

Sanathana Sarathi

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Editor

G.L. ANAND



"Whomsoever you see, offer your salutations to him, considering him as the form of Rama. Swami is extolled as Sai Rama and Sai Krishna as He embodies the same principles of Dharma (righteousness), Prema (love) and Santhi (peace) which Rama and Krishna personified."

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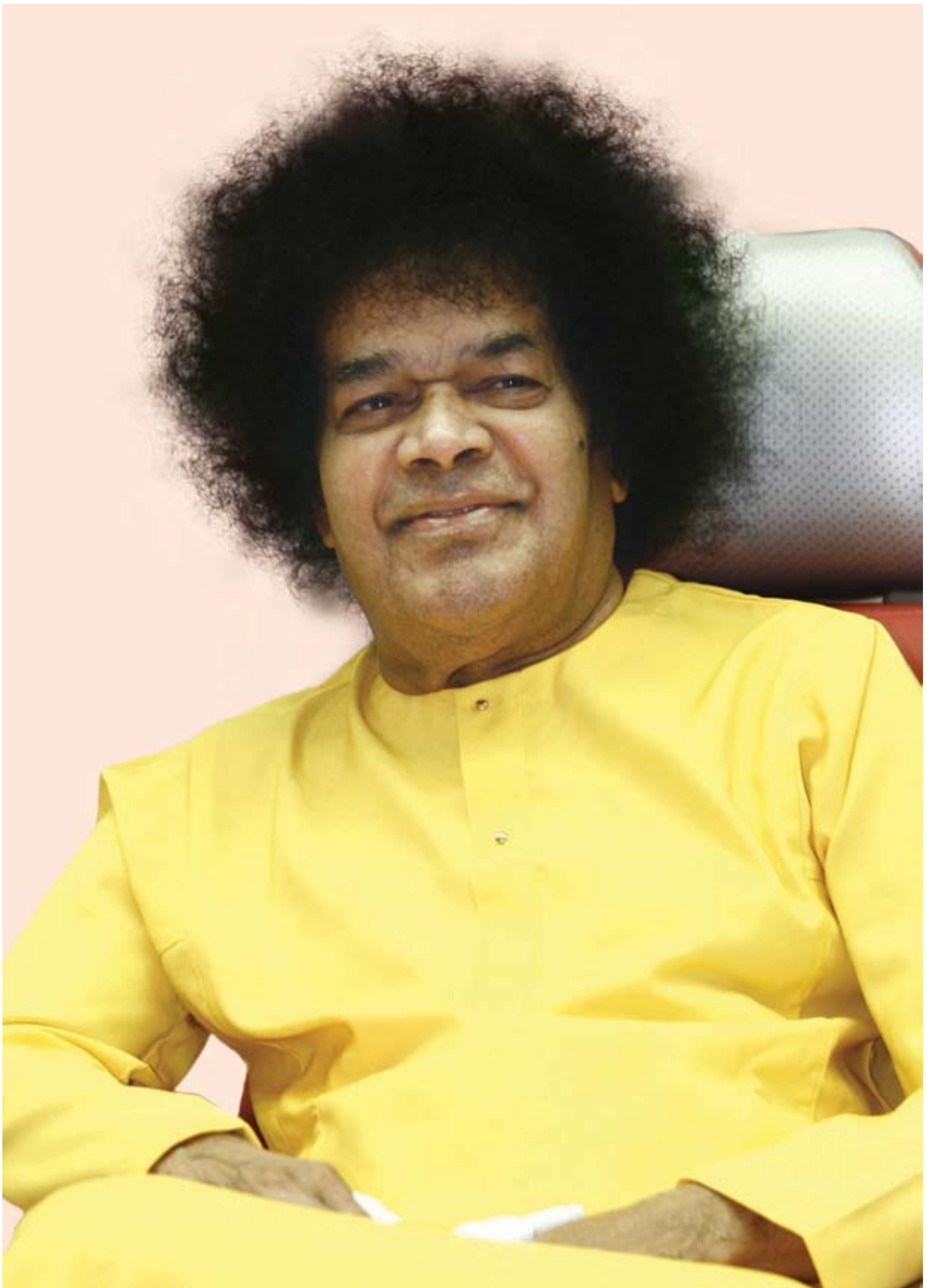
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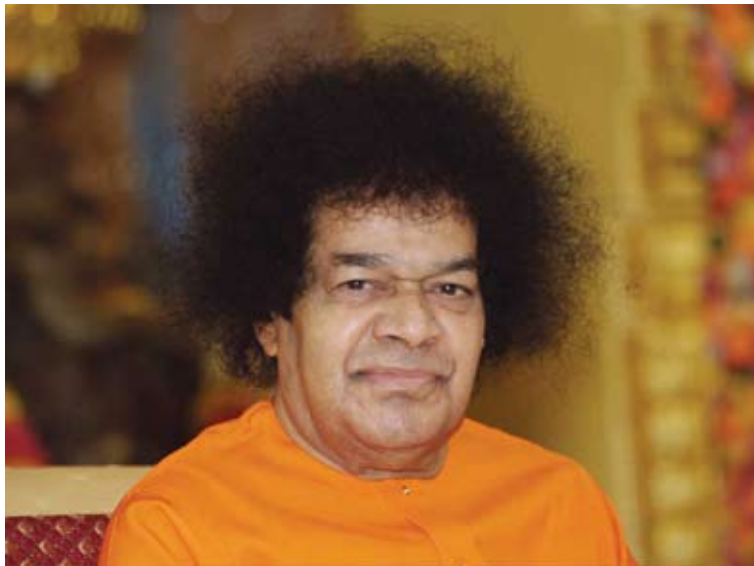


WATER IS THE GIFT OF GOD TO MAN

Embodiments of Love!

AS MENTIONED BY THE speakers who spoke just now, I provided water to Chennai both for drinking as well as for cultivation purposes. But

the repair work of the canal was done only up to the border of Andhra Pradesh. Not only was this work executed without any problem, but it was also done in such a nice way that not even a drop of water was allowed to be wasted.



Sai can do any work which nobody else is able to do. The remaining part of the canal will be nicely repaired with cement lining. You have seen for yourself how much water is being wasted now.

Water is not anybody's property; it is God's property. People are fighting with each other for water, which, in reality, is the property of God. So, they have no right to fight. Water is God's gift to man. Everybody has equal right over it.

Depend only on God

Thus, the water of the river Krishna reached up to the border of Tamil Nadu very smoothly without any wastage. But there was wastage of water after it entered Tamil Nadu border as the part of the canal on the Tamil Nadu side was not repaired. It was envisaged that this work would be done by the Tamil Nadu Government, but it has not been done so far. Naturally, the people are worried as the work has not been completed. Therefore, I have decided to undertake this task (*loud applause*). The length of the canal to be repaired towards Chennai is about 25 km. The cost of repairing it is estimated at 30 to 40 crore rupees. There is no need for you to depend upon anybody else. It is enough if you pray to God. God can perform any task. Very soon, I will complete this work so that the water reaches the people

of Chennai in full measure. Shortly, I will send the engineers there. As there are breaches in the canal on the Tamil Nadu side, a lot of water is being wasted. After the repair work is done, adequate water will reach Sathyamurthy Sagar. Thus, Sathyamurthy Sagar will be filled with Sathya Sai water (*loud prolonged applause*). I will do this work. This will ensure permanent supply of water to Chennai.

Everybody has Equal Right on Water

Sai can do any work which nobody else is able to do. The remaining part of the canal will be nicely repaired with cement lining. You have seen for yourself how much water is being wasted now. Water is not anybody's property; it is God's property. People are fighting with each other for water, which, in reality, is the property of God. So, they have no right to fight. Water is God's gift to man. Everybody has equal right over it.

The name of this year is Sarvajit. What is the meaning of Sarvajit? It means victory in all fields, viz., business, agriculture, education, etc. Hence, we will also be victorious in performing this task. I will complete this work so that you have no inconvenience henceforth. I am prepared to spend any amount of money. The five elements are the gift of God; water is one of them. It is in the hands of God. You need not approach anyone else. You may inform Karunanidhi that I will surely do this work. Convey this good news to the people of Chennai also in this auspicious Sarvajit year. May you

all lead a happy life! Constantly contemplate on God. This is your total protection. How can people have any problem when they have this sacred protection? *Why fear when I am here? (loud applause)* In this Sarvajit year, I will give water for Sathyamurthy Sagar. Therefore, you should have no worry. Have faith that God will not only provide food and water to you, but He will look after you in all respects.

Today is the sacred New Year day. It is an important day both for the people of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The people of Kerala and Tamil Nadu are recipients of My grace in full measure (*loud prolonged applause*). Hereafter, you will have no problems. Earlier, small children were suffering from many ailments by drinking polluted water. Now drink this sweet water, enjoy good health and lead a blissful and happy life without any problems.

All of you who have come here should go back happily. You will have no dearth of anything in life. I have great love for Chennai. Where is Chennai and where is Puttaparthi? Did anyone come here and pray to Me? No. Sai Himself has come to you and provided water. My love for Chennai cannot be described in words. May you all enjoy good health by eating good food and drinking pure water!

– From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 14th April 2007 on the occasion of Tamil New Year and Vishu.

