



# Sanathana Sarathi



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# Sanathana Sarathi

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SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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*"We should exercise our discrimination to know what is good and what is bad. In the same way, we should accept what is good in society and discard all that is bad. Even if somebody has done harm to us, we should do good to him. We should help even those who have harmed us and done injustice to us. They might sometimes show certain bad qualities due to their selfishness, but we should always think good of them."*

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# UNITY IS WHAT BHARAT NEEDS MOST

*All names and forms are but the manifestations of Sathya Sai Maheswara (Supreme Lord) who is the embodiment of Sathyam, Sivam, Sundaram (Truth, Goodness, Beauty).*

(Sanskrit verse)

## BHAGAVAN'S GIFT OF GRACE TO MUDDENAHALLI

*Embodiments of Love!*

**B**HARAT IS A VERY SACRED LAND. Real beauty in this land is forbearance. But the people of Bharat are not aware of their strength like an elephant. Even though the elephant has great strength, it does not know it and cannot show it. Similar is the fate of the Bharatiyas as they are not able to demonstrate their strength, righteousness and morality.

### All Belong to One Human Race

The Vedas declare, *Na Karmana Na Prajaya Dhanena Thyagenaikē Amrutatthwamanasu* (immortality is not attained through action, progeny or wealth; it is attained only by sacrifice). But the Bharatiyas today are lacking both the spirit of sacrifice and unity. Bharat is the land of righteousness and all other virtues, but all this is useless because of the lack of unity among the Bharatiyas. Therefore, what we need to develop today is unity. We all belong to the same race of humanity. We are not animals or beasts. Though we call ourselves human beings, we behave like animals and beasts. Therefore, first of all we



*I have provided water to lakhs of people in Chennai, not only for drinking but also for crops. The British rulers also tried to solve the problem of scarcity of water in Chennai but they could not do it. But I have solved this problem. Similarly, people living in upland areas in East Godavari and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh could not get Godavari water. But now we have lifted the water with the help of pumps, purified it and provided drinking water to these people. In this manner, My resolve is to do good to everyone. Similarly, I have done many things to help poor people. Now, I am going to provide university campus to Muddenahalli people because I have seen their condition with My own eyes.*



should realise the truth that we are human beings. We should consider the sufferings and difficulties of others as our own sufferings and difficulties. We can understand the sufferings of others only when we ourselves experience them. We should have firm faith that we are all the embodiments of same Atma and therefore be united. We should enquire what is good and what is bad, accept all that is good and discard all that is bad. We should not accept everything without discrimination. For example, we may eat very delicious items of food today but tomorrow it will become waste matter, and it has to be discarded. We should exercise our discrimination to know what is good and what is bad. In the same way, we should accept what is good in society and discard all that is bad. Even if somebody has done harm to us, we should do good to him.

*There is nothing great in helping those who have helped you. He is a noble one who helps even those who have harmed him.*

(Telugu Poem)

We should help even those who have harmed us and done injustice to us. They might sometimes show certain bad qualities due to their selfishness, but we should always think good of them. *Yad Bhavam Tad Bhavati* (as is the feeling, so is the result). When our intellect is pure, we will always do good. Can you have the belch of a cucumber when



*I do not expect that people should praise Me. I am beyond both praise and blame, pain and pleasure. I have no anger. I have only one thing, that is love. I love even those who criticise Me or malign Me. I do not consider anybody as My enemy. Everybody belongs to Me. I love everyone as a mother loves her children. Mine is not the love of one mother but the love of a thousand mothers. It is by the power of My love that I put everybody on the right path.*

you eat a mango? No, no. You will get only the belch of a mango. When there is goodness in your mind, you will see only good. When there is evil within you, everything will appear evil to you.

### **New Campus of Sri Sathya Sai University at Muddenahalli**

There is an important thing to be told. Muddenahalli is a place near Bangalore, where there is a Sathya Sai College. Many people have been helping this institution



by way of constructing classrooms. They have built even a Bhajan Hall. It is not affiliated to any university. If the students of this institution want to seek admission in a university, they have to go to Bangalore. Considering this situation, I got a noble idea. Here our university campus is beautiful and attractive. If we set up a similar campus of Sri Sathya Sai University at Muddenahalli, then people there will be very happy. Therefore, I have decided to set up a university campus there (*loud applause*). My Sankalpa is immutable and irrevocable. I have expressed My resolve today, and tomorrow the work will start. Children of many villages come to study in this college. There are classes up to 12th but there are no degree courses in it. Therefore, the students have to go elsewhere for further studies after passing their 12th Class. But they are very poor and have no money. Therefore, they are forced to give up their studies and take to agriculture for their livelihood. This also is necessary. However, if they can complete their studies, they can choose any profession and earn money to meet all their needs. Therefore, I have decided to set up a university campus at Muddenahalli to provide educational facilities to these students.

Secular education helps us to eke out our livelihood and lead a worldly life. But in this campus, we will not only provide secular education but spiritual education also. Students will have the opportunity to study the sacred texts also like the Ramayana, the Bhagavata, the Bhagavadgita, etc. Spiritual education will form a part of their curriculum. There is a need to propagate such sacred texts in villages and opportunities should be provided to the students to study them. All secular education is useless without spirituality. There are millions of educated people in this world. But what

are they doing? Are they helping society in any way? They do nothing for society. Rather, they totally ignore it. They have craze only for town life and engage themselves in evil practices like going to clubs and gambling. There is a danger of children following their way of life. If the children are put on the right path, then not only the children but the elders also will be benefited from it. That is why I have resolved to set up a big university campus at Muddenahalli. It may cost two to three crore rupees but it does not matter because this money will be spent for a good cause to build the character of the students. Many people spend a lot of money by touring many places in the world like America and Japan. If the same money is spent on education of the children, they can derive great benefit from it. What type of students do we have at Prasanthi Nilayam? They are like pure gold. Even if there are little shortcomings, they are able to rectify them. They are able to adjust in all situations. Students should have such qualities.

### **Elders should Set a Good Example**

Yesterday, our university students performed a drama which gave the message of service and amity. It showed how the dispute between two brothers on the matter of property was resolved on the advice of the village elders who told them that there could not be any progress in the village if the brothers fought with one another on petty matters. They gave the example of Rama and Bharata through an episode of the Ramayana in which Bharata prayed to Rama to come back from the forest to take over the kingdom of Ayodhya from him. In this way, the children should be put on the right path. But, unfortunately, even if the children are on the right path, the elders spoil them. It is the elders who





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path, the children should correct them with humility, saying, “Dear father! This is not good.” If the father drinks liquor, they should tell him, “This is a bad habit. It will set a bad example before us.” If you want your children to be good, first you should become good. If you take to the wrong path, the children will also follow you and will be spoiled. If you smoke cigarette and beedi and drink liquor in front of your children, they will also take to these bad habits. Therefore, you should never do such things in front of your children. There is a need for a university campus at Muddenahalli which will demonstrate high ideals. Muddenahalli is situated in a hilly area and there is no place nearby except Chikballapur where the village children can pursue higher studies. Otherwise, they will have to go to Bangalore. But they cannot afford it. Moreover, it is very difficult for young children to stay in a city like Bangalore for the sake of their studies. Even their parents will be put to a great difficulty. Keeping in view all these difficulties of children and their parents, we have decided to build the campus with all facilities including a hostel, and open it within one year (*loud applause*).

are responsible for putting the children on the wrong path. If the elders go on the wrong

resolve). I have been very eager to tell this to all.



## Mine is the Love of a Thousand Mothers

Anil Kumar and Ajit Popat (who spoke earlier) have praised Me in various ways in their speeches. It is necessary for Me to say something regarding this. It does not make Me happy if somebody praises Me. I do not expect that people should praise Me. I am beyond both praise and blame, pain and pleasure. I have no anger. I have only one thing, that is love. I love even those who criticise Me or malign Me. I do not consider anybody as My enemy. Everybody belongs to Me. I love everyone as a mother loves her children. Mine is not the love of one mother but the love of a thousand mothers. It is by the power of My love that I put everybody on the right path. If somebody commits a mistake, I will call him separately, chide him and correct him. But I have no anger towards anybody. People feel sad, thinking that Swami is angry with them. In fact, I am never angry with anybody. Anger and temper cannot even touch Me. But people who do not understand this think otherwise. Whatever people may think about Me, I always follow one path. That is the royal road. But nobody is trying to understand My true nature properly. When they really understand My nature, they will repent for their mistakes. Their repentance is their atonement. I do not observe any differences. *Samasta Lokah Sukhino Bhavantu* (May all the beings of all the worlds be happy!). All should be happy, healthy, prosperous and peaceful.

