

# Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA



*"One who observes  
differences based on religion  
is no human being at all.  
There is only one religion,  
the religion of love."*

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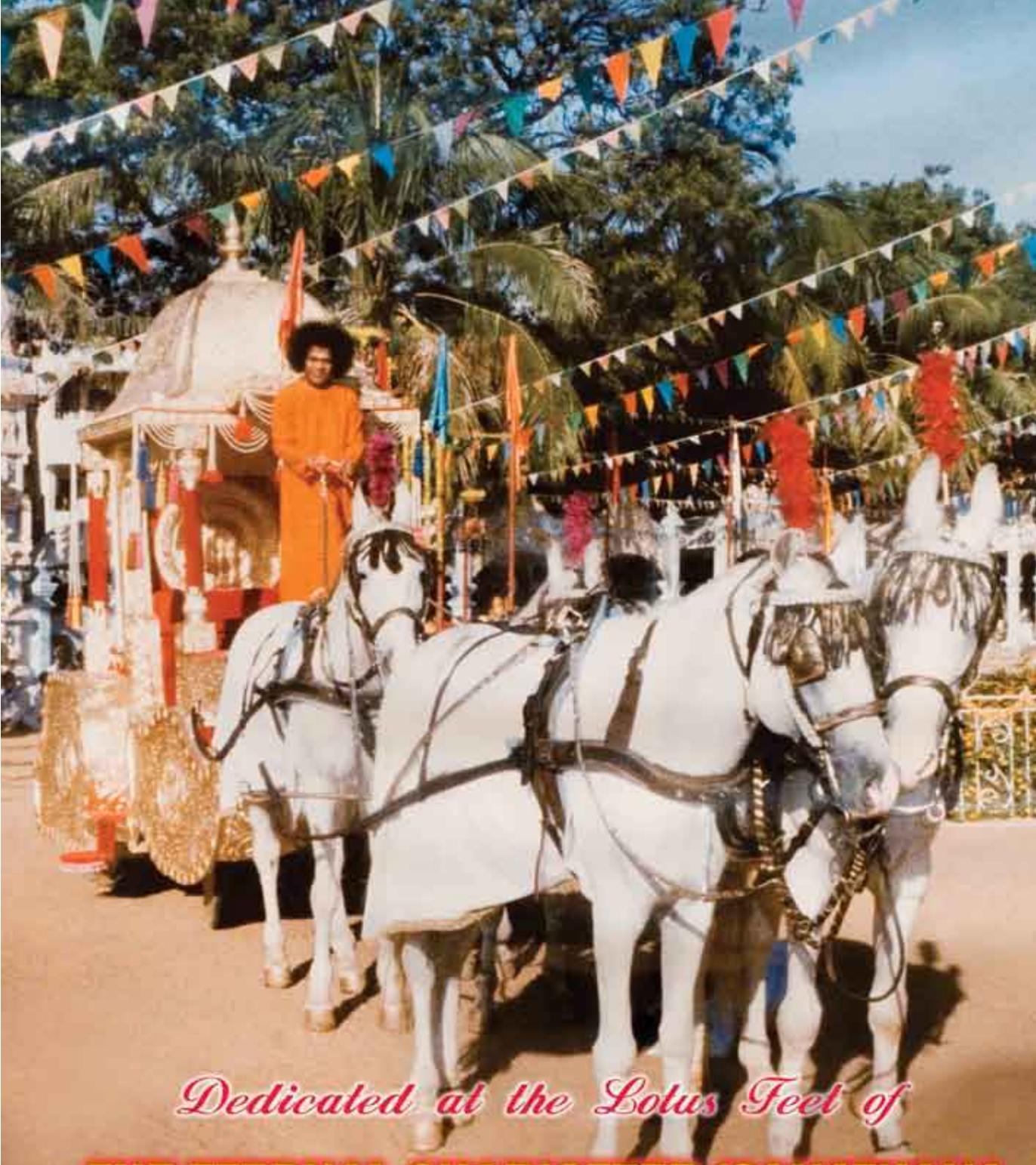
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Cover Page Photograph

Sanathana Sarathi: 50 Glorious Years

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*Dedicated at the Lotus Feet of*

**THE ETERNAL CHARIOTEER (SANATHANA SARATHI) OF MANKIND**

Ati Rudra Maha Yajna at Chennai from 20th to 30th January 2007



# SANATHANA SARATHI

## 50 Glorious Years

**B**HAGAVAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA has declared, “Whatever I Will, must take place; whatever I plan, must succeed.” Fifty years ago, Bhagavan launched the monthly magazine “Sanathana Sarathi”. He Himself chose the time for launching it, He Himself chose its name and editor, He Himself went to buy a foot-operated treadle machine to set up a small printing unit at Prasanthi Nilayam, and He Himself wrote the first article in its first issue and continued writing for it for 26 long years from 1958 to 1984. “Sanathana Sarathi” was thus born out of the Divine Sankalpa of Bhagavan as He Himself declared, “Sanathana Sarathi is the result of My Sankalpa (Will), My Utsaha (zeal) and My Ananda (joy).”

Fifty years of “Sanathana Sarathi” have witnessed the fruition of the Sankalpa of Bhagavan. Human perception is very narrow; it cannot comprehend divine phenomena. Fifty years ago, nobody would have imagined that this small magazine, printed on newsprint paper on a foot-operated treadle machine in a remote and inaccessible corner of India and launched without any publicity would one day have subscribers in all parts of the world, and it would be translated into 25 major Indian and overseas languages to cater to the spiritual yearnings of the people of all races, nationalities, faiths and countries. But this seemingly impossible has become possible, and it is there for all to see. Undoubtedly, “Sanathana Sarathi” is one of the most widely-read spiritual magazines of the world today.

But vast readership and global scope are not the real criteria of its phenomenal success. The real criterion of its success is that it has uplifted, redeemed and transformed millions of people in all parts of the globe by the power of its message of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa and brought about peace, happiness, unity, purity and divinity in their lives. It is therefore not a magazine in the ordinary sense of the term. It is a powerful spiritual lighthouse which illumines the path of mankind and leads it towards redemption, liberation and immortality. It links man with God. That is why Bhagavan has said, “Sanathana Sarathi is the bridge which leads you to Me and brings Me to you.” The readers of “Sanathana Sarathi” receive it with reverence and read it with faith as it conveys the message of God to man. In fact, they consider its coming into their house as coming of God Himself.

It is for the first time in human history that an Avatar has chosen a magazine for conveying His Message to mankind. No doubt, this is an act of unbounded grace of Bhagavan. Golden jubilee of “Sanathana Sarathi” is an occasion for all of us to express our sincere, heartfelt gratitude to Bhagavan for giving us this soul-uplifting spiritual magazine for our redemption.

– Editor





Bhagavan at Vichara Darpan Press, Avenue Road, Bangalore where He went to buy a treadle machine to set up Sri Sathya Sai Press at Prasanthi Nilayam.

# SANKRANTI TEACHES US TO BROADEN OUR HEART

*The sun appears serene and peaceful. The days have become shorter, and the cool wind is blowing. The fields are ripe with golden crops. Marigold flowers are blossoming like garlands of pearls on the banks of rivers. The farmers are rejoicing and singing. The sweet festival of Sankranti has come in the month of Pushya (a month in Indian calendar), filling our homes with the newly harvested grain.*

(Telugu Poem)

**G**OD WILLED SANKRANTI TO BE a festival which should fulfil all the food and material needs of man without any difficulty. Sankranti is also an occasion when farmers enjoy rest in their homes. Even the workers having worked so hard day and night in the fields for months together are rewarded by God with rest and happiness. Whatever God does, it is for the sake of people only because all are Amsa (part) of His Divinity. *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being), said Lord Krishna in the Bhagavadgita. Not only human beings but birds, animals and insects are also embodiments of divinity. Thyagaraja said, *Cheemalo Brahmalo Siva Kesavaadulalo Prema Meera Velasi Unde Birudhu Vahinchina Rama Nannu Brovara* (Oh Rama! In Your pure and unsullied form of love, You indwell all beings from an ant to Brahma as also in Siva and Kesava. Please be my protector too). However, many people do not realise this truth and kill an ant if it comes crawling on their back. But they offer their salutations to the same ant if it appears before them in the form of Brahma. In this manner, they observe differences on the basis of forms.

## Sankranti Brings Joy to All

During this season, the sun appears to be serene and days become shorter. The moon gives its cool light for a long time as the nights become longer. People work hard during daytime and enjoy the happiness of deep sleep at night. Rest is essential for the human body. Therefore, every human being should take sufficient rest. As the saying goes, "sleep awhile after lunch." After having lunch, one should relax for some time. One should not keep awake at night for a long time; one should have sound sleep.

Everything happens by the Will of God. Nothing happens by human effort alone.

*Not even a blade of grass will move without Divine Will,*

*People who do not realise this truth get carried away by their pride of intelligence and learning.*

*But no one, however great he may be, knows what lies ahead for him in future.*

(Telugu Poem)

The principle of 'I' is present in one and all. There is only one race, the race of humanity. Humanness is divine, sacred and precious. The word Manava (human being) signifies



*Dear students! After passing out from this Institute, you may go from here and pursue higher education, if you so like. Along with that, be exemplary in your behaviour. Never tell a lie. Do not resort to injustice or unlawful acts. Attain immortality by following the path of truth. You are an aspect of the Divine. You should never forget this truth. Whatever study you may undertake, keep this truth always in your mind.*

sacredness. Sankranti is the festival which makes people aware of this truth. Who is a true Hindu? The letter H in the word HINDU stands for humility, I for individuality, N for nationality, D for devotion and U for unity. Where there is unity, there is divinity. Divinity is the basis of the unity of the world. Don't break the world into pieces by saying, 'this is my India', 'this is my Japan', 'this is my Germany', etc.

During this sacred period of Makara Sankramana (entry of the sun into Capricornus), people happily take part in singing and playing. This is a festival even for animals. Gangireddudasu (one who brings the decorated bull) brings the bull and cow

after decorating them. He names the bull as Rama and the cow as Sita. He asks the cow, "Amma! Is Rama beautiful?" The cow shakes its head in disapproval. Then the Gangireddudasu waves the stick in his hand and tries to convince the cow saying, "Of course, Rama is bluish black in colour, yet He is the embodiment of goodness. He is a great king. He is wealthy and valourous." Then the cow nods its head in approval. He performs their marriage symbolically which is supposed to bring peace and happiness in the world. The children of the village watch this play very enthusiastically. They invite their friends and relatives to witness this play.

*"Oh my dear brother, here comes the Gangireddudasu. Come, let us go and see him. He wears a silver medallion and a waist belt. He carries a decorated staff and wears*

*special marks on his forehead. He brings with him richly caparisoned sacred cow and bull and performs their marriage. Let us see the marriage ceremony and offer our gifts."*  
(Telugu Song)

### **Follow the Religion of Love**

In this manner, village people decorate their animals beautifully and enjoy their play. Sankranti gives joy not only to animals but also to birds. Often you find birds perching in mosques and temples, thereby teaching a lesson of unity to the people of all religions.

Today many people do not have faith



in religion. In fact, religion sets a great ideal to mankind. There are many students in our Institute. There are no differences of any kind between them. One who observes differences based on religion is no human being at all. There is only one religion, the religion of love. One who follows this religion is a human being in the real sense of the term. We should imbibe the goodness of all religions. There is so much to learn even from birds and animals and, in fact, all the creatures of the world. Religion means love. But this religion is not to be seen today. There cannot exist any relationship with anybody in the absence of love. Therefore, we should follow the religion of love. But in modern age, no one thinks of this religion.

Our ancients understood the true meaning of religion and acted accordingly. They emulated the ideals of their elders. Even today if you ask children, "Who has taught this to you?", they will reply, "My grandfather has taught me" or "My grandmother has taught me." Do not lend a deaf ear to the words of your elders. If you put their advice into practice, then everything good will happen to you. Today nobody listens to the wholesome advice given by elders. But people listen with interest the cinema songs played on the gramophone. Whatever they hear from the gramophone record, they repeat the same thing. Whatever song they hear, they keep on repeating the same song. Hence, today man does not lead the life of a true human being; he has become more like a gramophone. We should never ignore the advice of our elders. Ignoring the words of elders, man today is conducting himself in a manner contrary to human nature. People do not listen to what is said to them; they are ready to do what they have not been told. Sankranti is celebrated to remind man of his sacredness. It teaches us to have noble thoughts. Whatever



***You may be having a friend. What is the good that your friend has done to you? Similarly, what is the good that you have done to your friend? If sometimes, your friend takes to wrong path, you should try to bring him on the right path. In the same way, your friend should help you if you deviate from the right path. What is the use of your friendship if you do not help and transform each other? Thus, try to help each other to tread the right path. This is the hallmark of true friendship.***



we learn, we should put it into practice.

### **Lead Exemplary Life**

*Easwara Sarva Bhutanam* (God is the indweller of all beings). Every human being, nay, every living being is an aspect of the Divine. But man's behaviour is contrary to this. What is the reason for that? The reason is that man has given up sacred feelings and allowed his mind to act in an arbitrary manner. Now you are young. At this age, your body, mind and intellect are strong and sharp. Now itself you should utilise your energy to cultivate sacred feelings. Do not consider Sankranti as an ordinary festival. It is a festival that brings immense joy to all. Even a poor man will celebrate this festival by preparing and eating Payasam (sweet rice pudding). Sankranti gives us many types of joys; they are not limited to just singing and playing; the happiness we get from this festival broadens our heart. This gives man the experience of unity with all, which develops purity in him. Where there is purity, there is divinity. Therefore, first and foremost, you should have



unity and purity. What does purity mean? We should see with our eyes all that is sacred. Our speech should be soft and sweet. We should hear all that is good. We should inhale all that is sweet smelling. In this manner, we should put our senses to sacred use.

*Man is born in action, is sustained by action and ultimately merges in action. Action is the cause for pleasure and pain. Truly speaking, action is God for man.*

(Telugu Poem)

Hence, we should keep ourselves engaged in action at all times. What is meant by Karma? It is not merely reading books and playing games like volleyball, cricket, etc. Even the process of inhalation and exhalation involves Karma. It is not possible to perform any action without breathing. When we inhale, the sound 'So' is produced, and the sound 'hum' is produced when we exhale. 'So-hum' means 'That (God) I am'. This Prana (life principle) given to man by God is very vital for his sustenance. After building a temple, people, first of all, perform Prana Pratishtha (consecration) of the idols. It has immense significance. Human birth is not meant to eat, drink and be merry and act in an arbitrary manner. Wherever you go, people will respect you only for your qualities. People should talk about you in such terms: "His behaviour is exemplary; it gives us great joy to talk to him; if he just looks at us, we feel so happy." It is only your good qualities that bring joy to you. Therefore, man should make proper use of five senses, five life principles and five elements. The food we eat should be Sattvic (pure and sacred). It is not good to put too many chillies in food. Some people like spicy items like Avakaya (mango pickle) and Gongura (hemp plant) chutney. Such people are not satisfied by any other

food. If you put Avakaya and Gongura in their plate, they think it is enough. They develop taste for such items. But do not run after taste, otherwise your life will be a waste. Therefore, we should take our food without giving undue importance to taste.

*There is no greater charity than charity of food.*

*There are no greater gods than parents.*

*There is no greater benefit than having a good company.* (Telugu Poem)

### **Be Careful in Choosing your Friends**

There is nothing greater than truth. Truth is only one; not two. When you associate with good people, you will also become good. Who are your friends? Only good people are your true friends. You become like those whom you associate yourself with. *Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are.* Therefore, you should meet good people, talk to good people and live with good people. Only then will you become good. Otherwise, you may lose your goodness. You may be having a friend. What is the good that your friend has done to you? Similarly, what is the good that you have done to your friend? If sometimes, your friend takes to wrong path, you should try to bring him on the right path. In the same way, your friend should help you if you deviate from the right path. What is the use of your friendship if you do not help and transform each other? Thus, try to help each other to tread the right path. This is the hallmark of true friendship. Even if you have to associate with a bad person, you should transform him into a good person. But the present-day friends first say 'hello, hello' followed soon by 'goodbye'. Instead of saying goodbye, you should become a good boy. In this manner, we should follow the path of truth in our daily life. Only then



can we become truly educated, and acquire discrimination and courage.

If you are good and endowed with the spirit of sacrifice, many people will follow you. If you are not good and your behaviour is not proper, nobody will even look at you. Then, only those who lack character will associate themselves with you. Your association with such people has no value. Their friendship is only temporary. You may consider them as your good friends initially. But, how long will they remain good in your view? Only for a short while. Afterwards,

the world benefited from them in any way? In fact, it is only the so-called educated who are spoiling the country; we should not aspire for this type of greatness. If people greet each other with humility and respect, it should be enough. We should consider this as a sign of greatness. Along with education, we should cultivate humility and obedience. Only then can one be called a true student. You are all highly educated. Hence, you should have no trace of ego, pomp, pride, etc.

Yesterday, the student who played the role



*Sankranti gives us many types of joys; they are not limited to just singing and playing; the happiness we get from this festival broadens our heart. This gives man the experience of unity with all, which develops purity in him. Where there is purity, there is divinity. Therefore, first and foremost, you should have unity and purity.*

if you do not listen to their words and do not give what they want, they will turn into your enemies. Therefore, you should be careful in choosing your friends.

### **Ideal Conduct of Sathya Sai Students**

Our conduct is our witness in every matter. You may live anywhere, and go to any country. But you should always have good character. Love and respect everyone. Never hate anybody. Earn a good name. It is not our educational qualifications that confer greatness on us. There are many in this world who possess such high qualifications as Ph.D, I.A.S., I.P.S., etc. But, has

of Prahlada acted very well. His voice was very sweet. Not only that, he demonstrated the great ideal of Prahlada in a befitting manner. His father Hiranyakasipu had to undergo punishment because he bore hatred against God. God incarnated in the form of Narasimha and killed him. When we lead a good life, our end will also be good. Only then will we have a good name. Right from our birth till our death, we should lead our life bearing a good name. But many people do not listen to good words. They listen only to bad words and ruin themselves. Whosoever speaks good words, we should listen to him. When we travel by a bus or train, we may come



across a beggar singing the glory of Rama melodiously. All passengers enjoy listening to him with their eyes closed. As he goes back, everybody thanks him, saying "You have given us great joy." Real living is that which gives happiness to others. All the students of the Institute have gathered here. You should share good thoughts and good words with each other. Good thoughts, good words and good actions are divine qualities. You should cultivate such divine qualities.

### *Embodiments of Love!*

All our students are nuggets of gold. What sort of gold? Pure 24 carat gold without any impurity whatsoever. Wherever they go and in whichever activity they participate, whether it is sports, games or education, they earn a good name. That is why I always hear people praising our students, "Sai Baba college students are very good." When others look at our students, they see Sai Baba's reflection on their face. On the 20th of this month, Ati Rudra Maha Yajna is going to start in Chennai. But the people there are not merely waiting for Ati Rudra Maha Yajna. They are waiting to see the students of Sai Baba as they consider them ideal.

### **Pure Drinking Water to the People of Chennai**

Because of the misuse of science, education today has fallen into decline. People are trying to interfere with the laws of Nature. A tree is being given injections to bear more fruit. Do you know what food are they giving to cows to yield more milk? They feed them with animal parts, thinking that the cows will grow more strong and give more milk. Today even water has become polluted. It is the polluted water which is the cause of many diseases. You find insects in all types of fruits today.