We call the home, Bhavan. The word has two syllables, Bha and Van. If there is no Bha (Bhagavan) in the home, if the light of God does not shine therein, it is only a Van or jungle.

– Baba

CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

A LARGE NUMBER OF DEVOTEES along with thousands of Bal Vikas students, their parents and Bal Vikas Gurus from Kerala and Tamil Nadu came to Prasanthi Nilayam to celebrate the holy festivals of Vishu and Tamil New Year in the close proximity of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The celebrations were spread over three days, viz., 13th, 14th and 15th April. Bhagavan graced by His Divine Presence the cultural and music programmes held during all these three days and showered His blessings on Bal Vikas students, their parents, Bal Vikas Gurus and other devotees. Bhagavan also blessed them with a Divine Discourse on the morning of 14th April 2007.

VISHU CELEBRATIONS

Vishu celebrations this year commenced at Prasanthi Nilayam on the afternoon of 13th April 2007. After showering the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall, Bhagavan went into the rows of Bal Vikas students, their parents and Bal Vikas Gurus of Kerala to bless them with His Darshan. Bhagavan also materialised a gold chain for one of the students during this special Darshan.

Music and Cultural Programmes

The first item of the programme was an excellent presentation of fusion music by Sri K. Ramakrishna and party from Kerala which commenced at 4.25 p.m. The notes from violin, flute, mridangam, etc., merged

into beautiful tunes consisting of many famous musical pieces, e.g., Vatapi Ganapatim, Endaro Mahanubhavulu, Anandasagara, etc. This was followed by a musical presentation by Sri Kavalam Sreekumar. It included some Malayalam and Tamil compositions in praise of Bhagavan Baba and a couple of traditional hymns of Kerala. These musical presentations were followed by Bhajans which were led by



Bhajans led by the Bal Vikas students of Kerala in Sai Kulwant Hall as part of Vishu celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam.

the Bal Vikas students of Kerala and followed in chorus by the entire assembly of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall. During the course of Bhajans, Bhagavan distributed clothes to all singers and members of the Bal Vikas Bhajan group. Bhagavan specially blessed a Bal Vikas student Hari, who played on harmonium, and materialised a gold chain for him, amply rewarding him for his music talent and hard work despite his handicap in vision.

This excellent programme of Bhajans

was followed by another equally enchanting programme of Bhajans including some Mira Bhajans by the students of Sri Sathya Sai University, filling the entire milieu with sacred vibrations. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.40 p.m.

Vishu celebrations continued on 15th April 2007 with many cultural and music programmes. On the morning of 15th April, Sai Kulwant Hall was beautifully decorated with tender coconut leaves and fresh flowers in preparation for celebrations of Vishu. Prominently displayed in front of the dais was sacred Vishukkani, consisting of the traditional items like grains of the new harvest, fruits, flowers, lamps, etc. The Hall vibrated with sacred notes of Nadaswaram to mark the auspiciousness of the occasion. This was followed by Panchavadyam music, creating the environment of the temples of Kerala.

The programme commenced at 8.15 a.m. with chanting of Vedic hymns by a group of Bal Vikas students of Kerala soon after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall. The first item of the programme was a welcome song beautifully rendered by the Bal Vikas children of Kerala. Thereafter, two Bal Vikas students made very impressive speeches. The first student Pratyush spoke about the glory of Bhagavan and the magnificence of Prasanthi Nilayam. The second student Vishal told how he was transformed by attending Bhajans and joining Bal Vikas classes. This was followed by a captivating programme of devotional music by the well-known singer Sri T.S. Radhakrishnan. Beginning with an invocatory song in praise of Lord Ganesh, he sang the couplet “Kani Kanunneram ...” signifying the arrival of Vishu. A song describing the beautiful form of Krishna followed. The next song was

dedicated to Bhagavan Baba and described His infinite compassion. He concluded his presentation with the song, “*Hey Shyama Sundara ...*” which was followed by all the devotees enthusiastically. Bhajans led by the Kerala Bhajan group, both ladies and gents, followed this enchanting musical presentation. Sung with deep devotional fervour by the singers and followed in chorus by the entire assembly of devotees with deep devotion, the Bhajans filled the milieu with sacred vibrations. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.45 a.m. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

Satyameva Jayate: A Dance Drama

On the afternoon of 15th April, the Bal Vikas students of Kerala presented the drama “*Satyameva Jayate*” portraying the life story of King Harishchandra. Despite all trials and tribulations, King Harishchandra never deviated from the path of truth and triumphantly passed the test of Sage Viswamitra. The children in



A scene from the drama “Satyameva Jayate” presented by the Bal Vikas children of Kerala in Sai Kulwant Hall on 15th April 2007.

beautiful costumes depicted the story by their gestures and dances as the playback singers narrated it in verse.

From all accounts, be it the sweetness of music, charming movements of dancers, appropriateness of choreography or



superbness of direction, the drama was a perfect piece of art. The drama which started at 4.00 p.m. came to a close at 4.45 p.m. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance, blessed the children at the end of the drama and gave them the coveted opportunity of group photo with Him. He also materialised a gold chain for the child who played the role of King Harishchandra's son.

After the conclusion of the drama, Bhajans started which were led by Kerala devotees and followed in chorus with deep devotion by all the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall. Vishu celebrations came to a happy conclusion at 5.45 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

TAMIL NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Tamil New Year was celebrated at Prasanthi Nilayam on 14th April 2007 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. Bhagavan came to aesthetically decorated Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.55 a.m. amidst auspicious notes of Nadaswaram music and sacred Vedic chants. The programme began soon after Bhagavan occupied His seat on the dais. At the outset, Sri G.K. Raman, Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Tamil Nadu addressed the gathering. Referring to the rural development programme announced by Bhagavan in His Ugadi Discourse, Sri Raman stated that Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Tamil Nadu had taken up the village development programme in more than 250 villages spread over 25 districts of Tamil Nadu, the leaders and Panchayat Presidents of all of which were present in Sai Kulwant Hall to express their resolve to participate in this programme. In conclusion, Sri Raman introduced the speakers who were



Panchayat Presidents and leaders of more than 250 Panchayats came to Prasanthi Nilayam and expressed their resolve to participate in the rural development programme launched by Bhagavan on Ugadi day.

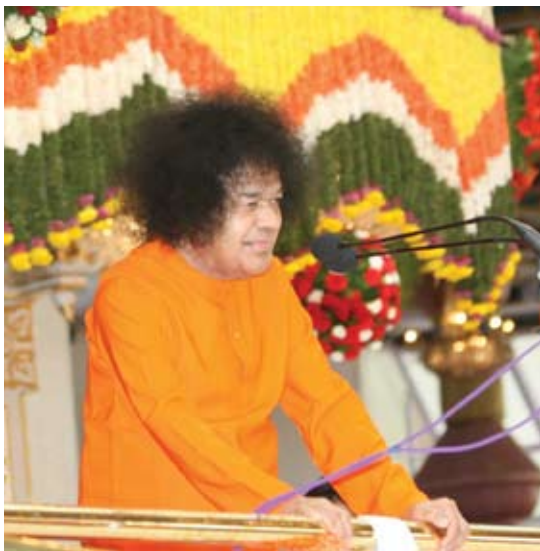
blessed by Bhagavan to address the gathering before His Divine Discourse.

Divine Discourse, Talks and Music Programmes

The first speaker was Dr. S.P. Thyagarajan, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Madras. The learned speaker referred to the public meeting held in Chennai on 21st January 2007 and stated that it demonstrated how Bhagavan's love was uniting the people of India and setting an example before them to follow the ideals of selfless service to mankind. The distinguished speaker observed that Bhagavan's system of value-based education was transforming the lives of both students and teachers. The second speaker, Sri K. Balachander, a doyen of Tamil film industry, expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for providing water to the people of Chennai and described how he came to Bhagavan, who, he said, is a divine phenomenon, ultimate reality and an institution in Himself. The third speaker, Justice V. Ramasubramaniam, Judge of High Court of Madras, expressed his gratitude to

Bhagavan for providing opportunities to him to speak in His Divine Presence first as a Bal Vikas student, next as a college student, then as a lawyer and now as a judge. The learned speaker referred to the educational institutions and hospitals set up by Bhagavan which had all departments except the billing department. Bhagavan, he said, is not only providing educare and medicare but divine care also. In conclusion, he said that Bhagavan wanted the students to first become good human beings and then, good doctors, good lawyers, good professionals, etc.

In His Divine Discourse, which followed these talks, Bhagavan declared to the delight of Tamil Nadu devotees that He would undertake the repair work of the remaining portion of Sri



Bhagavan showering His blessings on Kerala and Tamil Nadu devotees on the auspicious occasion of Vishu and Tamil New Year.

Sathya Sai Ganga Canal beyond the border of Andhra Pradesh, so as to solve the problem of water for Chennai permanently. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse is given elsewhere in this issue.) After the Discourse of Bhagavan, Bhajans led by Sundaram

Bhajan Group enthralled the devotees which they followed in chorus with deep devotion. The morning programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 9.30 a.m.

Pancha Maha Yajnas: A Drama

On the afternoon of 14th April 2007, the Bal Vikas children of Tamil Nadu presented the drama entitled "Pancha Maha Yajnas" describing Deva Yajna, Pitru Yajna, Atithi



On the occasion of Tamil New Year, the Bal Vikas children of Tamil Nadu presented the drama "Pancha Maha Yajnas" in Sai Kulwant Hall on 14th April 2007.

