



this truth, experience the bliss of treasuring in their mind all that is good and ignore all that is bad. Sometimes your vision is polluted by seeing bad things and bad people. In such a situation, you should at once exercise caution and remind yourself that eyes are given to you to have the vision of noble souls and not to look at all sorts of people around you. Some people indulge in evil talk and criticise others. It is the worst of sins to criticise others. Instead of criticising others, criticise your own evil qualities. How can you acquire merit when you criticise others? You will earn only sin.

The world has acquired the name Prapancha as it is the manifestation of the Pancha Bhutas (five elements). Man today is misusing them. He thinks it is quite natural for him to exploit them to his maximum advantage. But it is most unnatural and unsacred. It may seem to be good and natural for the time being but later on he will be faced with insurmountable difficulties. These five elements are present in every human being in the form of the senses of Sabda, Sparsha, Rupa, Rasa and Gandha (sound, touch, form, taste and smell). Your life will be redeemed only when you make proper use of the five senses and the five elements. Never use your senses in an unsacred manner. Today people are interested in seeing wrong things. They are all ears when someone indulges in vain gossip and evil talk. Never lend your ears to evil talk and get carried away by it. God has blessed you with two eyes and two ears so that you may see His beautiful form and hear His sweet and sacred name. It is only when you adhere to these principles can you lead the life of a true human being. Human birth is highly sacred. *Jantunam Nara Janma Durlabham* (out of all living beings, human birth is the rarest). It has been called rare and precious because you can perform



*Modern students are highly intelligent. Their intelligence should be properly channelised. They should be made aware of what is important for them in life. That is the type of education we have to give them. But, due to the impact of western culture, students are being given such education that has no relevance to their life. Under the influence of western culture, they are developing limitless desires, unnecessary relationships and are crossing the limits of propriety.*



sacred deeds in it. But, if you do not sanctify your five senses and make proper use of the five elements, your life as a human being

becomes unsacred and meaningless. Of what use is such a life? It is, in fact, a living death. Hence, it is very essential for boys and girls as also for elders to follow the right path and make proper use of the five senses.

Human life is highly sacred. What is the meaning of the term Manava (human being)? Ma – Maya (delusion), Na – without, Va – Varthinchuta (to conduct oneself). Hence, true humanness lies in transcending Maya and following the righteous path. Man is not new to this world. He is ancient and has been here many times before. It is unfortunate that he is yet to understand the true significance of human life in spite of passing through a number of human births. He spends his entire life in eating, drinking, sleeping and enjoying worldly pleasures. Is this the purpose of life? Even the birds, beasts and animals do the same. Then, on what basis can man consider himself to be superior to animals? If you fight with your fellow beings and hurt them, then your behaviour is no better than that of wild animals. It cannot be called human behaviour. Do not hold others responsible for your suffering and point an accusing finger at them.

### **Students should Follow Noble Ideals of Indian Culture**

#### *Embodiments of Love!*

When you are born from your mother's womb, you are free from delusion. But as you grow up, you are overcome by delusion. Your desires also grow in number. You should exercise control over your desires. In fact, there should be a limit for everything in life. But man today is conducting himself without any restraint. World today has provided man with many modern means of comfort in life. No doubt, they have made his life easy and comfortable, but at the same

time these very things are leading him on the unsacred and sinful path. You are aware that having a cell phone has become an obsession with modern youth. Even the government is encouraging the use of cell phone as it is considered to be the most convenient way of communication. But no one is enquiring into the negative impact it has on the students. Once you have a cell phone, you can talk to anyone, anything, anywhere and at any time. When youth are given such freedom, they are bound to misuse it and ruin themselves. Even innocent youth are lured on the wrong path by the use of cell phones. If you do not put the students on the right path and do not inculcate virtues in them, these gadgets and means of comfort will certainly spoil their minds, and they will commit grave mistakes. It will take quite some time for them to rectify their mistakes and walk on the Godward path.

Modern students are highly intelligent. Their intelligence should be properly channelised. They should be made aware of what is important for them in life. That is the type of education we have to give them. But, due to the impact of western culture, students are being given such education that has no relevance to their life. Under the influence of western culture, they are developing limitless desires, unnecessary relationships and are crossing the limits of propriety. Indian culture is highly sacred and noble. It has demonstrated high ideals for the rest of the world to emulate. Unfortunately, the Bharatiyas have forgotten their own culture and have become slaves to western culture. The difference that should be observed between men and women with regard to their conduct is totally forgotten. The history of Bharat is replete with examples of women who have demonstrated great ideals. Since time immemorial, the culture of





foremost, develop sacred and selfless love. When people share their love with each other, the whole world will be replete with love. But do not taint your love by selfishness and self-interest.

### **Love is the Foremost Quality of a Human Being**

Everything in this world is subject to change except truth. There is none in this world who can change truth. Humanness is sustained by the twin principles of love and truth. Both are essential for humanness to blossom. People have to open their eyes and recognise this fact. But they have become narrow-minded today. They should develop broad-mindedness and strive for the welfare of society and the nation at large. Bulbs may vary in size and shape but the electric current passing through them is one and the same. The physical bodies are like bulbs and the Atmic power is the current that illumines them. Here you find a number of bulbs illuminating this place. When you put off the main switch, the light goes out from all the bulbs. Likewise, when the divine principle is withdrawn, all beings will become lifeless. The same truth is declared by Lord Krishna in the Bhagavadgita: *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). The same divine spark is present in all. When God says that you are a part of His Being, should you not cultivate divine qualities? Should you not behave like a divine being? Everyone born in this world is an aspect of divinity. Considering each being as divine, offer your salutations to him. There is nothing wrong in doing so. If you want to be respected by others, first of all you should respect them. You should love everyone. Only then will your life become a shining example for others to emulate.

Human life is highly sacred. The

principle of love immanent in man is infinite. None can describe the power of love. It is impossible. But worldly love has limitations. It diminishes with the passage of time. Take, for instance, the case of a newly married couple. In the first week of the marriage, the husband cannot bear separation from his wife even for a moment. If the husband happens to notice a thorn on the way, he at once pulls her aside with great anxiety, lest the thorn should prick her foot. A month after the marriage, he merely cautions his wife if he notices a thorn. Six months after the marriage, if a similar situation arises, he shouts at his wife, "Don't you have eyes? Can't you see the thorn?" Worldly love undergoes change in this manner. Due to the influence of modern times, the situation has become such that married couples resort even to divorce. But in olden days, people were not so fickle-minded. Their love for each other was steady right from the beginning till the end.

Steady and changeless love is true Atma Prema (divine love). Worldly love is only Deha Prema (physical love). It is tainted by desires and body attachment. Love with desires is like a passing cloud. Divine love alone is eternal. Why do you give up such an eternal love and crave for physical and momentary love? Even the elders and parents are not able to guide the children on the right path. In fact, the elders themselves are under the influence of modern times more than the youngsters. The elders cannot set ideals to the youth and the youth do not strive for transformation. The Vedas say: *Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava, Acharya Devo Bhava, Atithi Devo Bhava* (revere your mother, father, preceptor and guest as God).

But these days we do not find such respect and love among children towards their parents. In this way,



they are losing their humanness even. Man is endowed with a pure intellect and a sense of discrimination. One who makes proper use of his intellect is a true human being. It is a sign of foolishness to be carried away by the tide of time in the name of modernism.

When there is transformation at the individual level, only then there can be transformation at the national level. The progress of a nation depends on the character of her men and women. But these days, the Bharatiyas have forgotten humanness and are trying to imitate the western culture. It is not the right thing to do. You have a culture of your own and they have theirs. Do not imitate the culture of others. Adhere to your culture and traditions. Do not change your culture to suit your whims and fancies.

*Embodiments of Divine Atma! Embodiments of Love!*

Love is the true human quality. Consider love as your very life-breath. One without love is no better than one without life. Considering love as the basis of your life, follow the path of truth. Then you will not only find fulfilment in life, you will also attain purity and ultimately divinity. Wherever you are, whatever may be the situation, never deviate from the path of love and truth. Do not try to distort truth in order to fulfil your desires. When you say, "I want this", you give expression to your compulsive desires. You will have satisfaction in life if you accept whatever Nature has to offer you. On the other hand, if you transgress the laws of Nature to fulfil your desires, you will ruin yourself. Leave aside your likes and dislikes.