Earlier, figs used to be very good. They have also become infested with insects. The reason is polluted water. Therefore, we should boil the water and purify it before drinking.

I felt very sad when I saw small children in Chennai bathing in the dirty water of ponds and also drinking the same polluted water. Then and there, I decided that I would not visit Chennai again until I provide pure water to the people of Chennai. This happened ten years ago. Now I have provided water of Krishna river to Chennai by spending a sum of 200 crore rupees. People of Chennai now have pure drinking water. I am now going there again when the children are enjoying good health and playing happily by drinking good water. We should drink good water and eat good food. In this way, we should safeguard our health. But, unfortunately, some children do not eat good food. Do not go after taste. You should see whether the food that you are eating is good for your health or not. Only then will you remain always healthy and happy.

### **Never Forget your Divine Reality**

Students! Study well. Don't waste time. Whenever you are free, read only good books. Follow good path and become good. If the people of the entire world are to become good, it is possible only through the students of Sri Sathya Sai colleges. Yesterday, you witnessed the drama "Bhakta Prahlada". It made a great impact on everybody who saw it. It is not possible to describe how sweet and blissful were the words of Prahlada. They got directly imprinted on the hearts of the viewers. Such words when once imprinted on the heart can never be erased. Be good and make others good. Never give scope to evil qualities like lust and anger.

Today our students are going to



present the drama “Sri Krishna Rayabaram”. The wicked Kauravas subjected the Pandavas to many trials and tribulations. But the Pandavas were very pure minded; they made every effort to do good to the Kauravas. Here is a small example for you to know how noble were their feelings. Kunti breathed her last as soon as she heard the sad news of Krishna’s departure from this world. Her eldest son Dharmaraja, who was by her side at that time, put her head on his lap. The other four brothers Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva also gathered around her. Dharmaraja said to his brothers, “Krishna who was our saviour has left the world. Hence, we should not remain in this world any more.” Then he called Bhima near him and asked him to make arrangements for the funeral of their mother. He also called Arjuna near him and told him to make arrangements for the coronation of Parikshit. Lastly, he called Nakula and Sahadeva and told them to make arrangements for their final journey to the Himalayas. On the one side, he had to arrange for the funeral of their dead mother and on the other, he had to coronate the grandson of his younger brother. Who else except Dharmaraja could act in this manner in such a grievous situation and fulfil all his responsibilities?

The Pandavas marched towards the north on their final journey. Draupadi, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva left their mortal coils on the way. In the end, Dharmaraja continued his journey all alone. He first entered the hell. There, many people were undergoing punishment for their sins and were experiencing great suffering. As soon as Dharmaraja stepped into the hell, they got relief from their suffering and started experiencing happiness. Why had Dharmaraja to go to hell? He had never uttered a lie in his life. However, to put

Dronacharya to death during the Mahabharata war, he spoke loudly, “Aswatthama Hatah” (Aswatthama is dead) but he said “Kunjarah” (elephant) in a low voice. It actually meant that an elephant named Aswatthama was dead. But, because Drona did not hear the word ‘Kunjarah’ as it was spoken in a low voice, he thought that his son Aswatthama had died and therefore put down his weapons. In this manner, Dharmaraja became responsible for the death of Drona by telling a lie and had to spend some time in hell for committing the sin of telling a lie. Later, when Dharmaraja proceeded towards heaven, all the residents of hell fell at his feet and prayed to him, “Oh Dharmaraja! Do not leave us. Stay here and give us joy.” But Dharmaraja told them that it was essential for him to obey the command of God. Saying this, he proceeded towards heaven.

When we do good, we will experience only good results. Good deeds yield good results. Dear students! After passing out from this Institute, you may go from here and pursue higher education, if you so like. Along with that, be exemplary in your behaviour. Never tell a lie. Do not resort to injustice or unlawful acts. Attain immortality by following the path of truth. You are an aspect of the Divine. You should never forget this truth. Whatever study you may undertake, keep this truth always in your mind. (At this point of time, Swami asked the students if He was causing them inconvenience by talking at length. The students said in one voice, “No, Swami”). It is My duty to give happiness to you all, to make sure that you do not suffer on any account, to bring you up in life and bring happiness to your parents. Your bliss is My food. I need no other food. It is enough for Me if you are happy.



It is My wish that you lead your lives happily. Brush aside all the difficulties and losses that you have to undergo and march forward.

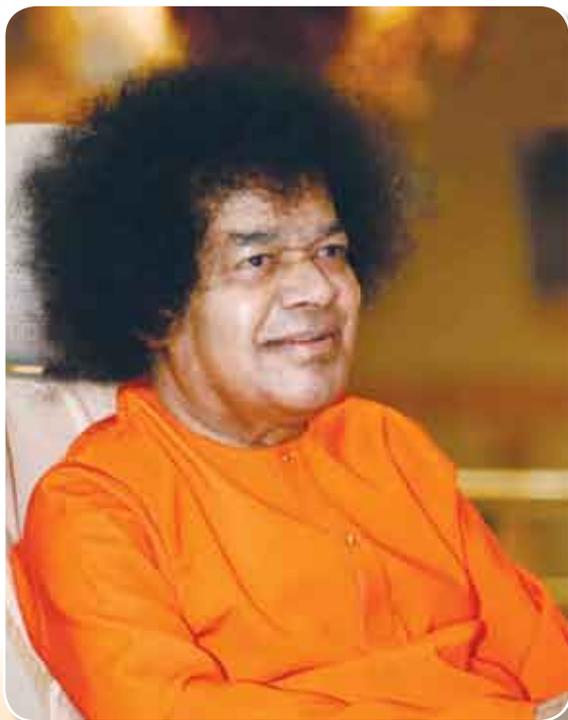
Today some people are making false propaganda that Sai Baba is converting all foreigners into Hindus. They are saying all this out of jealousy because Sai Baba has earned great name and fame. As their jealousy is on the rise, they are writing all sorts of trash in newspapers. We should ignore all this. With firm faith in our heart, we should pay no heed to all this considering it nonsense and should have no connection with it. We should think, "My mind is my witness. Whatever I do, it is for the good of others." If someone abuses you, you should think that he is abusing your body and not you. If he abuses you loudly, it will go into thin air. If he abuses you within himself, it will go back to him and will not come to

you. Hence, do not take it to heart. Keep your faith strong and steady. God is immanent in everyone. Names and forms may be different, but God is only one. He is present in all of you. All of you are the embodiments of divinity. Develop this strong conviction. Never observe the difference of high and low. All are one. Lead your life with firm faith in the Brotherhood of Man and Fatherhood of God.

Students! I wish that all of you get first class with good marks in your examinations.

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, "*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin ...*")

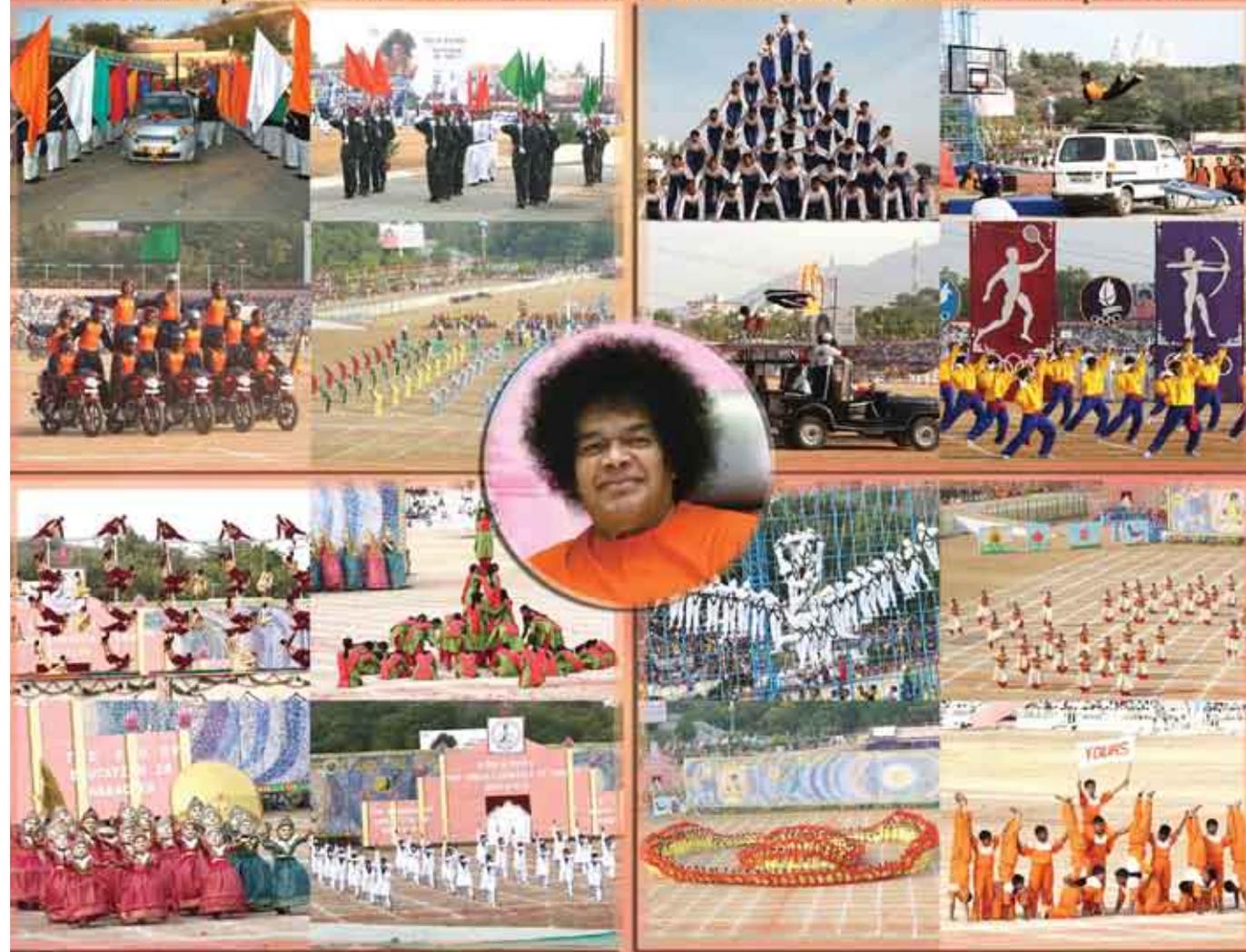
– From Bhagavan Sankranti Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 15th January 2007.



My acts are evidences of Divine power, signs and signals of Divinity. I am granting things out of Prema (love). My Prema will never diminish. I have no desire of any kind. I talk of love, I guide you along the path of love. I am Love.

– Baba

# Annual Sports and Cultural Meet of SSSIHL, 12th January 2007



# SPECTACULAR SHOW OF COURAGE, CONFIDENCE AND SKILL

**T**HE STUDENTS OF SRI SATHYA Sai Institute of Higher Learning displayed extraordinary courage, confidence and skill in the Annual Sports and Cultural Meet of the Institute held on 12th January 2007 in Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium, Prasanthi Nilayam. Huge crowds thronged the stadium to witness this grand annual event of the Institute.

## Inaugural Ceremony

On the morning of 12th January, the Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba came to the stadium at 7.20 a.m. As Bhagavan's car entered the northern end of the stadium, the motorbike escorts of all the three campuses of the Institute, the slow march squad with flags, the brass band of Anantapur college girls and richly caparisoned Sai Geeta, the dear elephant of Bhagavan, led Him towards the Santhi Vedika, the beautifully decorated dais, from where Bhagavan was to witness the sports and cultural events. As this grand procession proceeded towards the Santhi Vedika, the slow march squad made a canopy of flags in honour of their Beloved Chancellor. When the procession neared the Santhi Vedika, the brass band of the Prasanthi Nilayam campus of the Institute also joined it. On reaching Santhi Vedika, Bhagavan was offered a reverential welcome by the Vice Chancellor and senior staff members of the Institute. At 7.25 a.m., Bhagavan lighted the sacred lamp placed on the dais to inaugurate this grand event of the Institute.

The first item of the programme was the March Past which began at 7.30 a.m. The contingents of all the campuses of Institute



*Contingents of various institutions participated in the March Past and offered salutations to the Revered Chancellor of the Institute at Santhi Vedika.*

marched smartly in their colourful costumes and offered their salutations to the Revered Chancellor at the Santhi Vedika. The brass band of the Prasanthi Nilayam campus of the Institute provided the marching tunes. After the March Past, the Institute flag was ceremoniously hoisted by Bhagavan at 7.45 a.m. Thereafter, the traditional oath was administered to all the participants in the sports and cultural events. Bhagavan then lighted the sports torch and released balloons and white pigeons. The torch was carried to the base of the Vidyagiri hill, from where a mascot in the shape of a white dove carried it to the top of the hill and lit the Sports Urn.

## Sports Events of the Brindavan Campus

The first institution to display its sports events was the Brindavan campus of the Institute. Their first item was solo flights of



*A para glider of Brindavan campus of the Institute displaying his daring feats over Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium.*

two para gliders. After making several rounds of the stadium, the gliders made a perfect landing to the delight of all spectators. The Revered Chancellor blessed both of them with a trophy each after their successful display. The second item of this campus was



*The viewers held their breath when two motor-bike riders of Brindavan campus performed ramp jump over a number of students.*

motorbike stunts, which the students displayed with utmost skill and confidence. They made a number of formations on their motorbikes, but their daredevilry was witnessed in ramp jumps. The spectators held their breath as these daredevils performed them with utmost perfection. The last item of the Brindavan campus was based on the axiom given by Bhagavan: Life is a Game, Play it; Life is a Dream, Realise it; Life is a Challenge, Meet it. The students brought forth the essence of the philosophy of life by displaying the game of cricket to the tune of a thematic song played on the P.A. system. After concluding their sports events successfully, all the participants came in front of Santhi Vedika, and offered their respectful salutations to Bhagavan while a sweet song of salutations "Dil Se Tere Liye" was played on the P.A. system.

## Sports Events of Higher Secondary School and Prasanthi Nilayam Campus

The display of the Prasanthi Nilayam students opened with a dance to the tune of Stotras (sacred hymns) in praise of Lord Ganesh. While the Stotras were played on the P.A. system, a huge idol of Lord Ganesh



*Magnificent display of gymnastics in front of Santhi Vedika by Prasanthi Nilayam students.*





*A display of Chinese martial art by the students of Prasanthi Nilayam.*

was brought in the performing area. What followed this were wonderful feats of dexterity and lightening quick reflexes of the students in their various sports events which included somersaults, gymnastics, Chinese martial art and the martial art of Punjab. One of the most delightful events of these students was the basketball game combined with wonderful feats of gymnastics. But their most stunning event was display of somersaults on two moving jeeps, particularly when they crossed from one jeep to another through fiery rings. Their carabining events from the Vidyagiri hill displayed their courage and confidence.



*Combining basketball with wonderful feats of gymnastics provided fun and mirth to viewers.*

At the end of this grand display, they made a beautiful formation in front of Santhi Vedika and offered their reverential Pranams to Bhagavan. The morning programme came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.25 a.m.

### **Sports Events of Primary School and Anantapur Campus**

On the afternoon of 12th January, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam were the first to make their spectacular presentation. In accordance with the theme of their presentation "The Creator



*Colourful display of peacock dance by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam.*



*An attractive formation made by the girl students of Prasanthi Nilayam.*





*The students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School, Prasanthi Nilayam displaying their skill and balance on poles.*

and the Creation”, they danced to the tunes of sweet songs in praise of the Creator and showed colourful scenes of Nature. Their dances with replicas of flowers and peacock dance were simply marvellous. The dances were interspersed with daring gymnastic and acrobatic feats on five poles by the boys of the Primary School. At the end of their presentation, they came before Santhi Vedika, made a beautiful formation, paid their reverence to Bhagavan and released bunches of balloons while a sweet devotional song was played on the P.A. system.

Last but not the least was the presentation made by the students of the Anantapur campus of the Institute. The theme of their presentation was the system of integral education given by the Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Showcasing all aspects of this system of education with their presentation along with an appropriate commentary, the students showed how this system helped in the physical, ethical, moral



*Anantapur campus students showing their wonderful feats on a skating ramp.*

and spiritual development of the students. Their sports items which illustrated this theme included wonderful feats on a skating ramp ingeniously devised by combining two lorries



*A balancing act. The students of Anantapur campus display their courage, confidence and skill in one of their sports items.*

and Yogasanas with total perfection. Their cultural items comprised dancing dolls and dance in the form of the game of badminton. At the end of their presentation, the students came in front of Santhi Vedika and offered their Pranams to Bhagavan.

This spectacular show of sports and cultural events came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.40 p.m.



# IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS, LIGHT PERSISTS

G. Venkataraman

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*Perhaps the most important institution that Swami founded for the propagation of His Divine Message was “Sanathana Sarathi”. Established primarily to carry the text of Swami’s Divine Discourses, this incredible “magazine” [limitations of language compel me to use a rather prosaic word for which I apologise!] has literally been a lifeline to hundreds of thousands all over the world.*

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**N**EARLY SEVENTY YEARS AGO, IN the course of a spiritual message to the world that he recorded then, Mahatma Gandhi declared: “In the midst of untruth, Truth persists and in the midst of darkness, Light persists.” It is a blessing for me to have the opportunity to offer my humble tribute to “Sanathana Sarathi” as it crosses an important milestone, having served for decades as a Divine Lighthouse, illumining an otherwise [spiritually] dark world.

## **A Lifeline to Modern Man**

We all take “Sanathana Sarathi” so very much for granted. But, do we ever take a minute off to appreciate what a remarkable magazine it is and what wonderful and yeoman service it has done? This is not the first time God has come down donning a human form. However, when He incarnated as Rama, He did not write down anything. Whatever lessons He had to give man, He did so entirely through His life. If we have the priceless legacy of the Ramayana, which documents Rama’s Message as exemplified by His life, we owe

it entirely to Sage Valmiki. When God came down again as Sri Krishna, He not only lived His Message but also communicated it orally to man. This time, it was Sage Vyasa who bequeathed that legacy to posterity.

In the Kali Yuga, the Lord, having come down as Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, is once again teaching us the lessons He had imparted earlier but which we have chosen to forget. As in earlier times, the Avatar continues to make His life a shining example of His Message. However, finding that this is not enough, He has also been explicitly telling us, “My Life is My Message,” adding, “Soon, your life must become My Message.”

Swami has not stopped with these measures. Fully aware of the effects of the Kali Age, He has also taken a few steps not adopted in earlier incarnations. Taking full advantage of technology, Swami, especially in the early days, travelled to many places addressing audiences everywhere. From the sixties, recordings of these precious Divine Discourses have been made, and slowly, we are beginning to have an archive of these.



Perhaps the most important institution that Swami founded for the propagation of His Divine Message was “Sanathana Sarathi”. Established primarily to carry the text of Swami’s Divine Discourses, this incredible “magazine” [limitations of language compel me to use a rather prosaic word for which I apologise!] has literally been a lifeline to hundreds of thousands all over the world. Rama did not have such a magazine nor did Krishna; the world was not ready for that. But in this Kali Age, Swami showed how technology could be a blessing if used for the right purpose. This, according to me, is one of the unstated lessons of “Sanathana Sarathi” to today’s world, so absorbed in the “wonders” of the Internet, hailing it all the time a great miracle of technology.