Yajna, Bhoota Yajna and Rishi Yajna (worship of God, service to parents, respect to guests, love for all beings and study of scriptures), the injunctions prescribed by scriptures for all to follow to make their life sublime. The drama demonstrated these five ideals of life through episodes from the lives of Prahlada, Shraavan Kumar, Adi Sankara, Sibi Chakravarti and poetess Avvaiyar respectively. Good acting of the children, appropriate costumes and perfect choreography made it a successful presentation. Bhagavan blessed the children at the end of the drama, posed for group photos with them and distributed watches to them. This was followed by Bhajans by the Sundaram Bhajan Group whose rendering of Bhajans delighted one and all. The programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.30 p.m.



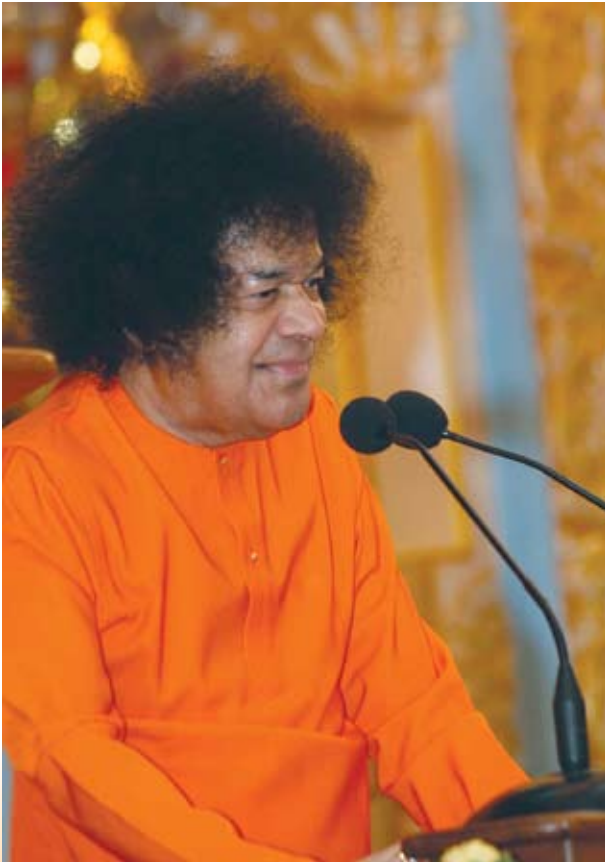
EVERLASTING GLORY OF RAMA'S NAME

Sweeter than sugar, tastier than curd, sweeter indeed than honey is the Name of Rama. Constant repetition of this sweet Name gives one the taste of divine nectar itself. Therefore, one should contemplate on the Name of Rama incessantly.

(Telugu Poem)

THOUSANDS OF YEARS HAVE passed since the advent of Treta Yuga, yet everyone, right from a child to an elderly person, remembers the name of Rama even now. The glory of Rama's

name is such that it has not diminished even a bit with the passage of time. This truth should be recognised by all. Rama is the name given to a form, but Rama is not limited to any form. Atma is Rama, and so, He is truly Atmarama. Therefore, wherever and whenever you remember the name of Rama, Rama is there with you, in you, around you.



Rama is immanent in everyone; Easwara is present in all. Rama is within you. In fact, you yourself are Rama. Establish this truth in your heart firmly and spend your time fruitfully. Then your life will be filled with everlasting bliss. Constantly recite the name of Rama. Aeons have passed, yet the name of Rama has not been forgotten. Rama is not separate from you. You are not separate from Rama. You may call a person by his name, but it is Rama who is present in him.

Joyous Celebrations on the Marriage of Sita and Rama

Embodiments of Love!

Rama is one, whether you identify Him with the Atma or with the form installed in your heart. Every year comes the festival of Sri Rama Navami. But we have not so far understood its true significance. You identify Rama with a form. But Rama is not limited to any particular form. It is the name that is latent in your heart. Many changes and variations keep occurring in the world, but the name of Rama is immutable, eternal, unsullied and everlasting. Rama was not an ordinary individual. He was God who incarnated on earth for the welfare of mankind. People call God by many names like Rama, Krishna, Easwara and Mahadeva. They are all the names of one God. You should recognise the glory of this name. Sage Vasishtha said, "*Ramo Vighrahavan Dharma*" (Rama is Dharma personified). Dharma itself incarnated in the form of Rama. You should follow Dharma. Which Dharma should you follow? Do not follow the dictates of your mind. Follow the principle of Dharma which comes from your heart.

Sita became the consort of Rama who was Dharma personified. Wherefrom did Sita take birth? Sita was born out of the womb of the earth. When King Janaka was ploughing the field in the process of the performance of a Yajna, he found a casket. When it was opened, a small baby was found in it. Considering this as the boon of God, he took the baby home and brought it up with great care and affection. This baby was given the name Sita. Since she was the daughter of the King of Videha, she was also called Vaidehi. This name had great significance since it meant one who transcended the illusion caused by body attachment.

Once Sita was playing a game of ball with her playmates in her house. There was a big box in the house of Janaka, which contained the huge bow of Lord Siva. As her playmates were playing with the ball, the ball went under the box. It was not possible for anyone to move this box. Sita went there and put it aside with her left hand. Seeing that act of Sita, King Janaka decided that very day that Sita's power should be made known to the world. Thereafter, he organised a Yajna and made a declaration: "Whoever strings the bow of Lord Siva, I will give my daughter Sita in marriage to him." Kings of many countries came there. All of them thought, it was a great good fortune to marry Sita and become the son-in-law of King Janaka. They came one after the other and tried to lift the bow but all of them failed in their attempt. In that assembly, Rama and Lakshmana were also present accompanied by Sage Viswamitra. At the command of Sage Viswamitra, Rama went forward, walking with great humility to the delight of one and all. His speech, His actions and His demeanour were all full of sweetness. He went near the bow, lifted it with His left hand and bent it. It broke with a thundering sound. The entire assembly expressed its joy with a loud applause. People thought, it would be very difficult to lift the bow. But what is difficult for Rama? His mere Sankalpa (Will) is enough for the performance of any stupendous task. Viswamitra went near Rama and said, "Rama! Today You have demonstrated Your divine power. Certainly, it is not human power. It is indeed divine."

Everyone praised Rama and started garlanding Him. Then King Janaka brought his daughter Sita. As she came, Rama did not even look in the direction from which she was coming. Why? He did not want to look at her without the command of His



parents. King Janaka conveyed the good news to King Dasaratha at Ayodhya. He requested him to come along with his kith and kin after deciding the Muhurtham (auspicious time) of the marriage. He said, "Your son Rama has achieved success in the competition organised by me. Therefore, all of you are requested to come prepared to celebrate the marriage of Sita with Rama." The people of Mithila sang joyous songs, welcoming one and all to witness the marriage of Sita and Rama.

*Welcome to all for Rama's wedding;
together we shall witness the joyous
scene.*

*Many have gathered already,
decked up in all their finery.*

*With necklaces the ladies are adorned
of jewels pure and gleaming.*

*Rama shall tie the knot today to beautiful
Sita.*

Oh, what a fine match they make!

(Telugu Song)

The women of the kingdom came to participate in the wedding and joyfully sang blithesome songs:

*Come let us go and see the marriage of
Rama and Sita,*

The sight shall confer great merit.

Blessed are those who see this scene.

*Oh, come one and all, watch with joy the
sacred marriage.* (Telugu Song)

In this manner, when the women came from one direction, men came from another direction singing joyfully, "Come, let us go and see the marriage of Rama and Sita." Dasaratha along with his queens and his sons Bharata and Satrughna and his ministers arrived in Mithila with great enthusiasm. It appeared as though the entire Ayodhya had come to

***Do not think Rama is somewhere else.
Your heart itself is the temple of Rama.
Therefore, constantly contemplate on
Rama who is immanent in your heart.
Rama is there with you, in you, around
you not only in your waking state, but
also in the dream and deep sleep states.
He is eternally with you. Rama is not
limited to a particular form. He assumes
innumerable forms. Though the forms
are many but divinity in them is one.
Therefore, whomsoever you see, offer
your salutations to him, considering him
as the form of Rama.***

Mithila. King Janaka extended a royal welcome to them and received them with great honour. The name of the second daughter of King Janaka was Urmila. Janaka's younger brother had two daughters, Mandavi and Srutakeerthi. It was decided to give Urmila to Lakshmana, Mandavi to Bharata and Srutakeerthi to Satrughna in marriage. Everyone was happy that all the four pairs were going to be married at the same time.

When all were seated in their respective places, the marriage ceremony started. Sita, Urmila, Mandavi and Srutakeerthi stood in front of Rama, Lakshmana, Bharata and Satrughna respectively. First Sita put the garland around the neck of Rama. Thereafter, the other three brides garlanded their respective bridegrooms. All the people joyfully hailed the occasion.

It is not possible to describe the Leelas (divine play) and glories of Rama. After the marriage function, all left for Ayodhya. On the way, they heard a deafening sound.



