Sri Sathya Sai Education, he said, was for life and not for a living and added that the real diploma would be awarded to the students by Bhagavan Himself.

Achievement awards for excellence were then given to 22 outstanding alumni. Sri Shripad Naik, Minister of State for Ayush, Government of India, gave away



*Sri Shripad Naik addressing the gathering.*

the awards to these outstanding alumni. Speaking on this occasion, Sri Naik referred to the philanthropic tasks of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation and exhorted one and all to dedicate themselves to the Divine Mission of Bhagavan to reconstruct the society.

This grand convention of Bal Vikas Alumni and Group III Students concluded at 10.00 a.m. with Arati after a brief session of Bhajans and distribution of Prasadam to the entire assembly of students and devotees in the hall.

### SOULFUL MUSIC AND THYAGARAJA ARADHANA

On the morning of 15th January, a soulful devotional music presentation was made by the students of various institutions of Prasanthi Nilayam. The songs, five in number, were: "Baaro Krishnaiah..." (come oh Krishna), "Jag Mein Sundar Hai Do Naam..." (in this world, there are two beautiful Names) "Oh Merey Sai Baba..." (oh my Lord Sai Baba), "Saranam Saranam..." (oh Lord Sai, I surrender to You), and "Sai Baba Sai Baba..." Bhajans continued and ended with the Bhajan "Bhaja Govindam..." in Bhagavan's golden voice.

In the evening, the students and staff of Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music offered a Carnatic music feast of the compositions of the famous composer-saint Thyagaraja.



*Thyagaraja Aradhana by the students of  
Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music.*



Beginning and ending the concert with two of the Pancharatna Kritis – “Jagadananda Karaka...” (the Creator of happiness in the world) and “Endaro Mahanubhavulu...” (salutations to all great men), the artistes and their accompanists enthralled the audience with their expert rendition of devotional songs and a Veena recital. Bhajans continued after the concert and ended with Bhagavan’s Bhajan, “Narayana Bhaja Narayan...” which was followed in chorus by the audience in Sai Kulwant Hall.

### COMMEMORATING 14 YEARS OF HOLISTIC MEDICARE

Celebrating 14th anniversary of the inauguration of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield (Bengaluru), the doctors, paramedics and auxiliary staff from the Institute made a special offering on the incredible saga of the role model hospital on 18th January 2015. Addressing the gathering on this



*14th anniversary celebrations of Whitefield  
Super Speciality Hospital.*

occasion, Dr. Swarna Bhardwaj, Director of the Institute, offered gratitude to Bhagavan, who, she said, was the main source of inspiration for the exemplary work being done in the Institute. She then read out the highlights of the Annual Report for 2014, showcasing interesting facets of hospital’s spectacular achievements. Besides, illuminating talks on the uniqueness of this hospital were given by Dr. Joshi, Sri Umesh Rao and Smt. Gita Umesh Rao, Dr. Kumaran and Dr. Zareena. The programme was interspersed with soulful songs.

**By the grace of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**

**Ati Rudra Maha Yajna**

**will be performed for the peace  
and prosperity of humanity in**

**Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall, Brindavan  
Ashram, Whitefield, Bengaluru**

**from 1st March to 12th March 2015. The  
Yajna will be performed in 11 Homa Kundas.**

**140 Ritwiks proficient in the Vedas will  
participate.**

***All are cordially  
invited to  
participate and  
seek the  
blessings of  
Bhagavan***

**– Managing Trustee  
Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust**

# NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

## FIJI



A MEDICAL CAMP WAS organised by 53 volunteers from Australia and eight volunteers from Fiji on the island of Vanua Levu from 17th to 22nd August 2014. This is the first medical camp held at this location in response to an acute need for medical care. The team consisted of general physicians, dermatologists, eye surgeons, optometrists,



*Medical camp registration in Fiji.*

psychologists, a physiotherapist, dentists, dental hygienists, a dental prosthetist, and general volunteers. On the opening day, a medical conference was held at the medical school in Saweni, Lautoka on the island of Viti Levu. Two-day medical camps were then sponsored in each of the villages of Coqelua and Seaqaqa, near the city of Labasa in Vanua Levu. Assisting the Sathya Sai volunteers were 20 medical students and 20 students from

the Labasa Sangam School of Nursing. A total of 1,736 patients received dental care, eye examination, general healthcare, paediatric consultation, dermatological treatment, women's healthcare, and psychological assessments over four days.