### **Fulfil Noble Desires of your Mother**

You are born from your mother's womb. Hence, you should express

your gratitude to her and bring her a good name. In a village, near the city of Kolkata, there lived a noble soul by name Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar with his mother. They were very poor. His mother used to do odd jobs to earn a meagre income. They did not even have proper food to eat. She would prepare one Roti (bread), give half of it to her son, and she would eat the other half. Sometimes, she would starve giving to her son whatever little food she prepared. Vidyasagar used to study under streetlights at night as they could not afford to have even a lamp in their house. He worked hard day and night and passed his examinations. In the beginning, he secured a small job and the salary he earned was sufficient for both of them to lead a comfortable life. One day, his mother was going to a fair. Vidyasagar felt sorry to see her wearing an old Sari. He told her, "Mother, today being a festival day, all are wearing new clothes. Why don't you also wear a new Sari?" He went to bazaar and bought a white Sari and requested his mother to wear it. But she told him, "Son! I have three desires. I will wear this new Sari only after they are fulfilled."

Gradually, Vidyasagar earned a promotion in his job and his salary also increased. One day, he approached his mother and requested her to express her desires. She said, "Son, the children of our village are going to the neighbouring town to attend school. I am pained to see children walking such long distances carrying a heavy load of books. So, please construct a small school in our village." Accordingly, Vidyasagar established a school in the village. He asked her, "Mother, are you happy now?" She said, "Son, I have two more desires. I feel pained to see the women of our village trekking long distances to fetch water. I will be happy if you



can get a well dug in our village.” Vidyasagar immediately got a well dug and fulfilled his mother’s desire. After some time, she told him, “Son, you have provided water to the village and also established a school for children. But it is the lack of medical facilities in our village that is troubling my mind. Please build a small hospital here.” As per her wish, he constructed a small hospital. She was highly satisfied. It was only then that she wore the new white Sari bought by her son.

Gradually, Vidyasagar’s name and fame spread far and wide. People used to gather in thousands to listen to his speeches. (Bhagavan here narrated the incident how Vidyasagar carried the suitcase of an I.C.S. officer to the place of his lecture, teaching a lesson of self-reliance and humility to the officer.)

Vidyasagar fulfilled all the three desires of his mother. Sathya Sai also fulfilled the wishes of His mother (*loud applause*). One day, I found mother Easwamma in a rather pensive mood and asked her the reason. She said, “Swami, I am pained to see small children of our village walking all the way to Bukkapatnam to attend school. Please construct a small school in our village.” Fulfilling her wish, I established a small school in Puttaparthi. After some time, she said, “Swami, people of our village are very poor. They cannot pay for the medical expenses to doctors in Bukkapatnam, where they are forced to go even for a minor ailment. Therefore, please build a small hospital in our

village.” Accordingly, I got a small hospital built. Her third wish was to provide drinking water to the village. She pointed out that the women had to undergo great hardship to get water from the Chitravathi river which had almost dried up. To fulfil her desire, I provided drinking water not only to Puttaparthi but to other surrounding villages also. The small school that I established is now a big university. The small hospital that I constructed has become a super speciality hospital.

Mother Easwamma shed tears of joy when she saw that her desires had been fulfilled in a grand manner. She led a life of happiness and contentment and breathed her last peacefully. It is the foremost duty of children to fulfil the wishes of their mother and make her happy. Serve others to the extent possible. You need not take up any service activity beyond your means and capacity. If you find your neighbours suffering, give them solace. Help them to the extent possible and make them happy. This is what I expect you to learn today. On the occasion of Easwamma Day, I exhort all of you to practise these three principles of service, experience bliss and share it with all.

(Bhagavan concluded His Divine Discourse with the Bhajan “*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin ...*”)

– **From Bhagavan’s Easwamma Day Discourse in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall, Brindavan (Whitefield), Bangalore on 6th May 2006.**

In all religions, there are universal human values emphasising the importance of prayer, the need for worship, the principle of Brotherhood of Man and Fatherhood of God, and the cultivation of love for all beings. Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists and Jews have their own modes of prayer, but all are seeking the grace of God!

– *Baba*





*A Plenary Session of the Youth Camp in progress in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam, Brindavan.*

## YOUTH ON THE PATH OF SPIRITUALITY AND SELFLESS SERVICE

**T**HOUSANDS OF YOUTH AND students came to Brindavan to participate in the youth camps organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of Kerala and Karnataka on 19th-21st May and 27th-28th May 2006, respectively.

It was exhilarating to observe the youth of the country resolving to adopt the path of spirituality and selfless service under the guidance of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Kerala organised its Fourth Youth Sadhana Camp

at Brindavan (Whitefield), Bangalore on 19th, 20th and 21st May 2006 in which nearly 1800 delegates took part which included teachers, doctors and paramedical professionals besides the youth and students of

Kerala. Illuminating talks by a galaxy of speakers, soul-

stirring Bhajans by the Sai Youth of Kerala, devotional music by renowned artistes in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba made a lasting impact on the participants, specially the youth. Throughout the course of the Camp, Bhagavan showered the bliss of

### KERALA YOUTH SADHANA CAMP



His Divine Darshan on the participants and blessed them on the final day with a nectarine Discourse which filled each heart with love and bliss. The theme chosen for the Camp was: "Sai Glory: Individual and Social Transformation". Besides the open sessions conducted in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall, the proceedings of the Camp were also held in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam where many learned speakers addressed the delegates and answered their spiritual queries.

### **Deliberations in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall**

On the morning of 19th May 2006, Bhagavan came to the richly decorated Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall amidst auspicious notes of Nadaswaram. Bhajans in the Hall, after the arrival of Bhagavan were led by Sai Youth of



*Soul-stirring Bhajans led by Sai Youth of Kerala formed an important part of the Sadhana Camp organised at Brindavan on 19th-21st May 2006.*

Kerala, who enraptured the entire gathering by their excellent rendering of Bhajans to the accompaniment of elevating music.

The programme began with the introductory speech of the President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Kerala, Prof. E. Mukundan who

expressed deep gratitude to Bhagavan for providing to the Kerala devotees the golden opportunity to hold this Camp in His Divine Presence. Prof. Mukundan then introduced the two speakers who were blessed by Bhagavan to speak in the opening session. He also prayed to Bhagavan to release the book entitled "Helpline on the Sathya Sai Path" which contained answers to the spiritual questions asked by the participants in the previous three camps. Bhagavan graciously accepted the book and blessed it with His signature. The first speaker was Justice Thottathil Radhakrishnan, Judge, Kerala High Court who narrated how he and his family were saved by Bhagavan from the disaster of tsunami when they had gone to the Andamans. The learned speaker added that Bharat could become a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic in true sense only when we followed and propagated the values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa as taught by Bhagavan. The next speaker was also a High Court Judge of Kerala, Justice Padmanabhan Nair. The learned speaker observed that Bhagavan's humanitarian work in the field of education and health and His water projects were pristine examples of selfless service for the entire mankind to follow. "It is for us to emulate these ideals and put them into practice in our own small way", added Justice Padmanabhan. After these two speeches, Sri Madhu Balakrishnan, the renowned playback singer of Malayalam, enthralled the gathering by popular Malayalam devotional songs and songs in praise of Bhagavan. The programme concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.55 a.m.

On the afternoon of 19th May 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 3.50 p.m. amidst Bhajans led by Sai Youth, both ladies and gents,



alternately. This soul-stirring Bhajan session continued for half an hour, spreading devotion and bliss. After this, four Sai Youth of Kerala addressed the gathering. They were: Sri Vijay Menon, Consultant, Human Resource Development; Kumari Nadiya, Mahila Youth Incharge of Chalapparam Samithi, Kozhikode, Dr. Kaushik Narayan, State Gents Coordinator of Education and Kumari Anjali Ajay, a Youth Wing member of Kerala. In the end, State Incharge of Medical Cell, Dr. Anand Mohan shared his thoughts with the audience. Sri Anand Mohan observed that Bhagavan's concept of healthcare, viz., globalisation of healthcare, decommercialisation of medicine and human values in medicine had demonstrated to the world that healthcare was primarily a spiritual concept, which underlined the spirit of service to underprivileged masses. After these speeches, Sri Madhu Balakrishnan made a very enchanting musical presentation of classical devotional songs to the joy of the entire gathering. Bhagavan showered His blessings on the artiste and materialised a gold ring for him at the end of his presentation. The day's programme in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.15 p.m.