When they looked around to find where the sound had come from, they were confronted with Parasurama who looked very fierce. All of them were perturbed to think, "What is this great predicament after the glorious celebration of the marriages?" Good and bad always follow each other. After experiencing great joy in Mithila, they were confronted with a difficult situation on their way to Ayodhya. Dasaratha and others became fear-stricken. Parasurama came forward and asked, "Who has broken the Siva bow?" "It is I who has done it," said Rama. "If that is so, let us see if You can break my bow," saying so he gave his bow in the hands of Rama. Rama broke even that bow with His left hand. Seeing that, Parasurama offered his salutations to Rama and went his way. Experiencing the joy of victory, all of them reached Ayodhya and participated with great joy and enthusiasm in the festivities held there. The people of Ayodhya held joyous celebrations to propagate the power of Rama and the devotion of Sita to the world.

Manthara became jealous to see all these festivities. You can find people like Manthara everywhere. Manthara became very angry when King Dasaratha decided to crown Rama as the heir to the kingdom of Ayodhya instead of the son of Kaikeyi. She started poisoning the mind of Kaikeyi by fabricating many false stories against Rama. Manthara pleaded with Kaikeyi: "Mother! I am your servant. From your very birth, I have nursed you and brought you up. Kindly fulfil a desire of mine. King Dasaratha has decided to crown Rama. But as per the promise given to you earlier, he should crown Bharata. Rama should be sent to exile for fourteen years." Hearing this evil talk of Manthara, the mind of Kaikeyi changed. Though a queen, she was influenced by the words of her servant and became

responsible for the exile of Rama. Afterwards she repented, realising it was the conspiracy of Manthara. In reality, Kaikeyi loved Rama very much. It was Kaikeyi who taught many things to Rama. Rama also loved Kaikeyi more than His mother Kausalya.

Exile for Fourteen Years

All preparations had been made for the coronation of Rama. All were waiting in the royal court to extend welcome to Rama and Sita. Meanwhile, Rama went to mother Kausalya and said, "Oh mother! I am going to forest. Kindly permit Me." Then Kausalya asked, "Why, my dear! Why do You want to go to the forest when this is the time of Your coronation?" Rama said, "Mother! It is the command of My father that I should stay in exile in the forest for fourteen years; I have to uphold the promise made by My father." He saluted His mother and went to meet Sumitra. Sumitra was the second wife of Dasaratha. Prior to his marriage with Sumitra, Dasaratha sought the consent of Kausalya. Kausalya replied, "Our kingdom needs an heir, isn't it? Hence, you may marry a woman of your choice. I will also participate in the marriage." Dasaratha was very happy and pleasantly surprised to think, "Such women are also there in the world who go by the wishes of their husbands!"

Sumitra was one of great virtues. True to her name Su-mitra (good friend), she was the friend of all. She went to Kausalya and spoke words of great encouragement, "Dear elder sister! Why should you worry? What do you think of Rama? He is Lord Narayana Himself. How does it matter to Him whether He is in Ayodhya or in Aranya (forest)? Wherever He is, He is always with us. For Rama, Ayodhya and Aranya are one and the same." Kausalya was somewhat comforted





Even today people in every village, every house and every hut of Bharat worship Rama. It is a common practice among the people of Bharat to name their children as Rama and Sita. There is no change in the name of Rama and Sita even after the passage of thousands of years. The glory of these names is eternal and immutable. There have been wars in many countries, but not in Bharat. Not only that, there will never be any war in Bharat. It is Rama Rajya. It is Prema Rajya (land of love). It is the land of peace.

to hear the words of Sumitra. Her mind also became peaceful. Sumitra added, "Dear elder sister, two sons were born to me while both you and Kaikeyi gave birth to one son each. Do you know why? The reason is that both my sons will have the opportunity to serve their elder brothers; Lakshmana will serve Rama and Satrugna, Bharata. Pay attention to my resolve. Lakshmana will go to the forest with Rama and will protect Rama as the eyelids protect the eyes. Therefore, do not have any fear."



Before proceeding to the forest, Lakshmana went to meet his wife Urmila. Till then she had not come to know that Rama, Lakshmana and Sita were going to the forest. Sitting in her room, she was absorbed in painting the scene of the coronation of Rama and Sita. At that time, Lakshmana went there and called "Urmila" to draw her attention. "Yes, Swami", said she, getting up suddenly from her seat. As she got up, by mistake the paint got spilled on the painted picture. Distressed at this happening, she exclaimed, "Oh! A beautifully painted picture is spoiled." Then Lakshmana said, "Urmila! Here, you are worrying that the picture is spoiled. There, Kaikeyi has spoiled the coronation of Sri Rama which could bring about immense good to the world." Lakshmana then informed her that he was going to forest with Rama. Shocked at the news of Rama going to the forest, she asked Lakshmana, "What do you mean by saying,

Rama is going to the forest? A few moments from now He is going to be crowned. Is it not so?" Then Lakshmana apprised her of all that had happened. As she was endowed with a great spirit of sacrifice, she was not at all perturbed by the thought of separation from her husband. Overjoyed at the thought of her husband getting the opportunity to serve Rama and Sita, she said to Lakshmana, "Sanctify your time by serving Rama and Sita. Very few have such a great fortune.

Go happily.” Saying this, she bade farewell to Lakshmana.

Rama tried to dissuade Sita from going to the forest, cautioning her about the dangers of the forest, “Sita! Many fierce animals roam about in the forest; many frightening sounds are also heard there. Can you bear all this without getting frightened?” Sita replied, where the scope for any fear of animals was when Rama, a lion among men, was there with her. In this manner, Sita, Rama and Lakshmana put at rest the fears of everyone and proceeded to the forest. In the forest, Lakshmana protected Rama and Sita with great care and engaged himself in their service.

Make your Heart the Temple of Rama

After killing Ravana, when Rama returned to Ayodhya along with Sita, the people of Ayodhya welcomed them enthusiastically, hailing their return with great festivity, “Rama has come. Mother Sita has come. Ayodhya is shining in the effulgence of their glory. This is a great day for Ayodhya.” There were many great celebrations and the people were overjoyed to see Rama and Sita whom they revered as Lord Narayana and Goddess Lakshmi.

Sita counselled Rama, “Transform this kingdom into a kingdom of joy where everybody can lead his life happily.” Even today people in every village, every house and every hut of Bharat worship Rama. It is a common practice among the people of Bharat to name their children as Rama and Sita. There is no change in the name of Rama and Sita even after the passage of thousands of years. The glory of these names is eternal and immutable. There have been wars in many countries, but not in Bharat. Not only that, there will never be any war in Bharat (*loud prolonged*

applause). It is Rama Rajya. It is Prema Rajya (land of love). It is the land of peace.

This land of Bharat has given birth to many noble women like Savitri who brought her dead husband back to life; Chandramati who extinguished wild fire with the power of truth; Sita who proved her chastity by coming out of blazing fire unscathed and Damayanti who reduced an evil-minded hunter to ashes with the power of her chastity. This land of piety and nobility attained plenty and prosperity and became the teacher of all the nations of the world because of such women of chastity.

(Telugu Poem)

Such great women took birth in the land of Bharat. Therefore, every day in Bharat is a festival and an occasion for celebration. You know, when a man’s wife dies he immediately makes efforts to marry again. But the women of Bharat are not like that. Bharat is befittingly called the teacher of the world. In this sacred land, Lord Narayana incarnated and redeemed the life of the people by showing them His divine play and divine glory.

Every individual is the image of the Atma. The same truth was propounded by Krishna: *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). All of you are the embodiments of the Atma. You may be having different names, but the Atmarama in all of you is the same. Therefore, do not think Rama is somewhere else. Your heart itself is the temple of Rama. Therefore, constantly contemplate on Rama who is immanent in your heart. Rama is there with you, in you, around you not only in your waking state, but also in the dream and deep sleep states. He is eternally with

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Awakening

GHINNA KATHA

AFTER THE DEATH OF THE king of Darapur, his son was crowned as the king of the kingdom. After taking over the reins of the kingdom, the young king became worried as he did not know whom he should trust, whose advice he should follow and how he should conduct the affairs of the kingdom. "I do not know who is good and who is bad. My great grandfather, my grandfather and my father, all earned the respect of the people. The people held them in great esteem. What should I do to earn the love of the people like them?" He kept thinking in this manner continuously.

Once the king was standing in the verandah of the top floor of his palace. Suddenly, he looked towards the palace road. He saw groups and groups of people – men, women, children proceeding towards a particular direction. He called one of his soldiers and asked him to find out where these people were going. The soldier came back and informed the king, "A great sage is going to give a spiritual talk on the outskirts of the city. It is understood that he is capable of granting satisfaction to people by clearing their doubts. Therefore, all are going there." "Aha, very good! So, I will also go there to get my doubts cleared," thought the king and went to participate in this meeting in disguise.

He listened to the talk of the great sage carefully and experienced unlimited bliss. The meeting came to an end and all went their way. Only the disguised king did not move from his place. The sage got up from his seat to go inside the Ashram. In the process of getting up from



The soldier informed the king that all the people were flocking to the place of the meeting where a great sage was going to give a spiritual talk.

his chair, the shawl of the sage was torn as it got entangled in a nail on the chair. The sage immediately went inside the Ashram, brought a needle and thread, and tried to thread the needle in order to repair the shawl. Seeing this, the king said to him with great humility, "The shawl has got torn as it has become old. Please leave this shawl and accept my new shawl."