I shall not dwell on the virtues of “Sanathana Sarathi”, for there are men far superior to me available to do that. But there are a few points that I would like to make regarding today’s situation, so that the glory of “Sanathana Sarathi” may be better understood. Thanks to my particular background, I can legitimately claim that I understand better than many the virtues and advantages of science and technology. That said, I should also point out how technology has become a serious detriment to the development of the human mind. For one thing, the so-called communication revolution of today has made people into restless robots.

Just look around. Even in the verandah I now find so many devotees with cell phones in their pockets that irritatingly buzz during Darshans. Many VIPs, while seated and awaiting the arrival of Swami, are busy clicking buttons, checking for messages and what not. Quite apart from the dilution of sanctity that this involves, excessive addiction to instant communication has led to a



*The point I am trying to make is that this tradition of purity of presentation was actually set a long time ago by “Sanathana Sarathi”. It is one of the few magazines that, I know, has not diluted its content with commercial content of any nature; which is the way spiritual literature and text must always be offered. And “Sanathana Sarathi” owes this holy tradition entirely to its founder, our Beloved Bhagavan. By the way, Swami not only founded the magazine but also filled so many of its pages by personally writing for it!*



new fashion. The top shots say: “If it is more than one page, I simply have no time to read. In any case, if it is more than one page, it cannot be important.”

I ask: Can we seriously believe this to be true? The Gita is more than one A4 page. Is it meaningless? If it is, then I wonder what people would say about Viveka Chudamani, which even in the good old days was heavy stuff! People today want everything including spirituality in “instant” form. Okay, then here it is: “Everything is God, including man. Man must understand that and live his life so that the divinity latent in him shines.” Are people ready to absorb that? They would scream saying it is too terse.

Even tech-savvy people know that it takes two years to get a basic degree in communication technology or business management. That being the case, is it reasonable to expect to absorb spirituality in a few quick minutes, as most of today’s impatient



generation seem to want to? Many may think I am being harsh or that I am making things up. Believe me, I am dead serious about what I am saying. I have seen many VIPs come here for Darshan, who carry with them a book on Swami. Curiously, it is the same book they bring every time. One might argue that they are simply squeezing these books dry; far from it; these are not profound books but routine Sai literature. The real point is that this is the only place where these Very Busy People find some time for reading!

### **Purity of Presentation**

These days, people seem to have all sorts of funny notions about spirituality. About two years ago, the Marketing Manager of a prominent TV Channel came to see me, seeking programmes that could be telecast over his Channel. He made a presentation that I had to patiently sit through. At the end of it all, he gave me “tips” on how to make programmes on spirituality acceptable to the viewing public. He said, “You know, attention spans wander very much and every ten minutes, the public need a break.” That was his way of staking a claim to introduce TV commercials! As if this was not enough, he advised me that the only way spirituality could be made “attractive” to today’s audiences was to mix it with entertainment. I of course did not fall for such gimmicks. For the record I might state that since then, we have broadcast many TV specials lasting one full hour WITHOUT any break and WITHOUT compromising in the least on the sanctity of the spiritual content; and devotees everywhere have heartily welcomed these presentations.

The point I am trying to make is that this tradition of purity of presentation was actually set a long time ago by “Sanathana Sarathi”. It is one of the few magazines that, I know, has not diluted its content with

commercial content of any nature; which is the way spiritual literature and text must always be offered. And “Sanathana Sarathi” owes this holy tradition entirely to its founder, our Beloved Bhagavan. By the way, Swami not only founded the magazine but also filled so many of its pages by personally writing for it!

God can do anything all by Himself, but in this drama called life, He prefers other actors too, human instruments. At this point, I cannot but refer to late Prof. Kasturi and late Sri V.K. Narasimhan who, through their monumental service, gave this divine magazine a unique flavour. When Prof. Kasturi held the stewardship, things were awfully difficult, since Puttaparthi was still very much a village. He had to struggle hard, something we today would hardly care to do. But he did and that was entirely because of his devotion to Swami.

### **Lighthouse to the Spiritually Dark World**

One of the remarkable things that Kasturi did was to actually get Swami to write for “Sanathana Sarathi”, and thus the Vahini books that we all are familiar with actually appeared in this magazine in serial form. Imagine God Himself writing month after month! Kasturi managed that miracle, and let us at this moment, silently salute him.

For decades, “Sanathana Sarathi” has been the Lighthouse of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi and Prema, in a world that is otherwise spiritually dark. It is my good fortune to be able to offer this Divine Messenger my congratulations. While doing so, I note also that this magazine has meticulously been recording the events occurring at Prasanthi Nilayam over the years.

If one looks back, one would find a treasure house of early history of the Ashram. Based on this invaluable service that this magazine has performed, I would like to suggest that may be the current management



should seriously consider teaming up with, say, Swami's Institute, and commission an authentic history of Puttaparthi.

We have no authentic history of Ayodhya or of Mathura / Brindavan. But in the case of Puttaparthi that is possible since a few of the old

... *Continued from page 52*

At times I attempt to write, and sometimes, especially when it reads well, I think that I am doing the writing. This is no different than any of us getting caught up in our egos and forgetting the truth. Then Swami comes to correct, reminding us that He is the Eternal Charioteer, the precious outer form of our inner divine reality. It is only by surrendering to this truth and ridding ourselves of ego that we have a safe and happy journey. He helped me understand this point in a dream.

In February 2004, Swami told me to bring the "With Love Man Is God" book to Him when I was to see Him next in June. I had to work hard to get it ready for printing. In the flurry of activity, my ego began to take credit and lost sight of the fact that Swami, our higher reality, was really the writer.

timers are still around. So, even as it crosses an important milestone, I hope "Sanathana Sarathi" will continue to endear itself to its readers with new projects like collection of archival photos and documenting the history of this sacred place.

Soon thereafter, I had a very lovely visit from Swami in my dream. He approached me and I bowed before Him. Upon rising, I happily blurted out, "Swami, I am bringing You a book." Swami looked lovingly at me and softly said, "I am bringing *you* a book." What a wonderful reminder of Swami's place in our lives that it is He who brings us Truth when we are lost!

What grace to live our lives with Sai and to have His guiding word available to us! Let us rejoice in the luminous love of His word and thank Him for the light. And on your 50th Birthday, dear "Sanathana Sarathi", we thank Swami for having chosen you to be such a bright beacon encouraging us along His path. Happy, happy birthday "Sanathana Sarathi", you have made us very, very happy.

**SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER MEDICAL SCIENCES,  
Prasanthigram, Anantapur Dist. Andhra Pradesh, Pin - 515 134.**

Applications are invited for the posts of computer data entry clerks for working in our hospital management system.

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(iv) (a) Good command over written and spoken English.  
(b) Spoken Telugu desirable.

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- Director

# HUMAN BEINGS SHOULD DEVELOP HUMAN QUALITIES

***How can a person without purity of mind realise the Self? Total purity is essential for self-realisation. What more is there to say on this subject?***

(Telugu Poem)

**E**VERYTHING IS CONTAINED IN the purity of the mind. (Bhagavan pointing at a bouquet) This is a bouquet of flowers. Though the bouquet is one, there are many flowers in it. Similarly, the world is one, though it appears to be a conglomeration of many individuals. All should be one like a bouquet of flowers. This world, constituted by five elements, is one only. There is nothing like "I am Deva (God)" and "You are Jiva (individual)." You and I are one only. There is no difference. But you perceive diversity in this unity.

## **Gunas Cast Effect on Man**

### *Embodiments of Love!*

Love is one. It is the same in everyone. However, it assumes many forms depending upon the Gati, Mati and Sthiti (destiny, mind and position) of each individual. A small child is called a baby. When she grows up, she is called a girl. After her marriage, she is referred to as a daughter-in-law. When she has children, she is called a mother. After the passage of a number of years, she becomes a grandmother. But the person referred to by all these names is one only. Isn't it? In the same way, all are one in this world. Jesus taught, "All are one; be alike to everyone." We should love all. We should draw everyone close to us. In fact, that is My way. However,

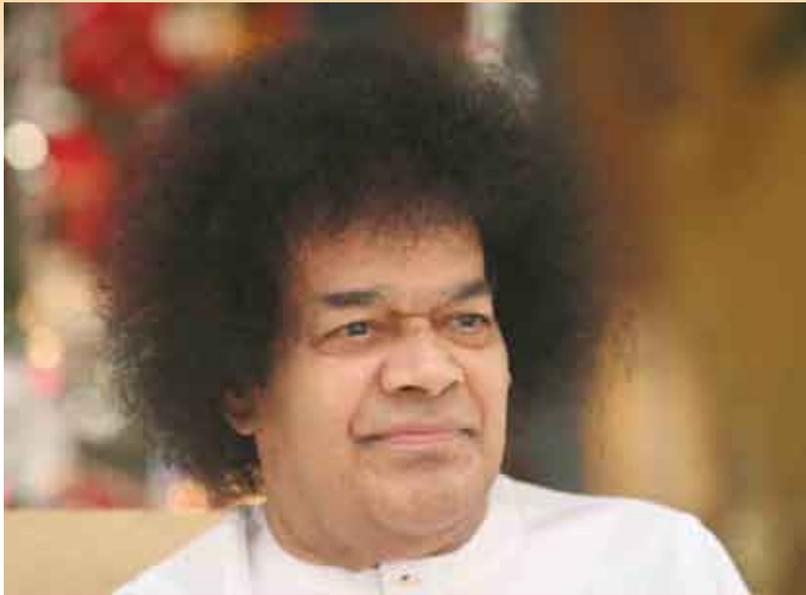
some people may not agree with you. It is due to their circumstances and state of mind. This, in fact, is the reflection of their feelings. Depending upon feelings, people look at Baba in many different forms. When someone calls Me 'Thatha' (grandfather), I appear before him in that form. Some others may call Me 'Nanna', so, I appear before them as father. Yet some others may call Me 'Swami', hence, they will see Me as Swami. God assumes the name and form by which man calls Him.

Many changes have occurred in the thinking of man in this Kali Yuga. Even good appears



***Truth, righteousness, peace, love and non-violence are the five human values to be cultivated by a human being. You should learn all about these human values and put them into practice. Then your journey of life will surely become smooth and peaceful. This is My main message to you today. Truth is eternal. It is only when you follow this eternal truth that your name will remain in the annals of history forever. Eternal truth will earn eternal peace for you.***





*After My return from the East African tour, I tried to explain the intense love that existed between the animals of those parts. If the animals could have such intense love, why not human beings? The animals have no Prajnana (divine wisdom), Vijnana (discriminatory intellect) and Sujnana (higher level of consciousness). But human beings are endowed with all these. They also study a number of texts. Yet they are bereft of even an iota of love. Therefore, oh human beings! I wish that you have love for each other. Love All, Serve All. This is My exhortation to you. If you have love, you can achieve anything.*



a friend. Before marriage, you call someone as college girl. You call the same girl your wife after her marriage with you. The wife of today and college girl of yesterday, is she not one and the same person? In this way, man develops many types of relationships on the basis of name and form. In fact, it is the heart of man that is basic cause for so many changes that appear to occur in this world. By observing this, you may think that it is God who brings about these changes. But God does not do any such thing; He is not responsible for these changes. God is like milk. If you add milk to decoction, it becomes coffee. The same milk makes Payasam (sweet rice pudding) also. The changes that occur in man are the result of the Gunas (qualities) which cast an effect on him.

There are no blemishes in man; he is the embodiment of love. But at times, some bad qualities like anger, hatred, jealousy, ostentation, etc., overpower him. Similarly, there are good qualities inherent in him. These qualities affect his conduct and bring about good or bad changes in him. It is man alone who is affected by these qualities, not God. God is beyond all qualities. At a certain time, you may see a man full of anger.

to be bad to him. The same person has love for one and hatred for another; he opposes one and trusts another; he develops enmity with one and friendship with another. These feelings of enmity and friendship come from his own heart, not from outside. When you consider someone as your enemy, he becomes so. On the other hand, when you consider someone as your friend, he becomes

The same man may express intense



love at another time. In the beginning, Paul was inimical towards Jesus. The same Paul became a great devotee later. The qualities in man bring about all sorts of changes in him. For example, this African (Bhagavan referred to the speaker who spoke before Him) has been loving and worshipping Me since his childhood. I told him that he was quite young in age and therefore should return to his country. Accordingly, he returned to his country. But there was no change in him whatsoever even when he went back; he constantly kept praying to Me, saying, "Baba, Baba."

### **Deep Devotion of the People of East Africa**

When I went on a tour of East Africa, a large number of people of those countries came for My Darshan. All of them prayed, "Swami, please stay with us." Hundreds of children also came with them. All of them had their eyes fixed on Me. You know Amin who was at that time the commander-in-chief of Uganda. He also looked at Me with great love and devotion. He used to come for My Darshan both in the morning and evening. He was young and highly educated. He was very tall and hefty, and had a number of wives. In comparison to his giant form, I was very short in size like a deer by the side of a camel. People were surprised at his love and devotion towards Swami. At the time of My return from Africa, he shed copious tears and said, "Swami, I have never shed tears since my birth. But I am feeling very sad today at the time of separation from You." Saying this, he covered his face with a handkerchief to hide his tears from others. You know that Africans are physically very strong. While expressing thanks to Me, Amin fell at My feet and caught hold of My hand firmly. His hand was very strong and he held My hand so tight that it later became difficult for Me to climb

the ladder for boarding the aeroplane. At the time of My departure, he said to Me, "Swami! I will surely come to You and have Your Darshan shortly. Otherwise, You please visit our country again. I cannot bear the separation from You." But the situation in Uganda then was such that he could not leave the country. During My stay in Uganda, he invited Me to dinner in his house. To organise this, he came to the house of Dr. Patel to personally enquire about the arrangements to be made. He collected all information regarding what to do, how to do and what to serve. He bought brand new vessels from bazaar for cooking and also new utensils for serving food. When I visited his house for dinner, he introduced Me to his wives who stood in a row and greeted Me with veneration.

I stayed in East Africa for 15 days. On the tenth day was Guru Purnima. I had told the Mumbai devotees that I would return on Guru Purnima. But the Africans would not allow Me to leave. They shed tears, fell at My feet and prayed: "Bhagavan! Please spend this holy day with us." In answer to their prayers, I stayed with them on Guru Purnima. On that day, they wished to have photos with Me. I told them that they should silently pray in their hearts and their wish would be fulfilled. To their joy, all of them found a photo with Swami in their pocket. The devotion of the people of Africa cannot be described in words. Even now, I feel very happy when I think of their devotion. From Kampala, I went to Tanzania. There also, a large number of people came for My Darshan. Men and women in their traditional dresses danced in ecstasy to welcome Me.

On the day of My departure, a large number of people stood in front of the plane and pleaded with Me, "Swami! You should



not go from here. You must be here only.” How could I accede to their request? I had to leave. The pilots and other officers at the airport counselled them, saying, “You should not obstruct Swami’s aircraft like this. This is not good.” They then moved away. I was observing all this from the window of the aircraft.

Finally, when the plane started to take off, many of them nearly fainted in grief. That scene is still fresh in My memory. During that trip, I visited three countries - Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. They are all neighbouring countries. I was very happy and felt deeply touched at the devotion of the people of Africa. At the time of My departure, they brought many gifts, and the entire plane was filled with their gifts. What were those gifts? They brought all sorts of articles like golden colour dinner sets and tea sets, etc. They are still with Me and are used when dignitaries like Prime Minister and Governors come here.

### **Intense Love of the Animals of East Africa**

The devotees of overseas countries have such great love for Swami. The devotees of East Africa were overjoyed at My visit to their countries. There itself I decided that I would not go to any other overseas country henceforth. Since then, I have not visited any other country. For My visit to East Africa also, there was a reason. Dr. Patel ardently prayed to Me, “Swami! Your visit is not merely for us. There are numerous animals in the wildlife sanctuaries of Africa. Kindly confer the good fortune of Your Darshan on them also and bless them.” When I went there, he procured small aeroplanes for our journey to wildlife habitats. He made such a good arrangement that only two people sat in each plane so that we might direct the plane to any direction we liked. Sitting

in those small aeroplanes, we saw a number of places. Lake Victoria is spread over a vast area. It took us an hour and a half to cross that lake by those aeroplanes. There were numerous crocodiles on the bank of this lake. Some of them were enormous in size. Unable to find enough space, they were lying on one another. They looked at us with jaws wide open when we moved in the lake in boats. We threw apples towards them. Surprisingly, they held those apples in their mouth without swallowing them till we returned from our boat ride. There were many hippopotamuses also in that lake. Some of them were suckling their babies. The entire scene filled one with bliss.

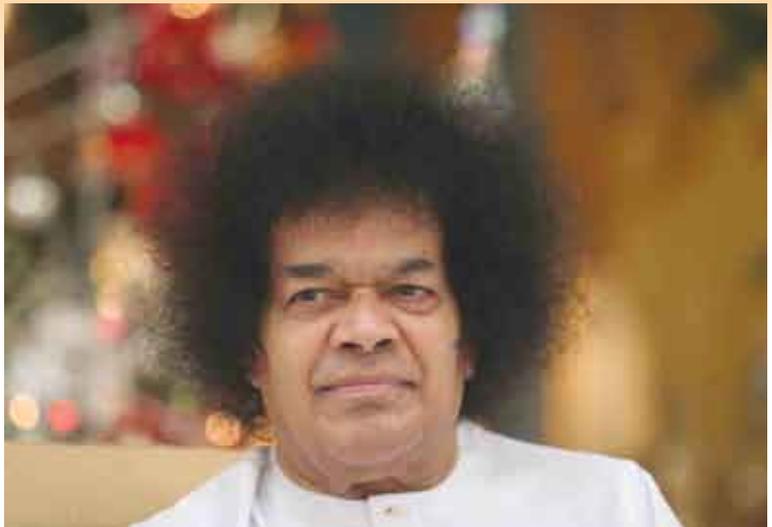
Animals also have desires like human beings. But the love they have is not present even in human beings. When we came to the bank of the lake, we saw hundreds of elephants moving about in herds. They had enormously big ears. If they moved them, its impact was great enough to make one fall. I went into their midst in My car. On seeing Me, all of them raised their trunks to offer their salutations to Me. We see many noble qualities in animals which are not found even in human beings. There is no feeling of hatred in them. They live together happily. Normally, an elephant fears a lion. But, there lions and elephants lived together happily. We climbed a small hillock. There we saw ten lions on a rock. Elephants were moving about near them. We went near the lions and took photographs. But they did not move from their places at all. They only watched us and kept suckling their young. It is only man who has all sorts of fears and apprehensions. But not even one wild animal displayed any fear on seeing us. Our jeep passed over the tails of the lions lying there.

But they did not react. On the other hand, they drew their tails near their mouth



and kissed them. On seeing the intensity of their love, it made Me sad to leave them. Such intense feeling of love is not seen in human beings today. They have only hatred for each other. Even the mother and child bear hatred against each other; the husband and wife hate each other. But we could not find even a trace of hatred in those wild animals. Rather, we found an intense feeling of love and equality in the animals of that region.