The programme on the morning of 20th May 2006 began with Bhajans led by Sai Youth of Kerala, both ladies and gents, after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 8.20 a.m. After Bhajans, Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala, Dr. Ramachandran Nair addressed the gathering. Dr. Nair exhorted the youth to make the best use of knowledge by integrating the resources of men, material and money in a positive manner. Today the nation needed a large number of leaders of good character which only the youth could provide, concluded the learned

speaker. Bhagavan showered His blessings on Dr. Nair and also materialised a gold chain with a pendant for him at the end of his speech. A Carnatic music offering of devotional songs by well-known Carnatic musician, Sri Harihara Subramanyam followed this. All the Kritis (devotional songs) rendered by him had the perfect harmony of feeling, tune and rhythm. He concluded with a special composition in praise of Bhagavan. The morning programme concluded after this musical presentation with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.05 a.m.

On the afternoon of 20th May 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 4.05 p.m. The programme began after soul-stirring Bhajans led by Kerala devotees, both ladies and gents. At the beginning of the programme, Sai Youth of Kerala recited Vedic Mantras. After this, two Sai Youth of Kerala made brief speeches. They were: Sri Manoj and Kumari Divya. The third speaker was Dr. K.S. Radhakrishnan, Vice Chancellor, Sankaracharya Sanskrit University, Kalady. Referring to the social welfare projects of Bhagavan, the learned speaker observed that Bhagavan had set an ideal to the world by showing His concern for the masses. He exhorted the youth to follow the ideals and teachings of Bhagavan to bring harmony in their life and in society. Another Carnatic music presentation of devotional songs by Sri Harihara Subramanyam followed to the delight of the entire gathering. The artiste earned the appreciation of the audience and blessings of Bhagavan who also created a gold ring for him at the end of the programme. The second day's programme concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.10 p.m.

On the morning of 21st May 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh



Krishan Hall amidst Bhajans by Kerala devotees. After a brief session of Bhajans, Sri K.R. Jyothilal, an IAS officer of Kerala, addressed the gathering. Narrating in an interesting way how he was transformed from IAS to SAI by Bhagavan's grace, the learned speaker explained that SAI meant Service first, Any other person next and I last, and not the other way round. He also narrated many incidents how Bhagavan solved his problems in his profession and saved him from many pitfalls. He advised the youth to utilise this golden opportunity to earn Bhagavan's grace. What followed this was an excellent presentation of devotional music by Sri Kavalam Sreekumar and Sri T.S. Radhakrishnan. Besides the compositions of Bhadrachalam Ramdas and Mira, the renowned artistes also presented songs on Bhagavan in Malayalam. The morning programme concluded after this with offer of Arati to Bhagavan.

In the afternoon, the programme commenced with soulful Bhajans by Kerala devotees after the arrival of Bhagavan at 4.05 p.m. in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall. While the devotees were enjoying the bliss of Bhajan singing, Bhagavan added to their joy by going into their rows, specially Sai Youth of Kerala, accepted their letters and materialised Vibhuti for some of them. After showering the bliss of His Divine Darshan and Sparshan on the delegates of the Sadhana Camp, Bhagavan blessed them with His Divine Discourse to mark the grand finale of the three-day Camp. At the outset of His Discourse, Bhagavan expressed how He felt happy to see the bliss of people of Kerala. He said that three days passed like three minutes. Bhagavan advised the delegates to always seek good company which could generate sacred feelings in their heart. In conclusion, Bhagavan

exhorted the youth not to forget love which was imprinted on their heart. The programme concluded with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.30 p.m. With this, the three-day Sadhana Camp came to a happy conclusion.

### **Plenary Sessions**

Plenary sessions for the delegates to the Sadhana Camp were conducted in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam, where they assembled both after the morning sessions and before the afternoon sessions in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall.

On 19th May 2006, the morning session started at 10.45 a.m. with an illuminating talk by Sri B.N. Narasimha Murthy, Warden, Brindavan Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Narrating his personal experiences, Sri Murthy advised the students to hold on to the feet of Bhagavan. Then all their aspirations would be fulfilled, he added. The next speaker was Dr. Narendra Reddy, Member, Prasanthi Council. Quoting from the Bible, Dr. Reddy advised the youth that they should first seek the kingdom of God, then everything else would be added to it. To attain this, they should follow the command of Bhagavan implicitly, instantaneously and completely, added the learned speaker. The last speaker of the morning session, Dr. T. Ravikumar, a faculty member of Brindavan Campus of the Institute, narrated many experiences to demonstrate the various ways in which Bhagavan reforms His devotees. He also narrated how Bhagavan saved his father's life by curing his cancer. In the afternoon session, Sri Vijay Menon, a member of the Youth Wing of Kerala addressed the delegates. The speaker observed that Bhagavan was offering both material and spiritual gains, leaving the decision to man what he wanted.



The first speaker on the second day of the Sadhana Camp was Dr. Deepak Anand, a faculty member of the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the Institute. Dr. Anand observed that human life had a higher purpose of uniting man with God. The contemporaries of Bhagavan are extremely fortunate because He is showing them the path of peace and bliss which they can follow and perceive with their senses, said Dr. Anand. The next speaker, Sri G. Srirangarajan, a faculty member of the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of the Institute, remarked that Bhagavan is setting ideals in Seva for mankind to emulate. He called upon the youth to work for others which, according to Bhagavan, was the primary duty of man. The last speaker of the morning session was Sri Sanjay Sahni, Principal, Brindavan Campus of the Institute. He stressed the importance of sense control and mind control. Two golden injunctions on the path of spirituality were – talk less, have minimum contacts, observed Sri Sahni. Dr. Ramachandran Nair, Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala spoke in the afternoon session. He opined that it was only Bhagavan's glory which could bring about transformation in the world. All the humanitarian projects of Bhagavan were shining examples set by Him for humanity to follow, concluded the learned speaker.

The morning session on 21st May 2006 began with a speech by Sri N. Dhakappa, President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Karnataka. He narrated a few personal experiences revealing the omnipresence, omnipotence and omniscience of Bhagavan. He exhorted the delegates to firmly believe in the Avatar and remember that the aim of human birth was not to be born again. The second speaker was Sri B.N. Narasimha Murthy who underlined

four golden guidelines on the path of spiritual evolution: Look back and thank God, look ahead and trust God, look around and serve God, look within and see God. He also narrated his many experiences with Bhagavan to substantiate these statements. The next speaker was Sri Sanjay Mahalingam, a research scholar of the Institute. Sri Mahalingam observed that it was our own delusion which prevented us from feeling one with God. He observed that if one had one single motive of attaining God in life, one could achieve everything. What followed this was a lively question-answer session in which the delegates asked questions on spiritual subjects, and Sri Narasimha Murthy gave the answers. In the afternoon session, Sri Ruchir Desai, a faculty member of the Brindavan Campus of the Institute, addressed the delegates. Sri Desai emphasised that the key to transformation was change of attitude. He also narrated how Bhagavan answers to even a flash of thought in a devotee's mind. In the end, Sri Desai answered the questions of the participants. With this, the three-day proceedings in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam providing enriching and ennobling experience to the delegates came to a close.

## YUVA VANDANA 2006

Karnataka Youth Camp "Yuva Vandana 2006" had a colourful start when Bhagavan was welcomed to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall with Nadaswaram, Veda chanting and folk dances on the morning of 27th May 2006.