The sage replied, "Sir, I do not want your new shawl. If you want to help me, thread this needle." Without saying anything further, the king gave back the needle to him after threading it. After repairing the shawl with the needle, the sage spoke these words of wisdom, "Man should not become dependent on anyone. He should depend only on God. I do not like to depend upon others for any work."

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GOD WILL HELP YOU IF YOU HELP OTHERS

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)

Embodiments of Love!

THERE IS NO NEED FOR MAN to search for God anywhere. God is present in each one of you. Lord Krishna declared in the Bhagavadgita: *Mamaivamsho Jivaloke Jivabhuta Sanathana* (the eternal Atma in all beings is a part of My Being). "All are an aspect of My Divinity," He declared. Where then would you search for God when He is in you and with you? Whatever work you do, consider it as the work of God.

The Youth should Tread the Sacred Path

God has blessed man with body, mind, intellect and mind-stuff (Chitta). The youth are endowed with a healthy body, a strong mind and a sharp intellect capable of deep thinking, but they are misusing them. Instead of thinking of God and making proper use of their limbs, they are misusing their senses. This is a big mistake. At this age, you should put the power of the body, mind and intellect to right use. What is meant by right use? It means, treading the sacred path.

Just because we are gifted with eyes, there is no need to see everything. Try to see all that is good. Do not hear with your ears the



Dear ones! You are not different from Me; I am in you and you are in Me. As I love you, you should also love one and all. Then your love and My love will unite. If you add love to love, it will increase immensely. You can achieve greatness only when you develop love in you. This is the service you have to render. Only when you develop love will you become deserving of God's love and grace.

criticism of others or all that is unnecessary. Hearing the criticism of others and seeing all that is evil is a great sin. We will acquire evil only when we see evil. We do not try to listen to good words with our ears; instead, we listen to evil talk. Surdas was blind. But he constantly chanted the name of Krishna. Hence, Krishna gave him Darshan and fulfilment in life. Why has God given you tongue? Is it to enjoy the taste of anything and everything or to talk ill of others? No, no. It is meant to sing the glories of God. Man can attain God-realisation by putting these modes of worship into practice: *Sravanam* (listening), *Kirtanam* (singing), *Vishnusmaranam* (contemplating on Vishnu), *Padasevanam* (serving His Lotus Feet), *Vandanam* (salutation), *Archanam* (worship), *Dasyam* (servitude), *Sneham* (friendship), *Atmanivedanam* (self-surrender).

Consider All as the Children of God

Chant the name of God. Let others also hear it and redeem their life. We do Kirtan (devotional singing). What for do we do it? Is it to enjoy the melody of Raga (musical mode)? No, no. We do it to get rid of our Roga (disease). "Rama! Save me!" This can be recited like a poem. But it does not give us as much happiness as it gives when we sing it in the form of a song. If we chant the name of Rama wholeheartedly, it is enough. The name Krishna is also very powerful and supreme. Many people describe and praise Krishna in many ways. What we are supposed to do now is not merely to chant the name of Rama, Krishna or Sai, but to help those who are in trouble, saying, "Oh dear one! What do you want? Are you hungry? Take this food." You should offer food and help to him to the extent possible. Many small children roam about in streets when both their parents go to

How can you receive the love of God if you do not love your fellowmen? If you want to become deserving of God's love, then first and foremost you should become deserving of the love of your fellowmen. God will help you if you help others. Help Ever, Hurt Never. Never put anyone to trouble. Love everyone. Lead your life with goodness of heart. Your heart should melt with love and love should flow in it.

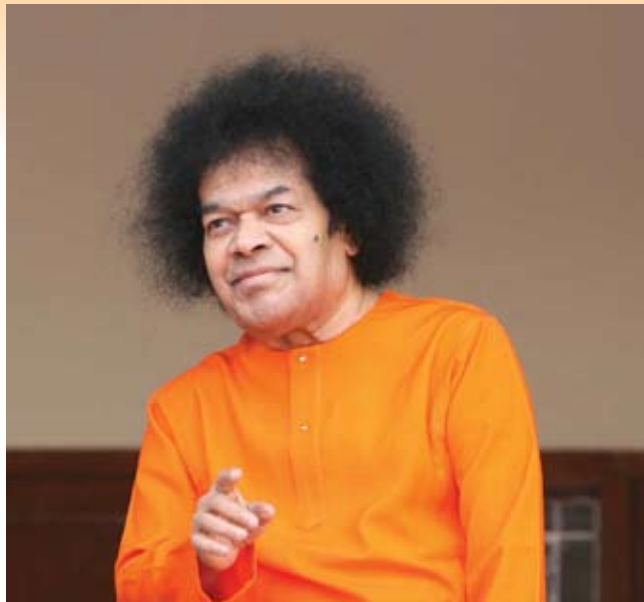
work. They are exposed to many accidents and dangers. We should help such children and protect them from dangers and mishaps. Some people get injured in accidents; they should be taken to hospital and provided treatment and other necessary help. Be courteous to the poor and help them. Provide help and means of treatment to those who suffer from some ailment. Extend a helping hand to those who are weak and unable to walk.

When we teach others the value of Seva (service) after putting it into practice in our own life, it will create awareness in them. Then people will think, "These children are teaching us so many good things; so, we should also extend help to them." We should talk to children nicely. When we call them, we should do so lovingly, saying, "Dear child! Please come." We should avoid calling like, "Hey, come here" with anger. Talk lovingly and sweetly without hurting them. Do not cast angry looks on them. We should express our love towards them while talking to them. Love is a supreme power. Therefore, call everybody with love, saying, "Come, brother, come." Ask him about his difficulties, "Do you



have financial or health problem?" After understanding his problems thoroughly, provide necessary help to him. There are some who lead a lonely life as they are without father, mother, relatives or friends. We should offer brotherly affection to them. We should encourage them by saying, "I am like your brother," and talk to them lovingly, saying, "Oh dear one! You have no elder or younger sister? I am your elder sister; I am your younger sister." Speaking to them in this intimate way, we should give them courage and succour. You are all the children of one mother, verily. That mother is God. Follow the maxim: *Brotherhood of Man and Fatherhood of God*. Since all are the children of God, you should consider all your brothers and sisters; you need not, however, share your property with them. Whomsoever you come across, talk to him nicely and love him wholeheartedly.

God is the embodiment of love. He protects the entire mankind by His love. If only there is love in you, it is enough. Then you will all become united. You should not create distance between one another by your talk or conduct. Draw everybody close to you with love. Then you will all attain the proximity of God. When you look at others with love, God will also look at you with love. In whatever situation you may be, you should never show anger, jealousy, hypocrisy or pomp. Do not treat others with anger or hatred. By experiencing your love, love in others will also increase. When you treat others with love, they will also show love towards you. On the other hand, if you show anger towards them, they will also behave angrily with you. When any beggar stands in front of your house and begs for food, saying: *Bhavati*,



The youth are endowed with a healthy body, a strong mind and a sharp intellect capable of deep thinking, but they are misusing them. Instead of thinking of God and making proper use of their limbs, they are misusing their senses. This is a big mistake. At this age, you should put the power of the body, mind and intellect to right use. What is meant by right use? It means, treading the sacred path.

Bhiksham Dehi (Mother, please give me alms), you should lovingly ask him to stay for a while, bring food from inside the house and offer it to him, thereby making him happy.

During the war for the liberation of Rangoon, a mother and her son somehow escaped from the area of war and managed to reach Kolkata. They had no shelter or food. The mother would go begging for alms from house to house, give most of it to her son and partake of whatever little was left. When she



did not get enough, she would give the entire quantity of food to her son and would herself go without food. Consequently, she became weak day by day. One day the son, unable to see her suffering, told her, "Mother, from today, you take rest, I will fetch food for both of us." From that day, he would go begging from house to house, give most of it to his mother and partake of whatever little was left. Sometimes, he would lie to his mother that he had already taken his food. Consequently, he too became very weak. The son had no strength to look after his mother nor did the mother have any strength to protect her son.

One day, he stood in front of the house of an officer and begged for alms. The officer was relaxing in an easy chair in the verandah, reading a newspaper. He took pity on the boy, went inside and brought some food on a plantain leaf. He told him to sit and eat it there itself. But the boy said that he would take it home for his mother. The officer said, "You say you are hungry, then why don't you sit here and eat? You can take it for your mother afterwards." Then the boy replied, "Sir, all these days my mother was bringing food for me taking great pains. Consequently, her health deteriorated. Hence, I have to feed her first." As he was uttering these words, he felt giddy. He fell down and breathed his last with the words, "first to my mother, first to my mother..." on his lips. The officer felt very sad. He was astonished at the love the boy had for his mother. He went in search of the mother and found her lying under a tree. He was in a dilemma as to how to break the tragic news of her son's demise. With the help of a servant, he brought the dead body of her son and placed it next to her. She got up at once and called, "My dear one! My dear one." But there was no response.

Then the officer said, "Oh mother! Your son breathed his last while bringing food for you." She was immersed in grief and lamented, saying, "Alas! Where is the necessity for food when I have lost my son?"