People should not misuse their wealth. That is what makes Me happy. I am prepared to give them whatever they want. I do not ask for anything from anybody. So many of you are here. If I have asked anybody for anything, he may stand up and tell. See, there is no such person. Whatever I want, it automatically

comes to Me. *Money comes and goes, morality comes and grows.* My aim is to develop morality in village children and bring them up in life. Along with secular education, faith in God is very essential. One can attain everything if one has self-confidence. Bhadrachalam Ramdas was a devotee of Rama. Whatever money he collected from people in the form of taxes, he offered it to Rama. But unable to bear the punishment given by the king, He complained to Rama:

*That crest jewel which adorns You cost me ten thousand gold coins. Unmindful of my travails, You are flaunting the jewellery as if it is Your ancestral property!*

(Telugu Song)

Immediately, he repented for his outburst. He offered his salutations to Rama and asked for His forgiveness. Similarly, people may say about Me whatever they like. Different people will have different opinions. Worldly people are like crows. They are full of delusion. But I have no such delusion. Therefore, I do not pay heed to what they say. Even if they criticise Me, I talk to them with love. I do not punish them, saying, "How you dared saying wrong things about Me." They themselves will realise their mistake in due course. If they disobey Me now, they will have to repent in future. Therefore, people should think before saying or doing anything. Those who do so will not encounter any obstacles.

Nobody is able to understand Me. People may act as if they understand Me but in fact nobody can understand even a fraction of My reality. Their vision is limited to only outside happenings; they are unable to understand the principle of love that originates from My heart. But some day or the other, they will understand it. All should live in love and be happy. We may not have any other property, but if we



have the property of love, we will lack nothing. That love should be based on self-confidence.

### **Give up Ego and Attachment**

You say, "It is my body." Then, who are you? You don't say, "I am the body." Similarly, you say, "It is my mind." It means, you are different from the mind. Only God exists in this world. Everything else is nothing but illusion. Whatever be your difficulties, sorrows, losses and ailments, consider them as the Will of God. Then everything will become good for you. When somebody asks you your name, do not say, "My name is Rama", "My name is Krishna". Instead, you should say, "My name is I. I am I." Your name was given to you by your parents, you were not born with this name. In fact, you did not bring anything with you at the time of your birth. Therefore, you cannot claim any property as your own. Your real property is 'I'. Therefore everybody uses this word 'I', 'I'.

Your little 'I' represents ego, 'my' represents attachment. If you give up 'I and my' (ego and attachment), you become your real Self, i.e., God. When you say, "this is my house", "these are my people", it gives rise to attachment. If you lead your life without ego and attachment, you will experience immense bliss. May you all live long with love and unity!

*Let us all move together, let us all grow together,*

*Let us all stay united and grow in intelligence together,*

*Let us live together with friendship and harmony.* (Telugu Poem)

Therefore, we should develop unity. We cannot do any work with one finger. When the five fingers are combined, we can perform any task. Similarly, no work can be done when there is lack of unity among people. Once



***The Bharatiyas today are lacking both the spirit of sacrifice and unity. Bharat is the land of righteousness and all other virtues, but all this is useless because of the lack of unity among the Bharatiyas. Therefore, what we need to develop today is unity. We all belong to the same race of humanity. We are not animals or beasts. Though we call ourselves human beings, we behave like animals and beasts. Therefore, first of all we should realise the truth that we are human beings. We should consider the sufferings and difficulties of others as our own sufferings and difficulties.***



there was a quarrel among the five fingers of the hand as to which of them was the greatest among all. The index finger said, "I am used as a pointer to identify individuals. Hence, I am greater than all of you." The middle finger intervened and said, "I am the tallest among all of you. Two of you on one side and two on the other are serving me as my bodyguards. Hence, I am the greatest." Then the ring finger said, "I feel like laughing at your ignorance. Don't you know that people adorn me with gold rings studded with precious stones? Hence, I am your king." In the end, the little finger said, "I always lead from the front when it comes to teaching a lesson to someone. Hence, I am your leader and you have to follow me." As the fingers were arguing among themselves in this manner, the thumb smiled and said, "None of you can perform any task without my help. Therefore, we should perform all tasks with unity."



## To Do Good to All is My Resolve

In the same way, all should become united whether one is a theist, an atheist or a theistic atheist. This is what we require today. It is unity that our country Bharat needs most. Love, truth, righteousness, justice – all are there in this country. But it lacks unity, due to which our life is full of differences. People should lead a life of unity, considering the difficulties of others as their own. Today there are differences even between father and son, husband and wife. If they give up these differences, they can lead a happy life. At times, there may be differences of opinion between different people, but these are all temporary and not permanent. If you wait for some time, they will disappear like passing clouds, which come and go. Why should we unnecessarily quarrel over such temporary matters? Sometimes big clouds may also come. But they will also go as they come. Therefore, we should not worry about them.

The people of Chennai suffered for a long time due to scarcity of water. Now I have provided water to lakhs of people in Chennai, not only for drinking but also for crops. The British rulers also tried to solve the problem of scarcity of water in Chennai but they could not do it. But I have solved this problem. Similarly, people living in upland areas in East Godavari and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh

could not get Godavari water. But now we have lifted the water with the help of pumps, purified it and provided drinking water to these people. In this manner, My resolve is to do good to everyone. Similarly, I have done many things to help poor people. Now, I am going to provide university campus to Muddenahalli people because I have seen their condition with My own eyes. I told them, “Do not fear, I will do everything for you.” *Why fear when I am near?* In this way, I encouraged the children of Muddenahalli.

Is there anyone here from Muddenahalli who is hearing this? (At this point of time, Sri B. Narayana Rao, Secretary, Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Trust, Muddenahalli, came to the dais and expressed his gratitude to Bhagavan for His benevolence.) He is a postgraduate in two subjects. He is running the Muddenahalli institution very well. Whenever Swami visited Muddenahalli, he prayed, “Swami, when will You shower Your grace on us?” (Then Swami said to Sri Narayana Rao) Today I have showered bliss on you. Share this bliss with all the people of your State. Be happy.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, “*Rama Rama Rama Sita ...*”)

– **From Bhagavan’s 83rd Birthday Message in Sai Kulwant Hall on 23rd November 2008.**

*Education does not consist of mere reading of books or writing them. Nor should education be valued and pursued as a means of securing jobs. Mastering the contents of books gives only secondary knowledge. The goal of education should be heroic excellence in action, not the accumulation of information. The educated man must resolve to earn his livelihood through hard toil and sustained effort, through the sweat of his brow.*

– Baba



*Devotees in Hill View Stadium watching the performance of the Yajna.*

## SAHASRA POORNA CHANDRA DARSHANA SANTHI CELEBRATIONS

**T**HERE ARE CERTAIN EVENTS IN the history of mankind which leave their imprint on the sands of time forever and become a source of inspiration and joy for all future generations of humanity. One such historic event was three-day celebration of Sahasra Purna Chandra Darshana Santhi function of the Kali Yuga Avatar Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on completing 82 years of His life sojourn on earth and entering 83rd year of His Advent on 23rd November 2008. The venue of this epoch-making event was Hill View Stadium at Prasanthi Nilayam which was beautifully decorated. Flags of various countries of the world fluttered over the stands of the stadium and large portraits of Bhagavan adorned the entire stadium. A Yajnashala was built over the Santhi Vedika, in the centre of which a beautiful idol of Lord Venkateswara was installed. Twelve Yajna Kundas were set up on the Yajnashala for the conduct of Yajnas for the peace and welfare of the world. Two giant LED screens were installed in the stadium which provided the entire panorama

of the proceedings to the viewers. A closed circuit TV was set up in Sai Kulwant Hall for the convenience of those who found it difficult to reach the stadium. The entire environment was sanctified and surcharged with sacred vibrations by the chanting of Vedic Mantras for three days and performance of Yajnas which included Maha Ganapati Homa, Sudarshana Homa, Maha Mrityunjaya Homa, Lakshmi Narayana Homa, etc. Besides the chanting of the Vedic Mantras and performance of Yajnas in the Hill View Stadium in the morning, devotional music programmes were held in Sai Kulwant Hall in the evening, in which renowned musicians offered their musical tributes to Bhagavan on this most auspicious occasion.

### **Yajnas for World Peace**

The sprawling Hill View Stadium was full to its seams with a mammoth gathering of devotees who had streamed into it since very early in the morning on 15th November 2008. By 7.30 a.m., about 150 Ritwiks who had to conduct the Yajnas and an equal number of Veda chanting students of the university





*The students of Sri Sathya Sai University chanted Vedic Mantras along with the priests during the performance of Yajnas at the Yajnasala in Hill View Stadium.*

in ochre dress, were seated on each side of the Yajnasala. On this cool and serene morning, the priests commenced the performance of rituals, chanting of Vedic Mantras and worship of the idol of Lord Venkateswara on the stage at 7.45 a.m. At 8.35 a.m., the Chief Priest Sri Lakshminarayana Somayaji of Shringeri Sharada Peetham addressed the mammoth gathering of devotees and said that this Yajna was being performed for the peace and welfare of the entire world.

There was joy and jubilation in the entire stadium when Bhagavan entered it at 8.40 a.m. amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras by the priests and students. Firing of crackers atop Hanuman Hill was a part of this jubilation. On reaching the Yajnasala, Bhagavan was offered traditional welcome with Poornakumbham. Soon after this, Bhagavan gave Darshan to devotees in the stadium from the Yajnasala and made them blissful. At 9.00 a.m., Bhagavan took His seat on the left side of the idol of Lord Venkateswara while a group of priests started the process of producing fire in the traditional way by churning one piece of wood over the other amidst chanting of Vedic hymns

by the students and priests. When fire was ultimately produced at 9.25 a.m. it was brought to Bhagavan in a tray and Bhagavan blessed it. Thereafter, it was put in a Yajna Kunda amidst chanting of sacred Mantras and Yajna was started by a group of priests by putting oblations of ghee in the fire. During the performance of the Yajna, the students and priests continued Vedic chants sanctifying the entire environment with divine vibrations. At 10.25 Arati was offered to Bhagavan to mark the conclusion of the public programme. The priests however continued Vedic chants till 12.30 p.m. and thereafter conducted Yajna from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m.