## THAILAND

The SSIO of Thailand organised a Sathya Sai Education in Human Values teachers' training workshop at the Sai Darshini Centre, Bandu on 23rd and 24th August 2014. After two days of training, 10 volunteer teachers rendered services at the Chaingrai Sai Centre, where 20 poor children receive two meals and two snacks on weekdays. Their parents are low-income labourers who cannot afford day care. The Sai Centre takes care of the children while their parents are at work.

On 31st August 2014, a group of 12 SSE students from Thailand were invited by the local Indian community to attend a function at a local temple in Nakhon Nayok province in Thailand. The Governor of the province was present and garlanded the students as a sign of appreciation.

## RUSSIA

A children's camp with the theme, "Heart-to-Heart Dialogue", was organised in Arakaevo village in the Ural region from 20th to 29th July 2014, in which 88 persons from 16 countries participated. The participants, which included 37 children in





*Children's Camp in Ural region, Russia.*

five age groups, discussed human values and their manifestation in their own culture. Human values classes were held for the children daily, and three educational seminars were conducted for parents and teachers. Cultural programmes were presented by representatives from Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia, Bulgaria, India, Bashkiria and Kazakhstan. A festival of nations was organised at the camp's conclusion to express love and gratitude to Bhagavan.

## THE PHILIPPINES

Every month, Sathya Sai volunteers in the Philippines collect about 1,000 kg of fabric remnants and distribute them to 35 poor women to help them earn a livelihood. The women are also given training in making household products that are sold in local markets. Each woman earns about Pesos 3,000 (about \$70), supplementing her household income. In August 2014, a group of garment manufacturers donated 500 kg of fabric remnants, which were collected by Sathya Sai volunteers and

distributed at several locations. The women who participate in the programme, in turn, share their skills among themselves and display their products proudly, before they are sold.

– Sathya Sai International Organisation

## BHARAT

**Andhra Pradesh:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Hyderabad and Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh organised weeklong programmes to celebrate 89th Birthday of Bhagavan. The Chief Guest of the function was Sri E.S.L. Narasimhan, Governor of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The venue of the function was Sivam, the Divine Abode of Bhagavan at Hyderabad which was beautifully decorated for the important event.

Soon after the inaugural ceremony, popular classical Carnatic singer Sri O.S. Arun presented an excellent programme of devotional songs and Bhajans to the delight of devotees in the fully packed Sivam.

**Jammu and Kashmir:** Severe floods caused great damage in many areas of Jammu and Kashmir in September 2014. Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Jammu and Kashmir immediately provided items of daily need including about 2,500 blankets to flood-affected people of more than 35 villages in the districts of Poonch, Reasi, Udampur, Ramban, Kathua, Doda and Jammu to meet the urgent requirements of people in these areas.





**Kerala:** An ophthalmology complex and operation theatre for doing free eye operations was inaugurated at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Primary Health Care, Shornur, Palakkad district, Kerala on 26th December 2014 by Sri N. Ramani and Sri



*Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Primary Healthcare, Shornur, Palakkad district, Kerala.*

Nimish Pandya, All India Vice Presidents, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations in the presence of Sri C.P. Muhammad, M.L.A. and other dignitaries. Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Primary Health Care has been providing free treatment in general medicine, cardiology, gynaecology and infertility, eye, E.N.T., homoeopathy, Ayurveda, Pranic Healing and Vibro Therapy for the last five years. The Counselling Department of this institution was given accreditation by the High Court of Kerala. The new Eye Department will provide total eye care including surgery free to the needy.

**Rajasthan:** The Annual State Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Rajasthan was held on 1st



*Annual State Conference of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Rajasthan*

and 2nd November 2014 at Shirdi Sai Community Hall, Ajmer. Sri V Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, inaugurated the conference. In his inaugural speech, Sri V. Srinivasan stressed that membership of the Sai Organisation should be used as Sadhana to realise our latent divinity. In the Kali Yuga, Namasmara and selfless service were two effective tools to achieve self-realisation, he said. In the post-lunch session, deliberations were held on the national initiatives, namely, Disaster Management Programme, Rural Vocational Training Programme and Nutritional Management Programme in SSSVIP villages. The second day of the conference began with Omkaram and Suprabhatam followed by Nagar Sankirtan. After this, State Coordinators and District Presidents presented their Action Plan for the next year. In the afternoon, a brain storming session was held on the theme of the conference, i.e., Expansion. The conference was attended by 350 delegates coming from all parts of Rajasthan.