Worldly Relations Bereft of Love are Useless

So far as the mother has strength, she nourishes her children. The children should also nourish their mother in the same way. God has given us human birth to nourish and nurture each other. What for are the relations like brothers and sisters? Not merely for the sake of division of property and wealth. These relations are for developing love and sharing it with each other. Real relations are those who share love with each other. Worldly relations bereft of love are useless. Those who are strong and powerful should protect the weak and helpless. When you see someone in trouble, show kindness towards him and try to wipe his tears. This is real compassion. This compassion is righteousness; it is love. When we expand our love, we can give happiness to the whole world. Therefore, develop love. If you come across a poor man, a sick person or one who is in trouble, give them whatever help you can. When you extend help to such people, God will shower His love on you. In every human being, God is present in the form of love. We should not waste or misuse this love. Today we express our love arbitrarily for anything and everything. By loving undesirable things, we tread the wrong path and come to a sorry state.

Some people show great love for outsiders, but do not show the same love towards their mother and father in their house. First and foremost, we should love our parents and then, other people. But we should not



limit our love to our friends and relatives alone; we should love all. Only then will God shower His love on us. When we see somebody in trouble or an injured person on the road, we should not show indifference towards them. Howsoever urgent work we may be having, we should try to remove their suffering. Then God will manifest before us and fill us with energy. There is nobody in this world who can give us more love than God. We do Bhajans and perform service activities only to attain the love of God. God's love fills us with great energy. It is God only who gives us this energy. Therefore, love God, and love all people who are verily the children of God. Some children become orphans. You should alleviate their suffering. Then your birth as human being will become worthwhile. You see a person in trouble and go away without showing any kindness to him. There is no sin greater than this. The next day when you may be in trouble, then your friends will also ignore and deride you. Therefore, you should love others and receive their love. Charity and kindness are an important part of Dharma (righteousness).

There is no charity greater than feeding the hungry,

There are no greater gods than parents,

There is no greater Dharma than compassion,

There is no greater gain than the company of the good,

There is no enemy greater than anger.

(Telugu Poem)

In no condition should we allow anger to overpower us. We should obey our parents. We should love even those who hate us. One should sacrifice even one's life for the sake of love. One's life becomes worthwhile only when one has love.

Develop Love and Experience Unity with God

Members of Seva Dal!

First and foremost, imbibe love in your heart. Whomsoever you come across, you should talk to him with love. Draw all those who are in trouble close to you. Then God will shower His love on you. How can you receive the love of God if you do not love your fellowmen? If you want to become deserving of God's love, then first and foremost you should become deserving of the love of your fellowmen. God will help you if you help others. *Help Ever, Hurt Never.* Never put anyone to trouble. Love everyone. Lead your life with goodness of heart. Your heart should melt with love and love should flow in it.

Therefore, embodiments of love! You all embody love. Develop love in you more and more. This is an aspect of Divinity. It is in reference to this that Lord Krishna declares that all beings are only an aspect of His Divinity. Dear ones! You are not different from Me; I am in you and you are in Me. As I love you, you should also love one and all. Then your love and My love will unite. If you add love to love, it will increase immensely. You can achieve greatness only when you develop love in you. This is the service you have to render. Only when you develop love will you become deserving of God's love and grace.

(Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, "*Prema Mudita Manase Kaho Rama Rama Ram ...*")

– From Bhagavan's Discourse at Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai on 27th January 2007 on the occasion of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna.



NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

AS SRI SATHYA SAI WORLD Youth Conference in July 2007 draws nearer, Sai Youth from all over the world are preparing for the much anticipated event in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba with several Pre-World Youth Conferences. These conferences prepare and motivate Sai Youth to attune their lives to the practice of selfless service and spiritual discipline. These conferences have been organised so far in Nepal, Mauritius, Russia and Dominican Republic.

NEPAL

More than 1,200 Sai Youth participated in a Pre-World Youth Conference in Kathmandu on 24th March 2007 with great zeal and devotion. The venue of the conference was the magnificent Sri Sathya Sai Centre in



More than 1,200 Sai Youth participated in a conference held in Kathmandu on 24th March 2007 in anticipation of Sri Sathya Sai World Youth Conference proposed to be held in July 2007.

Narayanchaur. The devotion and tenacity of these youths were obvious as they braved national roads and transportation closures to travel to Kathmandu and

listen to distinguished devotees speak about Bhagavan's message of love, devotion and selfless service. The programme began in the early hours of the morning with Omkaram, Suprabhatam and Nagar Sankirtan. The day's events were inaugurated by Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat, Minister of Finance of the Government of Nepal who extolled the Divinity of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and urged the youth to follow His path steadfastly. The next speaker was Dr. V.K. Ravindran, Chairman of Zone 4 of the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisation. He made two presentations entitled "Bhagavan's Expectations from the Youth" and "Transformation of the Youth through Sadhana". His talks summarised some of Bhagavan's teachings for youth. He reminded the youth that they all had a source of divine inspiration within themselves and they could harness that for the benefit of society. This was followed by a speech by Sri Amar B. Karki, Central Coordinator of the Sathya Sai Organisation in Nepal. His talk was entitled "Youth: Chosen Ones for Spiritual Awakening". An inspiring talk was given by Dr. Narottam Upadhyay, Chairman, Sri Sathya Sai Central Council of Nepal on the "Role of Sai Youth in Contemporary Society".

At a later stage of the conference, participants divided themselves into four groups to dwell upon specific topics such as 'Living up to Swami's Expectations', 'Youth for Spiritual Awakening', 'Participation in the Organisation's Activities', and 'Participation in the World Youth Conference.' At the end of the inspiring conference, the youth



were even more determined to practise the daily Sadhanas in anticipation of Sri Sathya Sai World Youth Conference.

MAURITIUS

Sai Organisation of the beautiful Island country of Mauritius organised a Pre-World Youth Conference at the Wooton Sai Centre in Curepipe on 25th March 2007. About 270 Sai



Sai Youth of Mauritius held a conference at Wooton Sai Centre, Curepipe on 25th March 2007 to discuss the theme of the forthcoming World Youth Conference “Ideal Sai Youth – Messengers of Sai Love”.

Youth and 30 adults attended the conference. The programme started in the morning with jyoti meditation, silent sitting and lighting of a lamp accompanied by the vibrant Bhajan “Akhanda Jyoti Jalao”. One of the youths read a pledge, “My Living God – Beloved Bhagavan”, on behalf of all Sai Youth of Mauritius. This was followed by opening addresses by the National Youth Coordinator and the National Chairman of the Sathya Sai Organisation. A presentation was made tracing the history of the Youth Wing since its inception in 1997. There was also a talk on “Dharma for Youth”. This was followed by a presentation entitled “Towards a Corruption Free Society”. The

National Youth Coordinator, V.K. Heerea also made a presentation on “Youth Challenges”. He said that there were three things that an ideal Sai Youth should avoid, namely, gossip, criticism and politics. A workshop on the theme of the forthcoming World Youth Conference “Ideal Sai Youth – Messengers of Sai Love” was then held in which the youth discussed the challenges in adopting Bhagavan’s teachings in modern society.

RUSSIA

The zonal Pre-World Youth Conference of Russian speaking countries was held in St. Petersburg, Russia from 8th to 10th March 2007. The theme of the conference was “Your Life is My Message” and the motto was “Helping Hands are Holier than Praying Lips”. Fifty-six members from six regions of Russia including Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan participated in the conference to share their experience and love of Bhagavan. On the first day, the Sai Youth started the conference by singing “Alleluia” and lighting the candles for their beloved Lord Sai. Then the Youth



A three-day conference of Sai Youth was held from 8th to 10th March 2007 in St. Petersburg, Russia to discuss the programme for the forthcoming World Youth Conference.

Coordinator of Zone 8 narrated many inspiring youth activities in their regions. At the end of the day, the youth had interesting games based on the fundamental spiritual question: Who am I?

The second day of the conference started with beautiful Bhajans. Then they dwelled on three main topics: 1) Individual transformation leads to change in the world, 2) Practice before preaching, 3) Unity is strength. Each topic was followed by a role play, illustrating the same in detail. Then Mathan Aruvlel, Youth Wing Coordinator from U.K., showed some youth projects and videos that touched everyone's heart. At the end of the day, a cultural programme was held.

On the third day, there was a study circle on the three wings, namely, Education, Devotion and Service. A question and answer session was conducted by the Coordinators. At the end of the day, bookmarks with Bhagavan's inspiring quotes on the topic "Your Life is My Message" were distributed to all the youth.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Caribbean island of Dominican Republic held a Pre-World Youth Conference



Sai Youth of the Dominican Republic held a conference in Santiago on 1st April 2007. The theme of the conference was "Challenges to the Youth".

in Santiago on 1st April 2007. The theme of the conference was "Challenges to the Youth". The event was attended by 40 Sai Youth. The welcome address was given by Sri Faustano Fernandez, the National Youth Coordinator. Conference sessions which included discussion groups and videos were based on the separate topics of challenges for Sai Youth as ideal individuals, as ideal citizens and as members of the Sathya Sai Organisation.