### Proceedings in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall

As soon as Bhagavan started towards the Hall, Karnataka Sai Youth started Bhajans. After arriving on the beautifully and aesthetically decorated





*Youth Camp "Yuva Vandana 2006" was inaugurated by Bhagavan on the morning of 27th May 2006 by pressing a switch with which a huge lotus placed on the dais bloomed.*

dais, Bhagavan inaugurated the Camp at 8.00 a.m. by pressing a remote controlled switch, with which a huge lotus placed on the dais bloomed and all the photos of Bhagavan were illuminated. While Bhajans continued, Bhagavan came down from the dais and blessed the school kits which were distributed to more than 1,000 school children, dressed in immaculate white clothes earlier blessed by Bhagavan, from various villages where service activities were being conducted by the Sai Organisation. After this, Bhagavan went into the rows of youth and other devotees to shower the bliss of His Divine Darshan on them. After Bhagavan came back to the dais, a group of Bal Vikas children presented an excellent dance in front of the dais to the tune of the theme and welcome song played in the background. This was followed by a programme of soul-stirring melodies presented by two renowned musicians, Smt. Sunita Bellur and Sri Shankar Shanubogue. The morning programme came to a close at 9.35

a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

In the afternoon, Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 3.30 p.m. amidst singing of Bhajans. Thereafter, Sri Nagesh G. Dhakappa, State President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Karnataka made an introductory speech expressing gratitude to Bhagavan for this golden opportunity to the youth of Karnataka to hold this Camp in His close proximity. Sri Dhakappa then introduced two youth speakers who were blessed by Bhagavan to address the gathering before His Divine Discourse. They were: Kumari Shivaleela from Dharwad (Karnataka) and Sri Vinay Kumar from Bangalore.

Thereafter, Bhagavan gave a very inspiring and illuminating Discourse calling up the youth and students to acquire the education which developed their character and gave them the knowledge of the Self. Advising the students and youth to follow Indian culture and traditions instead of imitating the western culture, He reminded them of their duty towards the sacred land of Bharat. In conclusion, Bhagavan exhorted them to lead a life of love and selfless service. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.10 p.m. Prasadam was distributed to the entire gathering in the end.

On the morning of 28th May 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 8.35 a.m. This being the 9th Anniversary Day of the inauguration of Sai Gitanjali, one of the Sai Centres in Bangalore, the devotees of this Sai Centre led the Bhajans. After the Bhajans, food and clothes blessed by Bhagavan were distributed to needy people. In the afternoon, there were Bhajans led by Sai Youth of Karnataka after the arrival of Bhagavan at 3.55 p.m. At the conclusion of this



soulful Bhajan session, two very captivating presentations of instrumental music were made by the Sai Youth. The first item was the "Tala Vadya Kacheri" (instrumental music) by Sri Arjun Kumar and party which earned the appreciation of the huge gathering who expressed their delight with loud applause at the conclusion of the presentation. The second item was instrumental fusion music



*Musical presentations formed an important part of the programmes organised during the Youth Camp "Yuva Vandana 2006".*

by Sri Muthu and party which delighted one and all. The last item of the programme was a group song on the theme of the camp "Yuva Vandana", offering salutations at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan and expressing devotion and dedication of the youth to the Divine Mission of Bhagavan. Bhagavan was moved by the feelings of dedication of the youth and showered His profuse blessings on them. He posed for group photos with the organisers, and materialised a gold chain with a pendant for one of them. The grand finale of the camp were the moving words of Bhagavan saturated with His Divine Love, expressing His delight and appreciation at the organisation of this Camp. On behalf of the youth of Karnataka, Sri Vinay

Kumar expressed the resolve of the youth to dedicate their lives to Bhagavan and work wholeheartedly for His Divine Mission to their last breath. The proceedings of the Camp came to a close with this moving exchange of heart to heart feelings of love between the youth and Bhagavan and with offer of Arati to Bhagavan at 5.05 p.m.

### **Plenary Session**

A plenary session of the Youth Camp was held in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam on the morning of 28th May 2006 after the open session in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall. The first speaker of the session was Sri U.Gangadhar Bhat, Chairman, Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Institutions, Alike. Speaking in chaste Kannada, Sri Bhat advised the youth to follow the teachings of Bhagavan, inculcate virtues and develop a high character along with pursuing their academic studies. The next speaker was Sri B.N. Narasimha Murthy, Warden, Brindavan Campus of the Institute, who narrated his many experiences with Bhagavan and advised the students to make their life meaningful by chanting the Divine Name, keeping the form of the Avatar in their heart while doing selfless service. The next speaker of the session was Sri Sanjay Sahni, Principal, Brindavan Campus of the Institute. Narrating one of the experiences of his school days, Sri Sahni said that Bhagavan manifests Himself wherever His work is done. He observed that all good work is God's work, and called upon the youth to earnestly dedicate their lives to selfless service to realise the goal of life. The last speaker of the session was Smt. Gita Mohan Ram of the U.S.A. who narrated her experiences of Bhagavan's omnipresence, omnipotence and omniscience and called upon the youth to seize the golden opportunity to experience God



who has incarnated on earth as Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The plenary session came to a close at 12.15 p.m. with this presentation.

### **Ekalavya: A Drama**

This excellent drama depicting the rare devotion of the tragic hero of Mahabharata, Ekalavya, to his preceptor Dronacharya was presented by the Youth Wing of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Karnataka in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam on the evening of 27th May 2006. The drama commenced



*A scene from the drama "Ekalavya" presented by the Youth Wing of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Karnataka on 27th May 2006.*

at 5.40 p.m. after the arrival of Bhagavan in the Kalyana Mandapam. The actors of the drama drawn from all over Karnataka were the students of Mysore Medical College and old students of Sathya Sai Vihar, Alike. Excellent acting of the students, perfect choreography, appropriate costumes and superb direction made it an outstanding presentation. Bhagavan showered His blessings on the cast at the end of the drama, and also materialised a gold ring for the youth who played the role of Ekalavya. Bhagavan also distributed watches to all the actors and posed for photographs with them. The programme came to a close at 6.30 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

## **SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER MEDICAL SCIENCES**

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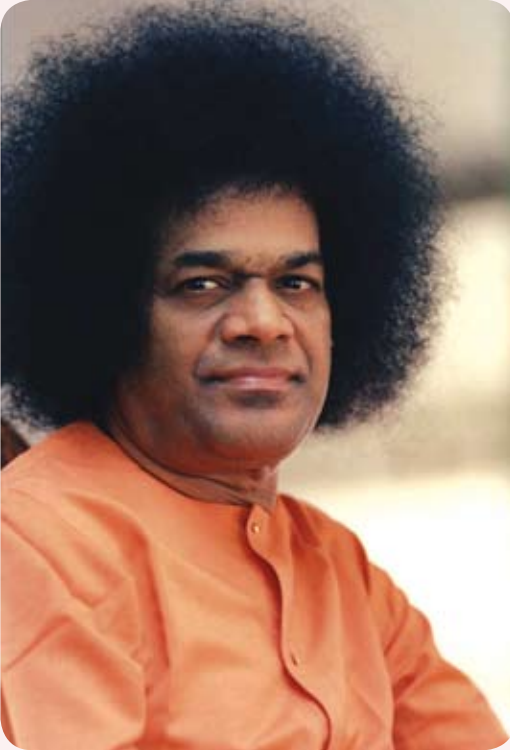


# ATTAIN ENLIGHTENMENT BY RENOUNCING DESIRES

*All the names and forms are but the manifestations of the Supreme Being who is Existence-Knowledge-Bliss Absolute and non-dual. He is the embodiment of Sathyam, Sivam, Sundaram (Truth, Goodness, Beauty).* (Sanskrit Verse)

## Embodiments of Love!

**O**N THIS SACRED DAY OF Buddha Purnima, we talk about Buddha and Purnima (full moon). But we seldom enquire into Buddha's teachings, his virtues and the exemplary way in which he led his life.



King Suddhodhana and his wife Mayadevi performed many spiritual austerities such

as Japa, Tapa, Vratas and Yajnas for years together with an aspiration to have a son. They also consulted many astrologers. Suddhodhana had no peace of mind as the worry of not having an heir to the throne haunted him day and night. At last their prayers were answered when Mayadevi gave birth to a son at Lumbini. Unfortunately, Mayadevi died soon after giving



*Today is Buddha Purnima. Purnima means full moon. The underlying message of Buddha Purnima is that the mind should shine with total purity like full moon. It should unite with its source, i.e., the Atma which is pure and effulgent. There is no darkness on the full moon night. On this auspicious day of Buddha Purnima, we should attain full purity of the mind.*



birth to her son who was named Siddhartha. Gautami, the second wife of Suddhodhana, brought up the child with loving care like her



came to the conclusion that he was none of these. Ultimately, he experienced the truth, “I am I”.