The second day's programme on the morning of 16th November 2008 started in Hill View Stadium at 7.30 a.m. amidst intermittent rain. Though the weather was damp, yet there were no visible signs of the dampening of the spirit of the devotees who thronged the stadium in large numbers and watched the proceedings of the Yajna. Chanting of Vedic Mantras by the priests and students continued without any break since 7.30 a.m. At 8.50



*A mammoth gathering of devotees participated in Sahasra Poorna Chandra Darshana Santhi celebrations held in Hill View Stadium, Prasanthi Nilayam on 15th, 16th and 17th November 2008.*



a.m., Abhishekam (ceremonial bathing) of the Sayeeshwara Linga consecrated earlier by Bhagavan during Ati Rudra Maha Yajna was started by the priests. Abhishekam was done with various items which included milk, curd, ghee, sugar, Vibhuti, coconut water, etc.

Bhagavan came to the stadium at 9.30 a.m. and witnessed Linga Abhisheka being performed by the priests amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras. He also witnessed a group of priests who were performing Surya Namaskar Asanas in a corner of the Yajnashala. After this, Bhagavan went to each corner of the Yajnashala and gave Darshan to yearning devotees who had braved the intermittent rain and were sitting in the open ground or on the stands with umbrellas over their heads.

After Linga Abhisheka, the priests performed Maha Mrityunjaya Homa by offering oblations in the Yajna fire with the accompaniment of holy chants. Bhagavan sat by the side of the Yajna Kunda and watched the proceedings of the Yajna. Sri Ganapati Sachchidananda Swami, the head of Dattapeetham (Mysore), who had come to participate in this function, offered his greetings to Bhagavan. At 10.15 a.m., Bhagavan blessed the precious material that was brought to Him in a tray for the performance of the Pournahuti of the Maha Mrityunjaya Homa. After blessing the material, Bhagavan materialised a gold chain and placed in the tray. The material was then put into the sacrificial fire amidst Vedic chants. Oblations with ghee were thereafter put to mark the completion of the Yajna. The programme concluded with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 10.30 a.m. Further proceedings of the Japa and Yajna were continued by the priests.

## **Golden Chariot Procession and Pournahuti**

The proceedings of the final day of the Sahasra Purna Chandra Darshana Santhi function on the pleasant sunny morning of 17th November 2008 in Hill View Stadium were marked by unparalleled glory and grandeur. The programme in the stadium started at 7.30 a.m. with chanting of Vedic Mantras by the priests and students. While the morning sun spread its warmth and effulgence on the stadium, the environment was sanctified and enlivened by the Vedic chants of the priests and students, broadcasting of beautiful devotional songs and poetic description of the event by Sri Anil Kumar and Dr. Madugula Nagaphani Sarma. The fire was lit in all the Yajna Kundas and oblations were offered into them with chanting of Vedic Mantras by the priests while the students chanted Mantras of Rudram, Purusha Suktam, Narayana Suktam, Sri Suktam, etc.

The golden moment to be written in letters of gold arrived when Bhagavan entered the stadium majestically in a golden chariot in His



*It was a spectacle of unparalleled grandeur and glory when Bhagavan came to Hill View Stadium in a golden chariot in His sparkling yellow robe on the morning of 17th November 2008.*



sparkling yellow robe in the golden light of the morning sun, spreading His Divine Glory in all directions and filling the hearts of the yearning devotees with bliss. This grand procession was led by two bedecked elephants followed by university students brass band, Bhagavan's beloved elephant Sathya Geeta, Nadaswaram musicians and Veda chanting group of students. As this procession moved towards the Yajnaswala, beautiful welcome songs were sung on the public address system heralding Bhagavan's arrival, and fireworks were displayed on the Hanuman Hill.

On His arrival at the Yajnaswala at 10.00 a.m., Bhagavan was offered traditional welcome with Poornakumbham. Many great saints from various renowned Muths and Ashrams greeted Bhagavan on His arrival at the Yajnaswala. They included: Sri Shivakumara Swamigalu, Head of Sri



*With the offer of final oblations in the Yajna Kundas on the morning of 17th November 2008 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan, the performance of Yajnas in Hill View Stadium came to a happy conclusion.*

Sri Narayani Peetham. Thereafter, Bhagavan showered the bliss of His Divine Darshan on all the priests, Veda chanting students, huge gathering of devotees and dignitaries in the stadium and went to all the Yajna Kundas to offer final oblations in them. At this point of time, a helicopter flew over the stadium and showered flower petals and sacred Yajna water all around. Bhagavan then blessed the Prasadam for distribution. This grand function came to a close at 10.55 a.m. with offer of Mangalarati to Bhagavan.

### **Soul-stirring Devotional Music Programmes**

On the evening of 15th November 2008, Shanmukha Priya and Hari Priya, better known in the music world as Priya Sisters, made their musical offering to Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall. Starting with an invocation song to Lord Ganesh, "Mahaganapatim Manasasmarami", the renowned singers kept the mammoth gathering spellbound with their soulful rendition of Annamayya and Thyagaraja Kirtans, Bhajans and other popular songs which included the famous composition of Kabir "Jheeni Jheeni Beeni Chadariya". At the conclusion of their programme, Bhagavan blessed the



*Many great saints of India came to participate in the Sahasra Poorna Chandra Darshana Santhi celebrations of Bhagavan in Hill View Stadium on the morning of 17th November 2008.*

Siddaganga Muth, Tumkur, Sri Jagadguru Madhwacharya Mahasamsthana Pejawara Muthadeesha Sri Vishwesa Tirtha, Sri Sushameendra Tirtha Sri Padulavaru, Sri Jagadguru Kanchi Kamakoti Peethathipathi Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal, Sri Shivarathi Deshikendra Mahaswamiji, Suttur Muth, Sri Sri Rangapriya Mahadesika Sri Sri and Sri Sakthiamma, Sripuram, Golden Temple,



artistes and gave Saris to them and clothes to the accompanying artistes who provided instrumental support to them.

Renowned Carnatic musicians Malladi Brothers, Sriram Prasad and Ravi Kumar, enlivened the evening of 16th November 2008 with their ornate and soulful rendition of devotional songs. Their father who is also their Guru also joined them in their musical offering to Bhagavan. Before the beginning of their programme, Bhagavan graciously released a DVD "Sai Nada Jhari" sung by the two brothers and their father. As the DVD was being released, one of its songs "Sai Namasmaranam Sada Rupa Dhyanam" (chant the name of Sai and meditate on His form) was played on the public address system to the delight of a mammoth gathering of devotees. The singers began their presentation with a song in praise of Rama "Sri Raghuvara Sugunalaya". After a couple of their songs, their father sang "Sahasra Chandra Darshanam" song specially composed as a tribute to Bhagavan on this auspicious occasion. After keeping the audience captivated with another three songs, they ended their presentation with "Rama Naama Mantram" at 7.50 p.m., after which Arati was offered to Bhagavan to mark the conclusion of the day's programme.

There were two concerts on the evening of 17th November 2008, the final day of the Sahasra Purna Chandra Darshan Santhi

celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam. The first one was presented by Hindustani classical singer Ms. Mahalakshmi Iyer and her troupe. She commenced her presentation with a Marathi devotional song dedicated to Lord Ganesh and followed it up with soulful rendition of a Mira Bhajan. The next song was a tribute to Bhagavan "Ganga Maiyya Mein Jab Tak Paani Rahe, Mere Baba Teri Zindagani Rahe". Next came the popular songs "Ram Ka Guna Gaan Kariye" and "Baaje Muraliya Baaje". Her final song was vibrant rendition of "Damadam Mast Kalandar" which enlivened the audience who joyfully clapped to the tune of the song. At the end of her presentation, Bhagavan gave clothes to her and the accompanying artistes.

The grand finale of the musical offering to Bhagavan on this historic celebration was made by Malladi Brothers after Ms. Mahalakshmi Iyer's concert. After they had sung a couple of songs dedicated to Lord Krishna including "Radha Sameta Krishna", Bhagavan directed them to sing a song out of their own volition. And when they sang this Carnatic classical piece, the entire audience felt uplifted by its divine musical quality and soulful rendition. With this, the glorious celebration of Sahasra Purna Chandra Darshana Santhi function came to a happy conclusion. Arati was offered to Bhagavan at 8.10 p.m. to mark the conclusion of the programme, and Prasadam was distributed to the entire gathering in Sai Kulwant Hall.