PUERTO RICO

The Sathya Sai Institute of Human Values in Puerto Rico was formed in the year 2000, and its director Raul Rodriguez has been training teachers in the Sathya Sai Human Values programme by organising seminars and diploma courses. This training is given free and all the teachers who take this training do it voluntarily. They come from different public and private schools to learn about Swami and His message. On 23rd March 2007, a Sathya Sai Human Values music festival was organised in Puerto Rico in which teachers from 28 schools (25 public and 3 private) participated. The buses started arriving at the Turabo



A human values music festival was held in Caguas, Puerto Rico on 23rd March 2007 in which delegates from 28 schools took part.

University in Caguas, Puerto Rico at 7.30 a.m. 686 participants were served breakfast by Sai devotees who helped the Institute to organise the event. Each school presented its song on human values. The songs were written by the students or teachers, and in some cases songs from other countries in Latin America were used. Many of the songs were accompanied by instruments played by the students. The teachers and students were all filled with joy on hearing so many beautiful songs on human values. The human values programme of Bhagavan is touching many hearts in Puerto Rico. Everyone who participated is looking forward to future events like this on human values.



A series of functions were held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 1st to 4th February 2007 to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the opening of Sai Mandir in Colombo. The picture shows the deliberations of a conference on "Positive Tomorrow" held on 3rd February 2007.

SRI LANKA

From 1st to 4th February 2007, Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Sri Lanka conducted a series of functions which culminated in celebrating the 15th anniversary of the opening of the magnificent Sai Mandir in Colombo. On 1st February, Sri Prasana Ranathunge, Minister of Health, Western Provincial Council and Dr. Pal Dhall, Chairman of Zone 3 of the International Sri Sathya Sai Organisation visited the Sai Cancer Hospice in Colombo. The hospice provides accommodation, meals and loving, compassionate care for terminally ill cancer patients. The details about the hospice were reported in the November 2005 issue of "Sanathana Sarathi". The Minister complimented Sri Sathya Sai Organisation for its selfless service to society. On the same day, there was a cultural programme where Bal Vikas children performed a play and gave inspiring speeches.

On 2nd February, a 30-minute panel discussion on educare was broadcast on the national television. On the same

day, a workshop on parenting was conducted by Dr. Pal Dhall. On 3rd February 2007, a workshop on "A Positive Tomorrow" for the senior office bearers presided over by Sri Karu Jayasuriya, Minister of Power and Energy, was organised.

On 4th February, a public meeting held at the Sai Mandir was attended by over 900 people. The meeting was presided over by Sri Karu Jayasuriya, Minister of Power and Energy and the guest of honour was Sri Vishnu Nambodiri, First Secretary of the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka. During the public meeting, a video presentation of the activities of the Youth Wing of the Sathya Sai Organisation of Sri Lanka was made together with an introduction to the Cancer Hospice, the Sathya Sai School in Jaffna, and the orphanage in Vavunia.

U. S. A.

A team of young adults and senior members totalling 16 from the Sai Centre of Buffalo, New York, helped build houses for the underprivileged on 7th October 2006.





Volunteers of Sai Centre, Buffalo, New York helped in building houses for the underprivileged in Niagara Falls on 7th October 2006.

Two houses were built in the city of Niagara Falls and the Sai group participated in the final phases of construction. With Bhagavan's grace, the project preceded the devastating snow storm of 13th October 2006. The group installed appliances, landscaped the yards and cleared all construction debris. The men worked on one house while the women worked on the other. The women volunteers installed the brand new appliances for the recipient family. While the women helped sweep, wipe, mop and vacuum the construction debris, the men assisted with the installation of an energy-efficient ceiling. The project not only exceeded the expectations of the group, but also brought praise and expressions of gratitude from the Site Supervisor of the Habitat for Humanity Project.

G R E E C E

The ancient metropolis of Athens has an active Sathya Sai Centre. In the month of February 2007, every week the volunteers visited many families providing family counselling, medical consultations and vaccinations to the children. They



also supplied 60 bags of food, 40 boxes of evaporated milk, clothes and utensils to the homeless families. Additional service activities included visits to a chronic illness institution and to a disabled people's home.

U. A. E.

On 12th December 2006, 25 volunteers from the Sai Group of Dubai participated in the cleanup campaign organised by the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG), Dubai. About 17,000 volunteers from all over the U.A.E. ranging from individual families, educational institutions, and government and private organisations took part in this huge campaign. Smt. Habiba Al Marashi, the chairperson of EEG was present at the site. Around 6.45 a.m., the Sai volunteers started their journey on a special minibus to the venue. As soon



25 volunteers from the Sai Group of Dubai participated in the cleanup campaign organised by the Emirates Environmental Group, Dubai to promote healthy and clean environment in Dubai.

as they arrived, Sai volunteers helped the EEG group by giving out T-shirts, gloves, caps and cleaning bags to volunteers from other organisations. Then everyone started cleaning the site with great zeal and enthusiasm. The volunteers were from

different backgrounds and nationalities. They all came together and worked in unity, thus bringing out a message of unity in diversity. The Sai volunteers were happy to participate in the event which promotes clean and healthy environment.

Eid Ul Adha is one of the most celebrated and auspicious festivals in the United Arab Emirates. It brings families and friends together. On 30th December 2006, twenty-two 5 to 8 years old children of Sri Sathya Sai EHV programme of Dubai were taken to the Old People's Home in Sharjah to perform a dance programme. As soon as the children arrived, they were welcomed by the staff of Old People's Home. Children were dressed in beautiful colourful costumes, and dances were choreographed on four Arabic songs. The inmates of the home enjoyed the dance programme performed by the Sai children.

– Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation

BHARAT

Andhra Pradesh: Anantapur district conducted a free medical camp treating 497 patients and a veterinary camp treating 437 animals in Nayanavari Palli village. The district is running classes at Anantapur in spoken English for girls, in which 76 girls are taking part.

East Godavari district carried out service activities on a large scale in six famous pilgrim centres during Sivarathri (16th February 2007) including queue maintenance, drinking water supply, sanitation, cloak rooms, footwear safety and Narayana Seva, etc. This district gave Saris, Dhotis, blankets to 150 leprosy patients at three different centres and served food to them. The district conducted medical camps in 18 villages, treating 830 patients and giving free medicines to them.



BHAGAVAN LEAVES FOR KODAIKANAL

On the morning of 26th April 2007, Bhagavan left for Kodaikanal along with a selected group of devotees and students. Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 9.35 a.m. and showered His blessings on a vast gathering of devotees who bade farewell to Him with folded hands and praying lips. After receiving Arati at 9.40 a.m., Bhagavan proceeded from Sai Kulwant Hall to Sri Sathya Sai Airport, Puttaparthi from where the plane left for Madurai with Bhagavan and His entourage. From Madurai, Bhagavan motored to Kodaikanal along with His entourage and reached Sai Sruthi, His abode in Kodaikanal, at 3.45 p.m. where a mammoth gathering of devotees offered Him a reverential welcome.

Assam, Manipur and N.E. States: In order to familiarise the hill people of Karbi Anglong district with the mission of Bhagavan Baba, an interfaith meeting was held at Diphu on 24th March 2007. Participants from Hindu, Christian, Muslim, Jain and



Buddhist religions took part in this meeting besides many dignitaries which included the Deputy Commissioner of Karbi Anglong, Dr. M. Angamuthu and Executive Member of Autonomous District Council, Ms. K. Ranghangpi. The participants held discussion on the teachings of Bhagavan which present the synthesis of all noble thoughts. 62 senior citizens and 12 students residing at local Kalyan Ashram were felicitated on this occasion.

Karnataka: A multifaceted four-day free medical camp was organised at Sathya Sai Vihar, Alike from 28th January 2007 to 31st January 2007. A team of eminent doctors and



A multifaceted four-day medical camp was organised at Sathya Sai Vihar, Alike from 28th - 31st January 2007 which benefited thousands of patients. The picture shows patients waiting for their turn.

specialists from England, Canada, Australia and also from India in various disciplines like medicine, paediatrics, ENT, orthopaedics, dermatology, dentistry, gynaecology and ophthalmology and also a large number of paramedical staff wholeheartedly participated in this camp. Dr. Suresh Kodapal, neurosurgeon, Super Speciality Hospital Whitefield and Prof. S.K. Upadhyaya, an eye surgeon of international repute

from London took a leading role in organising this camp.

A unique feature of the camp was that all the service activities such as registration, consultation, maintaining orderliness, serving food, etc., were done by the students and staff of Sathya Sai Vihar, Alike. Former students of Sri Sathya Sai Educational Institution also served in the camp as doctors and volunteers. Free food was served to all the patients and those who accompanied them on all the four days of the camp.

The team of doctors examined 11,148 patients and distributed free medicines. They selected 1,012 patients for further treatment which would be done by the doctors of Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, Alike. 421 patients were selected for various surgeries and 75 patients for cataract operations to be done in batches in the famous hospitals of Mangalore. Around 4,000 patients registered for ophthalmology section alone and 3,000 free spectacles were provided to the needy. As the number of patients for the eye department was very high, the camp was extended to the forthcoming several Sundays.

The students of Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Institution presented cultural programmes every evening on all the four days. The programmes comprised sparkling mixture of various compositions like Bhajans, devotional group songs, classical dance, folk dance, moral skits, Yakshagana (a folk art), band, etc. It was an impressive presentation that enthralled the audience for nearly one and a half hour every evening.