### **Recognise the Unity of all Creation**

The Vedas declare, *Aham Brahmasmi* (I am Brahman) and *Tattwamasi* (That Thou Art). Even these two Vedic declarations state two things: I and Brahman, That and Thou. True wisdom lies in seeing oneness. *Advaita Darshanam Jnanam* (experience of non-dualism is true wisdom). It is a sign of ignorance to see duality ignoring the underlying unity. Duality is not the truth. In this manner, Buddha enquired deeply and ultimately got the experience of “I am I”. That is true realisation. You may do penance for many years, you may do meditation and perform many yogic practices. But all these spiritual practices give only temporary satisfaction, not everlasting bliss. Some people talk about meditation. Even Buddha advocated the practice of meditation. What is that you have to meditate upon? What is meant by meditation? Does it mean concentrating upon a particular object? No, no. That is not meditation at all. To contemplate upon the principle of “I am I” is true meditation. No other Sadhana (spiritual practice) can match this.

So long as you have the dualistic feeling of ‘you and I’, you cannot experience unity. Buddha recognised the principle of unity and based his life on this truth. Under the direction of many yogis, he had performed various kinds of meditation and penance, but ultimately he found them to be a mere waste of time as none of these could lead him to the ultimate experience of oneness. He regretted having wasted his time in such a manner. One should find fulfillment in life by making proper use of time. This is the primary duty of man.

### *Embodiments of Love!*

Many people perform different types of spiritual practices such as Japa and Dhyana without recognising the principle of unity. The tongue utters the name of Rama but there is void in the heart. This is just waste of time. Instead of wasting your time in such a manner, undertake social service, seeing God in everyone. That is true spiritual practice. Recognise the innate divinity of all beings.

In creation, there appear to be two entities, you and I. But you and I are in reality one. Vyashti (individual) is a part of Samashti (society), and Samashti is a part of Srishti (creation) which emerges from Parameshti (God). This Parameshti is Parabrahma Tattwa (principle of Brahman). That is the fundamental basis of the entire creation. In this way, you have to recognise the unity of all creation. Only then can you attain Parameshti or the principle of Brahman. Everyone has to repeatedly remind himself, “I am Parameshti, I am Parameshti.” All are the embodiments of the Atma and all are sustained by the Atma. Buddha experienced the unity of all creation. There was total transformation in him once he attained the vision of Ekatma (oneness of the Atma). He realised that all worldly relations like mother, father, wife, children were false. He transcended body consciousness. That is why he earned the appellation Buddha (enlightened one). Man should use his Buddhi (intelligence) to understand this principle of unity. Buddhi is of two types. The Buddhi that sees diversity in unity is worldly intelligence. Man should develop Adhyatmic Buddhi (spiritual intelligence) in order to realise the underlying unity of all creation. It gives you the experience of the Atmic principle which is the same in the



entire creation. Buddha attained the vision of the Atma. After this experience, he went on teaching that there existed only one divine principle in the world.

*Buddham Saranam Gachchhami,  
Sangham Saranam Gachchhami,  
Dhammam Saranam Gachchhami.*

Buddha taught that the principle of unity of the Atma was the only true principle in the world. One who realised it by using his spiritual intelligence was true Buddha, he said. Other than the Atma nothing existed in this world.

In this transient and ephemeral world, there is one thing that is true and eternal. That is divinity. That is what everyone should aspire to attain. *Sathyam Saranam Gachchhami* (I take refuge in truth). *Ekam Saranam Gachchhami* (I take refuge in the principle of oneness). Everything is the manifestation of divinity in this world; there is no second entity other than divinity. It is the divine principle that governs the entire world. Having realised this truth, Buddha, along with his disciples, went from village to village to propagate it. He never felt the need to take rest. He thought that it was his duty to share this supreme knowledge with his fellowmen. Even his father Suddhodhana came to him. He also recognised this truth and was transformed. What did Buddha teach? Buddha taught that everyone was endowed with the same principle of divinity. *Ekam Sath Viprah Bahudha Vadanti* (truth is one, but the wise refer to it by various names). The same message was conveyed by Lord Krishna in the Bhagavadgita when He said that all beings were His own reflection, and no one was different from Him. Buddha had to undergo great hardships to realise this truth. Many noble souls who were the contemporaries of Buddha

acknowledged the greatness of Buddha. They said that Buddha had experienced the truth which they were unable to realise. As he gave up all desires, Buddha became an epitome of total renunciation. There was nothing in him except love. He considered love as his very life-breath. Bereft of love, the world would turn into a void.

### **Try to Understand the Profundity of Buddha's Teachings**

When you offer your salutations to someone, understand that you are saluting your own self. That someone is none other than your own reflection. See others just as you see your own reflection in the mirror. This is the message conveyed by the Mahavakya (profound statement), *Aham Brahmasmi*. Names and forms may be different, but all beings are part and parcel of the same divine principle. You may call this a handkerchief. You may call this a robe. But both are made out of cotton. Likewise, divinity is the underlying principle in the apparent multiplicity of this world. Many so-called scholars are preaching only multiplicity today. They claim to have mastered the scriptures and try to interpret them in their own way with their limited knowledge. Their interpretations do not correspond to the reality. They only add to confusion.

Buddha taught that we should not have anger, we should not find others' faults, we should not harm others, because all are the embodiments of pure, eternal principle of the Atma. Have compassion towards the poor and help them to the extent possible. You think those who do not have food to eat are poor people. You cannot call someone poor just because he does not have money or food to eat. Truly speaking, nobody is poor. All are rich, not poor. Those





handkerchief white and this microphone black. The difference in colour is perceived by your eyes, but essentially black and white are one and the same. Everyone should make efforts to visualise unity in diversity. Only then can one experience divinity.

The principles taught by Buddha have profound significance, but people are not trying to understand them. You might have observed that Buddha had curly hair on his head. One lock of hair was entwined with the other. There is an underlying message of unity in this. He had only one feeling in his heart, the feeling of love. He taught, *Dharmam Saranam Gachchhami* (I take refuge in righteousness), *Premam Saranam Gachchhami* (I take refuge in love). Bereft of love, humanness has no existence. We should love all, irrespective of the fact whether one is a pauper or a rich man. Money should not be the criterion to share your love with your fellowmen. Money is not important. *Money comes and goes, morality comes and grows*. Do not hurt others. *Help Ever, Hurt Never*. Only then can you attain the state of Buddha. There is little use in giving lengthy lectures if you do not realise the principle of unity in divinity. You may call God by any name such as Rama, Krishna, Buddha, Sai, etc., but all of them embody the same divine principle. Keep the flower of oneness in the altar of your heart and let its fragrance spread everywhere. Spiritual practices such as Japa and Tapa will not yield the desired result unless you recognise the principle of unity. Many people count the beads of the rosary. But, what is the use of rotating the rosary if the mind also keeps going round the world? Understand that the mind is most important. You should have a steady mind. Only then will your life be redeemed. What is the use if your mind hovers around

on each and every object like flies which hover on dirt as well as Laddus?

Do not allow your mind to vacillate between good and bad, unity and multiplicity. Focus it on all that is good and realise the principle of unity. That is the royal road which will lead you to the experience of truth. On the other hand, if you allow your mind to follow the crooked path, it will not lead you anywhere.

*Embodiments of Love!*

The same divine principle of love is present in all of you. When you take to the path of love, you will become Buddha yourself. Today is Buddha Purnima. Purnima means full moon. The underlying message of Buddha Purnima is that the mind should shine with total purity like full moon. It should unite with its source, i.e., the Atma which is pure and effulgent. There is no darkness on the full moon night. On this auspicious day of Buddha Purnima, we should attain full purity of the mind.

*Poornamada Poornamidam,  
Poornat Poornamudachyate,  
Poornasya Poornamadaya,  
Poornamevavashishyate.*

(That is full, this is full. When the full is taken out of the full, what remains is again the full.) We have to recognise this truth.