When I left East Africa, the agony of separation suffered by the people of those countries was indescribable. In fact, I also felt sad to leave those loving devotees. Our plane reached Mumbai very late. There, K.M. Munshi was waiting for us. Do you know who was Munshi? He was the founder of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. At that time, he could not raise his right hand due to some ailment. The moment I alighted from the plane, he could raise his hand. With boundless joy, he shouted, "Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Babaji Ki Jai"! All the people gathered there were surprised that Munshi could raise his hand. On My return from East Africa, a public reception was held at Dharmakshetra. A large number of people gathered there. Munshi presided over the function. He spoke very well on this occasion. He declared: "The formless Lord that could not be seen by man is today before you in human form whom you are seeing with your eyes and experiencing



*A human being should speak softly, sweetly and lovingly. Only then will he experience peace. When your conduct and speech are bad, how can you have peace? Peace is not to be found outside; it is within you. Outside, there are only pieces, not peace. You keep saying, "I want peace; I want peace." Let your conduct be good. Then, peace will flow from within you. Where from do you get truth? Can you attain truth by reading books? No! Truth is very much within you. Truth, righteousness, peace, love and non-violence are the natural qualities of a human being.*

bliss." He requested Me to stay in his house for three days. Acceding to his request, I stayed in his house for three days. For him, these three days passed like three seconds.

After My return from the East African tour, I tried to explain the intense love that existed between the animals of those parts. If the animals could have such intense love, why not human beings? The animals have no Prajnana (divine wisdom), Vijnana (discriminatory intellect) and Sujnana



(higher level of consciousness). But human beings are endowed with all these. They also study a number of texts. Yet they are bereft of even an iota of love. Therefore, oh human beings! I wish that you should have love for each other. *Love All, Serve All*. This is My exhortation to you. If you have love, you can achieve anything. Love is everything. Love is life; life is love. Life should be filled with love, not hatred. Today wherever you see, there is hatred, hatred, hatred. This is not good. Being born as human beings, it is not proper for you to leave your humanness and acquire animal qualities. In many ways, animals appear to be better than human beings; they seem to possess human qualities. Today animals appear to have more human qualities, and the humans are degenerating to the level of animals. Human beings should live like human beings. They should strengthen their human qualities.

### **Man should Put Human Values into Practice**

The African speaker who spoke a little while ago is engaged in propagating human values. Today the world is full of people. But persons imbued with human values are scarce. In fact, some people do not know how to talk nicely. If you ask them with love, "Sir! Where have you come from?", they will give a very curt reply, "I have come from somewhere." Whatever they talk, it is rough and tough. A human being should speak softly, sweetly and lovingly. Only then will he experience peace. When your conduct and speech are bad, how can you have peace? Peace is not to be found outside; it is within you. Outside, there are only pieces, not peace. You keep saying, "I want peace; I want peace." Let your conduct be good. Then, peace will flow from within you.

Wherefrom do you get truth? Can you attain truth by reading books? No! Truth is very much within you. Truth, righteousness, peace, love and non-violence are the natural qualities of a human being. Love is the very form of God. We can experience God's love only with our love. Love and peace are most essential for man. A millionaire can build many bungalows, purchase any number of cars and have all conveniences of life. But if you ask him, he will say that he has no peace. Of what use is all this wealth, comforts and conveniences if one has no mental peace? The other day, someone in Hyderabad bought a piece of land for forty crore rupees. Man wants to have more and more land. After all, how much land does a man need? In the end, one needs only six feet and no more.

A landlord started searching for more land to add to his existing land. Having come to know of his desire to purchase more land, someone advised him, "You should go to the Himalayan region where plenty of land is available at a cheap rate." Accordingly, this man went to the Himalayan region and met a person who wanted to sell his land. However, the seller set a condition and said, "I promise to give you all that land at the price of your liking which you cover by walking from sunrise to sunset." The landlord was very happy. Next morning, he got up early and set out on his venture with great enthusiasm. He began to run with a view to acquire more land. He ran continuously from morning till evening. It became dark. He felt very tired and weak; but he did not give up his greed. Just when he was at a distance of six feet from the target set by him, he felt giddy. His heart stopped and he fell down. People gathered around him.

One of them commented: "Alas! What



this man requires now is only six feet of land!" In fact, every human being requires only that much land.

After conquering many countries, Alexander came to Bharat. As he was crossing a river, he had a heart attack. The doctors who examined him declared that he was nearing his end and no medicine would be of any use. Alexander then lamented, "I am the emperor of such a vast empire. I have gold in plenty. I have a great army by my side. Is there no one who can save me from death?" Immediately, he called his ministers and told them, "Oh ministers! After my death, take my dead body to my country, wrap it in a white cloth, keeping my hands out of the bier with palms upturned, and carry it in a procession through every street." As per his wish, his dead body was taken in a procession through all the streets. The people were rather surprised at this strange act and asked the ministers, "Why are you keeping the hand of the emperor out of the bier with his palms upturned?" The ministers replied, "We are carrying this procession in this manner as per the emperor's last wish since he wanted the people to realise that a great emperor like Alexander was also going empty-handed from the world in the end." Not only Alexander, but every human being has ultimately to depart from this world empty-handed. One may acquire a vast kingdom, one may have a great army at his command, one may have a number of friends and relatives, but none will accompany one when one departs from this world.

Many kings and noble souls have been teaching this truth to people and exhorting them to give up body attachment. Unfortunately, you do not read the life stories of these great men. What you read today is not 'history', but that which causes a sort of 'hysteria'. No one is reading what is history in the real sense of the term. His story is history! Man today is pursuing high education. He is learning science and technology. But today's 'technology' is mere 'trick-nology'. You cannot grasp what you read unless you put it into practice. Even if you put only one teaching into practice out of all that you read, it will be enough. That will help you in every way.

*Embodiments of Love! Dear Students!*

You may pursue any type of education, but do not forget the human values. Truth, righteousness, peace, love and non-violence are the five human values to be cultivated by a human being. You should learn all about these human values and put them into practice. Then your journey of life will surely become smooth and peaceful. This is My main message to you today. Truth is eternal. It is only when you follow this eternal truth that your name will remain in the annals of history forever. Eternal truth will earn eternal peace for you. If you succumb to bad qualities like anger, jealousy, envy, arrogance, etc., your entire life will be filled with unrest and agitation.

**– From Bhagavan's Christmas Message in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 25th December 2006.**

*One must travel beyond the limits set by mind and reason and reach the boundless expanse of the Absolute and the Eternal Atma.*

– Baba



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# A Link between Bhagavan and His Devotees

Phyllis Krystal

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As a single but very important vehicle to bring the many teachings of Bhagavan to more people in the world, “Sanathana Sarathi” supplies a valuable contribution to Baba’s Mission to lead the world into the Golden Age, which He assures us will not fail.

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**M**Y FIRST MEETING WITH Sri Sathya Sai Baba was in January 1973 and I have returned many times since then. I was first introduced to “Sanathana Sarathi” during that visit and have subscribed to it ever since. I have, therefore, been able to watch its growth and development over the years since that time. It has also been a great pleasure to have met the various editors who have been so dedicated in the important task of gathering and selecting the contents of this important source of information on the many aspects of Sathya Sai Baba’s worldwide mission.

For many devotees, especially those who have been unable to travel to India, it has provided a necessary link to Baba in His capacity as a world teacher. Without such a connection, many would not have had access to His many Discourses, each of which contains such valuable and timely lessons and messages for everyone.

In addition, it has provided an opportunity for many of His devotees to share their experiences of the many changes that have occurred in their lives after having come into contact with Baba and His Message. Such accounts encourage others to take advantage of His teachings in their own lives by demonstrating that such

miracles are indeed possible if the teachings are regularly applied in daily life.

As a single but very important vehicle to bring the many teachings of Bhagavan to more people in the world, “Sanathana Sarathi” supplies a valuable contribution to Baba’s Mission to lead the world into the Golden Age, which He assures us will not fail. So, thanks, in part, to “Sanathana Sarathi”, as more and more people are being given the opportunity of a lifetime to decide to become part of this mission, by applying the many simple but extremely effective teachings so clearly outlined and presented over so many years.

We all owe our thanks for the tireless efforts of all those devotees who have been responsible for its continuous publication and circulation, as well as to all those who have contributed articles and experiences that have encouraged others to follow their example by practising these simple but profound teachings which can change their lives from being ego-centered and controlled to being guided by Baba towards eventual enlightenment.

So, on this golden jubilee day of “Sanathana Sarathi”, let us all say a big Thank You for having had the opportunity to enjoy this magazine and the hope that it will continue to provide inspiration far into the future.



**L**ET ME AT THE VERY OUTSET make it known that what I mention here is in the capacity of a most humble instrument who, for some unknown reason, was blessed to witness the beginning of a great mission. The master plan of Bhagavan Baba is most unfathomable and inscrutable and the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle make a little sense to the limited human understanding only much later. It is only His Sankalpa that

house of Sri Savant and immediately retired to His room. We were told that once Swami retired, He would not come out. In spite of that, we decided to wait and go only after Swami's Darshan. There were many others who waited like us and continued singing Bhajans. It was a long wait. But merciful Lord came on the balcony of the house at 11.20 at night. It was pitch dark above. We could not see Swami. Swami spoke in English. He said, "It is very

*Smt. Ratan Lal*

## **HIS INDOMITABLE WILL, HIS HUMBLE INSTRUMENTS**

gives one not only the motivation at the heart level but also the understanding at the mind level and the energy to convert this motivation and understanding into action at the physical level.

It is important here to mention about my first coming to His Lotus Feet before I go to the main story. One day in June 1965, a Sai devotee informed me that Swami was coming to Mumbai. She also told that Swami would stay at the house of Sri P.K. Savant, a Minister of Maharashtra. Since my husband knew Sri Savant very well, we went to his house on 6th June 1964 for Swami's Darshan. We waited till evening but Swami did not come. At 8.30 p.m., someone said that Swami was not coming. So, many people started leaving. We also left Sri Savant's house. We had not gone much far when the news came that Swami had come. So, we turned back, but before we could reach there, Swami had entered the

late. Go to your houses. Come at 7 o'clock in the morning." That was our first Darshan of Bhagavan. This Darshan had such an impact on us that we became Bhagavan's devotees.

When we started coming to Parthi, it was nothing more than a village with few huts with no facilities whatsoever. But then, the grace that we received and the opportunities that we got were incomparable to even the nectar of heaven. Sri Ratan Lal was very well-read man and he and Prof. Kasturi would often exchange experiences and views about the Lord and His mission through books and magazines. Later, Sri Ratan Lal suggested printing of books containing nectarine Leelas and Discourses of Bhagavan in Mumbai. But the question that now arose was that there was need for an organisation to take delivery of the books and account for its sales, etc. So, Sri Ratan Lal proposed the setting up of Sri Sathya Sai Educational Foundation.



He discussed this with Prof. Kasturi, and both of them submitted this proposal to Bhagavan. After Bhagavan gave His gracious consent, the Foundation was formed which was later to become Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust. At that time, all Vahini books apart from many other books were being printed in various presses in Mumbai and were brought to Prasanthi Nilayam on important festivals like Dasara for the benefit of devotees.

Nevertheless, getting the books printed in Mumbai and bringing them to Prasanthi Nilayam was a very difficult job. Moreover, Prof. Kasturi found the coordination of printing work from Prasanthi Nilayam very difficult. It was due to these difficulties that Sri Ratan Lal wanted a press to be set up. But in the year 1970, he suffered a severe heart attack and was blessed with a new life through Divine intervention. After he recouped, we seriously started thinking of shifting to Bangalore. On hearing this, the Lord Himself got a little cottage built for us in the Ashram premises in 1971. By the grace of the Lord, in the year 1972, the construction of a building for the press was started. After its completion, Bhagavan

*On this very important occasion, as I see the panoramic view of transformation of a little seed of "Sanathana Sarathi" into a grand Banyan tree under which lakhs are today taking shelter, my eyes well up with tears. I offer my most ardent prayers to my Beloved Lord to make "Sanathana Sarathi" grow from strength to strength and bring the entire humanity into His Divine fold. I also pray for those humble instruments who are putting His indomitable Will into action so very perfectly.*

inaugurated the press on 1st January 1973. A grand function was held on this occasion and lunch was served to all participants. It was named Vraja Brindavan Press.

The students who helped in the printing of "Sanathana Sarathi" at Prasanthi Nilayam came to Brindavan. But they had no experience of working on a cylinder printing press. So,



*Bhagavan inaugurating Vraja Brindavan Press at Whitefield, Bangalore on 1st January 1973.*



*Bhagavan inside Vraja Brindavan Press, seeing the functioning of the printing machine.*

we sent them for training to an HMT press in Bangalore. Since they had great devotion for Swami, they did a beautiful job of printing "Sanathana Sarathi" and other books. Lack of trained persons was not the only problem. Practically, nothing was available at Whitefield those days and procurement of all raw materials for the press was a herculean task. Bangalore, in fact, of those days was much different from what it is now. But in spite of all difficulties, besides "Sanathana Sarathi", we printed many books also like Gita Vahini, Chinna Katha and Summer Showers. The printing work went on from morning till evening. Sometimes, we worked in two or three shifts to complete urgent work. As the press was inside the Ashram itself, Swami often came out of His house and talked to the boys working there, taking personal interest in the working of the machines and guiding us out of His Divine compassion. Those moments when He bathed us in His motherly love rejuvenated us and filled us with great spirits, making us forget our faltering bodies. This noble work continued uninterrupted till 1985 when the machines were shifted to Prasanthi Nilayam.

In my long association with Bhagavan spanning over 40 years, my firm faith is that He knows everything what is happening even between the lines of the printed text and would

either directly or through inner promptings help us to offer these works at His Lotus Feet without mistakes. I used to tell Sri Ratan Lal, "Swami is all the time with us. There is not even one moment when He is not present. He is God." Bhagavan made me realise that He can turn earth into sky and sky into earth, and that He can do anything.

I look back to these 40 years as the golden period of my life. Both my husband and I have basked in His Divine Radiance. My husband merged with Bhagavan last year. Wherever the Lord is, that is the holiest place reverberating with Divine vibrations. What more can one want in life than to be close to the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan? I only wish that we should all be worthy of His grace. We should do whatever He wishes and follow His commands.

On this very important occasion, as I see the panoramic view of transformation of a little seed of "Sanathana Sarathi" into a grand Banyan tree under which lakhs are today taking shelter, my eyes well up with tears. I offer my most ardent prayers to my Beloved Lord to make "Sanathana Sarathi" grow from strength to strength and bring the entire humanity into His Divine fold. I also pray for those humble instruments who are putting His indomitable Will into action so very perfectly.

## NOTICE

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram needs full time volunteers to work as Interpreters to provide better patient care. We are in need of volunteers who can interpret Telugu / Tamil / Malayalam to English.

Persons who are desirous to offer their services may contact Director, SSSIHMS - PG along with their brief Bio data and latest passport size photograph.

*Director*



# ETERNAL CHARIOTEER OF MANKIND

Barbara Bozzani

Robert A. Bozzani

**W**E WISH TO CONGRATULATE “Sanathana Sarathi” on its golden jubilee for being such a wonderful guide to the devotees of our Beloved Lord, Sathya Sai Baba. We give our loving gratitude to Sai for the existence of the magazine.

It was in February of 1974 that we became aware of “Sanathana Sarathi”. Our arrival at Prasanthi Nilayam was the first experience in visiting India and an Ashram. We had no idea what to expect. It was Bob’s intention to just leave his wife, Barbara, at the Ashram of Sathya Sai Baba and then do some travelling in exotic India. However, that was not the Divine plan. We arrived late in the evening; so it was necessary that we stay the night. To our surprise, the next morning Baba invited the group we were travelling with into the Mandir, found Barbara and announced, “Sathya Sai Baba is God”, and “You are staying”.

We stayed about two weeks, enjoying Darshan, getting used to the food and accommodation, sitting on the sand with a few others waiting for Swami. We were privileged to have an interview, and as it is said: Swami first captured our hearts. Later, one becomes eager to learn more about His teachings. By so doing, we became very devoted to Him, and now we wish to please Him by putting His teachings into practice.

With our enthusiasm and devotion beginning to blossom, we were eager to find out as much as possible about Sathya Sai

Baba, His teachings, and what was going on at the Ashram. Only a few books were available during those years, but we eagerly found what we could and began to read them. Someone mentioned to us that there was a magazine entitled “Sanathana Sarathi” available; so we immediately became subscribers.



*It has been a joy to watch the magazine evolve into such a beautiful periodical, carrying the words and activities of our Beloved Lord to all parts of the world. For us and for millions of devotees throughout the world, it has the very important role of spreading Swami’s Message; reminding us of His Love, encouraging us to find out who we really are, and Sathya Sai Baba being the “Eternal Charioteer”.*



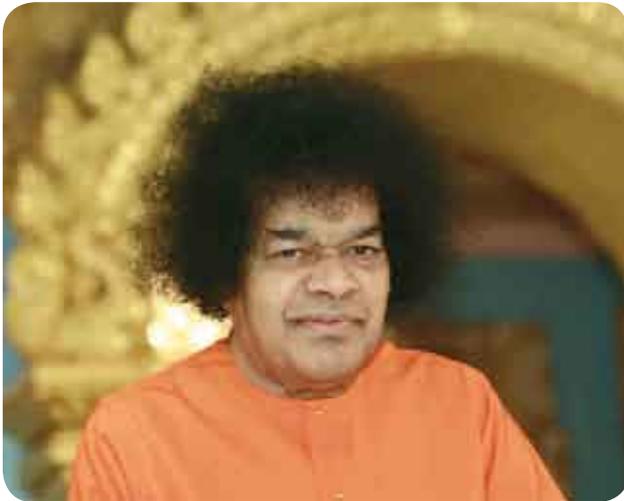
We have fond memories of those years with Swami, and the magazine. We came to realise what devoted workers there were in order that the magazine would be published and delivered on time. One such memory is of an elderly man who so meticulously cared

for the subscription list. He would look up our subscriptions and check the proper dates – he never made a mistake. As we had moved a few times during those years, we always stopped in his office with our change of address. Bob and Barbara were in awe and somewhat amused as he reached up to the top of a metal cabinet to get just the correct subscription book, he would then blow the dust off the book and always found our name and promptly changed the address without missing a beat. It wasn't until many years later that the subscriptions were transferred to computers, and for the first time there were some mistakes in keeping the records in order. We also remember visiting Brindavan and finding a building in the back of the compound where the printing press was kept. The printing of "Sanathana Sarathi" was in this small building for many years. It was there that we noticed, again an elderly gentleman

working so carefully setting the type by hand. Each letter of each word was carefully placed in preparation for the final printing. That process took many hours and even many days.

We mention these experiences as it has been a joy to watch the magazine evolve into such a beautiful periodical, carrying the words and activities of our Beloved Lord to all parts of the world. For us and for millions of devotees throughout the world, it has the very important role of spreading Swami's Message; reminding us of His Love, encouraging us to find out who we really are, and Sathya Sai Baba being the "Eternal Charioteer".

We wish to thank all the editors of "Sanathana Sarathi", past and present, for their dedicated service to Sathya Sai Baba and His devotees for the existence and constant improvement of this wonderful periodical.



Make Me your Charioteer! Take hold of the unique chance. Ask Me about the Sadhana which can grant you liberation. For later, it will be difficult for you to approach Me. Flood-streams of people are coming to Me from all quarters. This Divine Phenomenon is bound to grow into a Viswa Vriksha (a world-tree that provides shade and shelter for all humanity). This

has come down in this Form for that very purpose. It knows no hesitation, no halting. My name is Sathya (truth); My teaching is truth; My path is truth; I am

– *Baba*



# CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

**T**HE HOLY FESTIVAL OF SANKRANTI and the Valedictory Function of the Annual Sports and Cultural Meet 2007 of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning were celebrated together on 15th January 2007 in the Divine Presence of the Revered Chancellor of the Institute, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The venue of the celebrations, Sai Kulwant Hall, was appropriately decorated for these twin celebrations.