# Christmas at Prasanthi Nilayam

## International Adults Choir

**C**HRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT Prasanthi Nilayam commenced with a soul-stirring presentation of Christmas carols and devotional songs by more than 400 overseas devotees from 24 countries who formed the International Adults Choir. Beginning their programme with a Sanskrit prayer to Lord Ganesh “Om Gana Ganapataye Namoh Namah” (salutations to Lord Ganesh) at 5.00 p.m., the singers brought in the Christmas mood as they praised the birth of Jesus and love of Sai in their melodious and sweet songs which included “Hallelujah”, “Open the Eyes of my Heart”, “There is only one Religion”, “So this is Christmas”, “You are my All in All”, “With All I am”. The singers and musicians were felicitated at the conclusion of this excellent presentation.

## Christmas Carols on Christmas Morning

As per the tradition of carol singing on Christmas morning at Prasanthi Nilayam, hundreds of overseas devotees gathered in Sai Kulwant Hall on 25th December 2014 to participate in carol singing. Beginning their programme at 6.30 a.m. with the song “Sing Hallelujah”, the singers sang in all ten songs concluding it at 7.00 a.m. with peace prayer “Peace, Peace, Peace”. Soulful rendition of Christmas carols on the holy Christmas morning surcharged the entire milieu with spiritual vibrations.

## Musical Offering by Students

The next programme comprised an engrossing musical presentation by students which commenced at 8.30 a.m. First, the Primary School students enchanted one and all with their violin



*Musical presentation of Primary School students.*

music, playing several wonderful tunes. Thereafter, the Institute brass band enthralled the devotees with an assortment of special Christmas tunes. Next, the Higher Secondary School violin band delighted the devotees with soulful music. All the bands were indeed wonderful and made Christmas Day a joyous and special occasion. This excellent band music of students was followed by vocal music by students who sang Christmas carols and devotional songs with great devotion. Meanwhile, Santa Clauses went around in the hall distributing candies and joy to the devotees. After Bhajans and distribution



of Prasadam, the morning programme concluded with Arati at 10.00 a.m.

### International Children's Choir

The evening programme began at 5.00 p.m. with an enchanting narration of Christmas story embellished with nine sweet Christmas songs by the International Children's choir consisting of about 50 children from many countries. The songs brought love and peace in the hearts of devotees as they told the Christmas story with music.

### Talks by Eminent Speakers

Two speakers addressed the gathering next. The first speaker was Ms. Joyes Barker who spoke of her encounters with Jesus and later her transition to Sai Baba. Sai Baba is my breath, my reason and joy of living, she said in conclusion. The second speaker was Sri Neville Fredricks. Jesus was one of the greatest teachers in the history of mankind, said the learned speaker and added that his teachings were as relevant today as they were 2000 years ago.

In the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan that followed, Bhagavan said that Jesus was the embodiment of love and compassion and taught to mankind the path of love, righteousness and goodness. Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the song "Love is My Form". This was followed by Bhajans. Meanwhile, clothes were presented to the children who presented International Children's Choir.

### Eight Virtuous Offerings to God: A Drama

This beautiful multifaith drama performed by the students of Sathya Sai School of Canada on 26th December 2014, depicted eight eternal virtues,



*Drama by the students of Sathya Sai School of Canada.*

namely, non-violence, peace, sense control, meditation, penance, compassion, forbearance and truth taught by all the religions of the world. As the story of the drama unfolded, religious leaders of Islam, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism and Christianity came on the stage one by one and propounded the virtues as the most appropriate offering man could make to God on sacred festivals like Christmas. The participants in the drama were felicitated at its conclusion.

The drama was preceded by a brief speech of Sri John Behner, Chairman, Christmas Committee. Thanking all those who worked tirelessly to make the

*continued on page 31...*





## Next Moment is not Ours



NCE A BRAHMIN CAME to Yudhishtira for help in performing a Yajna. Yudhishtira asked him to come the next day.

Hearing the words of Yudhishtira, Bhima ordered his attendants to erect decorative gates in the entire city in celebration of a big function.