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Karnataka organised a three-day educare programme in Alike from 2nd February to 4th February 2007. Teachers from



Sathya Sai educational institutions all over Karnataka attended this programme. In total, there were 322 delegates. They were trained by highly qualified resource persons.

Kerala: As directed by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Kerala has embarked upon the rural

In all, 1,052 Sai Youth and 1,387 Seva Dal volunteers visited 1,923 houses spread over 755 villages in the 14 districts of the State on the said date and collected data on the needs of the villagers under three broad categories, namely, need for clean drinking water, need for awareness on cleanliness, both individual and



1,052 Sai Youth and 1,387 Seva Dal volunteers of Kerala embarked upon the rural development programme to bring about all-round development of villages on 25th March 2007. The picture shows a village well before and after its cleaning by Sai Youth and Seva Dal volunteers.

development programme to bring about all-round development of villages. Sai Youth (both ladies and gents) and Seva Dal volunteers of Samithis in the 14 districts of the State commenced their work under this new scheme simultaneously on 25th March 2007.

environmental (inclusive of domestic animals), and need for education in human values.

In the very first phase of the project, enormous progress was achieved by the youth in providing clean drinking water to the inhabitants of these villages. This they did by cleaning village wells, both private and community-owned, and also by digging new wells wherever the need existed. They also set right water supply systems of a few villages that had the system though not operational. Besides, they also used mobile water tanks to supply clean drinking water to needy villagers.



Clean drinking water being supplied by Sai Youth and Seva Dal volunteers of Kerala to villagers by water supply tankers.

A good number of informal classes were conducted for the villagers on the need for cleanliness, individual and environmental, for human beings as well as for domestic animals.



Under the category of cleanliness of the surroundings, a lot of work was done by the youth. They repaired houses and roads; cleaned roads and water tanks including temple ponds. They also cleaned premises of government establishments like hospitals and schools. Latrines were constructed for the houses which did not have this facility.

Rural Bal Vikas and Mother and Child programmes were also taken up to cater to the health and spiritual needs of the villagers.

Tamil Nadu: Within 25 days of the declaration by Bhagavan regarding the rural development programme in His Ugadi Discourse on 20th March 2007, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Tamil Nadu swung into action and identified a minimum of 10 villages per district in the State for the implementation of this programme. As many as 259 village Panchayat Presidents and village leaders came to Prasanthi Nilayam on Tamil New Year day on 14th April 2007 to seek the blessings of Bhagavan for the successful implementation of this historic programme.

Most of the village leaders had not had Bhagavan's Darshan earlier. After having His Darshan and hearing His Divine Message on that holy occasion, they got highly motivated and expressed their resolve to implement this programme without waiting for assistance from the Sai Organisation. The Sai Organisation has already provided pure drinking water to nine villages by installing water purification plants.

A few economically backward villages, which lack basic facilities, have been identified in Sriperumbudur taluk, Kancheepuram district and many projects have been taken up for implementation in these villages. Approximately 4,500 households in and around the villages have been identified for raising nutritive plants. The following plants are proposed for plantation with high nutritive value to mitigate malnutrition: drumstick, coriander, curry leaves and papaya. Coconut plantation for the above-mentioned households has also been undertaken. This will fetch them additional income.



Nine villages were provided pure drinking water by the Sai Organisation of Tamil Nadu by installing water purification plants in them. The picture shows a water filter installed in a village school.



Classes are being started by the Sai Organisation in tailoring, computer training, typewriting, automobile repair, plumbing, etc., for the village youth to provide employment to them.

Technical courses in driving, electrical repair, plumbing, motor rewinding, automobile repair, computer training, typewriting, tailoring and cottage industries like doll making, candle

making, Agarbatti (incense sticks) making and handicrafts are being organised in villages to provide training to village youth.

... Continued from page 177

Rama is not limited to a particular form. He assumes innumerable forms. Though the forms are many but divinity in them is one. Therefore, whomsoever you see, offer your salutations to him, considering him as the form of Rama. Swami is extolled as Sai Rama and Sai Krishna as He embodies the same principles of Dharma (righteousness), Prema (love) and Santhi (peace) which Rama and Krishna personified.

Rama is immanent in everyone; Easwara is present in all. Rama is within you. In fact, you yourself are Rama. Establish this truth in your heart firmly and spend your time fruitfully. Then your life will be filled with everlasting

bliss. Constantly recite the name of Rama. Aeons have passed, yet the name of Rama has not been forgotten. Rama is not separate from you. You are not separate from Rama. You may call a person by his name, but it is Rama who is present in him.

You may call Him Sai Rama, Sita Rama or Ayodhya Rama or any other name, but do remember Rama forever.

(Bhagavan brought His Discourse to a close with the Bhajan, "Rama Kodanda Rama ...")

– **From Bhagavan's Sri Rama Navami Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 27th March 2007.**

... Continued from page 178



The sage said, "Man should not become dependent on anyone. He should depend only on God." After listening to the talk of the sage, all the doubts of the king disappeared.

After listening to these words of wisdom of the sage, all the doubts of the king disappeared. He came to realise that any stupendous task could be performed if one had self-confidence. The great sage added, "One can become a man of great learning. But without putting one's knowledge into practice, one is no better than the donkey which carries the load of dirty clothes on its back." After listening to the great sage's teachings, the king came back to his palace fully satisfied. From that day, the king stopped depending upon the help or advice of anyone. He performed his duties, following the prompting of his conscience.





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- 1. Medical Officer:** Educational Qualifications: M.B.B.S.
Minimum experience of 2 years and above in a recognised institution
Scale of Pay: Rs.8,000-275-13,500
- 2. Junior Resident - General Surgery**
Educational Qualifications: M.B.B.S.
Consolidated Pay: 1st Year - Rs 9,000, 2nd Year – Rs 10,000, 3rd Year - Rs 11,000
- 3. Consultant in Anaesthesia:** Educational Qualifications: M.D. in Anaesthesia
Scale of Pay: Rs.14,300-400-18,300
(Allowances admissible as per Central Government rates on Basic Pay + DP + NPA for those on scale of pay)
Apply to the Medical Superintendent with full biodata and photographs immediately by courier / speed post to the address given above.

Medical Superintendent

Sri Sathya Sai University

(Established under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 and accredited by NAAC at A++ level)

Prasanthi Nilayam – 515 134, Anantapur Dist., A.P.

Tele: (08555) 287239 Fax: 286919

Website: sssihl.edu.in ; Email: registrar@sssihl.edu.in

APPOINTMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited in the prescribed form with a recent passport size photograph for the following faculty positions:

Prasanthi Nilayam Campus for men:

Applications are invited for ONE post of Lecturer (men only) in the Department of English Language & Literature. UGC scales of pay will apply.

Essential Qualifications:

Good academic record with at least 55% marks or an equivalent grade of 'B' in the 7-point scale with letter grades A, B, C, D, E, F and G at the Master's degree level, in the relevant subject from an Indian university or an equivalent degree from a foreign university. Besides fulfilling the above qualifications, candidates should have cleared the national eligibility test (NET) for Lecturers conducted by UGC/CSIR or similar test accredited by the UGC.

Last date for the receipt of duly filled-in prescribed application form is **5th June 2007**.

Please visit the website www.sssihl.edu.in for downloading the prescribed application form.

Registrar

SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER MEDICAL SCIENCES

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

(Accredited by the National Board of Examinations)

Ph.: No. 08555-287388 Ext: 506, Fax: 08555-287544

Email: adminpg@sssihms.org.in

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for 3 years DNB training in the following Specialities for sessions commencing from July 2007.

1. Super Specialities

a. Cardiology

b. Cardio Thoracic Surgery

c. Urology

Minimum qualification

MD/DNB (Gen. Medicine or Paediatrics)

MS/DNB (Gen. Surgery)

2. Broad Specialities

a. Anaesthesiology

b. Ophthalmology

Minimum qualification

M.B.B.S. and pass in the central entrance test of the National Board of Examinations

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

The selection will be based on the performance in written, clinical and viva voce tests for Super Specialities and through interview and objective assessment for Broad Specialities.

The application form and the brochure can be had from Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram, Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh, Pin - 515 134 on payment of Rs. 300/- (rupees three hundred only) by demand draft drawn on SBI, Prasanthi Nilayam in favour of "SSSIHMS, Prasanthigram". The last date for receipt of applications for all the above specialities is 15/07/2007.

Director

SRI SATHYA SAI MEDICAL TRUST

Donations to the project (undertaken by Sri Sathya Sai Medical Trust) titled "(i) Running and Maintenance of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences at Prasanthigram (Andhra Pradesh) and at Whitefield, Bangalore (Karnataka) (ii) Running and Maintenance of Sri Sathya Sai Mobile Hospital (iii) Building a corpus fund for the Trust" qualify for 100% deduction from income under Section 35 AC/80GGA of the Income Tax Act 1961, for the period 01/04/2007 to 31/03/2010. Cheques and Demand Drafts favouring "Sri Sathya Sai Medical Trust" will be accepted till the completion of the project. Donations towards the corpus of the Trust will have to be accompanied with a covering letter stating that the donation is towards the corpus of the Trust.

Sri Sathya Sai Medical Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam - 515 134.