## Valedictory Function of Sports Meet and Sankranti Festival

On the morning of 15th January 2007, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall in a grand procession led by the flag bearers squad of captain of various sports events and the brass band of the Prasanthi Nilayam campus of the Institute. After showering the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the huge gathering of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall, Bhagavan came to the dais and inaugurated the function by lighting the sacred lamp at 8.00 a.m. Bhagavan also blessed the prizes and trophies displayed on the dais for awarding to winners of various sports events.

Two distinguished speakers addressed the gathering before the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan on this important and holy occasion. The first

speaker was Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak, Vice Chancellor of the Institute. Sri Gokak dwelt upon the spiritual significance of sports and provided deep insights into the integral system of education adopted by the Institute under the Divine direction of its Revered Chancellor, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Referring to sports events held a few days ago, the second speaker, Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor of the Institute, remarked that sports events of the Institute showcased the triumph of cooperation in which each and every participant did his/her best to please Bhagavan. Commenting on the drama "Bhakta Prahlada" performed by the students of Brindavan campus of the Institute on the previous day, the distinguished speaker observed that the story of Prahlada gave the valuable message of Namasmara (chanting the name of God) as the sure way to save mankind from the demonic forces of terror, cruelty and disaster represented by Hiranyakasipu.



*The students of Sri Sathya Sai Primary School receiving a trophy from Bhagavan's Divine Hands on 15th January 2007.*

At the end of these speeches, Bhagavan distributed trophies to the winning teams of various institutions and blessed the medals and certificates for distribution to winners of individual sports events. After this, Bhagavan blessed the audience with His Divine Message (given

elsewhere) exhorting the devotees to make their thoughts, words and deeds pure and sacred in order to attain divinity which was the objective of man's life. The programme came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.05 a.m.

### **Bhakta Prahlada: A Drama**

This breathtakingly beautiful drama was enacted by the students of Brindavan campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 14th



*Man can overcome all ordeals with the power of Namasmarana. This was the central message of the drama "Bhakta Prahlada" presented by the students of Brindavan campus of the Institute on 14th January 2007.*

January 2007. The drama powerfully depicted how power and pride have a blinding effect on the human mind and make him a demon like HIRANYAKASIPU while Namasmarana and devotion to God lead him to the path of salvation and liberation as shown in the character of Prahlada. Excellent script, succinct dialogues, perfect choreography, beautiful lyrics, sweet music and superb acting of the students made it one of the most outstanding dramas enacted at Prasanthi Nilayam in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Bhagavan blessed the students

at the end of the drama and posed for group photos with them. He also materialised a gold chain for the student who played the role of Prahlada.

### **Sri Krishna Rayabaram: A Drama**

The great epic of Mahabharata came alive in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam when the postgraduate students of Prasanthi Nilayam campus of the Institute presented the drama "Sri Krishna Rayabaram" (Krishna's peace mission) on the afternoon of 15th January 2007, the auspicious day of Sankranti. Through a few selected episodes from the Mahabharata mainly relating to Krishna's mission of peace in the court of the Kauravas, the drama provided deep insights into the working of the human mind which is tossed between the forces of goodness and evil, and brings about destruction and disaster like the Mahabharata war if it is blinded by greed, jealousy, desire and attachment. It powerfully depicted how man could overcome the forces of evil and destruction by cultivating virtues and adopting Godward path. Powerful dialogues, superb acting of the students, sweet Telugu lyrics and perfect direction made the drama a memorable presentation. Bhagavan blessed the students at the conclusion of the drama and provided them the coveted opportunity of group photos with Him.



*A scene from the drama "Sri Krishna Rayabaram" depicting the deliberations in the Kaurava court.*



## REDEEMING MESSAGE OF SANATHANA SARATHI

**T**HE LAUNCHING OF “SANATHANA Sarathi” was an important step in the Divine Mission of Bhagavan. In one of the messages given to the magazine, Baba proclaimed, “I am Sathyasya Sathya, the Truth of truths! Why has the Truth made its Advent on earth in human form? The answer is to plant in the heart of man the yearning for Truth, to place man on the road to Truth, to help man reach Truth by loving instruction and by the final gift of illumination.” Thus, “Sanathana Sarathi” has been the gift-pack of instruction and illumination from Bhagavan to mankind. The name – Sanathana Sarathi – itself is significant, for it reveals to the world, who Sri Sathya Sai is – the eternal indweller in the heart of every being, manifest in human form to lead mankind to the eternal glory of the Divine.

### A Ray of Divine Splendour

The magazine symbolises the clarion call of the Sai Avatar to human race to redeem itself from the morass of misery and violence, in which it finds itself

today, by taking to the spiritual path. The Avatar has made His Advent on the world scene at a time when man is at loggerheads with himself, with his fellow beings and with Mother Nature. This conflict has been brought about by his fatal choice of materials over men and God, mesmerised as he is by the snares of sensual enjoyment made available in plenty by the rapidly advancing science and technology in modern times. The gross and the vulgar have made him forget the subtle. Thus, the problems of modern man are not material but spiritual; therefore, the solutions should also be spiritual. The message of the Avatar – “Sanathana Sarathi” - is the panacea for all the ills that afflict mankind today.

“Sanathana Sarathi” is not only taking the redeeming message of the Avatar to mankind, but it is also portraying the bewitching splendour of the Avatar and His myriad facets in the form

of His captivating Leelas, Mahimas and Upadesh, and His astounding activities and achievements. In a sense, it is taking the Avatar itself to the portals of mankind and is exhorting it to take to the path of redemption. It is not easy for modern man to turn away from the charms of material enjoyment and take to the path of truth. It is only the beauty of the Creator that can deflect man’s attention from the snaring charms

***Anyone who reads “Sanathana Sarathi” regularly with sincerity and devotion gets a glimpse of the divine life and actions of the Poornavatar (incarnation of God in His full glory), Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Another Poornavatar Lord Krishna, who trod the earth five thousand years ago, declared, “Oh Arjuna, he who knows My divine life and actions in true light, having dropped the body, comes not to birth again, but comes unto Me!” Thus, “Sanathana Sarathi” helps man to attain the ultimate goal of life by bestowing upon him an understanding of the exalted life and activity of the Avatar.***

of His creation. “Sanathana Sarathi”, the magazine, is in itself a ray of the splendour of the Avatar who is the embodiment of Sathyam, Sivam, Sundaram (Truth, Goodness, Beauty). The magazine is a carrier of Bhagavan’s love and benediction to His devotees. In the words of Prof. N. Kasturi, who was chosen by Him as the first editor of “Sanathana Sarathi”: “The magazine was received as Prasadam by devotees; the postman who delivered it was gratefully welcomed and thanked in profusion; it was placed in the altar before Bhagavan’s portrait and read with reverence.”

### **A Glimpse of Divine Mystery of the Avatar**

Anyone who reads “Sanathana Sarathi” regularly with sincerity and devotion gets a glimpse of the divine life and actions of the Poornavatar (incarnation of God in His full glory), Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Another Poornavatar Lord Krishna, who trod the earth five thousand years ago, declared, “Oh Arjuna, he who knows My divine life and actions in true light, having dropped the body, comes not to birth again, but comes unto Me!” Thus, “Sanathana Sarathi” helps man to attain the ultimate goal of life by bestowing upon him an understanding of the exalted life and activity of the Avatar. Let me quote at this juncture the reply of Bhagavan to a question of mine which is relevant for anyone who wants to catch a glimpse of the mystery of the Sai Avatar. Seeing the great concern of Bhagavan for one of His devotees, I once submitted at His Lotus Feet, “Swami, how much care You take for the well-being of Your devotees!” Baba looked at me very tenderly, put His right hand on His chest and said in Telugu, “*Enta Maatramuna Evvaru Talachite Anta Maatrame Nenu!*” meaning, “I am to you what you think Me to be!” A statement of this kind is not made even in a millennium!

***“Sanathana Sarathi” is not only taking the redeeming message of the Avatar to mankind, but it is also portraying the bewitching splendour of the Avatar and His myriad facets in the form of His captivating Leelas, Mahimas and Upadesh, and His astounding activities and achievements. In a sense, it is taking the Avatar itself to the portals of mankind and is exhorting it to take to the path of redemption.***

In that revelation, which only an Avatar can make, Baba had slightly modified a beautiful sentence addressed to Lord Venkateswara by the great devotee, Annamacharya – “*Enta Maatramuna Evvaru Talachite Anta Maatrame Neevu!*” meaning, “You are to us what we think You to be!”

As revealed by Bhagavan Himself, He is to us what we think of Him to be, and what we think of Him becomes more and more sublime when we contemplate on the contents of “Sanathana Sarathi” with devotion. Dilating on the significance of the magazine to the world, Prof. Kasturi wrote, “Its name is a clarion call. It is the conch of Vishnu, awakening the sleeping. It is the drum of Siva challenging the unruly to shed their waywardness. The name announces to the world that Baba is the Omni Will, which is moulding and manipulating, since Time began, the wills of living beings from the amoeba to the astronaut. ‘Recognise God as the Sarathi, yield wholeheartedly to His direction and reach your Destination in good shape’, is the message that He is conveying through that name!”



# BHAGAVAN'S CLARION CALL TO MANKIND

*Anil Kumar Kamaraju*

*In the field of education, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba occupies the foremost place in history among pioneering innovators. There is an urgent need to relate Swami's message on right living and various aspects of everyday life to trends in contemporary society and arrive at an overview and synthesis.*

**F**ILLING THE HEARTS OF A HOST  
of devotees  
With his sweet language and  
melodious voice  
Enshrining in plain speech the subtlest  
Dharmas,  
Sai ever speaks in the most laudable vein.  
(Telugu Poem)

As Bhagavan Himself declares in His poem quoted above, His Discourses offer, at one and the same time, solace, peace and joy to millions of people. There is absolutely no room for confusion. Whatever may be the topic, His Divine Discourses proceed in a simple, straightforward and pleasing style, driving home the point in the fittest and most agreeable manner. Sweet language and melodious voice commingle and gladden the hearts of multitudes of devotees. Elucidating subtle truth is Swami's uniqueness and His focus.

## Uniqueness of Bhagavan's Discourses

All speakers, whatever may be their status or experience, need to look up to Swami as their model. Such is the nectarine sweetness of Swami's recital that even great musicians feel like learning from our Revered Baba a lesson or two in singing softly and touching the hearts of people. Poets too are amazed at the vigour of Swami's language.

Curing us of our madness, our fascination for worldly entanglements, He inspires in us a sublime madness, turning our thoughts wholly towards God. Our Baba, accessible in no other way but total surrender, can reverse destiny.

*Swami explained long ago the manner of instruction appropriate for our time, pointing out aspects requiring special emphasis. He highlighted the truth about a vast range of issues concerning the individual, community, society, nation, world, politics, righteous conduct, moral codes and spirituality. "Sanathana Sarathi", the magazine started by Him 50 years ago, is the treasure trove of all the teachings of Bhagavan.*

Indeed, Sathya Sai's utterance is Truth. In tune with the most ancient lore and traditions, it is the distillation of the Vedas and the Upanishads, an epitome of the Puranas, and the essence of the entire body of Vedic Mantras. Pregnant with solemnity and sweetness, it moves the hearts of all men.

### **Bhagavan's Directives on Truth and Goodness**

Our Revered Baba's life itself is His message. That is why the whole world is attracted to Him. Undoubtedly, the upholding of ideals through exposition, practice and demonstration is the characteristic of the great and glorious Sai incarnation. Drawing a comparison with anyone is a mistake. Our Swami is unique, and has no equal. God is our Guru, our path and our goal. Therefore, we should be on our guard against the vagaries of the mind. God Himself is indeed showing us the ideal, reminding us about our duties and obligations, and giving Jnana through His nectarine instruction. Our Revered Baba's words are not mere talk, but golden words to be inscribed on our heart. Our Swami, the embodiment of Adhyatma Vidya (spiritual knowledge), is Dakshinamoorthy indeed. His teachings are meant, not for mere listening, but for putting into practice. They are not mere lectures, but blazing directives for a right lifestyle.

Swami explained long ago the manner of instruction appropriate for our time, pointing out aspects requiring special emphasis. He highlighted the truth about a vast range of issues concerning the individual, community, society, nation, world, politics, righteous conduct, moral codes and spirituality. "Sanathana Sarathi", the magazine started by Him 50 years ago, is the treasure trove of all the teachings of Bhagavan. Many more of His Discourses are yet to be published. His conversations with groups of foreigners abound in

numberless humorous anecdotes and witty remarks. Those too have to see the light of the day. Countless indeed are Swami's speeches and conversations with students over the years. These too are yet to be recorded and made accessible to one and all.

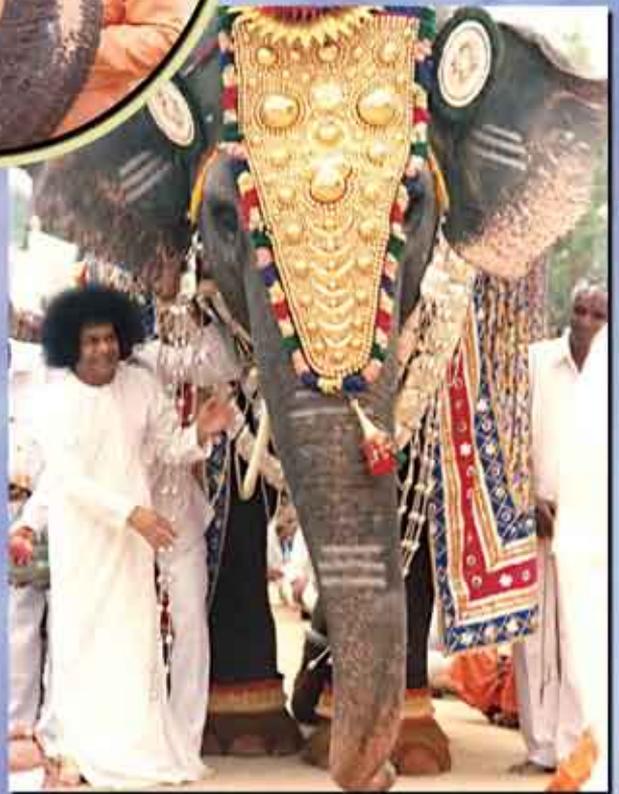
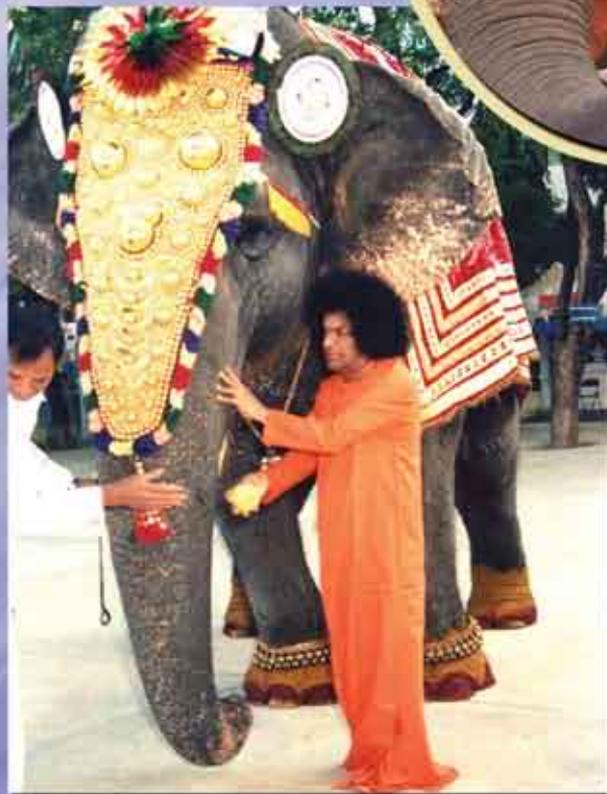
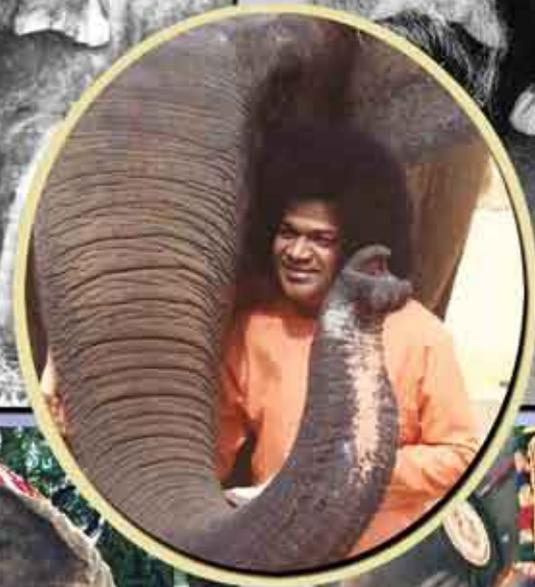
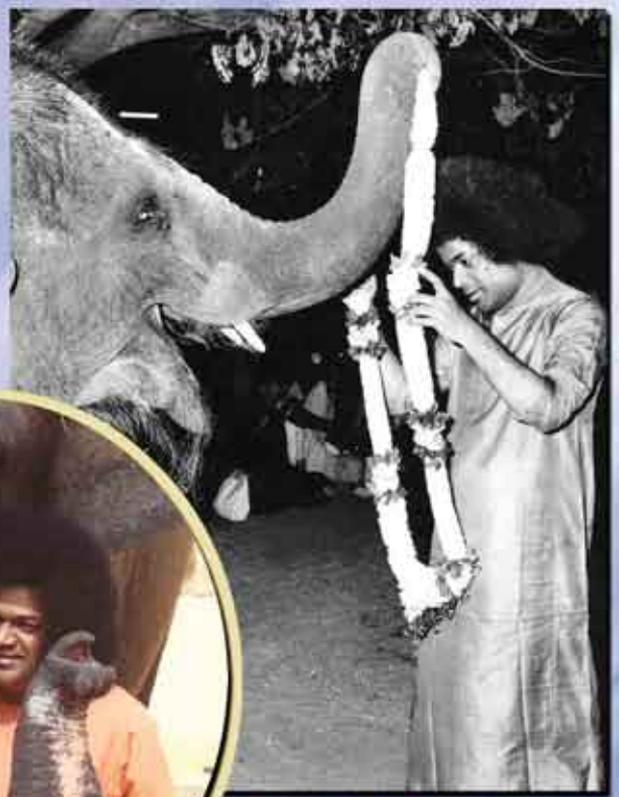
### **Sathya Sai Literature**

Today books dealing with Swami's message, classified by topics, are available. Sathya Sai Literature has gained wide publicity among the people of all languages of the world and exercises enormous influence on millions. Besides providing unprecedented insights into related issues, this multifaceted literature (Sai's versification, narrative method, graceful diction, skilful poetic style, vigour of language, and unrivalled erudition) fills the hearts of readers with a divine sentiment.