Yudhishtira asked Bhima, "What is special today? What for is this festivity"? Then Bhima said to him, "Dear elder brother! You have given word with firm faith that you will live the next day. I know, whatever you say can never be wrong. There is none else in this world who can say with conviction that he would live the next day. That is why I am organising this function". Yudhishtira was very happy



*When a Brahmin came to Yudhishtira for help, he asked him to come the next day.*

that his younger brother taught him a lesson in a most subtle way. One must immediately perform a good deed as soon as one thinks of it. One should not delay it. Bygone moment is not ours. Tomorrow is not in our hands. We must live in the present.

*...continued from page 30*

Christmas celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam a grand success, Sri Behner observed that one could experience God in one's heart when one did His work with devotion.

### Devotional Music Presentation by Canadian Youth

The befitting finale of the grand Christmas celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam was a devotional music presentation comprising multifarious prayers and devotional songs rendered by Canadian youth on 27th

December 2014. Commencing their programme at 5.00 p.m., the singers first sang the prayers of Christianity, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism and Islam, and followed it up with devotional songs related to all religions of the world, saturating the entire milieu with devotional fervour and true spirit of Christmas. They concluded their programme at 6.00 p.m. with a song full of devout feelings "Swami! Oh Mere Sai" (Swami, You are my Master), pouring out their love and devotion to Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

## **Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences**

**EPIP Area, Whitefield, Bengaluru - 560066**

**Tel: 080-28004600, Extn. 4641, 4642, 4605, Fax: 080-28411502**

**Email: registrarblr@sssihms.org.in**

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield, Bengaluru is offering 4 years course leading to Bachelors degree in Nursing (for Girl Students only) and 3 ½ year courses leading to Bachelors degree in Anaesthesia Technology, Cardiac Care Technology, Imaging Technology, Medical Laboratory Technology and Perfusion Technology (for Girl Students only). Applications are invited from candidates who fulfil the eligibility criteria as given below. **Age:** Candidates should have completed minimum 17 years and maximum 25 years of age on or before 31st of December in the year of application for admission. **Qualification:** 10+2, PUC or any other qualifying examination conducted by Boards / Councils / Intermediate Education established by State Governments / Central Government and recognised as equivalent to two year Pre-university examination by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences / Association of Indian Universities (AIU). **Subjects in 10+2/ PUC:** Candidates should have passed subjects of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and English (PCBE) individually and must have obtained a minimum of not less than 45% marks put together in all these subjects. For B.Sc. Imaging Technology, the candidate should also have passed with Mathematics, Biology, Physics, Chemistry and English with an aggregate of 45%. Candidates desirous of applying can download the application form from the website and send the same by post. Incomplete applications, applications in a different format and applications not meeting the eligibility criteria will be rejected. The applications will be entertained from **1st March 2015 to 30th April 2015**. The date of entrance exam will be intimated separately. For further details log on to **www.wfd.sssihms.org.in**

*– Director*

## **Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital**

**Prasanthi Nilayam – 515134, Puttaparthi, Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh**

**Email: hrmgh@sssihms.org.in, Phone 08555-287256, Fax 08555-289409**

**Applications are invited for the following posts:**

Senior Resident / Junior Consultant in the Departments of

• Obstetrics and Gynaecology • General Surgery • E.N.T.

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*– Medical Superintendent*

**Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam English Medium School**  
**Alcot Gardens, Rajahmundry - 533101, East Godavari District**  
**Andhra Pradesh (Affiliated to C.I.S.C.E., New Delhi), Ph.: 0883-2430989**

**Admission Notice 2015 – 2016**

Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam English Medium School is a unit of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi. It is a wholly residential boys' school following I.C.S.E. syllabus and offering education from **Class I to Class X**.

Admission to Class I (Boys, Indian Nationals only) of the school will take place in June 2015.

Prospectus and Admission Forms may be obtained from the school from **9th February 2015 by paying Rs 100/-** either by cash or through Demand Draft drawn from any Nationalised Bank in favour of 'Correspondent, Sri Sathya Sai Gurukulam English Medium School', payable at Rajahmundry. For obtaining the application sent by post, please send a Demand Draft and a self-addressed envelope (size 15 cm x 24 cm) with Rs 15 stamps affixed.