*Embodiments of Love!*

It gives Me great joy to see that all of you have gathered here today. You are united with each other with the bond of love. Love is only one; it is not different in you, Me and others. You have unified your love with that of Swami. *Love is one. Live in love.*

(Bhagavan concluded His Discourse with the Bhajan, *Prema Mudita Manase Kaho ...*)

– From Bhagavan's Buddha Purnima Discourse in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall, Brindavan (Whitefield), Bangalore on 13th May 2006.



# CELEBRATIONS AT BRINDAVAN

**T**RAYEE BRINDAVAN, THE abode of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba at Whitefield (Bangalore), is not only an edifice of great architectural beauty, but it is also a place of immense spiritual significance as it has been sanctified by Bhagavan's sojourn during summer months since its inauguration on 26th April 1984. Annual Day of its inauguration is celebrated with great piety and gaiety by the devotees of Bhagavan every year. Like the previous years, a variety of programmes were conducted this year also on this occasion.

Auspicious notes of Nadaswaram filled the entire milieu on the morning of 26th April 2006 to mark the commencement of the celebrations. The entire premises presented a festive look with floral and other decorations. Besides, the students of the Institute put up an attractive display which they named "Garden of Love" in the lawn in front of Trayee Brindavan. Bhajans led by Institute students commenced as soon as Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall on the morning of 26th April 2006 which were followed with great devotion by a huge concourse of devotees present in the Hall. At the close of the Bhajan session, Narayana Seva was performed, offering food and clothes to needy people.

In the afternoon, a magnificent programme of devotional songs was

## 23rd ANNIVERSARY OF TRAYEE BRINDAVAN

presented by the Ladies Wing of Brindavan Bhajan Group in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The songs in praise of Mother Easwaramma and Bhagavan in a variety of languages, viz., Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi, Kannada and Sanskrit were sung with great devotional fervour to the delight of a huge gathering of devotees. In the evening, the



*Trayee Brindavan, the abode of Bhagavan in Brindavan (Whitefield), gloriously illuminated on its 23rd Anniversary celebrations.*

entire building was illuminated with candles and colourful bulbs which provided an enchanting look to this grand and sacred edifice.

## EASWARAMMA DAY

In a grand function held on 6th May 2006 in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall, Brindavan (Whitefield), sacred memories of Divine Mother Easwaramma came alive when Bhagavan narrated some incidents from her life highlighting the noble ideals set by her for the welfare of mankind.



Besides the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan, Bal Vikas children and Gurus from Bangalore and other parts of Karnataka presented many programmes and carried out various service activities to commemorate this sacred day.

On the morning of 6th May 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 8.00 a.m. and showered the bliss of His Darshan on a huge gathering of devotees, Bal Vikas children and Gurus. After the arrival of Bhagavan in the Hall, Bal Vikas children of Bangalore started Bhajans in praise of Mother Easwamma and Bhagavan which were followed by the devotees in chorus with great devotional fervour. The devotion and perfection with which the Bhajans were led by the Bal Vikas children filled each heart with sacred feelings. This excellent programme of Bhajans which commenced at 8.00 a.m. came to a close at 9.15 a.m. with Arati to Bhagavan. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end. After the conclusion of this Bhajan programme, Narayana Seva was performed. Bhagavan Himself initiated this sacred programme by distributing food and clothes to some of the needy people. He also created a gold chain with a locket for a child after giving food and clothes to her mother. Nearly 4,000 needy people were beneficiaries of this Narayana Seva.

The programme in the afternoon started at 4.25 p.m. after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall. Before the Divine Discourse of Bhagavan, Sri Sanjay Mahalingam, a research scholar of the Institute, made a brief speech underlining the importance of Bhakti as the surest path to reach God. "It is easy to say that one loves God but it requires a lot of effort to live it", added the speaker. After this, Bhagavan blessed the devotees

with His nectarine Discourse (full text given elsewhere in this issue). The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.40 p.m.

### **Bhakta Sudama: A Drama**

On the evening of 6th May 2006, Bal Vikas children of Bangalore presented a beautiful drama "Bhakta Sudama" in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam depicting how Lord Krishna showered His love and bounty on His friend and classmate Sudama. Good acting of the children, appropriate costumes, excellent sets, sweet songs and crisp dialogues made



*A scene from the drama "Bhakta Sudama" presented by the Bal Vikas children of Bangalore in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam.*

it a successful presentation. Bhagavan saw the entire drama, blessed the children at the end and posed for photographs with them. The drama came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 7.00 p.m.

On 7th May 2006, Bal Vikas children and Gurus visited orphanages and slums of Bangalore and conducted service activities and Narayana Seva. Another Narayana Seva was conducted on the morning of 8th May 2006 at Brindavan Ashram in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan where Bal Vikas children and Gurus distributed food and clothes to about 500 underprivileged





children from nearby villages and slums. On the afternoon of 8th May 2006, Bhajans in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan were led by Bal Vikas Gurus marking the conclusion of Easwaramma Day celebrations at Brindavan.

## A MEMORABLE BUDDHA PURNIMA

Buddha Purnima is celebrated all over the world to commemorate the day on which Lord Buddha was born, attained enlightenment and Nirvana. Like previous years, this year also a large number of overseas devotees came to the Brindavan Ashram to celebrate this holy festival in Bhagavan's Divine Presence. Bhagavan showered His blessings on them, and also blessed them with His Divine Message on this occasion. A number of cultural and musical programmes were presented on 13th and 14th May 2006 by overseas devotees and children to highlight the significance of this holy day.

The entire Brindavan Ashram bore a festive look with decorations of flowers, banners and festoons put up by the devotees on this occasion. Besides, wall-size posters with photos of Buddha and Bhagavan decorated many walls of the Ashram. Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall being the venue of the programmes was specially decorated with series of banners bearing the symbols of all the religions of the world. Amidst profuse floral and other decorations, an altar was set up on the dais with Lord Buddha's idol. The illumination of the entire Ashram at night was exquisitely beautiful.

At 8.45 a.m. on 13th May 2006, recitation of traditional Buddhists chants began in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall when Bhagavan came to the Hall in a grand procession led by the children's band of Indonesia and five Buddhist monks. As soon as Bhagavan occupied His

seat on the dais, bouquets were offered to welcome Him. Bhagavan then blessed the flowers which were offered at the altar by Sri Karu Jayasuriya of Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, children's band took position in front of the dais and delighted one and all with a grand display of devotional tunes. Soon after this, the devotees of host countries (Brunei,



*Grand display of devotional tunes by the children's band of Indonesia on the holy day of Buddha Purnima in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall.*

Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore) began soul-elevating Bhajans which were followed in chorus by a huge gathering of devotees in the Hall surcharging the entire milieu with spiritual vibrations. Led by ladies and gents devotees alternately, the Bhajans were full of devotional feelings and marked by perfection of tune and rhythm, thus filling each heart with sublime feelings of devotion and sacredness.

Two speakers addressed the gathering after Bhajans which lasted nearly one hour. Dr. Pal Dhall, Chairman, Zone 3 and 4 of Overseas Sathya Sai Organisation introduced the speakers and expressed gratitude to

Bhagavan for His permission to celebrate this sacred day in His Divine Presence. The first speaker was Dr. Art-ong Jumsai, Director, Institute of Sathya Sai Education, Thailand. Underlining the importance of this day, Dr. Jumsai observed that this Vesaka Purnima marking the 2550th year of the birth, enlightenment and Nirvana of Buddha had a special significance as it was being celebrated in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who is the source of all enlightenment. The learned speaker told that Sathya Sai School of Thailand had been recognised as the most outstanding Buddhist school of Thailand since it was putting into practice the values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa taught by Bhagavan. The second speaker was Desamanya Bradman Weerakoon, a distinguished civil servant and recipient of the highest national award of Sri Lanka, Desamanya. The learned speaker referred to the modern scenario of the world which was beset with violence, war and strife and pointed out that as war began in the mind of men, the teachings of Buddha were most relevant to the modern world. He emphasised that Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's teachings like Love All, Serve All, Help Ever, Hurt Never should become the agenda of peace in the world. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.15 a.m. This was followed by a sumptuous lunch offered by Bhagavan to more than 1,000 delegates who had come from 15 countries of the world to celebrate this holy festival in His Divine Presence. All the devotees were also served lunch on this occasion.

