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Prasanthi Mandir



"Goodness is not to be acquired from somewhere outside. It is inherent in your nature. You have only to develop it. Just as proper care and nourishment are required for a small sapling to grow into a gigantic tree, you have to make efforts to develop your goodness."

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Forthcoming Festivals at Prasanthi Nilayam



- 11th November Global Akhanda Bhajan**
(11th Nov. 6 p.m. to 12th Nov. 6 p.m.)
- 19th November Ladies Day**
- 22nd November..... 25th Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai**
Institute of Higher Learning
- 23rd November..... 81st Birthday of Bhagavan**
Sri Sathya Sai Baba

The chief priest offering Arati to Bhagavan during the Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna performed at Prasanthi Nilayam from 26th September to 2nd October 2006.



mind. However, there was an element of ego in him. God can tolerate anything but not anger and ego. What is this ego? What for is this ego? Is it for physical beauty, power of the senses, intellectual acumen or wealth? No, none of these should be the cause of one's ego. In fact, ego breeds many evil qualities in man. God has gifted man with such sacred and noble qualities as Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness), Santhi (peace), Prema (love) and Ahimsa (non-violence). Develop these qualities. These are like Pancha Pranas (five life-breaths) for a human being. Anger, jealousy, ego are animal qualities. How can a person with animal qualities be called a human being? A human being is one who has good qualities. Follow truth. Truth is God. Cultivate love. *Love is God. Live in love.* Unfortunately, today people are not making efforts to manifest sacred and noble qualities that are immanent in them. Ignoring their innate nature, they are carried away by outer impulses. Human body is like an iron safe. It contains the invaluable jewels of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa. Value the precious jewels that are inside, and not the iron safe. The physical body which is made up of five elements is bound to perish one day or the other.

This body which is made up of five elements is bound to disintegrate. Though hundred years of life-span is prescribed, one cannot take it for granted. One may have to leave one's mortal coil at any time, be it in childhood, youth or old age. Death is certain. Hence, before the body perishes, man should make efforts to know his true nature.
(Telugu Poem)

People repose their faith in such a frail and impermanent physical body. The body is like a puppet; it m

a fraction of a second. Reposing their faith in such a perishable body, people forget their prized possessions which are inside it. That is why they have no peace. Even if you ask a millionaire whether he has peace, he will immediately say, "I have everything in this world, but I have no peace." Wherever you see in this world today, you see only 'pieces', not 'peace'. Peace is very much within you. Hence, search for it inside. That is your duty. Unfortunately, man forgets this sacred duty and runs after paltry and mean things. You can experience true and eternal peace only when you manifest your innate noble qualities.

Follow the Noble Ideals of the People of Kerala

The five human values of Sathya, Dharma, Santhi, Prema and Ahimsa are the true and permanent property of a human being. Since time immemorial, the people of Kerala have been adoring and owning these sacred qualities. What is the inner meaning of Vamana placing his foot on the head of Emperor Bali and pushing him down to the nether world? It means the crushing of Bali's ego. Having realised this inner meaning, the people of Kerala shed their ego. That is the reason why the State of Kerala earned a good name as a land of peace and purity. It is still a land of greenery and prosperity (*loud applause*).

Every human being has some worry or the other. But the people of Kerala are free from worries. They have very few worldly desires. They lead a life of unity, harmony and cooperation. Even if some differences crop up, they set them aside. They consider them as passing clouds. Truly, the people of Kerala are endowed with purity, selflessness and kindness (*loud prolonged applause*). We should follow their example. In spite



of their preoccupations, they never forget to apply Vibhuti on their forehead. They go to temples both in the morning and evening. People say, Kerala is a communist State. I do not subscribe to this view. It is not 'communist', but 'come-you-next' (*loud applause*)! Their sacred feelings have taken them nearer to God. On the auspicious occasion of Onam, all the people go to temples and perform special Pujas (worship). They go in large numbers

to the Bala Krishna temple, sing devotional songs and experience bliss. Though some change has come about in the attitude of some people due to the effect of modern age, yet the people of Kerala have always been pure-hearted and broad-minded. They always pray for the welfare of all. *Loka Samastha Sukhino Bhavantu* (May all the people of the world be happy!). They do not desire anything which, they know, will not please God.



Being a human being, you should develop human qualities. Unfortunately, human beings today lack human qualities. Wherever you see, you find only animal qualities. Wherever you go and whomever you meet, everybody has only one desire – money, money and more money! All human endeavours, big and small, have only one motive: to accumulate more and more money. After all, what for is this craze for money? Money comes and goes, morality comes and grows. Therefore, develop morality. Only then will you become a true human being.