At the World Telugu Conference held in Malaysia a few years ago, one session was devoted exclusively to discussing in depth the importance and uniqueness of Sai Literature. Researches into Sai Literature have been undertaken at a number of universities in India and abroad. Andhra University, Utkal University and Delhi University are among the universities awarding doctorates for research on Sai Literature. In many foreign countries, including Thailand, Zambia, Singapore, Mexico, U.S.A., England, Canada and Argentina, special studies of Sri Sathya Sai System of Education have been undertaken. The rise of educational institutes of the Sai model has received wide acclaim. These institutes which maintain high standards, and combine academics with emphasis on right conduct have, in turn, inspired similar attempts elsewhere. Sai, who has devised programmes for students at different levels like Bal

*Continued on page 79 ...*





**Sai Geeta completes 50 years of devoted service to Bhagavan, the Eternal Charioteer (Sanathana Sarathi) of mankind.**

# GOLDEN GIFT OF GOD

B.V. Ramana Rao

**I**T WAS FIFTY YEARS AGO THAT Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba started “Sanathana Sarathi” as part of His Divine master plan to rejuvenate spiritual as well as socio-cultural life of Bharat, for the world to emulate. He wanted to convey to mankind the five cardinal principles of His philosophy, namely, Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa, which He preaches while practising as His life is verily His message.

## **Phenomenal Success of Sanathana Sarathi**

On the day of Sivarathri 1958, Bhagavan gave the divine gift of “Sanathana Sarathi” to the world. He declared, “Sanathana Sarathi will acquire world fame and the dream of reviving the glory of the Vedas, Upanishads and other spiritual texts will be realised, spreading Ananda to all. This is My sacred Mission.”

True to His divine prophetic announcement, “Sanathana Sarathi” is being published today in twelve Indian and thirteen foreign languages, propagating His religion of divine love in the entire world. It is needless to say that this Eternal Charioteer will continue

to gain tremendous momentum. The growing worldwide popularity of “Sanathana Sarathi” is the concrete evidence of its phenomenal success.

Bhagavan says, “I am Sathyabodhaka”, (teacher of Truth). Right from His childhood, He has assumed the role of a teacher. Today He is acknowledged as World Teacher. With His inherent omniscience, as Jnana Saraswati (goddess of knowledge), there is no subject under the sky on which He cannot speak with authority.

## **The Universal Teacher of Truth**

God incarnates to destroy the wicked and to protect the righteous whenever there is a decline of Dharma. At this critical juncture when the decline of Dharma has touched abysmal levels, the need for an ineffably powerful Avatar is felt more than ever before. Quite in tune with the times and the laws of the land, God has incarnated in the most enchanting human form of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. He is armed with infallible weapon of His divine love. His love is not an ordinary love; it is likened to that of a thousand mothers.

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***“Sanathana Sarathi” has been meticulously publishing Bhagavan’s Discourses. Bhagavan’s Discourses include over 500 poems composed by Him. Bhagavan’s love for mankind is so intense that He patiently and repeatedly explains the most esoteric and intricate philosophical topics in a language easily intelligible to a common man, using apt aphorisms, scintillating epigrams and witty quips. Every sentence of Bhagavan is impregnated with either some philosophical truth or a moral lesson.***

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Truth, according to Bhagavan, is the basic raw material out of which the creation has manifested. The creation and the Creator are inextricably interlinked. God permeates every atom and every cell of the universe. Bhagavan is the very embodiment of Truth and as such is omnipresent. In that connection, Bhagavan has proclaimed “I am Truth. Truth is fearless. My truth is inexplicable, unfathomable and immeasurable. The path of truth is the royal road that leads mankind to Me. Those who have experienced My love can assert that they have had a glimpse of My Reality. Sanathana Sarathi, armed with the Vedas, Upanishads and other scriptures, will wage a war against untruth, corruption, injustice and violence and triumphantly establish Dharma. This is the truth I want Sanathana Sarathi to convey to the world.”

No other Avatar in the past has been so easily accessible to a common man as Bhagavan. And no Avatar other than Bhagavan has taught the philosophical truths to a common man so patiently, so didactically and so lucidly. Look at the extent to which He exerts Himself to educate us, all out of His infinite love. Do we know how many Vahini books He has written? If someone were to ask me the names of Vahinis published in “Sanathana Sarathi”, I am most likely to say “Prema Vahini”, “Dhyana Vahini”, “Jnana Vahini”, “Upanishad Vahini”, “Ramakatha Rasavahini”, “Gita Vahini”, etc. But that etcetera includes ten more Vahini books, written by Bhagavan and published as serials in more than 300 issues of “Sanathana Sarathi”.

### **Eternal Repository of the Pearls of Divine Wisdom**

“Sanathana Sarathi” has been meticulously publishing Bhagavan’s

Discourses. Bhagavan’s Discourses include over 500 poems composed by Him. Bhagavan’s love for mankind is so intense that He patiently and repeatedly explains the most esoteric and intricate philosophical topics in a language easily intelligible to a common man, using apt aphorisms, scintillating epigrams and witty quips. Every sentence of Bhagavan is impregnated with either some philosophical truth or a moral lesson.

Every atheist who comes in contact with Bhagavan is transformed into a theist, every theist into an ardent devotee and every devotee into a Karmayogi (man of action)

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***“Sanathana Sarathi” is a golden gift of God to humanity. It is an eternal repository of pearls of Bhagavan’s words of wisdom and a treasury of the records of Bhagavan’s historical triumphs in the fields of education, healthcare, drinking water projects, Grama Seva and a host of other projects acclaimed the world over, and with many more in the offing.***

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and every Karmayogi into a Jnani (man of wisdom). That is the effect of the golden touch of the divine rays of His grace. No other Avatar in the past attained such name, fame and reverence all over the world during His own lifetime as Bhagavan, mainly because of His humanitarian service to mankind. All His plans, all His words, all His actions, all His time, all His energy, all His divine



powers and all His endless baffling miracles are utilised only for the benefit of humanity. This is what an American poet has written about Bhagavan most aptly:

*“There is no glory greater than His story,  
There is no story greater than His glory.”*

“Sanathana Sarathi” is a golden gift of God to humanity. It is an eternal repository of pearls of Bhagavan’s words of wisdom and a treasury of the records of Bhagavan’s historical triumphs in the fields of education, healthcare, drinking water projects, Grama Seva and a host of other projects acclaimed the world over, and with many more in the offing.

It is relevant to mention that the First National Conference of “Sanathana Sarathi” Editors and Publishers was organised under the auspices of Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust at Prasanthi Nilayam on 7th

*... Continued from page 75*

Vikas, EHV (Education in Human Values) and educare, is indeed the grand bestower of knowledge and wisdom. In the field of education, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba occupies the foremost place in history among pioneering innovators. There is an urgent need to relate Swami’s message on right living and various aspects of everyday life to trends in contemporary society and arrive at an overview and synthesis.

### **Dissemination of Bhagavan’s Message**

There is one thing all of us should constantly bear in mind on the important occasion of the golden jubilee of “Sanathana Sarathi”. Bhagavan showered His grace on us by His Advent among us. We, who are blessed to be His contemporaries and the recipients of His love and protection, and enjoy peace,

March 2005. The highlight of the conference was the constitution of a committee to coordinate and monitor the working of the regional editions to ensure adequate attention to improve the quality of the contents, physical get up, and the readability of the magazine. During the recent years, “Sanathana Sarathi” is heading in the direction of evolving into a world-class journal.

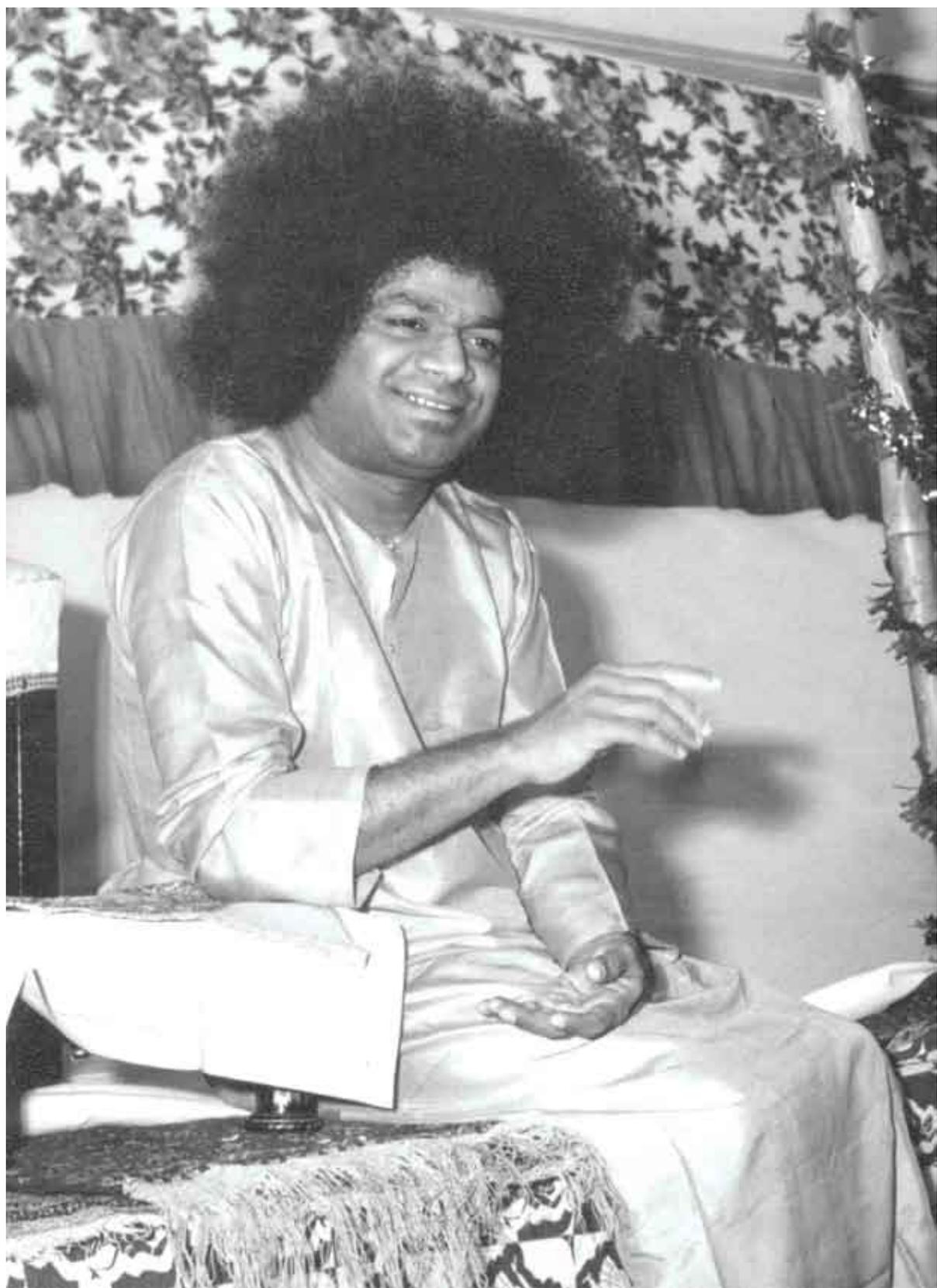
Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation is carrying out a commendable service in enlisting new subscribers for “Sanathana Sarathi”, thereby bringing the Divine gift to the doorstep of those who have not had this privilege so far.

Bhagavan is verily the fountain of Divine love deeply embedded in our hearts. Let us all strive to dive deep into our hearts through Sadhana of selfless service to receive His guidance and grace.

happiness, and status in society, have to repay our debt to Him. You may wonder how this is to be done. We should thoroughly imbibe Sai’s nectarine message, enjoy it heartily, share it with others, and make it widely known. This is the least we should do. Future generations should not view us as selfish people, or dismiss us as lacking in the full experience of the Avatar. That is why the dissemination of Sai’s message should start as the experience of an individual, then become part of a group, and merge in the infinite ocean of the Supreme Spirit.

It is said, what is offered to Krishna is what has already been received by His grace. Similarly, let us enjoy what has been received by Sai’s grace, share it with everyone, and make an offering of it to Him again. This is Karmayoga (yoga of action), this is Jnana Yajna (sacred ritual of knowledge).





# ATI RUDRA MAHA YAJNA AT CHENNAI

**S**AI YOUTH OF TAMIL NADU organised an Ati Rudra Maha Yajna on a grand scale at Chennai from 20th to 30th January 2007. A beautiful Yajnishala with eleven Homa Kundas was set up at Thiruvanmiyur for conducting this Yajna of far reaching spiritual significance. The Yajnishala was decorated with flowers, palm leaves, coconuts, etc.

Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba came to Chennai from Prasanthi Nilayam by a chartered flight on 19th January 2007. Bhagavan was offered a hearty welcome when He arrived at Chennai Airport at 2.20 p.m. Thousands of devotees lined the entire route of Bhagavan from the airport to Sundaram where He arrived at 3.00 p.m. At Sundaram, Bhagavan was offered traditional welcome with Poornakumbham amidst chanting of sacred Vedic Mantras. To the delight of thousands of devotees gathered at Sundaram, Bhagavan gave Darshan from the balcony of Sundaram within minutes of His arrival there. In the evening, the Ritwiks (priests) were offered new clothes and a soul-elevating Bhajan session was held at Sundaram in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan.

## **Performance of Yajna from 20th – 30th January 2007**

On 20th January, Bhagavan came to the Yajnishala at 8.45 a.m. and lighted the sacred lamp to inaugurate the programme. In his welcome address, Sri G.K. Raman, Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Tamil Nadu expressed deep gratitude to

Bhagavan for His Divine Presence on this sacred occasion of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna. Thereafter, the Chief Priest, Sri Nanjunda Dixit explained the significance of the Yajna and added that it was being performed for the peace and welfare of the world.

The Yajna ceremonially commenced after Bhagavan did the Prana Pratishtha (sur-



*Sai Sundareshwara Linga that was worshipped during the performance of the Yajna at Chennai.*

charging with divine energy) of the Linga which was named Sai Sundareshwara Linga.

Ati Rudra Maha Yajna which comprised Linga Abhisheka (bathing of the Linga), Rudra Parayana (recitation of Rudra Mantras) and Rudra Homa (offering oblations in the Yajna fire) was conducted for 11 days from 20th to 30th January 2007. 121 priests performed Rudra

Homa at 11 Homa Kundas according to scriptural injunctions. Along with





*The Yajna came to a conclusion with offer of Poornahuti in the Yajna Kunda by Bhagavan on 30th January 2007.*

Rudra Abhisheka, 11 Rudra Parayanas were done daily by 121 priests for 11 days, making a total of 14,641 Parayanas of Rudram which is the prescribed number for the performance of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna. This grand Yajna for the peace and welfare of the world came to a conclusion with Poornahuti (final oblations) in the Yajna Kunda by Bhagavan on 30th January 2007 at 11.15 a.m.

### **Divine Discourses, Music Programmes and Bhajans**

While the Yajna was conducted in the morning, excellent music programmes by renowned artistes and Bhajan sessions were held in the evening. Besides, a galaxy of speakers shared their thoughts with the huge gathering on various subjects of spiritual importance. Bhagavan's Divine Presence during the programmes gave the coveted opportunity of Darshan to the people



*Bhagavan blessed the people of Tamil Nadu with three Divine Discourses during His stay at Chennai from 19th – 31st January 2007.*

of Tamil Nadu who thronged the venue in very large numbers. During Bhajan sessions, Bhagavan went into the rows of devotees to shower the bliss of His close Darshan on them. By His abundant grace, Bhagavan also blessed the devotees with His Divine Discourses, implanting the seeds of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa in their hearts by His nectarine words.

### **Public Function at Nehru Indoor Stadium**

Bhagavan also graced by His Presence a public function held at Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai on the morning of 21st January 2007. The function was organised by Chennai Citizens Conclave to express gratitude to Bhagavan for providing drinking water to the people of Chennai. It was presided over by Sri M. Karunanidhi, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. The dignitaries who were present on this occasion included Sri Shivraj Patil, Union Home Minister, Sri Lalu Prasad Yadav, Union Railway Minister, Sri Dayanidhi Maran, Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Sri Surjit Singh Barnala,

Governor of Tamil Nadu, Sri S.M. Krishna, Governor of Maharashtra, Sri Vilasrao Deshmukh, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Sri H.D. Kumaraswamy, Chief Minister of Karnataka, Smt. Geeta Reddy, Minister for Tourism, Andhra Pradesh. In his keynote address,

*Continued on page 85 ...*



# SANATHANA SARATHI - A GITA SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR YOU

*S. Arjuna Raja*

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Lord, will then breathe through you and fill the emptiness you have achieved. He will create captivating melodies enrapturing all creation.” The Lord has resolved to breathe melodies through “Sanathana Sarathi” to enrapture creation. The main purpose was to lead the unloved and the unloving, with surer and firmer steps to

**A** FEW DAYS PRIOR TO THE release of “Sanathana Sarathi”, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba declared, “The Bhagavadgita is a guide book, a map for the aspirant to peace and liberation. The Lord has installed Himself in every heart as a charioteer. Ask Him for the proper direction and He will answer and lead. You can hear a Gita specially designed for you if you call upon the Lord”. “Sanathana Sarathi” was therefore intended as the “Bhagavan Uvacha” (Thus spake the Lord) for a world that has jumped the rails and is in fatal jeopardy.

## **Nectar of Divine Wisdom**

Bhagavan has given the invaluable Mantra (incantation) of divine life to man. He says, “Inhale only the breath of God! That is real divine life. Be egoless, hollow like the flute; Krishna, the

presence of the Redeemer, the Comforter, the Saviour, the Avatar, the Sai.

Fifty Sivarathris have passed since the inauguration of “Sanathana Sarathi” in 1958. Many of us who have had the good fortune of reading “Sanathana Sarathi” reverentially and imbibing its full essence right from inception days feel how true it has been when Bhagavan

declares, “This Sarathi will fight for the firm establishment of peace in the world. It will ensure by its triumph, Ananda for all mankind.” As charioteer, Baba was determined to steer the world clear of disease, disaster and despair. The Ananda thus attained liberates us from fear and fickleness, from envy and enmity, from pride and pettiness. In Ananda, we are one with the One!

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*Though information about Bhagavan and His teachings is now available on the Internet, as audio CDs and DVDs, there is nothing like a hard copy of “Sanathana Sarathi” in one’s hands to imbibe what Bhagavan has been saying. Holding close to one’s chest and ruminating on what Bhagavan has explained within its pages, it is truly a heart to heart experience. Baba terms “Sanathana Sarathi” as “the bridge which leads you to Me and brings Me to you.” How true and reassuring it is!*

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“Sanathana Sarathi” is read and re-read many a time, and perception improves with each perusal, for it is nothing but Avatar Vani (voice of God) soaked in the nectar of eternal wisdom. Many devotees have bound the volumes and preserved them as a treasure. Many claim that during troubled times, all that one has to do is to open at random any page of back issues and by the time you finish reading, a solution “pops out”.

### **A Heart to Heart Experience**

All the Vahinis were serialised in “Sanathana Sarathi”. As a devotee of Rama, I have a special attachment to “Ramakatha Rasavahini” coming directly from Sai Rama, with many interesting tales not found in other versions by other authors. Baba extols the feminine characters, specially Sumitra and Urmila. Swami has given new interpretation to the roles of Kaikeyi and Manthara and added to the depth of our understanding of Rama’s story, a story of unique sacrifice and upholding of Dharma.

From a humble beginning of a combined English and Telugu version being distributed free, “Sanathana Sarathi” now enjoys the largest circulation for any spiritual magazine and is published in all major languages of the world. For many books and Sai literature in international languages, “Sanathana Sarathi” forms the base and referral resource.