*The love of God is the foremost reward to be attained in human life. It is more precious than all the wealth in the world. All wealth and position are obtained by the love and grace of the Divine. The value of Bhagavat Prema (love of God) can be realised only if the meaning of the term Bhagavan is rightly understood. Brahman, Parabrahman, Iswara are among the terms used as appellations of Bhagavan. The term Bhagavan is the sweetest of them all.*

– Baba

# GRAND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

*"It is unity that our country Bharat needs most. Love, truth righteousness, justice – all are there in this country. But it lacks unity, due to which our life is full of differences. People should lead a life of unity, considering the difficulties of others as their own", observed Bhagavan while delivering His Divine Discourse on the occasion of His 83rd Birthday.*

**G**AIETY, GRANDEUR AND piety marked the 83rd Birthday celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Prasanthi Nilayam. Hundreds of thousands devotees came from all parts of the world to offer their obeisance to Bhagavan and participate in the joyous celebration of Sahasra Purna Chandra Darshana Santhi function and other sacred programmes which included Srimad Bhagavata Saptaha, Rathotsavam, Ladies Day, Yajnas and cultural and musical presentations.

## SRIMAD BHAGAVATA SAPTAHA

As part of Sahasra Purna Chandra Darshana Santhi celebrations of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, a weeklong programme of talks on the Bhagavata Purana, which describes the glory of Lord Krishna, was held at Prasanthi Nilayam from 10th to 16th November 2008, in which learned speakers dwelt on the various aspects of this sacred text in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The venue of this programme was Sai Kulwant Hall which was beautifully decorated for this sacred event. Beautiful idols of Lord Krishna adorned the dais which was specially decorated



*Worship of the idol of Lord Krishna being performed by the priests in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan on the occasion of Srimad Bhagavata Saptaha.*

with fresh flowers everyday. The entire story of Bhagavata Purana was narrated in seven days by seven distinguished speakers, each speaker dwelling on one part of this sacred text everyday. The grand finale of these sacred talks on the Bhagavata was the glorious function of Rukmini Kalyanam which was conducted in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall on the evening of 17th November 2008.

The first speaker of this programme of talks was the renowned Telugu poet and scholar, Dr. Madugula Nagaphani Sarma who spoke on 10th November 2008. Offering his tributes to Bhagavan in his beautiful poetic composition, the distinguished speaker said, as Srimad Bhagavata described the glory of Lord





Krishna, holding of Srimad Bhagavata Saptaha as part of Sahasra Poorna Chandra Darshana Santhi function of Kali Yuga Avatar Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is to realise His majesty and glory. Puttaparthi, he said, is the heaven on earth where Lord Narayana has incarnated in the form of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in all His glory and effulgence to spread peace and love in the world. Beautiful songs sung by the speaker to the accompaniment of music as part of his brilliant talk had a captivating effect on the audience who listened to him with rapt attention and expressed their appreciation by applauding again and again in the course of his talk, which was a shining example of great oratory and finest Telugu poetry. Bhagavan blessed the speaker at the end of his talk and gave clothes to him. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.25 p.m.

Another brilliant talk was delivered by Sri Garikapati Narasimha Rao on the following day, i.e., 11th November 2008. The learned speaker observed that holding of Bhagavata Saptaha as part of Sahasra Poorna Chandra Darshana Santhi celebrations of the One by whose effulgence the moon and all celestial bodies in the universe shine is an event of great significance in the history of mankind. Sri Narasimha Rao described beautifully the glory and majesty of Bhagavan in his talk embellished with shining Telugu poetry and said that Bhagavan's abode Puttaparthi is the Kali Yuga Vaikuntha (heaven) on earth and the spiritual lighthouse of the world. Dwelling on the story of the Bhagavata, Sri Narasimha Rao said that the life of Kunti, the mother of the Pandavas, illustrated how man could face all ordeals with fortitude if he developed total faith in God. At the end of his talk, Bhagavan gave clothes to him and also materialised a gold chain for him.

Sri V. Padmakar was the speaker on 12th November 2008, the third day of the programme. The topic of his talk was the story of Prahlada. Describing Prahlada as an ideal student and a crest jewel among the devotees of God, the learned speaker observed that Prahlada not only grasped the inner meaning of the teachings of his preceptors regarding the efficacy of Namasmarana, nine modes of worship and four objectives of life (Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha), but also put these teachings into practice in his life. That is how he could exercise total control over his senses, overcome the fear of death and develop deep devotion, intense yearning for and unwavering faith in God which earned him His unbounded grace, added Sri Padmakar. In this Kali Yuga, Bhagavan has incarnated and assumed the role of World Teacher to impart these immortal teachings to His students and devotees to redeem their life, observed the distinguished speaker who kept the audience spellbound with fine oratory and charming poetry for over an hour. At the conclusion of his talk, Bhagavan blessed the speaker, gave clothes to him and also materialised a gold chain for him. The third day's programme which began at 5.10 p.m. came to a close with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 6.35 p.m.

The fourth talk of this series was delivered on 13th November 2008 by Sri B. Santosh Kumar Shastry who narrated the story of Gajendra Moksha (liberation of the king of elephants) and Vamana and explained their inner significance. At the outset, the learned speaker offered his salutations to Bhagavan in a very beautiful Telugu poem which he sang in his melodious voice to the delight of one and all. Dwelling on the story of Gajendra Moksha as described in the Bhagavata Purana, Sri Santosh Kumar observed that God is



the only saviour of man; worldly possessions, friends and relatives cannot protect him when the end approaches. Man therefore should follow the path of devotion and pray to God wholeheartedly with total surrender, he observed. Describing the matchless glory of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in a number of brilliant poems, the learned speaker observed that it was the great good fortune of Bhagavan's contemporaries that God Himself has come as their saviour in all His Divine glory and majesty to redeem their lives as Lord Narayana had come running to protect Gajendra. At the end of his talk, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the young talented speaker, offered clothes to him and also materialised a gold chain for him. With this brilliant talk, the fourth day's programme which began at 5.40 p.m. after Bhagavan' Divine Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall came to a close at 6.55 p.m. when Arati was offered to Bhagavan.

The stories of Dhruva and Kshir Sagar Manthan (churning of the ocean of milk) in the Bhagavata formed the subject of the talk given by the distinguished scholar, Sri Kandadai Ramanujacharya on 14th November 2008. Narrating the story of Dhruva who performed intense penance at the age of five years while constantly chanting the Mantra "Om Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaya", the learned speaker observed that Dhruva even at that young age realised the truth that everything is God and it is God who is the only doer. Therefore, man should perform all actions to please God without any sense of doership. Describing the Bhagavata story of the churning of the ocean of milk, he remarked that gods performed this task as worship of the Supreme Being, earned His grace and the deservedness for the nectar which emerged from it. The central message of these episodes, the learned speaker

said in conclusion, was that man should lead a life of contentment, performing all actions to please God with the sense of total surrender. At the end of his talk, Bhagavan blessed the speaker and gave clothes to him. He also materialised a gold chain for him. The programme concluded at 6.25 p.m. with offer of Arati to Bhagavan.

On 15th November 2008, the sixth day of the Bhagavata Saptaha, Sri V. Rajagopal Chakravarty addressed the gathering and dwelt on the stories of King Ambarisha and Kuchela from the Bhagavata. Narrating the story of King Ambarisha who was saved by Lord Narayana's Sudarshana Chakra from the wrath of Sage Durvasa, the learned speaker remarked that faith in God was the greatest protection for man. In the same way, the distinguished speaker observed, Kuchela received the unbounded grace of Lord Krishna by his faith and devotion. Sri Chakravarty exhorted the devotees to sanctify their life by putting the teachings of the Bhagavata into practice and earn the grace of the Lord who has incarnated on earth in the form of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Bhagavan blessed the speaker at the end of his talk and gave clothes to him. He also materialised a gold chain for him. This talk was followed by an excellent musical presentation by Priya Sisters. The programme which began at 5.20 p.m. after Bhagavan's Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall came to a close at 6.35 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

The concluding talk on the Bhagavata was given by the erudite scholar Sri Medasani Mohan on 16th November 2008. Relating the entire story of the Bhagavata from the birth of Krishna to the slaying of the demon king Kamsa, Sri Mohan exhorted the listeners to experience the presence of Bhagavan



in their heart and attain liberation as Parikshit had experienced the presence of Lord Krishna in his heart after listening to the story of the Bhagavata for seven days from Sage Sukadeva. Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has incarnated with all the majesty and glory of a Poornavatar in Kali Yuga as Krishna incarnated in Dwapara Yuga, added the distinguished speaker. At the end of his scholarly talk, the speaker received Bhagavan's grace and blessings who gave him clothes and also materialised a gold chain for him. The programme came to a close at 7.50 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan after a beautiful musical presentation by Malladi Brothers. With this, the talks on the Bhagavata by learned scholars came to a happy conclusion.