In the afternoon, as Bhagavan came to Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall at 3.50 p.m., Bhajans were started in the

Hall led by overseas devotees. After a brief Bhajan session, two speakers addressed the gathering. The first speaker, Dr. Narendra Reddy, Member, Prasanthi Council, observed that Bhagavan is Sarva Dharma Swarupa (embodiment of all faiths). That was why, people of all faiths, from all countries of the world celebrated their festivals in His Divine Presence, he said. Referring to the values of truth, love, compassion and non-violence taught by Buddha, Dr. Reddy observed that there was total similarity between the teachings of Buddha and those of Bhagavan who has been giving the message of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa to mankind. The second speaker was Sri Phoa Krishnaputra of Indonesia who observed that Bhagavan is the source of all energy, and that anything can be achieved by His grace. Sri Krishnaputra narrated how he came to Bhagavan and how by His grace a Sai Centre, three medical clinics and a school based on Sai human values became a reality in Medan, Indonesia in due course of time.

After these two speeches, Bhagavan blessed the gathering with His Buddha Purnima Message and called upon the devotees to focus their mind on the principle of unity and realise their innate divinity. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue.) The day's programme in the Hall came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.25 p.m.

Two excellent cultural items were presented in the evening programme in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam. The programme started at 6.00 p.m. soon after the arrival of Bhagavan in the Kalyana Mandapam. The first item of the programme was a scintillating dance by the children of Nanyang School, Medan (Indonesia). Presenting this





*A beautiful formation made by the children of Nanyang School, Medan (Indonesia) during a scintillating dance performance in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam.*

traditional dance dedicated to Kwan Yin (Chinese goddess of mercy), they enraptured the audience by their movements and formations in their brilliant traditional costumes to the tune of lively Indonesian music. The second item of the programme was a short but powerful drama presented by the Sai Youth of Singapore depicting the life and teachings of Lord Buddha as described by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in His Discourses. The drama commenced with a courtroom scene to debate the existence of God. As the story progressed, two episodes from the life of Buddha were enacted which highlighted his principal teachings that control of senses was the key to enlightenment, and control of desires and purity of thought, word and deed were the



*A scene from the drama presented by the Sai Youth of Singapore in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam, Brindavan.*

means to attain Nirvana, the final goal of life. Brilliant acting of the youth, gripping story, superb direction and perfect choreography made the drama an outstanding presentation. At the end of the drama, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the cast and posed for photographs with them. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.40 p.m.

The programme on the morning of 14th May 2006 commenced with Bhajans at 8.20 a.m. after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall. Soulful Bhajans led by the ladies and gents overseas devotees alternately and followed in chorus by a huge gathering of devotees filled each heart with sublime feelings of devotion. This was followed by two dance items. The first item was a traditional Indonesian dance by the Bal Vikas children of Medan (Indonesia) who danced to the lively Indonesian music in their traditional dress. The second item was a repeat presentation of Kwan Yin dance by the children of Nanyang School, Medan which they had presented on



the previous evening before the drama by the Sai Youth of Singapore in Sai Krishan Kalyana Mandapam. The last item of the morning programme was a presentation by the Malaysian Sai Choir. This brilliant presentation comprising Chinese songs earned the appreciation and applause of the gathering and blessings of Bhagavan who showered special blessings on the conductor of the choir and also materialised a gold chain with a pendant for him at the end of this excellent performance. The morning cultural programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.30 a.m. After this, Narayana Seva was performed, wherein food and clothes blessed by Bhagavan were distributed to a large number of needy people.

The afternoon programme on 14th May 2006 commenced with Bhajans which were again led by overseas Sai devotees. This was followed by a brilliant solo percussion presentation. Thereafter, Bal Vikas students of Medan (Indonesia) presented a very beautiful dance to the tune of the Bhajan, "*Hari Bhajan Bina Sukha Santhi Nahin ...*" After these two cultural items, Bhajans started again. Buddha Purnima celebrations at Brindavan came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.15 p.m.

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

Music lovers had a rare treat of devotional music when two renowned musicians made soul-stirring instrumental and vocal musical presentations in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan.

Well-known Hindustani classical singer Ms. Parveen Sultana enthralled the audience in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall by singing

Mira Bhajans and other devotional songs on the afternoons of 9th, 11th and 15th May 2006. Her superb rendition of devotional songs was a feast for the soul. Bhagavan sat through the entire duration of all the three presentations and showered His blessings on the artiste. Instrumental support to all these presentations was provided by the Institute students.

The Brindavan Bhajan Group, Bangalore presented their programme of devotional vocal music in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall on the afternoon of 25th May 2006. Commencing the programme with a beautiful composition in praise of Lord Ganesh in Hindi, "*Gaiye Ganapati Jagavandana*", the singers enthralled the audience for nearly 45 minutes by magnificently rendered devotional songs in Hindi, Sanskrit, Kannada and Telugu set to scintillating music. The programme which began at 4.35 p.m. after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall came to a close at 5.15 p.m. Bhagavan sat through the entire presentation and blessed the Bhajan Group members at the end of the programme.

Another soulful musical presentation was made by renowned Santoor maestro Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma on the afternoon of 29th May 2006. The artiste first enthralled the gathering by two most captivating classical presentations and then played one Bhajan, earning the appreciation of the huge assembly of devotees in Sai Ramesh Krishan Hall who expressed their joy with loud applause after every presentation. The programme which began after the arrival of Bhagavan in the Hall at 4.25 p.m. came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 4.55 p.m. Bhagavan showered His blessings on the artiste for his excellent presentation.



# NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

## MEXICO

The World Water Forum is an international event to promulgate the awareness of water supply and conservation all over the world. It is the main international event on water and is founded on the principles of collaboration, partnership and innovation. The 4th World



*Over 14,000 delegates attended the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico City where a presentation on Anantapur Water Project and other water projects of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust was made.*

Water Forum was held at the Banamex Centre in Mexico City on 16th-21st March 2006 and attended by over 14,000 delegates. At the invitation of the organisers of the World Water Forum in Mexico, the massive water projects implemented by Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust in Anantapur and elsewhere in India were presented to the delegates attending the Forum.

While jointly presenting the Anantapur Water Project, Professor Anantha Raman of Sri Sathya

Sai Institute of Higher Learning and Sri A. Ramakrishna, formerly of Larsen and Toubro, said that this unique project which provided access to safe drinking water to one million poor in the arid Anantapur district within a span of 18 months was a miracle of Bhagavan Baba's love which showed that the people need not wait for government assistance if there was sufficient drive and compassion in society.

The project was viewed as a practical model of how the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the world's leaders could be achieved to provide safe water to the poor in every part of the world. The Anantapur project was independently evaluated jointly by UN-HABITAT and the Asian Development Bank and is being disseminated worldwide as a Best Practice.

Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust has followed up the Anantapur project with similar massive water supply projects in Medak and Mahabubnagar districts in Telangana region. A similar project is now nearing completion in poor tribal areas of East and West Godavari districts. These projects have inspired the Sathya Sai Overseas Organisations to implement water supply projects in El Salvador and more recently in Uganda, East Africa. A Minister from the Government of Uganda recently visited Prasanthi Nilayam to pay tribute to Bhagavan Baba for providing safe drinking water to arid villages in Uganda.

## U. S. A.

On 13th April 2006, Sri S.V. Giri, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya



Sai Institute of Higher Learning, visited the Arcadia Centre in Southern California. About 150 people gathered to welcome and hear his spiritually uplifting talk. Sri Giri said that it was important to lead lives that abide by four significant words from Bhagavan: Love All, Serve All; Help Ever, Hurt Never. In rendering service and charity, we must follow the example set by Bhagavan Himself: give with faith and simplicity rather than pomp and show, give liberally that which is valuable and make sure that the gift is given with due respect and love. In conclusion, he said: Living with God is education, living for God is devotion, living in God is spirituality. There was a question and answer session and then the evening concluded with Arati.