Though information about Bhagavan and His teachings is now available on the Internet, as audio CDs and DVDs, there is nothing like a hard copy of “Sanathana Sarathi” in one’s hands to imbibe what Bhagavan has been saying. Holding close to one’s chest and ruminating on what Bhagavan has explained within its pages, it is truly a heart to heart experience. Baba terms “Sanathana

Sarathi” as “the bridge which leads you to Me and brings Me to you.” How true and reassuring it is!

### **A Source of Inspiration for Sai Volunteers**

Besides providing the pearls of Divine Wisdom of Bhagavan through His golden words, “Sanathana Sarathi” has been a source of great inspiration for Sai volunteers. The guiding message for Sai volunteers who undertook the stupendous task of providing Sainets to 2,00,000 population in Africa by Bhagavan Baba’s 80th Birthday came from “Sanathana Sarathi”. Bhagavan says, “To speak about devotion without sacrifice is meaningless. Try to draw others into service and improve the living conditions of the poor in rural areas.” Many of the Sai volunteers who worked for the Sainet Project had only heard of Baba and perhaps seen His pictures. But the motivation for loving service came from “Sanathana Sarathi”.

### **Dawn of Golden Era**

Love has been the main message of Bhagavan and hence of “Sanathana Sarathi”. Let us recall the words of Bhagavan in this regard, “*My Message, My Mission is Prema, Prema, Prema, nothing else. This is the substance, remember, of Vedas and Dharma. When that fills the heart, all fear, all vice will vanish.*” A simple message from Baba “Don’t worry, be Happy” brought cheer and happiness in the terminally ill patients in a hospice. In the evening of their lives, they discovered the art of not worrying and being positively happy till the end came! A particular patient had this message printed on hats and distributed to all patients.

Bhagavan has clearly spelt out the path. It is for us to seek and bring



Sai unto us. Millions around the globe are inspired by reading “Sanathana Sarathi” and are treading the Sai path. A casual look at “News from Sai Centres” in any recent issue of “Sanathana Sarathi” will reveal a wide variety of service programmes at various Sai Centres across the globe – Canada, Japan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia, Hungary, Venezuela, Panama, Switzerland, U.K., Siberia and U.S.A., apart from various centres in Bharat. About 170 countries have branches of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation and devotees visit Prasanthi Nilayam representing these nations. A silent revolution is taking place and the sum total of goodness that is being generated is tremendous. The dawn of the promised Golden Era has already been ushered in.

In conclusion, I wish “Santhana Sarathi” all success in spreading the Divine Message of Bhagavan. May “Sanathana Sarathi flow as Santosha Dayee (granter of fulfilling joy), swell and surge as Prema Sayee (the love that

... *Continued from page 82*

Sri Karunanidhi expressed gratitude to Bhagavan on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu for providing water to the residents of Chennai. Sri Shivraj Patil, Sri Lalu Prasad Yadav and Sri Dayanidhi Maran spoke about the munificence of Bhagavan and the public welfare projects and institutions run by Him. In His benedictory address, Bhagavan emphasised the need for human values in society and gave the message of “Love All, Serve All”, Help Ever, Hurt Never” for one and all to put into practice in their life. Stressing the need for unity among people belonging to all faiths and countries, Bhagavan said that there was no scope for duality and differences as the same Atma was immanent in all. Bhagavan also exhorted the people of India to shed all differences and

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Sai is)! May it reach the supreme fruition in Sarva – Jiva- Samaikya – Vaaradhi (all beings integrated into an ocean, the goal of awareness of the One without a second).

work for the unity and progress of the country. The function came to a close with singing of National Anthem by all.

After showering His unbounded grace and divine benedictions on the people of Tamil Nadu and devotees from other parts of India and abroad gathered in Chennai, Bhagavan returned to Prasanthi Nilayam by plane on 31st January 2007. A large number of people lined the route of Bhagavan from Puttaparthi Airport to Prasanthi Nilayam to offer their respectful welcome to Him. The entire route was beautifully decorated with welcome arches and banners welcoming Bhagavan. On arrival in Sai Kulwant Hall at 12.30 p.m., Bhagavan was offered traditional welcome with Poornakumbham amidst Veda chanting by the Institute students.



# OUR LEGACY WITH SAI BABA

Rita Bruce

*“Sanathana Sarathi” has taught, inspired, uplifted, and reassured so many souls in this world for over 50 years.*

**S**ANATHANA SARATHI IS OUR legacy. Not only does it capture the heritage, life and mission of our Beloved Sai Baba but it also represents the history of the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation. Throughout these fifty years, it has also personalised the life of devotees through their contribution of inspired articles, songs and poetry. Therefore, this publication is not only the written record of His life and message but it also represents the ever-changing consciousness of the devotees.

## **Subtle, Unseen Love Energy**

This small publication, translated into many foreign languages, has circled the globe for 50 years, and is much more than the written word. I sit here and wonder how I can begin to capture the essence of this publication that is pure love. We need also to think what it has meant to each of us over all these years. It makes no difference whether we are a long or short time subscribers; the feeling of His love and wisdom penetrates our hearts. To experience the power of love that is in this small package that appears in the mail each month is like holding the Divine Lotus Feet of Bhagavan in our hands.

It is His Darshan from afar.

It is His inspiration to motivate us.

It is His personal message to help us.

It is His teachings that change us.

It is His example that leads us.

It is His love personified.

I have realised for many years that locked within His teachings on the written page there is a subtle, unseen love energy that is released as our eyes contact each word that goes directly to us. How many times in each of our lives have we felt confused, abandoned or depressed because of a problem? Then we finger through this publication and our eyes fall on a passage that delivers a message, provides an insight, expands our awareness to help us understand our situation. The omnipresence of our personal God comes alive at that moment. It seems that the passage was written just for us. These personalised messages can simply change our consciousness. We feel His Divine Presence and know that He has heard our plea for help. It helps us to surrender and let go. “Sanathana Sarathi” has taught, inspired, uplifted, and reassured so many souls in this world for over 50 years.

This journal of His Mission unites us in our common spiritual goals. It unites all of us as brothers and sisters, with the realisation that we belong to an international family which is working towards the common goal of spreading His love through our example of selfless service to mankind. It reminds us of the larger expanded vision of His Mission, instead of the narrow vision of daily ego grinding that takes place in world today. It also



reminds us that we are members of a spiritual organisation that is expansive with limitless vision. We sometimes lose the Sai Vision and think we are serving others or ourselves but in truth we are only serving our Beloved God with love. Our only reality is that we are divine.

### **In-depth, Sincere Learning Potential**

“Sanathana Sarathi” communicates every month the events and service work being accomplished in His Name throughout the world. This helps us to remember the purpose of His Mission and to reaffirm our commitment to Sai Baba as His instruments. It connects us to each other working as *one*, not as individual centres, from individual countries or individual religions. Individuality separates us. Sai says, “In our Organisation, we should not only wear a uniform dress, we should also develop uniform mind. The basic thing to be achieved is purity of mind.”

We tend to lose sight of the necessity of His Mission and its ultimate goal for mankind which is much larger than who is in charge of certain functions in our Sai Organisation. Many times, we get embroiled in the friction of ego and jealousy because we become involved in our and others’ personalities. Swami says, “Do not cause pain to others by using harsh words. In fact, others are not others but your own self as the same principle of Atma is present in all. The one who causes pain and the one who suffers from it are one and the same. So, never speak in such a way as to hurt others.”

When we are given a leadership role, it is a spiritual challenge. It is a test or opportunity for our

ego. We can claim the power and authority of the position or use it for spiritual advancement. Swami says, “We should develop constant integrated awareness.” We need to watch our thoughts, check our motives and use our conscience as our guide. The ego is extremely tricky, slippery and hidden. It tries to convince us that our motive is for others and many times there is a hook of self-importance embedded in the truth. Only through awareness of our experiences can we become familiar with our own ego games and tricks.

We are all subject to making mistakes. We are not perfect, otherwise we would not be here. But during this auspicious time with God on earth in human form, it is an intense, lively charged time for the classroom of experience to give us in-depth, sincere learning potential. If we make a mistake, isn’t it our inner God teaching us that we need to enquire and correct ourselves? In this manner, our Lord Sai teaches us right conduct by allowing us to experience life and learn. When we make mistakes, learn and correct them, it is equally important for us to let go.

This unpretentious monthly publication, “Sanathana Sarathi” has a power that is far reaching. Like many things in life, we have a tendency to take it for granted because of its faithfulness, promptness and continuity. This golden jubilee day gives us the opportunity to recognise and appreciate its true value. Let us always remember this precious gift given to us by Our Divine Lord with a prayer of thanksgiving.

***It makes no difference whether we are a long or short time subscribers; the feeling of His love and wisdom penetrates our hearts. To experience the power of love that is in this small package that appears in the mail each month is like holding the Divine Lotus Feet of Bhagavan in our hands.***





particularly of these reservoirs of the ancient wisdom of this land.”

## Leelas and Mahimas

Howard Murphet, a prolific writer, titled his first book on Bhagavan, “Sai Baba - Man of Miracles”. While men are naturally enamoured with this aspect of Bhagavan’s personality, Bhagavan cautions, “The power of Sai is limitless; It manifests for ever. All forms of power are resident in this Sai palm. People may be very near to the Avatar but they live out their lives unaware of their fortune, exaggerating the role of miracles, which are as trivial when compared to My glory and majesty, as a mosquito is in size and strength to the elephant upon which it squats. My power is immeasurable; My Truth is inexplicable, unfathomable... But, what I am doing now is only the gift of a visiting card.”

To the query of the editor of the Gujarati daily “Nava Kaal” about the power that works these miracles, Bhagavan explained, “What you refer as miracles is, in fact, Divine Power. It is as vast as the ocean; it is an inexhaustible mine. From this sea, all those who feel the need can fill their pots and carry away the water. For example, I create things. This is what you call miracles, isn’t it? I do not create them for exhibiting the power; that is to say, to attract people towards Me. I have no such motive; things are so created by Me, quite naturally. It is My sport, My Leela. It is a sign of Divine Power, which helps to turn men towards Divinity. It is not Pradarshana (exhibition); it is Nidarshana (evidence).” “Why is this power not used to cure the poverty and misery of mankind?” enquired the editor. This is an important question raised and commonly asked. Bhagavan’s illuminating reply was: “You seem to think that misery is caused by the non-possession of certain things. When there is no mental peace,

As the Divine Master Plan has unfolded, “Sanathana Sarathi” over the last 50 years of its existence, has played the role of the Lord’s conch, heralding Bhagavan’s clarion call to a slumbering humanity to awaken to its Divine Destiny. As Bhagavan very aptly wrote in 1978, “Sanathana Sarathi is the bridge which leads you to Me and brings Me to you.” As the Divine Master Plan unfolds before our eyes, let us remember that the best is yet to come.

there is misery... Sovereigns can command all things that can give comfort and joy, but are they happy? Even if a person has no such things, if he has mental peace, equanimity, he will be quite happy. Leave him in a jungle, his happiness will not diminish, cannot diminish. My Task is to confer mental equanimity and that lasting happiness.

“I do not give things to people in order to make them richer; I give in order to foster devotion and faith in them. A sick person comes to Me. I give him something I create, Vibhuti or some article. Noticing that sign, he becomes conscious of Divine Power. He acquires mental peace; that peace sets him right. It was not I that cured him; he earned mental peace through contemplation of Divine Shakti and that set him on the road to health... It is not as if I give these things to those devoted to Me; I give, whenever it is desirable to turn the afflicted towards the Godward path.”

Prof. V.K. Gokak recalled in 1971 that in a conversation over the breakfast table,

*Continued on page 91 ...*



## As is the Action, so is the Result

HERE LIVED A FLOUR MILL owner in a northern part of India. Finding some time out of his daily routine, he once went to attend Harikatha



*The flour mill owner listened to the sermon of the preacher with devotion and thought of attaining heaven by practising the charity of food.*

(devotional session). He heard the sermon of Haridasu (preacher) with great devotion who cited several sacred texts to emphasise, “There is no charity greater than the charity of food; one is sure to attain heaven by giving food in charity.” As preached by Haridasu, the flour mill owner thought of attaining heaven by practising the charity of food.

But he was a great miser. Therefore, even in giving food to others he showed his miserliness. He took out wheat flour bags lying discarded in a corner of his godown for years together and started distributing chapatis (loaves) made out of it to five-six people daily. This wheat flour was so bad that even insects and worms would

not eat it. But this miser prepared chapatis from this useless wheat flour to give to others. His wife was a woman of great virtue, with firm faith in God. Seeing her husband treading the wrong path, she said to him, “My dear! You will earn great sin by giving such bad food to others. We have a lot of good quality flour. Giving food to one or two persons made from this good flour will be a sacred act. What is the use of giving food made out of useless wheat flour to so many people?” She cautioned him thus time and again, but the husband did not pay heed to her good advice.

One day, the wife made nice chapatis from this rotten wheat flour and served them to her husband at meal time. As the husband put a piece of chapati in his mouth, he started abusing his wife without eating it. The wife coolly said, “I have done this for your good only. All that we do in this world, we have to get the result of that in heaven or hell. The



*He took out rotten wheat flour from his godown and served food to five-six people daily.*

charity being performed by you at present is no charity at all; it is a great sin. You have to endure the result of this in hell. You will be served this type of food in hell. It will not be possible for you to eat it without being habituated to it. I am serving this food to you so that you may form the habit of eating it from this very day.” The husband was shaken by this remark of his wife. Realisation of the truth of her observation brought about a change in his mind, and he decided to perform charity of food made out of good quality flour.

To resort to devious, selfish and easy means in spiritual practices and to expect good results is to indulge in self-delusion.

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Swami said to the devotees who were there at the time regarding His miracles, “This is happening in millions of homes. The time has not come as yet to assess it publicly. I am waiting so that all the devotees who have yet to come to Me may do so. When there is a public assessment, there will be such widespread excitement that I may be rendered inaccessible. All these are signs of a power that can change the very course of events in the world.”

In His inaugural message in “Sanathana Sarathi”, Bhagavan announced, “From this day the “Sanathana Sarathi” will lead the army (spiritual texts and scriptures) against the evil forces of injustice, disorder, falsehood and wickedness, led by the demon ego. This Sarathi will fight for the firm establishment of peace in the world; it will proclaim its victory through reverberating beats. It will ensure, by its triumph, Ananda for all mankind.”

At the first World Conference in 1968, Bhagavan exhorted, “Use the chance of My immediate presence with you to learn all about the means of deriving Ananda and sharing Ananda. You are indeed fortunate, for to be



*“I am serving this food to you so that you may get habituated to it because you will be served only this type of food in hell,” said the wife to her husband to put him on the right path.*

saved, you need not go through the processes of Japa (recitation of God’s name) and Dhyana (meditation); you need only to act according to My advice, My directions.”

The Vahini books that were serialised in “Sanathana Sarathi” and the numerous Discourses that were later compiled into Sathya Sai Speaks (38 volumes to date) bear testimony to the zeal and commitment of Bhagavan to transform the erring humanity and lead it back to the righteous path. But more than this, Bhagavan’s life is a saga of Love in Action. His stupendous efforts in the field of education, health, hygiene and village upliftment are simply unique in human history.

As the Divine Master Plan has unfolded, “Sanathana Sarathi” over the last 50 years of its existence, has played the role of the Lord’s conch, heralding Bhagavan’s clarion call to a slumbering humanity to awaken to its Divine Destiny. As Bhagavan very aptly wrote in 1978, “Sanathana Sarathi is the bridge which leads you to Me and brings Me to you.” As the Divine Master Plan unfolds before our eyes, let us remember that the best is yet to come.



# THE VAHINIS IN MY LIFE

*Kumkum Bhasin*

**M**Y PARENTS HAD SWAMI'S Darshan in August 1957 when He visited north India. Next year, they came to Puttaparthi during Sivarathri festival. One day, when my father was standing near the Ganesh statue, Swami called him by his name and handed him one of the first copies of the magazine "Sanathana Sarathi". Since that day, this magazine has been an important part of our home. I was a small child then, but later in my teenage years I would look forward to the little book arriving every month. I enjoyed reading various articles which described the miracles, and experiences of devotees with the Lord. I would try and read the spiritually-oriented articles, and although most of the time they were beyond my comprehension, the seed of spirituality was sown in those tender years.

"Sanathana Sarathi" was started in February 1958. The very first article was written by Bhagavan Himself, entitled "Prema Vahini". The introduction to the article was: "This day, Sanathana Sarathi, the eternal charioteer, starts out on the campaign against falsehood, injustice, viciousness and evil – the minions of the spirit of selfishness. The army is the Vedas, the Upanishads, and the Sastras; the object is the welfare of the world. When the drums of victory resound, humanity would have achieved happiness and peace." And, thus started the journey of the Vahinis – the medium through which Bhagavan taught important truths in simple language.

## **Prema Vahini**

The Vahinis are small texts written on various subjects like Prema, Dharma, Vidya, Jnana (love, righteousness, education, knowledge) and the list goes on. In Prema Vahini, in the very beginning Bhagavan says, "Mere reading of a book or a journal will not vouchsafe Viveka or discrimination. That which is seen, heard or read must be put into practice in actual life. Without this, reading is a mere waste of time." This was the first of His messages that really struck me. While the Vahinis could help me understand complex spiritual topics, I had to apply them to my life to be useful to me. From

*I take strength in the knowledge that reading a Vahini clears my doubts and reinforces my resolution to continue with my Sadhana. But I must tell you that though they may appear to be simple books that we read casually and put away, they are not! These texts have to be read over and over again till they are ingrained in us. For me, they are like beacons of light that guide me towards the goal of my life.*

then on, every time I read something which I felt I could apply, I would try to make it a part of my life. I knew that this would not be easy. Swami says, it may be the twentieth strike of the hammer which will break the stone... He says, "A Sadhaka must not give way to any dispiritedness, despondency or feeling of failure; he must be patient and bear with fortitude." While the Vahinis, the Discourses and the articles that appeared in "Sanathana Sarathi" would constantly reinforce Bhagavan's message, I had to work hard to constantly apply them to my life to better myself. In this article, I will share with you how I have tried to practise some of the teachings in my daily life as these treasured books brought them to my attention.

In "Prema Vahini", I learned some very common, everyday principles and began to practise them in my daily life:

- Search for faults and weaknesses within yourself and strive to correct them.
- Achieve single-mindedness, equanimity and be free from likes and dislikes.
- Realise that everything is filled with Prema and all beings are the embodiments of love.
- Cultivate the habit of magnifying your own faults while considering others' faults as minor.
- Constantly perform good deeds while being aware of the path of self-realisation.
- Being always aware that the Lord is omnipresent and knows everything, discriminate between truth and falsehood.

### **Lessons from Dhyana Vahini**

In "Dhyana Vahini", Swami guides us to how to control our monkey mind which keeps flitting from one thought to another. He tells us to control the six vices – Kama,

Krodha, Lobha, Moha, Mada and Matsarya (desire, anger, greed, attachment, pride and jealousy) which are responsible for making our mind wayward. He shows us the way we should practise Dhyana regularly. He says, "Meditation is not only what we practise during the early hours but it should also be brought into every moment of our life. Concentration is needed in all the chores we perform. Through Dhyana, we can achieve one-pointedness and conquer the mind."