### **Rukmini Kalyanam**

The glorious function of Rukmini Kalyanam held in Sai Kulwant Hall on the evening of 17th November 2008 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan marked the grand finale of the programme of talks on the Bhagavata for seven days. A mammoth gathering of devotees watched this sacred function in Sai Kulwant Hall. A huge LED screen was set up on the eastern side of the hall to facilitate easy viewing of the ceremonies by the devotees. The ceremonies started at 4.30 p.m. While one group of priests performed the Abhishekam (ceremonial sacred bath) of the idols of Krishna and His two consorts Rukmini and Sathyabhama with various articles like milk, curd, honey, coconut water, etc., another priest performed Homa on the dais amidst chanting of sacred Mantras by the priests and students. Bhagavan was welcomed with Poornakumbham when He came to the dais in Sai Kulwant Hall at 5.25 p.m. Soon after His arrival on the dais, Bhagavan blessed the Mangal Sutras to be offered to the idols of Rukmini and Sathyabhama. This was

done at 5.30 p.m. with loud chanting of Vedic Mantras, joyous notes of Nadaswaram music and jubilant applause of devotees. This was followed by offering of garlands to the idols. Thereafter, the idols were brought together with Krishna in the middle and His two consorts Rukmini and Sathyabhama on His either side. This marked the conclusion of the ceremony of Rukmini Kalyanam, after which Arati was offered to the idols with multiple lamps. At the conclusion of this ceremony, Bhagavan blessed the priests and distributed mementoes to them. He also materialised a gold chain for the chief priest.

### **RATHOTSAVAM**

The sacred festival of Rathotsavam, which is held every year on 18th November, is an important part of Bhagavan's Birthday celebrations. It was celebrated with great enthusiasm and devotion this year also which marked its celebration in the previous years. On the morning of 18th November 2008, two fully decorated palanquins were made ready in the Bhajan Mandir for Rathotsavam procession. One of these had the idol of Lord Krishna and other the idols of Sita, Rama, Lakshmana and Hanuman. Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students were also present in the Bhajan Mandir awaiting Bhagavan's arrival. After showering His blessings on devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall, Bhagavan came to the Bhajan Mandir and blessed the students. After this, Arati was offered to the idols and the palanquins were taken out of the Bhajan Mandir at 9.30 a.m. followed by Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students. The palanquins were then taken out of the Gopuram Gate where a Ratha (chariot) was ready with exquisite decoration of flowers. The idol





*People in large numbers came out of their houses to see the grand spectacle of Rathotsavam held on 18th November 2008.*

of Lord Krishna was placed on the chariot while the other palanquin was carried by Seva Dal members and students. Bhagavan came out of the Gopuram Gate and blessed the procession, after which it moved slowly on the main road of Puttapparthi towards Sri Pedda Venkama Raju Kalyana Mandapam in Puttapparthi village. At the head of this procession was Sathya Geeta followed by Nadaswaram musicians and Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students. As the Ratha meandered its way towards the Puttapparthi village, the people came out of their houses to witness this grand procession. Many of them worshipped the idols and broke coconuts in front of the chariot. The procession culminated at Sri Pedda Venkama Raju Kalyana Mandapam in Puttapparthi where the chariot was stationed with the idol of Lord Krishna and Arati was offered to it. Meanwhile, Bhajans started in Sai Kulwant Hall at 9.45 a.m. and came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.20 a.m.

### LADIES DAY FUNCTION

Ladies Day was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam on 19th November 2008 as part of Bhagavan's 83rd Birthday celebrations. All the daily programmes at Prasanthi Nilayam starting with early morning Omkaram,

Suprabhatam, Veda Parayana and Nagar Sankirtan were conducted by ladies on this day. A grand function was held in Sai Kulwant Hall which was aesthetically decorated on this occasion. A beautiful portrait of Mother Easwamma adorned the dais amidst exquisite floral decorations.

### Talks by Distinguished Speakers

On the morning of 19th November 2008, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall in a grand procession led by a girls band and Veda chanting group of girls with Poornakumbham. On reaching the dais, Bhagavan lighted the sacred lamp at 9.35 a.m. to inaugurate the function. Two speakers addressed the gathering on this important occasion. Paying rich tributes to Mother Easwamma in her introductory speech on this auspicious occasion, Smt. Chethana Raju, Managing Trustee, Easwamma Women's Welfare Trust, remarked that man should understand the truth of his relationship with God through in-depth experience of his heart. Bhagavan's Mission was unfolding in the world in His own mysterious ways and time was fast approaching when all humanity would live in peace and harmony, said Smt. Raju. After this, she introduced the two speakers who were blessed by Bhagavan to speak on this important occasion.

The first speaker was Dr. Ankhi Mukerjee, a former student of Anantapur Campus of Sri Sathya Sai University and presently a lecturer in English and Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford University. Talking about her years spent as a student of Anantapur Campus, Dr. Mukerjee observed that she was fortunate to receive Atma Vidya (knowledge of the Self) besides secular education in this institution where silence, discipline and Sadhana were



an essential part of the curriculum, Prasanthi Nilayam was the classroom and the Global Guardian Bhagavan was the local guardian. Referring to the deprivation of women of the world in the fields of literacy, employment and social status, the speaker said that women looked for inspiration from Bhagavan for the improvement of their condition. The second speaker Smt. Sylvia Alden, a teacher of special education and Member of Sri Sathya Sai Council of America, observed that Bhagavan's teachings were universal and formed the foundation of all religions of the world. She said that each and every person among the six billion population of the world was recipient of Bhagavan's universal love. She exhorted one and all to follow Bhagavan's example and practise "Love All, Serve All" which was Bhagavan's primary teaching.

After this, Bhagavan blessed the distribution of solar lamps, water filters and blankets to selected needy families of Puttaparthi and neighbouring villages. The beneficiaries came to the dais one by one, offered their salutations



*Many articles of daily use were distributed to needy people on the occasion of Ladies Day on 19th November 2008.*

to Bhagavan and received these useful items from the organisers of the Easwaramma Women's Welfare Trust. After this distribution, Bhagavan came to the verandah and cut

the cake placed there by overseas devotees. Prasadam was distributed to all after this. The morning programme came to a close at 11.00 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

### **Music and Cultural Programmes**

In the afternoon, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 5.00 p.m. led by the bagpipers band and Veda chanting groups of boys and girls of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School. The programme started at 5.20 p.m. after Bhagavan's Darshan. The first item of the programme was a soulful rendering of devotional songs by three singers – Sunita, Surabhi Shrivani and Smita. Starting with an invocation prayer "Suklambaradharam Vishnum", they sang some famous devotional songs like "Sathyam Sivam Sundaram", "Sri Rama Chandra Kripalu", "Allah Tero Naam" along with a patriotic piece, a classical composition and a few other compositions, receiving loud applause from the appreciative audience in Sai Kulwant Hall. At the end of their programme, Bhagavan blessed the artistes and distributed Saris to them. He also gave clothes to the artistes who provided instrumental support to them.

The grand finale of the Ladies Day was the music and dance extravaganza "His Glory His Story" presented by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam. While about 150 children in their glittering costumes won the hearts of the viewers with their acting prowess and dancing talent, the video support, special lights, excellent music added great value to the presentation. Besides, the perfect and harmonious blending of the various episodes from the lives of Rama, Krishna and Bhagavan Baba was a marvel of editing and direction. At the end of their performance, Bhagavan blessed the children and posed for group photos with them. The Ladies Day





*The students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School enacted various episodes from the lives of Rama, Krishna and Bhagavan Baba in their musical dance drama on 19th November 2008.*

function came to a happy conclusion with this excellent presentation. Prasadam was then distributed to the entire assembly of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall. Offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 7.30 p.m. marked the conclusion of the programme.

### BHAGAVAN'S 83RD BIRTHDAY FUNCTION

The entire Prasanthi Nilayam bore a festive look with beautiful decorations on the occasion of Bhagavan's Birthday. The illuminations at Sai Kulwant Hall, Yajur Mandir (Bhagavan's residence) and other buildings presented an enchanting spectacle at night. The venue of the Birthday function was Sai Kulwant Hall where elaborate decorations were done with festoons, buntings and fresh flowers.

Bhagavan was offered traditional welcome with Poornakumbham by a Veda chanting group of students when He came to brightly glittering and charmingly bedecked Sai Kulwant Hall in a grand procession in His sparkling white robe at 9.45 a.m. on 23rd November 2008. Bagpipers and brass bands of Primary School boys and girls, and



*Illuminations at Yajur Mandir on the occasion of Bhagavan's 83rd Birthday celebrations presented an enchanting spectacle at night.*

university brass bands of boys and girls followed by Veda chanting group of Primary School students formed this magnificent procession. The mammoth gathering of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall and its periphery was ecstatic with joy to have Bhagavan's Darshan on this auspicious day. As Bhagavan came to the dais, there was a display of band music both by the university bands and Primary School bands which played joyous and sonorous



*On the morning of 23rd November, Bhagavan was led into Sai Kulwant Hall in a grand procession by the band and Veda chanting groups of students.*

tunes to felicitate Bhagavan on this happy occasion. After watching this musical display, Bhagavan came to the verandah and cut cakes lovingly brought by the students of Sri Sathya educational institutions, staff of hospitals and Ashram offices. As soon as Bhagavan came back to the dais after this cake cutting



ceremony, the students of Sri Sathya Sai University offered a magnificent bouquet of devotional songs at His Lotus Feet. Both the wording of the songs and their rendition had an elevating effect on the audience and kept them spellbound for more than half an hour. The morning programme came to a close at 11.00 a.m. with offer of Arati to Bhagavan after this soulful musical presentation.