When Vamana pushed Emperor Bali down to the nether world, the people felt very unhappy, thinking, "Oh God! Our emperor is no longer with us; who will look after us from now on?" Emperor Bali then made a promise to his people that he would visit them every year and bless them. That day is celebrated as Onam. Goodness will always yield good results.

Good Company Fosters Goodness

Dear Students!

Mind is its own witness. Similarly, virtue is the witness of body. A foolish man however witnesses only foolishness. Never behave in a foolish manner. Exercise your discrimination and enquire into everything objectively. If you behave foolishly, you will earn a bad name. Study well and achieve excellence in your studies. Along with this, develop good character and conduct. *Character is real life; character is real education.* Hence, develop good character.

Do not imitate others. Associate only with good company.

*Satsangatwe Nissangatwam,
Nissangatwe Nirmohatwam,
Nirmohatwe Nischalatattwam,
Nischalatattwe Jivanmukti.*

(Sanskrit Sloka)

(Good company leads to detachment; detachment makes one free from delusion; freedom from delusion leads to steadiness of mind; steadiness of mind confers liberation.)

Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are. Hence, have good company. When you have good company, you are sure to become good. Goodness is not to be acquired from somewhere outside. It is inherent in your nature. You have only to develop it. Just as proper care and nourishment are required for a small sapling to grow into a gigantic tree, you have to make efforts to develop your goodness. Earn a good name for your parents, society and country. What does the word Hindu connote? It stands for the following qualities:

- H – Humility
- I – Individuality
- N – Nationality
- D – Devotion
- U – Unity

A true Hindu is one who has these qualities. It is only when we conduct ourselves in keeping with such noble ideals that we deserve to be called human beings. Having been born as human beings, it is a great mistake to behave like animals. Whenever animal qualities raise their ugly head in you, remind yourself, “I am not an animal! I am a human being.” Being a human being should develop human qualities. Unfortunately, human beings tod

human qualities. Wherever you see, you find only animal qualities. Wherever you go and whomever you meet, everybody has only one desire – money, money and more money! All human endeavours, big and small, have only one motive: to accumulate more and more money. After all, what for is this craze for money? *Money comes and goes, morality comes and grows.* Therefore, develop morality. Only then will you become a true human being. The people of Kerala have a high standard of morality. Of course, they also have a desire for acquiring wealth. But it is much less when compared to others. Therefore, others should emulate their ideal, lead a noble life and earn a good name. From ‘good name’, you should progress to ‘God Name’. But, first and foremost, you must ensure that the food you eat is good. Good food is the basis of good ‘head’ (thoughts), and good ‘head’ is responsible for godliness in man. Thus, it is only when you eat good food, you can progress on the path of godliness.

Today we see pollution everywhere. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat are all polluted. Even the heart of man is polluted today. All man’s endeavours also get polluted by the impurity of his heart. With the inspiration of God from within, we have to undertake the Sadhana to get rid of this pollution. It is only when we are able to remove this pollution and make our heart pure that we deserve to be called human beings. Divinity can be attained only by purity. And purity can be achieved by developing unity. Unity, purity and divinity are interrelated. Man should develop these more and more. Only then can man’s life become pure, sacred and divine.

**f the Individual is the Basis for
eace**

t has been called **Punya Bhumi** (land



of merit), Thyaga Bhumi (land of sacrifice) and Yoga Bhumi (land of spirituality) since ancient times. Unfortunately, today it is being turned into Bhoga Bhumi (land of worldly pleasures). What we need most today is Thyaga. What is Thyaga? Thyaga is not going to forest, leaving one's wife, children and property. Real Thyaga lies in renouncing the fruits of one's actions and desires. Therefore, one should renounce one's mean desires. Then only will one's heart become pure like white cloth. God likes only such a pure and sacred heart. God does not expect anything from you. He has no desires at all. It is only you who have desires. God will be happy if you have only sacred desires. Then peace and happiness will reign supreme in your family, society and country. First of all, you should strive for peace in the family. From the family, it should be radiated to friends, relatives and society at large. When society becomes good, the country will prosper. There can be peace in the country only when the individual is at peace with himself. World peace is possible only when there is peace at the individual level. How can there be peace in the world when the individuals lack it?

Students – Boys and Girls!

All of you should work for establishing peace in the country. The greatness of Bharat cannot be described in words. Since ancient times, it has been striving for world peace. However, due to the fascination of the Bharatiyas for English language, they neglected their own religion and culture. You may learn any

language. There is nothing wrong in it. But you should not neglect your own language and culture. Foster peace in your heart. Always be happy and cheerful. Sweet smile should dance on your lips forever. Never put on a 'castor oil face' (sad face) under any circumstances. Always keep smiling. Share your happiness with one and all and lead a happy and blissful life. Be happy and make others happy. The people of Bharat have always led a blissful life with such noble qualities. There is no dearth of such people even today. May be they are not very rich, yet there is no narrowness in their mind. When you develop broad-mindedness, you can accomplish any great task. Realise the truth that the festival of Onam is observed to develop broad-mindedness. Experience happiness yourself, share it with your family and with society at large. Then all people will be happy. *Happiness is union with God.* Attain the experience of this sublime happiness. Be happy and live like members of one family, sharing your love and happiness with one another.