Only students who have completed LKG and UKG in English medium should apply. Age limit for admission to Class I is between 5 years and 6 years as on 31.8.2015.

Mode of selection will be as per norms prescribed by the **"RTE Act 2009"**.

Important Dates: Last date for issuing the forms: **31st March, 2015**. Last date for receiving the filled in forms: On or before **10th April 2015**.

*– Correspondent*

**Sri Sathya Sai PG College for Women**  
**Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur, Rajasthan, Email: ssspwc2014@gmail.com**  
**Website: www.saipgcollegejaipur.com, Ph.: 09829037954**

Established by our Beloved Bhagavan in 1974, affiliated to the University of Rajasthan, college needs a female Principal having Doctorate degree with UG / PG experience of 15 years.

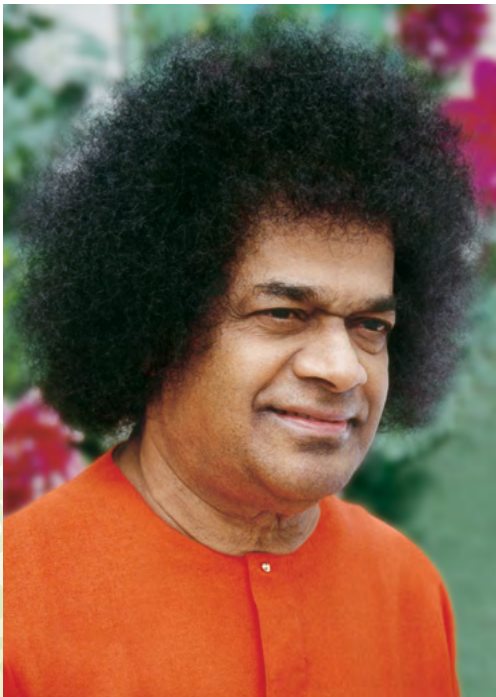
College has Arts, Science and Commerce streams at UG level and M.Com, Music, History, Chemistry, Drawing and Garment Production and Export Management (GPEM) at PG level.

Apply by 31st March 2015 on above e-mail address with bio-data giving education details from Higher Secondary onwards.

*– State Trust Convener*



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## **About SSSSTPD**

On 1st January, 2009, Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Trust (SSSST) commenced operations with four divisions; the Bhakta Sahayak divisions (one in Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi and another in Brindavan, Bangalore), the Publications division, and the Media division.

### **The Publications Division (SSSSTPD) caters to:**

- 1) The publication and distribution of spiritual, religious, and educational Sai Literature and the production and distribution of audio and visual multimedia, photographs, calendars, and diaries, educational software etc for the benefit of visiting pilgrims and devotees all over the world. All the literature and publications are based on the teachings, philosophy, message, and values of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.
- 2) The publication and distribution of Bhagawan Baba's monthly spiritual journal - Sanathana Sarathi - in English and Telugu languages. Since 2011, e-versions of the magazine are also released simultaneously and are available in PDF and EPUB formats on [www.sanathanasarathi.org](http://www.sanathanasarathi.org).
- 3) Maintaining a reporting channel, which covers all the major activities taking place in Prasanthi Nilayam, and publishing an e-newsletter 'Sai Spiritual Showers'- for free distribution.
- 4) Organising and conducting seminars

and conferences on spirituality, religion, education, and human values.

- 5) Providing library and Reading room for visiting devotees, with a very large collection of various spiritual and religious books.

## **Other Books By SSSSTPD (In English)**

1. Sai Sathya Sakha
2. Summer Showers In Brindavan, 1972
3. Satyopanisad I
4. Satyopanisad II
5. Gurudev
6. Namasmara
7. Bhakthi And Health
8. Life Is Love, Enjoy It!
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12. Body And Mind
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38. Truth, Auspiciousness, Beauty
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The Publications Division's websites are

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4. The Prasanthi Reporter – [www.theprasanthireporter.org](http://www.theprasanthireporter.org)

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Editor: G.L. ANAND

## *Develop Love for God*

We should realise that One who has given us this human birth may be expected to take care of us in one way or the other. It is needless to run after wealth, position, fame or power. If you do your duty, all these will come to you of their own accord. Enthroned in your heart love for God. Once that love is enshrined in you, the whole world will be yours.

*– Baba*