On the afternoon of 23rd November 2008, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 5.40 p.m. After showering the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the mammoth gathering of devotees in the hall, Bhagavan blessed them with a nectarine Discourse. Two speakers addressed the gathering before Bhagavan's Discourse. The first speaker was Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations. At the outset, the distinguished speaker expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for giving to the devotees the unique opportunity to participate in the sacred programmes of Bhagavata Saptaha and Sahasra Purna Chandra Darshana Santhi function, the grandeur of which could not be described in words. Bhagavan, he said, has incarnated on earth as the saviour of mankind, and He is the sole hope of the world which is at present in a hopeless condition. In conclusion,

the eminent speaker exhorted the devotees to have unshakeable faith in Bhagavan and redeem their lives. The next speaker was Sri Ajit Popat, a financial consultant from London and an ardent devotee of Bhagavan. Sri Popat explained in detail the main teachings of Bhagavan and called upon the devotees to put Bhagavan's teachings into practice in their lives. Stressing the value of selfless service as the chief means of earning divine grace of Bhagavan, Sri Popat remarked that service should be done as an offering to God without any feelings of doership.

After these two speeches, the devotees experienced the bliss of Bhagavan's elevating Discourse which kept them spellbound for nearly an hour. Stressing the need for unity, Bhagavan exhorted one and all to follow the path of truth, righteousness, morality and unity. He also declared that He had resolved to set up another campus of Sri Sathya Sai University at Muddenahalli to help the poor children of villages to pursue higher education. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue.) Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, "Rama Rama Rama Sita ..." The glorious Birthday function came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.50 p.m.

*To develop powers of concentration, sports and games are very essential. They serve to promote physical fitness and mental health. Games and sports are to be practised mainly for keeping the body in good trim. Unfortunately, today the spirit of commercialism is rampant even in the fields of sports and entertainment. When the idea of making money is predominant, concern for health recedes to the background. Sports and fine arts have become commercial pursuits and are not practised for the sake of health or enjoyment. "Art" has come from "heart", but today, the heart has been divorced from the art. The spiritual basis of the latter has been ignored.*

— Baba



## BHARAT IS THE LAND OF BOUNTY

*“Today parents are sending their children to overseas countries merely for earning money. But, ultimately, they waste all their money and return to India totally spoilt. We need not go abroad. The bounty that is present in Bharat is not found anywhere in the world,” said Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Revered Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai University while delivering His Benedictory Address on the occasion of 27th Convocation of the university held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 22nd November 2008.*

**T**HE GRAND FUNCTION OF THE 27th Annual Convocation of the university was held in richly and tastefully bedecked Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam. Special decorations were made with fresh flowers on the dais in the form of arches and Kalasas (sacred vessels) which were most attractive and eye catching.

The academic procession led by the brass band of the university which started from Yajur Mandir (Bhagavan’s residence) at 3.50 p.m. was richly applauded by students and devotees when it reached Sai Kulwant Hall. The Revered Chancellor in His sparkling red robe flanked by the Chief Guest and Vice Chancellor of the university headed the procession followed by the Members of the Governing Body, the University Trust and the Academic Council. The distinguished guests who joined the procession included Prof. Mool Chand Sharma, Vice Chairman of the University Grants Commission and Justice P.N. Bhagwati, former Chief Justice of India. The proceedings of the Convocation began at 4.00 p.m. with Veda chanting by a group

of university students, after which the Revered Chancellor declared the Convocation open at the request of the Vice Chancellor.

### **Vice Chancellor’s Introductory Speech**

In his introductory speech, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Vishwanath Pandit extended hearty welcome to all and introduced the Chief Guest Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor of the university. Outlining the academic achievements of the university during the last year, Prof. Pandit stated that a number of its students passed the CSIR and GATE examinations, securing top ranks, and several other students earned the Junior Research Scholarship for doctoral research. Referring to the Grama Seva performed with meticulous planning by the students, carrying Bhagavan’s message of love and Prasadam to nearly three lakh villagers, Prof Pandit remarked that the students not only achieved academic excellence but imbibed values in this university through activities like Grama Seva. This integration of human values with secular education had made Sri Sathya Sai University as the “crest jewel of the





university system of India” as described by the high powered National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) of the University Grants Commission, added the distinguished speaker. In conclusion, Prof. Pandit gave details of the research done in the university and observed that it was not only of highest standard but very meaningful as it related to the problems the humanity faced today.

### **Award of Degrees and Medals**

After the introductory speech of the Vice Chancellor, the graduands were presented to the Revered Chancellor and the customary



*Graduands in Sai Kulwant Hall on the occasion of 27th Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai University.*

oath was administered to them. Thereafter, 21 students who had won gold medals for academic excellence in various subjects were blessed by the Revered Chancellor.

### **Convocation Address of the Chief Guest**

Quoting a statement of the first Vice Chancellor of the university Prof. V.K. Gokak, the Chief Guest Dr. G. Venkataraman congratulated the students of this university as they had the great good fortune of having the Chancellor of the Universe as their University Chancellor. The distinguished speaker then explained in detail how the Revered

Chancellor was moulding the character of the students besides providing free university education to them. Describing Sri Sathya Sai University as the modern Gurukula and referring to Revered Chancellor of the university as the Sadguru of the Gurukula, the distinguished speaker narrated many incidents to delineate how Bhagavan had been shaping the lives of the students. Quoting from the Discourse of Bhagavan on the occasion of the inauguration of the Art and Science College for Women at Anantapur in 1968, the learned speaker remarked that the seed sown by Bhagavan in 1968 had blossomed into Sri Sathya Sai University which had given to the world a system of education which effectively integrated academic excellence with values and moulded the character of the students besides providing secular education to them. The distinguished speaker reminded the outgoing students of their responsibility in the words of Bhagavan: “The intensity of My love would be felt throughout this world. You are My instruments from which this love would radiate. I have prepared you for this and drawn you to Me. My work is ceaseless, and so too is your work, without an end.” In conclusion, He wished them Godspeed in their efforts to carry out the task assigned to them by their Sadguru and Revered Chancellor.

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

In His Benedictory Address, the Revered Chancellor Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba said that very soon the entire world would be united, Bharat would have a great name and fame and all would feel proud to call themselves Bharatiyas. Emphasising the value of love as a uniting force, Bhagavan said that it was politics that caused divisions. He declared: “We



have nothing to do with any political party. Ours is the party of love. If you have love in your heart, you will be respected wherever you go.” Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, “*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin ...*” The convocation function came to a close at 6.15 p.m. with the singing of National Anthem by all.

### **Divya Premashrayam: Convocation Drama**

After the conclusion of the proceedings of the 27th Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai University in Sai Kulwant Hall, the students of the university presented a drama in Poornachandra Auditorium on the theme of selfless service as taught by Bhagavan to His students and devotees. The drama began soon after the arrival of Bhagavan in Poornachandra Auditorium.

Through the story of a Sai student Anand who takes up service in a village as the sole aim of his life after doing his M.B.A. from Sri Sathya Sai University, the drama depicted



*The drama “Divya Premashrayam” enacted by the students of Sri Sathya Sai University on 22nd November 2008 depicted that God helps those who follow the path of selfless service.*

But the path of selfless service is not smooth and easy. There occurs total loss of values when a flood devastates the village and leaves the villagers homeless and starving. Faced with the dilemma whether to rededicate himself to the difficult path of service or lead a life of ease and comfort as advised by his parents, Anand makes a fervent prayer to Swami and Swami shows him the path when He reads one of His Discourses, in which He exhorts the devotees to do selfless service without any sense of doership. Hope is soon generated thereafter in the village when the Sai Organisation comes to the help of flood-affected people to build the houses for the homeless.

Realistic theme, good direction and good acting of the students made the drama an excellent presentation. Two episodes, one of Rama and Bharata and the other of Shivaji and Samartha Guru Ramdas, introduced in the drama provided meaningful support to the story. Appropriate video support also enhanced the value of the presentation. At the end of the drama, Bhagavan came on the stage, blessed the students and posed for group photos with them. The drama came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 8.10 p.m.



*An episode from the Ramayana illustrated how brothers should lead their life with love and self-sacrifice.*

how a student of Swami could generate love, peace, progress and happiness in the village by inculcating the values of brotherhood, amity and self-sacrifice in the village folk.



# CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

## KERALA YOUTH CAMP

**S**RI SATHYA SAI SEVA Organisation of Kerala organised a youth camp at Prasanthi Nilayam from 20th to 22nd October 2008, in which more than 2,000 youth (both male and female) from all parts of Kerala participated. During the course of the camp, the youth undertook spiritual practices, beginning the day at 5.30 a.m. with Omkaram, Suprabhatam, Sai Gayatri and Bhajans. During the day, they participated in Darshan and Bhajan programmes in Sai Kulwant Hall and listened to the talks of learned speakers in a Pandal which was specially set up for this purpose.