Live in unity, greeting each other, "hello! hello!" lovingly. Let there be no occasion of parting from each other. Never say, 'goodbye'. Rather, become 'good boys'. Develop these sacred feelings of unity. There are still some programmes to be covered. I do not want to inconvenience you by giving a lengthy Discourse.

– **From Bhagavan's Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 5th September 2006 on the occasion of Onam.**

The Atma alone has to be loved; all other things are loved for the sake of the Atma. When the Atma is understood, everything else is understood. All effects are subsumed by the Cause.

– *Baba*



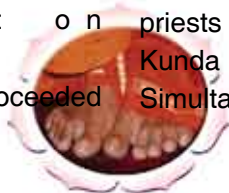
DASARA CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

DASARA CELEBRATIONS AT Prasanthi Nilayam began on the morning of 26th September 2006 in an environment saturated with gaiety and piety. Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall on this day at 7.50 a.m. amidst auspicious notes of Nadaswaram music and sonorous Veda chanting by the Ritwiks (priests) and students, both from Sri Sathya Sai Primary and Higher Secondary Schools, and Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. At 8.00 a.m., Bhagavan went into the Bhajan Mandir, distributed clothes to the Ritwiks and showered His blessings on them. After wearing the new dress blessed by Bhagavan, the Ritwiks came out from the Bhajan Mandir at 8.50 a.m. in a procession carrying the sacred Kalasha. Earlier the worship of the Kalasha blessed by Bhagavan was started in the Bhajan Mandir by the Mandir priest on 23rd September 2006. The procession led by Nadaswaram musicians then proceeded

towards Poornachandra Auditorium where Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna was going to be started in the Divine Presence of Veda Purusha, Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Veda chanting and Bhajan singing groups of students followed the Ritwiks after circumambulating the Bhajan Mandir. All devotees also went to Poornachandra Auditorium to witness the grand spectacle of the commencement of this Yajna of great spiritual significance.

Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna

After Bhagavan's arrival in Poornachandra Auditorium, the Ritwiks started the process of producing sacred fire for Yajna in the traditional way of churning one piece of wood over the other. Bhagavan blessed the sacred Yajna fire after it was produced. The priests then put the fire into the Yajna Kunda amidst chanting of sacred Mantras. After preliminary rituals, the priests started offering oblations in the Yajna Kunda along with chanting of Vedic Mantras. Simultaneously, Parayana (reverential reading)



of sacred texts, worship of Devi, performance of Surya Namaskar and Sahasralingarchana (worship of thousand Lingas) started.

Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna continued in this sacred manner for full one week from 26th September to 2nd October 2006 when it was brought to a happy conclusion with the offering of Poornahuti (final oblations) by Bhagavan Himself in the sacred



With the offering of Poornahuti by Bhagavan in the Yajna Kunda on 2nd October 2006, the Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna came to a happy conclusion.

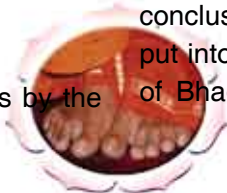
Yajna fire. On the morning of 2nd October 2006, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.50 a.m. and blessed the huge gathering of devotees with His Divine Darshan. Soon after this, beautifully bedecked Sai Geeta (Bhagavan's dear elephant) was brought in the Hall. Bhagavan went near it, caressed it lovingly and fed it with fruits. The procession of Ritwiks led by Nadaswaram musicians and Sai Geeta and followed by Veda chanting students then started ceremoniously from Sai Kulwant Hall for Poornachandra Auditorium for the Poornahuti of the Yajna. Bhagavan came to Poornachandra Auditorium at 9.30 a.m. amidst sacred Vedic chants by the

students and priests and took His seat near the Yajna Kunda. Soon after this, Bhagavan offered Poornahuti into the Yajna Kunda with His Divine Hands amidst the chanting of Vedic Mantras. After this happy conclusion of the Yajna, Bhagavan showered His blessings on the priests by sprinkling Teertham (sacred Kalasha water) on them.

Proceedings of the Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha

One of the most important features of the Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna are the Divine Discourses of Bhagavan, through which Bhagavan imparts His Divine wisdom to the devotees who throng Prasanthi Nilayam on this sacred occasion. This year during Dasara celebrations, Bhagavan gave four Discourses to the delight of a massive gathering of devotees. Before these Discourses of Bhagavan, some eminent men of learning shared their views with devotees on a variety of topics of great spiritual significance.