On Sunday, 16th April 2006, the Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) and Sathya Sai Education and Human Values (SSEHV) teachers of the Southern California Region (Region 8) attended a special talk by Sri Giri



*Sri S.V. Giri, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, gave an inspiring talk to Sai Spiritual Education and Sathya Sai Education in Human Values teachers of Southern California Region on 16th April 2006.*

on the purpose of education. During the meeting, Sri Giri emphasised the importance of teachers being

fundamentally responsible for the education of the children they were entrusted with. Sri Giri said: There are three types of teachers - the ones who *complain*, the ones who *explain*, and the ones who *inspire*. The teachers who inspire are those that Swami holds in the highest regard. Sri Giri explicated the motto of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning whereby the institute, he said, was not meant for conferring degrees in a conventional form, but its true purpose was to guide students in acquiring self-knowledge, self-awareness, self-sacrifice, and, as a culmination of all knowledge and acts, self-realisation.

### **SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO**

The independent republics of Serbia and Montenegro are located in the Balkan Peninsula bordering the Adriatic Sea. A public meeting was held in its capital city Belgrade on 12th



*Public meeting in Belgrade where Bhagavan's glory and His humanitarian work were highlighted.*

March 2006 at the prominent Dom Omladine cultural centre. About 200 people attended the event including the Indian Ambassador to Serbia and Montenegro, Smt. Lavanya Prasad. In addition to a photographic exhibition of Bhagavan's public service projects, the documentary "His Work"



was shown. The keynote speaker was Dr. Upadhyay from London who highlighted Bhagavan's humanitarian work in healthcare, education, community service, water projects and spirituality. This was followed by an inspiring talk by the well-known Serbian poet Vesna Krmpotić on the glory and divinity of Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

## INDONESIA

About 20 kilometres from Medan, the capital of North Sumatra, is a village called Tanjung Rejo. The average income of the people of this village is about \$1.1 or Rs. 50 per day. Due to the economic constraints faced by the people of this village together with the large distance separating the village from the nearest city, medical care has been neglected. The devotees of the Sathya Sai Organisation of Indonesia conducted a medical camp in this village on 19th March 2006. Four physicians, eight pharmacists and about 30 Sai volunteers saw 164 patients. Consultations were provided for arthritis, dermatology, diabetes and personal hygiene. Free medications were dispensed by the pharmacists. In addition, food packages each consisting of five kilograms of rice, five packets of noodles, one bar of soap and one set of clothing, were distributed to 477 families in the village. The entire village was grateful for this loving concern and Seva by the Sathya Sai Organisation.

## BELARUS

The Republic of Belarus was part of the former Soviet Union. It is now independent and its capital is Minsk. A public meeting was held on 7th April 2006 in Minsk. About 28 people attended the meeting including some who travelled over 300 kilometres to hear about Bhagavan. The meeting began with screening of the film "Pure Love".

This was followed by talks by three speakers, each of whom described Bhagavan's global humanitarian work. The first speaker was Natalia Tsedrik, National Coordinator of the Sathya Sai Organisation in Belarus. She spoke on the significance of chanting Om and of Sathya Sai Baba's global impact on education through Sathya Sai Education in Human Values. The second speaker was Tatyana Rozhkova and she described Bhagavan Baba's global healthcare mission. She spoke about Swami's healthcare teachings and philosophy as well as His acts of healthcare service undertaken in several countries. After her presentation, the film "His Work" was screened. The third speaker, Ivan Dovbnya, spoke about the Sathya Sai Organisation and its activities in Belarus, Russia and many of the former Soviet Union countries. The meeting concluded with a video of Russian devotees singing at Prasanthi Nilayam on 25th November 2005 on the occasion of Bhagavan's 80th Birthday celebrations.

## RUSSIA

Lodeinoye Pole is a beautiful shipyard town which was founded by Peter the Great and is located in the Leningrad region of Russia. Sai devotees from this city held a Seva camp on 15th and 16th April 2006. The camp consisted of four activities. The first was a medical camp where 115 patients were seen for common ailments and preventive care. The second was a building maintenance camp in which Sai devotees cleaned public buildings, painted walls and doors, replaced plumbing and repaired roofs. The third was a transportation service. The fourth was general Seva in which devotees delivered 30 boxes containing several packages of food for veterans and orphans as designated by the city administrators. Overall,



the help was timely and much needed. The city administrators and the director of a renovated boarding school expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Sathya Sai Organisation.

### U. A. E.

A medical camp was held at the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi on 28th April 2006. At the camp, five physicians, two pharmacists and 30 volunteers saw 176 patients for health screening including diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia and rendered health education. Patients presented with the common cold, fevers, gastroenteritis, musculoskeletal, neurological, dermatological and dental problems. Free medications were dispensed at the pharmacy and patients were provided with free transportation to and from the camp. During a speech to welcome the Indian Minister for Overseas Affairs, the Indian Ambassador to U.A.E. commended the service activities of the Sathya Sai Organisation in Abu Dhabi.

### – Prasanthi Council

### B H A R A T

**Jammu and Kashmir:** A free veterinary camp at Zohama, tehsil Chadoora of district



*Free veterinary camp organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Jammu and Kashmir in a village to help the villagers.*

Budgam was organised on 4th March 2006. More than 200 animals of different categories were provided treatment. The facility was provided at the doorstep of the farmers. The villagers of the area expressed the need of organising many more camps in the near future and thanked the Sai Organisation for organising such types of camps in militancy infested areas, as no such facility had been provided to them by any other organisation till date.

**Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh:** Summer Course on Indian Culture and Spirituality has been regularly held at Indore at the premises of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar since the year 1999. This year, this course was held from 2nd to 9th May 2006 in which 117 boys and 128 girls accompanied by 19 teachers attended.

The day started at 5.20 a.m. and all the students participated daily in Omkaram, Suprabhatam and Jyoti Dhyana followed by



*Yoga practice was one of the activities of the Summer Course on Indian Culture and Spirituality held at Indore.*

Yoga classes which were separately held for boys and girls. The classes were held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Periods were earmarked for devotional and national songs, life and mission of Bhagavan Baba, Bhagavadgita, group



activities and life and teachings of Avatars, saints and sages. One period was also daily earmarked as story time from our ancient scriptures and values. Love prevailed the whole atmosphere and Bhagavan's presence was felt throughout the duration of the camp.

**Rajasthan:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi Sangria is running a homoeo dispensary providing free medicare to 60-70 people daily. In addition to this, the Samithi organised a blood donation camp on 12th February 2006, wherein 67 people donated blood. Tapovan Blood Bank provided their services in this task. A medical camp on heart problems was also organised on 19th March 2006 at Sangria. A team of doctors from Apollo Hospital provided complete medicare on blood pressure, ECG, sugar monitoring to 251 patients. On 23rd April 2006, a dental care camp was held at Sangria in which all dental medicare was rendered to 345 patients.

**Tamil Nadu:** The Mahila Vocational Training Centre started by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu in Chennai Metro in March 2001 has so far imparted vocational training in tailoring and other vocations to



*Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu has made more than 80 women self-reliant in the Mahila Vocational Training Centre, Chennai Metro.*

more than 80 women who have become economically self-reliant. Sai Organisation not only gives free training but also provides free sewing machines to those women who are not able to find suitable placement for their self-reliance.

Besides, these women sing Bhajans, do Veda chanting and also take part in Prasanthi Seva. Their children are admitted to Bal Vikas classes conducted by the Sai Organisation. The value-based training they receive at Mahila Vocational Training Centre not only makes them better mothers and good housewives but also better citizens.

**Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal:** A two-day National Conference of Indian Association of Teacher Educators (IATE) was organised in collaboration with University of Allahabad on 10th-11th February 2006 on "Professionalism in Teacher Education". Around 300 delegates from Bharat and neighbouring countries participated in the Conference. One of the seven sub-themes of the Conference was "Values in Teacher Education". A plenary session on Sri Sathya Sai Educare was devoted to presentation by educationists on ethical dimensions of education and teacher development. The session began with inauguration of an exhibition on Value Education based on Sri Sathya Sai Educare. The session was addressed by eminent experts. The note on Sri Sathya Sai Educare prepared by State President of Sri Sathya Sai Organisations, U.P. and Uttaranchal was circulated to the delegates. It highlighted that Human Values-oriented Education was becoming more and more relevant in the present-day scenario. A stall having 200 titles of Sai literature was put up at the Conference site.