They also presented a music and cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall on 21st October 2008 in the Divine Presence of

Bhagavan. The first item of the programme was a classical dance by a team of 25 youth (male) on Sivashtakam (a verse of eight stanzas dedicated to Lord Siva). The stories of Markandeya (who got a new lease of life by worshipping Siva) and Kamadahana (burning of cupid by Siva) were also interwoven in the dance. The vibrant dance to the tune of powerful music earned the appreciation of one and all. This was followed by an excellent classical music programme by two budding artistes from amongst the Kerala Sai Youth, Prasanna Venkataraman and Lakshmi. The rendering of Bhajans and compositions of great composers like Thyagaraja, Purandaradasa and Swathi Tirunal by both the young artistes was full of tender feelings and showed their great musical capabilities. At the conclusion of the programme, Bhagavan blessed the dancers and singers and gave clothes and Vibhuti Prasadam to them with His Divine Hands. He also gave the coveted opportunity of group photos to the dance group and materialised a gold ring for the main dancer. After a brief session of Bhajans by the university students and distribution of Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan to the entire gathering, Arati was offered to Bhagavan at 6.10 p.m. which marked the conclusion of the programme.

## YOUTH CAMP OF ASSAM AND MANIPUR

More than 450 youth from Assam and Manipur came to Prasanthi Nilayam to participate in a youth camp jointly organised by the Sai Organisations of these two



*During the youth camp organised by the Sai Organisation of Kerala at Prasanthi Nilayam, the youth of Kerala presented an excellent classical dance on 21st October 2008.*



States from 22nd to 26th October 2008. The youth attended the Darshan and Bhajan sessions in Sai Kulwant Hall and listened to the illuminating talks of erudite speakers in the Conference Hall during this period. They also presented a cultural programme in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan which comprised two devotional dances by the youth of Assam and one by the youth of Manipur on 24th October 2008.

The programme started at 5.00 p.m. after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall. The first dance performed by Sai Youth (girls) of Assam was in the form of Guru Vandana (worship to Guru). Through their slow, rhythmic and sublime movements to the tune of sweet music, the dancers offered their obeisance to Bhagavan. This was followed by a dance by the Assam youth (boys) who presented it in the form of Krishna Vandana (worship of Lord Krishna). Both the dances portrayed the rich cultural heritage of Assam and generated lofty feelings of sacredness and piety. After these two dances of the Assam youth, the youth of Manipur presented their famous festival dance called "Thougal Jagoi". The dancers in their colourful traditional dress supporting a headgear with

peacock feathers enraptured one and all by their graceful rhythmic movements. This was followed by Bhajans which were also led by the youth of Assam and Manipur, both male and female. At the end of this programme, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the youth, posed for group photos with them and distributed clothes to them. After distribution of Prasadam in Sai Kulwant Hall, Arati was offered to Bhagavan at 6.15 p.m. to mark the conclusion of the presentation of the Sai Youth of Assam and Manipur.

### YOUTH CAMP OF GUJARAT AND GUJARATI NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Gujarat organised a youth camp at Prasanthi Nilayam from 27th to 31st October 2008, in which over 1,000 youth from all districts of Gujarat came to participate. Since the joyous festivals of Deepavali and Gujarati New Year also fell during this period, nearly 3,000 devotees from Gujarat came to Prasanthi Nilayam to celebrate them in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. A variety of music and cultural programmes by Bal Vikas children and Sai Youth of Gujarat marked these happy events.

### Kali Yuga Ramayana: A Dance Drama

On the auspicious day of Deepavali, 28th October 2008, Bal Vikas girl students from Navsari presented a beautiful dance drama entitled "Kali Yuga Ramayana" in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The first half of the drama depicted how Rama with His army of monkeys built a bridge over the ocean and rescued Sita from the prison of Ravana, the demon king of Lanka. The second part of the drama compared this episode



*A group of youth from Manipur presented the famous festival dance of Manipur called "Thougal Jagoi" on 24th October 2008 during the youth camp of Assam and Manipur held at Prasanthi Nilayam.*





*The drama "Kali Yuga Ramayana" enacted by the Bal Vikas girl students of Navsari, Gujarat on 28th October 2008 depicted how Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba is rescuing mankind from the demonic forces of Kali Yuga as did Rama in Treta Yuga.*

of the Ramayana with the Divine Mission of Bhagavan who in this Kali Yuga is rescuing mankind from demonic forces by using the workforce of the Sai Organisation. Noble theme, good direction, excellent acting of the children and their beautiful dances enhanced the value of the drama.

#### **The Great Souls Meet: A Drama**

At the conclusion of the drama "Kali Yuga Ramayana", Bal Vikas boy students from Surat enacted the drama "The Great Souls Meet". The drama portrayed a scene in heaven where Mahatma Gandhi and Abraham Lincoln discuss with great souls like Buddha, Confucius, Zoroaster, Jesus, Swami Vivekananda, etc., the present disastrous condition of the world. After their deliberations, they assure mankind that Bhagavan would



*A scene from the drama "The Great Souls Meet" presented by the Bal Vikas boy students from Surat, Gujarat in Sai Kulwant Hall.*

save the world by spreading His message of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa through Sai workers and students. Appropriate costumes and make-up, good acting and excellent delivery of dialogues by the children made the drama a successful presentation.

After these two dramas, the singers of Gujarat, both male and female, filled the entire milieu with sacred vibrations by leading Bhajans in Sai Kulwant Hall. At the conclusion of Bhajans, Bhagavan blessed the cast of the two dramas and posed for group photos with them. The programme which began at 5.00 p.m. came to a close at 6.15 p.m. with offer of Arati to Bhagavan.

#### **Gujarati New Year**

Gujarati New Year celebrations began at Prasanthi Nilayam after Bhagavan lighted the sacred lamp on the dais in Sai Kulwant Hall at 4.40 p.m. on 29th October 2008. At the outset, Sai Youth (female) singers of Gujarat made a musical offering to Bhagavan. Thereafter, Bal Vikas students and Sai Youth (male) from Vadodara presented a very touching and



*Bal Vikas students and Sai Youth from Vadodara, Gujarat presented a very touching and illuminating drama "Prema Jyothi" based on their actual experiences of organising the photo exhibition of the same title.*



illuminating drama entitled “Prema Jyothi” (light of pure love) based on their actual experiences of organising the photo exhibition of the same title in Vadodara in January 2008. The drama portrayed how the organisers experienced Bhagavan’s grace during the setting up of the exhibition and how viewers from all sections of society were touched by the life, work and teachings of Bhagavan during the course of the exhibition. The drama left a lasting impression on the audience as had the actual exhibition done to the viewers in Vadodara. Embellished with sweet songs and beautiful dances of Bal Vikas children, the drama was a very educative and illuminating work on the life and teachings of Bhagavan.

### Hindustani Classical Music Concert

After the drama, the audience in Sai Kulwant Hall had a sumptuous feast of Hindustani classical music offered by Smt. Piu Sarkhel, Principal of Music College, Rajkot. The artiste’s rendering of devotional songs and Mira Bhajans had a spellbinding effect on the audience. Bhagavan blessed the singer and her accompanying artistes at the end of her presentation and also gave her a Sari and distributed clothes to the other artistes. After this, there was a brief session of Bhajans which were led by the devotees of Gujarat, both male and female. In the end, Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to all devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall. The programme came to a close with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 6.30 p.m.

### Vision of God: A Drama

On 30th October 2008, Sai Youth of Gujarat presented a touching drama “Vision of God” based on the actual work done by them in a tribal area of Navsari district of Gujarat in the field of eye care during the last 12 years. The drama commenced at 5.20 p.m.

and came to a close at 5.45 p.m. In just 25 minutes, the drama recaptured and portrayed the entire story of how the Seva Dal workers of Sai Organisation brought awareness to these superstition-ridden illiterate villagers believing in witch doctors by arranging eye camps in these remote tribal areas. Not only was the story based on real happenings, but the portrayal was also realistic as if one was witnessing not a drama but the actual happenings in a tribal village. Naturally, the drama touched every heart so that by the



*The drama “Vision of God” presented by the Sai Youth of Gujarat on 30th October 2008 portrayed the realistic story of the work done by them in the tribal villages of Gujarat in the field of eye care.*

time it reached its climax, there was no dry eye among the thousands who witnessed it in Sai Kulwant Hall. At the end of the drama, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the cast and also materialised a gold chain for the lead actor who enacted the role of the blind tribal villager whose eyesight was restored by the cataract operation arranged by Sai Youth.

### A Devotional Music Presentation

At the conclusion of the drama, Sri Devesh Dave of Bharuch (Gujarat) delighted one and all by devotional songs and Bhajans in his mellifluous voice, surcharging the entire milieu with devotional fervour. Bhagavan blessed the artiste at the end of his presentation and gave clothes to him and the accompanying artistes who provided instrumental support



to him. After this, Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan was distributed to all the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.25 p.m. This also marked the grand finale of Gujarati New Year celebrations and Youth Camp of Gujarat State at Prasanthi Nilayam.

### SRI SATHYA SAI GRAMA SEVA 2008

The students and staff of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions performed Grama Seva this year also like previous seven years, and distributed Bhagavan's Prasadam to about three lakh villagers in 153 villages of Puttaparthi, Bukkapatnam and Kothacheruvu Mandals. This year, the Grama Seva was conducted from 1st to 7th November and 11th to 13th November 2008.