For the past ten years, I have been waking up at 4 a.m. every morning and after Omkar I try to meditate. But my mind is the most active monkey mind for even now it is difficult for me to achieve complete concentration. Many a time, my mind will reason with me and coax me to skip waking up early. I used to think that it was okay but reading "Dhyana Vahini" reinforced my resolution that there were no exceptions to this – even when we were travelling, we should not change our routine. I have noticed that the more meticulous and regular I am in my practice of Dhyana, the better I am at being able to achieve concentration. The mind often wins, but I remember the teaching – we must keep trying until we have mastered it!

### **Beacons of Light**

Swami also gave us "Ramakatha Rasa Vahini" in which He narrated the story of Rama. In a nutshell, He explains: Rama is the indweller of everybody. He is the very embodiment of Dharma who sets the code of behaviour in a family and among its members. He shows us that detachment from sense objects and from relationships is the key to redemption.

From this Vahini, I learned that the love and sacrifice between siblings is an ideal to

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# MESSAGE OF SANATHANA SARATHI TO MANKIND

Ranvir Singh

well as internal, is the first step to hear the voice of God. We are fortunate that God who is the Sanathana Sarathi of the entire universe has been most merciful on us to incarnate in human form with the name Sri Sathya Sai Baba to activate

**S**ANATHANA SARATHI IN COMMON parlance means eternal charioteer. Human body is also a chariot for the soul. It is said: *“Deho Devalaya Proktho, Jivo Deva Sanathana”* (Body is the temple and the deity is eternal Jivatma). Rathi means owner of the chariot. Thus, another meaning of Sanathana Sarathi is that God alone is the eternal owner of the body.

by His Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan (sight, touch, conversation) the Sanathana Sarathi present within all of us in subtle form. Through His thought, word and deed, Swami activates the Sanathana Sarathi of our heart leading us ultimately to our spiritual destination. His nectarine Discourses and benevolent deeds are published in the monthly magazine, which has rightly been named by our Beloved Swami as “Sanathana Sarathi”.

## The Sanathana Sarathi within us

Man’s life is a journey. Swami says that we all are pilgrims of the same path. In fact, God who is the eternal owner and driver of this body in the form of Hridayavasi (indweller) or Atmaram is always available for the guidance of our bodily chariot. He is the true Guru. But the voice of this Hridayavasi is not heard because of the din of our mind. Therefore, Swami says that for the seekers of Truth, Mounam (silence), external as



Our Beloved Swami has got a mission. The mission is to guide and uplift man from the stage of Danava, where he at present is, to the stage of Manava and finally to lead him to the stage of Madhava. The mission of Swami is based on the divine pillars of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa. Swami says that these virtues are latent in our spiritual heart. We have to bring them out to the surface and put them into practice in our daily life. This has been defined by Swami



## Obstacles on the Path of Spirituality

The journey of life is not an ordinary one. There are certain impediments in this spiritual journey. The chief among them is Maya or lower nature of man. For overcoming Maya, Swami gives a very simple example of Rama and Lakshmana walking in the forest with Sita in between them. Rama is the Lord, Lakshmana the devotee and Sita assumed as Maya in between the



Lord and His devotee. Nature is described as the vesture or consort of the Lord. In this case, if the devotee Lakshmana wants to have Darshan of Lord Rama then there are two ways; one is to remove Sita, who is in between the Lord and the devotee, by force. Alternatively, Lakshmana can pray to Sita to give way to the devotee Lakshmana to have Darshan of Lord Rama. Definitely, even the Lord will prefer the second method, as the Lord will never like the use of force with His consort. With this simple example, Swami wants to convey that force may not work while dealing with Nature. With earnest prayer Nature will definitely oblige and give us the way to reach up to the Lord. This is the reason why worship of Devi or Nature or Maya for nine days during Navratri or Rama Navami is prevalent since ancient times. Worship of Devi in the form of Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati representing Tamas, Rajas and Sattwa respectively is done to overcome these attributes. Without transcending them, there is no possibility of Darshan of Lord Rama. Swami says that during Navaratri celebration true humanness consists in controlling the lower nature and merging in higher nature (Para Prakriti) represented by Prana (life force) and Chaitanya (consciousness). Swami says: "If body prevails over mind and soul, man becomes an animal. If body and mind prevail over soul, man becomes demon. If body, mind and soul function in harmony, man becomes human. If soul dominates over body and mind, man becomes Divine."

To secure the grace of the Lord, one has to have purity of heart, purity in speech and purity in action. This triple purity is described in Vedantic parlance as Tripurasundari. Lakshmi, who is the embodiment of all

*We are fortunate that God who is the Sanathana Sarathi of the entire universe has been most merciful on us to incarnate in human form with the name Sri Sathya Sai Baba to activate by His Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan (sight, touch, conversation) the Sanathana Sarathi present within all of us in subtle form. Through His thought, word and deed, Swami activates the Sanathana Sarathi of our heart leading us ultimately to our spiritual destination. His nectarine Discourses and benevolent deeds are published in the monthly magazine, which has rightly been named by our Beloved Swami as "Sanathana Sarathi".*

prosperity, is represented by the heart. Speech represents Saraswati. Purity in action is represented by Durga. The three constituents in man, the mind, the power of speech and the body, are called "Trikaranas" – the three active agencies in man. It is only when all three are used for sacred purposes that man becomes sanctified. It is through spirituality, morality and righteousness that these three instruments get purified. Only the one who has achieved this triple purity can realise the Divine. If any of these instruments are impure, he cannot realise the Divine.

### **Educare Leads Man to his Goal of Life**

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him to the stage of Madhava. The mission of Swami is based on the divine pillars of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa. Swami says that these virtues are latent in our spiritual heart. We have to bring them out to the surface and put them into practice in our daily life. This has been defined by Swami as educare. Educare is true education. By translating these values in our life, we shall achieve unity, purity and divinity and thus reach our goal. *“Unity is divinity, purity is enlightenment. Unity in diversity is the university of life”*, says Swami. Educare enables us to be not just receptors but vibrators and radiators of the values to all the creation. In His valedictory Discourse on the occasion of the first conference of Sathya

Sai Schools in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 21st November 2001, Swami clarified that there was no difference between religion, spirituality and educare. Religion is realisation of the Self which is the sole aim of human birth, and so the educare is.

Our Beloved Swami has been repeatedly giving such precious gems of wisdom for the benefit of the entire mankind through His Discourses. These are published in “Sanathana Sarathi”, the monthly magazine of the Avatar. Those of us who really want to progress on the destined journey must seriously contemplate on the commandments of Swami and make a real start by translating these into our daily life.

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follow. Even though Rama was the eldest among brothers, He was very humble and sacrificed anything for giving happiness to His brothers. This was a lesson I learned and tried to apply in my life with my own siblings – both younger and older. It was not and still is not easy because my ego interferes every time I feel that I am not being treated fairly or correctly, but then my little voice speaks up and I take the right step (even though at times it is taken very grudgingly).

I take strength in the knowledge that reading a Vahini clears my doubts and reinforces my resolution to continue with my Sadhana. But I must tell you that though they may appear to be simple books that we read casually and put away, they are not! These texts have to be read over and over again till they are ingrained in us. For me, they are like beacons of light

that guide me towards the goal of my life.

Bhagavan has very beautifully explained, “Jnana means understanding but it is not just an intellectual feat. Eating does not mean the placing of food on the tongue. Eating is worthwhile only when the food is chewed and swallowed and digested and assimilated in the bloodstream and transformed into muscle and bone, into strength and vigour. So too understanding or Jnana must permeate and invigorate all the moments of life. It must be expressed through all the organs and senses, through all the Karmendriyas (senses of action) and all the Jnanendriyas (senses of perception). To this high stage man must reach.” Hence, we should study, digest and assimilate into our lives the beautiful stories and simple teachings in the Vahinis, and Bhagavan’s Discourses in “Sanathana Sarathi” to get their full benefit.



# NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

## CROATIA

**D**URING TWO WEEKENDS IN October and November 2006, Sai Youth in Croatia organised and executed the Sai Challenge Project. In Suhodol, a small settlement in Croatia, an



*Sai Youth and adults laid a pipeline to bring water to an elderly couple's home in Suhodol, Croatia.*

elderly couple was living alone in a house with no easy access to running water. Responding to the need, five Sai Youth and seven adults dug a 135 metre long canal and laid a pipeline to bring water to the couple's home from a nearby underground water source. The elderly couple was overwhelmed by the act of selfless compassion and service. All the devotees who worked on the project were filled with joy and gratitude to Bhagavan for this opportunity to render selfless service to the needy.

A public meeting was held in the city of Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, on 4th November 2006. Over 440 people attended the meeting held at the fully crowded Press Club board room. Zonal Chairman of the Sai

Organisation, Dr. Thorbjorn Meyer, addressed the audience with inspiring words. Dr. Meyer said that the essence of Bhagavan Baba's teachings was selfless love. He compared the teachings of Bhagavan Baba with those of Jesus Christ and emphasised that man was essentially divine and had the obligation to serve his fellow beings with selfless love. The universal human values were explained in more detail and also illustrated with several catching spiritual stories eliciting spontaneous applause from the listeners. The paramount importance of selfless service on the spiritual path was emphasised. The meeting was attended by the Indian Ambassador to Croatia, Sri Rajiv Mishra, and the Consul General of India, Sri V. Mahalingam. The Peoples' Radio, a popular local radio station, and the local newspapers broadcast and published a synopsis of the proceedings.

## U. S. A.

The beautiful beach city of Oxnard is located by the Pacific Ocean in California. On Sunday,



*Sai Organisation of America organised a medical cum Seva camp in Oxnard, California on 15th October 2006 in which 650 patients were seen and needy families were provided food, clothing and other items of daily use.*



15th October 2006, 200 volunteers including 26 physicians and seven dentists conducted a medical, dental and visual screening camp as well as a Seva camp in this beach city. Sai devotees from southern California were supported by community organisations. These included Our Lady of Guadalupe Church which allowed the use of their parish hall and school for the event, the St. John's Regional Medical Centre and St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital which provided medical tests at no cost to patients. The news media also supported the effort by including public service announcements in newspapers, announcing the event on radio as well as by listing it in the calendar section of the radio stations' websites. In all, 650 patients were seen by 26 physicians which included primary care physicians and specialists in heart, lung, bone, skin and paediatrics. Cancer screenings were conducted for both women and men through mammogram, Pap smear and prostate screenings. Patients with positive findings were arranged to be followed up by local clinics and by St. John's Hospital. Over 300 dental examinations were conducted across all age groups by the volunteer dentists. Vision testing for acuity, glaucoma and related conditions was conducted by volunteer optometrists and ophthalmologists.

Community service organisations also participated and offered Medi-Cal, food stamp information, and nutritional and psychological counselling. The service group of volunteers distributed food and clothing to those in need. Each family received thirty pounds of non-perishable food items including rice, beans, sugar, corn flour, canned vegetables, salsa, crackers cereal, peanut butter and jelly. In addition, blankets, towels, diapers, toiletries and snacks were also handed

out. Many VIPs attended the event including Reverend Ricardo Alba, Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Fernando Gamboa, Consul General of Mexico, Dr. Thomas Holden, Mayor of the City of Oxnard, John K. Flynn, Ventura County Supervisor, Michael Murray, President, St. John's Regional Medical Centre, Jerry Conway, President of St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital, Reverend Christina M. Fernandez, Vice President of Mission Integration, St. John's Hospital, and Gloria Chinea, Director for Community Health Education, St. John's Regional Medical Centre. All of them were very much impressed with the number of services being provided and the number of volunteers who participated. Each VIP was given a folder that described the event. On seeing that the camp was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organisation, the Consul General of Mexico, commented, "Oh, I know Sai Baba. He is well known in Mexico!"

## CANADA

In the national capital of Ottawa, Canada, a Sarva Dharma Stupa was erected by the Sathya Sai Organisation on 22nd May 2006. This 30 feet-tall pillar is an intended replica of the Stupa in Prasanthi Nilayam. It heralds Sri Sathya Sai Baba's teachings as a central pillar that unites the multitudes of all faiths in Canada. The inauguration was attended by Sri Anil Kumar,



*Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Canada set up a Sarva Dharma Stupa in Ottawa on 22nd May 2006 to promote harmony between the people of all faiths.*



Sri Bob Chiarelli, the Mayor of Ottawa, Sri David McGuinty, Member of Parliament, and Dr. V.P. Singh and Ms. Myriam Joyza of the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation. The Member of Parliament lauded the efforts of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation in promoting inter-religious harmony and noted, "Sri Sathya Sai Organisation is firmly committed to and focused in that sincere mission." Community representatives from Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism and Hinduism chanted their respective prayers affirming unity and harmony. The ceremony ended with the distribution of Prasadam.

### BELARUS

Minsk is the capital city of the Republic of Belarus, a former Soviet province. A public meeting was held in Minsk on 23rd November 2006 to celebrate 81st Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The meeting, lasting over three and a half hours, was attended by 63 people and began with a screening of the film 'Pure Love'. This was followed by a welcome speech by Valentina Tsoi, President of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Minsk. She spoke of the blessings received at Prasanthi Nilayam by the people of Minsk during Bhagavan's 80th Birthday. This was followed by the speech of National Service Coordinator, Tatyana Rozhkova, who spoke of the miracle of Sai Love and of the national service activities in Russia with special reference to medical camps, volunteer labour camps in Belarus and the recent renovation work carried out at a children's shelter. The next speaker was Natalia Tsedrik, the National Coordinator of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Belarus. She spoke of SSSEHV and educare and their importance in education. The last speaker was Katya, a youth leader who described the

energetic youth group in Belarus and their activities. The speeches were followed by a screening of the film 'His Work' and a recitation of Bhagavan's poem to His students entitled "Realise, It is Me." The programme concluded with the film 'Russian Chorus at Prasanthi Nilayam, 2005.' The feedback received was exceedingly positive as many felt inspired by the life and teachings of Bhagavan.

### SULTANATE OF OMAN

The port city of Salalah is located in the strategic rim of the Indian Ocean near Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman. Sri Sathya Sai



*Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Oman organised a conference on Education in Human Values and Value Parenting in the city of Salalah on 25th-26th October 2006.*

Organisation was invited to conduct a two-day conference on Education in Human Values and Value Parenting. The event was held on 25th – 26th October 2006 at the Indian School in Salalah and was attended by about 300 participants including teachers and parents. On the first day, modules on "The Need for Value Education", "Child Psychology and Human Values", "Role of Teachers in the Inculcation of Human Values" were presented by speakers from Sri Sathya Sai Organisation.

An interactive workshop followed in which teachers were asked to form



groups and present interesting human values applications based on their subjects and levels of teaching. The innovative methods adopted by teachers to convey these values through curricular and extracurricular activities were discussed by all the participants. The workshop on Value Parenting began with presentations on “Children’s Expectations from Parents”, “Dynamic Parenting” and “Impact of Technology on Harmony at Home”. An open session with the parents in seeking honest, soul-searching solutions based on Bhagavan Baba’s teachings to many of the problems faced in the task of parenting was welcomed by all. At the conclusion of the conference, all the participants expressed their commitment to Sathya Sai Human Values.

### NIGERIA

Since June 2005, Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Nigeria has been running an orphanage called Sri Sathya Sai Seva Orphanage Home



*Children in Sri Sathya Sai Seva Orphanage Home in Lagos, Nigeria celebrating a festival.*

(SSSSOH) in Lagos. The orphanage currently has nine children, of whom five are physically challenged. These nine children are between four to thirteen years of age.

The Orphanage Home building has been completely renovated and a weekly meal plan is prepared by consulting a nutritionist. The children are also taken to a nearby physician for regular health check-ups. With the grace of Bhagavan, the physically challenged children who were once unable to ambulate are able to walk today. The Home is visited by Sai devotees and others who bring gifts for the children. Every Sunday, Sai Bhajans are sung in the prayer hall of the orphanage. The Home is also equipped with library facilities, a play area and a garden with play equipment. The children are taken out for a field trip once a month. The academic performance of the children is also satisfactory. Festivals such as Dasara, Deepavali, Christmas, New Year and important events such as Bhagavan’s Birthday are celebrated at the Home by the children.

– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

### BHARAT

**Andhra Pradesh:** Vizag district carried out 33 types of various activities during the State President’s extensive six-day tour of the district from 23rd to 28th December 2006, covering over 9 Samithis including their affiliated Bhanjan Mandalis situated in different areas of the district. The district distributed 28 sewing machines, 24 iron boxes, eight carpenter tool kits, six barber tool kits, five wet grinders, three walkers, 18 tricycles, seven calipers, one wheelchair, four hand sticks, 44 hearing aids, 12 knee pads / shoes for crawling people, 110 trunks to orphans in a child foundation, nine umbrellas and 327 Amrutha Kalasams (monthly food provisions) to selected needy people. It inaugurated one new compound wall built around an Anganwadi school, provided play items in the Anganwadi school, inaugurated one homoeo medical centre, laid the foundation stones of two new



Mandirs, inaugurated three newly-built Sri Sathya Sai service and spiritual centres and inaugurated one rural community centre in Korawada village.

As part of Bhagavan's 81st Birthday celebrations, Srikakulam district distributed 810 new Saris to needy women selected from 81 villages, 450 blankets, 450 Amrutha Kalasams (monthly food provisions) to the selected poor families, new clothes to 81 old people and new clothes to 40 babies born on 23rd November 2006. This district conducted a diabetic camp benefiting 320 patients and a general medical camp treating 289 patients in a tribal village, Polla.

Karimnagar district inaugurated a newly built Sri Sathya Sai Seva Sadan on 15th December 2006. The district renders medical services to 200 patients every week at Jammikunta, providing free E.C.G. and free lab tests, wherever necessary.

**Assam, Manipur and N.E. States:** To celebrate the 81st Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the devotees of Guwahati gathered in large numbers at the Guwahati Sai Centre (Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Nilayam) on the morning of 23rd November 2006. The programmes arranged on this occasion aimed at spreading Bhagavan's Mission of love, service and compassion to the entire humanity. One of the highlights was the procession of 81 women in their traditional dress, bringing holy water from the river Brahmaputra for Abhishekam of Shirdi Sai idol. A Bhajan session was held for two hours and a souvenir "Sai: The Ocean of Divine Love" was released.

To promote peace and harmony, Imphal West district of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation organised a public meeting, highlighting the teachings of different faiths at Kangla Hall, Imphal. With the lighting of the lamp of

unity by the chief guest, the meeting started at 10.30 a.m. The event in which people from all communities came together on one platform is a happy augury for the trouble-torn State as well for the country.

**Haryana and Chandigarh:** On 2nd December 2006, a cultural programme was organised at Murthal (Sonapat), where Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas classes are run consisting of 400 Bal Vikas children. 226 Bal Vikas children participated in this programme. After Veda recitation, the children presented an enchanting play depicting the early life of Bhagavan Baba. A total of seven cultural items were presented in this programme by the school children belonging to the surrounding villages. More



*Bal Vikas children reciting Vedic Mantras before presenting an enchanting play on the early life of Bhagavan at Murthal (Sonapat), 2nd December 2006.*

than 600 devotees including parents of Bal Vikas children witnessed this programme.

A joint conference of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of Haryana-Chandigarh and Punjab was organised at Panchkula on 3rd December 2006. Reports from all the wings of both the States were presented in this conference in which 1008 delegates took part.

Among others, All India President, Sri V. Srinivasan addressed the delegates.