After morning Bhajan in Sai Kulwant Hall on 1st November 2008, Bhagavan blessed the Prasadam for Grama Seva, after which the students and staff engaged in Grama Seva circumambulated the Bhajan Mandir, chanting Vedic hymns and singing Bhajans, received Bhagavan's blessings and left for the villages designated for Grama Seva on this day in more than 50 vehicles loaded with food packets and clothes for distribution to villagers.

Following the same process everyday, more than 2,000 students along with staff members of Bhagavan's educational institutions carried out this stupendous task with meticulous planning and completed it in ten days. They carried Bhagavan's message of love along with food and clothes to the doorstep of each and every villager and offered these items to the inmates with humility and love. On the day of Grama Seva, the villagers specially cleaned and decorated their houses and streets, and offered warm welcome to the students and staff



*The students of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions offered Bhagavan's message of love and Prasadam to about three lakh villagers at their doorstep during Sri Sathya Sai Grama Seva 2008.*

on their arrival in the village. Before starting the distribution of Bhagavan's Prasadam to villagers, the students and staff conducted Nagar Sankirtan in each village. Invariably, the villagers also joined the Nagar Sankirtan which suffused the village environment with peace, harmony and sacredness. After Nagar Sankirtan, the students and staff went from door to door and distributed food and clothes to villagers, which they received with great reverence as Bhagavan's Prasadam. The entire environment of the villages was so electrified with Bhagavan's love that it was difficult to say who was more happy, the staff and students who distributed Bhagavan's Prasadam or the villagers who received it.

### GLOBAL AKHANDA BHAJAN

Global Akhanda Bhajan held simultaneously in all parts of the world on the second Saturday of November every year is a spiritual activity of far reaching significance of the Sai Organisation for spreading sacred vibrations in the world. At Prasanthi Nilayam, this has a special significance because it



is held in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba Himself who started it more than 50 years ago.

On the afternoon of 8th November 2008, Sai Kulwant Hall, the venue of this important spiritual activity, was full to its seams with yearning devotees who had come to participate in it from all parts of the world. Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 4.30 p.m. amidst chanting of Vedic hymns by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School and Sri Sathya Sai University. While the students continued the Vedic chants, Bhagavan sat on the dais, filling the hearts of the devotees with the bliss of His Divine Darshan. These Vedic chants continued for nearly an hour and a half. After this, Bhagavan went inside the Bhajan Mandir where He lighted the sacred lamp at 6.00 p.m. to inaugurate the Akhanda Bhajan. The students of Sri Sathya Sai University then started the Akhanda Bhajan with an invocatory verse dedicated to Lord Ganesh. The Bhajans continued uninterrupted during the whole night of 8th November. Male and female groups of singers took turns to lead Bhajans and devotees in large numbers followed them with great devotion. The singers included students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Sri Sathya Sai University, Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music, Deenajanodharana Pathakam school, groups of Indian and overseas devotees, staff of Ashram offices, hospitals, etc.

On the morning of 9th November, Suprabhatam was recited at 5 o'clock, after which Bhajans were resumed. During the day, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. and showered the bliss of His Divine Darshan on devotees. In

the afternoon, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 4.30 p.m. Soon after entering the hall, Bhagavan went near its northern gate and blessed the Prasadam placed there by sprinkling sanctified water on it. Thereafter, Bhagavan came to Bhajan Mandir where He continued to sit till 6.00 p.m. when Arati was offered to Him to mark the conclusion of the Akhanda Bhajan. Prasadam of Pulihora (tamarind rice) and Laddus was then distributed to all the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall.

### **BHAGAVAN INAUGURATES NEW ANNEXE BUILDING OF BOOK TRUST**



*Bhagavan inaugurated and sanctified the new annexe building of Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust on 30th November 2008. On His arrival at the premises of the new building at 10.30 a.m., Bhagavan was offered traditional welcome with Poornakumbham. After this, Bhagavan pressed a switch to unveil the plaque, cut the ribbon and lighted the sacred lamp to mark the inauguration of the building. Arati was offered to Bhagavan in the end and Prasadam was distributed.*





## Do the Work of God while Reciting His Name

WHEN HANUMAN WENT to Lanka in search of Sita, he met Vibhishana there who was also a devotee of Rama. Expressing his anguish to Hanuman, Vibhishana said to him, “Dear Hanuman! You are very fortunate that you are doing the work of Rama while chanting His name and thereby you are recipient of His grace. I am also reciting the name of Rama since a long time but I have not been able to have His Darshan so far.” Hearing this, Hanuman said to Vibhishana, “You have been reciting the name of Rama. But, have you ever done something for Rama? How can you receive the grace of Rama without doing any work for Him? Mother Sita is there in Lanka for the last ten months. Did you ever say anything to her which could make her calm and peaceful? Did you go even once to have her Darshan? Did you think of any way to relieve her suffering? Performance of any of these tasks would amount to service of Rama. But you have done nothing of this



“Do the work of Rama while reciting His name”, Hanuman advised Vibhishana.

sort. Isn't it so? Then, how can you receive the grace of Rama? I am leading my life in the service of Rama while chanting His name all the time.”

Mere chanting of Mantras or reciting God's name is of little benefit. One should do God's work. That is why Swami always says: *Dil Mein Ram, Hath Mein Kaam*.

*In order to gain the benefit that education can confer, it must be directed towards the cleansing of the Antahkarana or the inner instrument of thought and feeling. It has to promote and protect the pleasure of spiritual learning.*

— Baba

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

**Prasanthigram - 515 134, Anantapur Dist. (A.P.) India**

**Fax: 08555-287544 Email: adminpg@sssihms.org.in**

Applications are invited from persons who have passed **12th Class (with science subjects)**, aged below **30 years** for being trained as **OT Assistants in the department of Anaesthesia** before **15-1-2009**.

The candidates will be under training for a period of two years after which they will be placed in the scale of pay of **Rs. 3050-75-3950-80-4590**.

During the period of training they will draw a lump sum of **Rs. 3050/- or minimum wages prescribed by the state government** whichever is higher.

After the completion of training, they will work in this hospital for a minimum period of 3 years.

Preference will be given to students of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions.

### **Desirable**

Knowledge of Telugu.

A typing speed of 30 w.p.m. in English.

Basic knowledge of working with computers.

*– Director*

## **Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital**

**(Accredited by the National Board of Examinations)**

**Prasanthi Nilayam - 515 134, Anantapur Dist. (A.P.) India**

**Ph.: 08555-287256, Fax: 08555-289409**

Applications are invited from the **Medical Graduates with MBBS qualification** who have completed internship and Registration with the Medical Council of India / State for 3 years training in **Family Medicine** for the Diplomate of the National Board of Examinations.

The selection is based on the evaluation for general practice and compassion to live with the community to ensure healthy living. The hospital offers stipend prescribed by the National Board of Examinations. The last date for the receipt of application is **15th January 2009** and the aptitude assessment test will be on **24th January 2009**. The selected candidates have to join immediately after the results are announced.

The application addressed to the **Medical Superintendent** may be sent with copies of above certificates and a passport size photograph.

*– Medical Superintendent*

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

**(Accredited by the National Board of Examinations)**

**Prasanthigram - 515 134, Anantapur Dist. (A.P.) India**

**Ph.: 08555-287388 Ext.: 513 Fax: 08555-287544,**

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

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for undergoing DNB training for three years in the following specialities for session commencing from January 2009.

### **Specialities**

### **Minimum Qualification**

#### **Super Specialities**

Cardiology

MD/DNB (Gen. Medicine or Paediatrics) and pass in the Central Entrance Test of the National Board of Examinations.

Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery  
Urology

MS/DNB (Gen. Surgery) and pass in the Central Entrance Test of the National Board of Examinations.

#### **Broad Specialities**

Orthopaedics  
Ophthalmology  
Anaesthesiology

MBBS and pass in the Central Entrance Test of the National Board of Examinations.

### **Conditions:**

The Institute offers **stipend as prescribed by the National Board of Examinations** and single room hostel accommodation on payment of usual rent.

The selection will be based on the objective assessment test for Board Specialities and marks obtained in **CET of the National Board of Examinations for Super Specialities**.

The application may be sent enclosing copies of the certificates mentioned above along with the certificate of registration with the respective Medical Council of the State and one copy of the passport size photograph.

Last date for receipt of the application is **15th January 2009 for Broad Specialities** and one week after the date of announcement of results for CET for Super Specialities.

### **Aptitude Assessment:**

The date of aptitude assessment test for **Broad Specialities is 24th January 2009**. The date of Counselling for the Super Specialities will be intimated.

The selected candidates will have to join immediately after the announcement of results.

*– Director*

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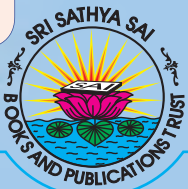


### *Give up Vices*

People should move among others with love and reverence. Of what benefit is Sadhana if it is done without controlling jealousy, envy, pride, anger and malice? However long you may live in the Ashram, these vices will yet undermine whatever merit you acquire. The proof of the rain is the wetness of the ground. The proof of Sadhana is the subjugation of the senses. Give up irrelevant and impertinent talk and activity; cultivate self-examination, self-discovery; develop the inner eye, the inner discipline. Make the best of this chance acquired as a result of the good done in many previous lives.

*– Baba*

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