Sri S.V. Giri, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, was the first speaker who spoke on 27th September 2006. Dwelling upon the significance of Navaratri celebrations, the learned speaker observed that Navaratri provided an opportunity to the devotees to practise fasting and vigil for nine days to enable them to gain control over hunger and sleep, which were basic to the control of the senses and the mind. Referring to Sri Sathya Sai Grama Seva 2006 as also to Ati Rudra Maha Yajna performed last month and the Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna being performed during Navaratri, Sri Giri emphasised that all the actions of Bhagavan are selfless and for universal good. In conclusion, Sri Giri exhorted the students to put into practice at least the basic commands of Bhagavan, viz., Love All, Serve All; Help



Ever, Hurt Never.

The first speaker on 28th September 2006 was Sri Ajit Popat of London. Referring to Bhagavan's Grama Seva as Prema Yajna (sacrificial ritual of love) which was being conducted along with Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna, Sri Popat observed that it exemplified how love should be put into practice. Quoting from the teachings of Bhagavan, Sri Popat added that knowledge was of no use when it was not put into practice, action was useless when not performed with love and life was a waste if not spent in contemplation of God. The next speaker was Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations. Explaining the symbolic act of the killing of the demon Mahishasura by the goddess with her trident, the learned speaker likened Mahishasura to man's demonic qualities, which should be annihilated by the trident of Papa Bheeti, Sangha Neeti and Daiva Preeti (fear of sin, morality in society and love for God) as taught by Bhagavan.

The first speaker on 29th September 2006 was Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak, Vice Chancellor, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Sri Gokak observed that it was a well-established tradition to worship the goddesses Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati, symbolising power, wealth and learning during the nine days of Navaratri. Elaborating on the inner meaning of this worship, Sri Gokak observed that the worship of Saraswati was meant to impart discrimination to man so that he should use his power and wealth in the righteous way. In his speech, the second speaker, Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor of the Institute, referred to the two types of education described by Bhagavan in his previous day's Discourse, and exhorted students to acquire Atma Vidya (kr

of the Self) besides secular knowledge. The learned speaker made a fervent plea to the students to seize this golden opportunity when God Himself in the form of Bhagavan Baba is imparting this knowledge to them.

Sri Sanjay Mahalingam, a research scholar of the Institute, was the first speaker on 1st October 2006. Quoting from Narada Bhakti Sutras, Sri Mahalingam remarked that Bhakti was the culmination of sacrifice and it required complete self-surrender as exemplified by the Gopikas of Brindavan. This, he added, was the end of all Sadhana. The second speaker was Dr. T. Ravikumar, a faculty member of Brindavan Campus of the Institute. Dwelling on the importance of faith as the basis of God-realisation, the speaker narrated a few incidents from his personal life how Bhagavan instilled faith in him and gave him the rare experiences of His Divinity.

On the evening of Vijaya Dasami, 2nd October 2006, Dr. K. Hanumanthappa, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, was blessed by Bhagavan to address the gathering. The learned speaker narrated a number of incidents when Bhagavan gave him the experience of His omnipresence, omnipotence and omniscience. He observed that one could come into the ambit of Bhagavan's love only due to one's merits earned in thousands of previous births. Referring to the uniqueness of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, he said that he had seen numerous universities in all parts of the world, but there was no institution like the one set up by Bhagavan which provided the highest quality of education totally free of cost. The proceedings of the Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha came to a happy conclusion with a closing talk of Dr. Hanumanthappa.



From that silence emanate Sujnana (discriminatory knowledge), Vijnana (higher wisdom) and Prajnana (constant integrated awareness). His knowledge of the Self is radiated all around through his silence. He is always in his natural state. His glory and effulgence are reflected on his ever smiling face. Dakshinamoorthy principle is, in fact, beyond all descriptions. *Nirgunam, Niranjanam, Sanathana Niketanam, Nitya, Shuddha, Buddha, Mukta, Nirmala Swarupinam* (He is attributeless, pure, final abode, eternal, unsullied, enlightened, free and embodiment of sacredness). Nobody in the world can fully describe his true nature. His form is full of brilliance and bliss. How can anyone describe such a divinely resplendent form which embodies love and truth?

The creation emerges from truth and merges into truth,

Is there a place in the cosmos where truth does not exist?

Visualise this pure and unsullied truth.
(Telugu Poem)

There is no place in this world which is not permeated by truth. Truth is changeless. All objects in this world may undergo change, but truth does not change. Dakshinamoorthy, who is the embodiment of this changeless principle of truth, defies all description. The famous musician, M.S. Subbulakshmi used to invoke the blessings of Dakshinamoorthy before commencing her musical concert. It is only by his divine will that everything becomes possible. Nothing is possible without his will. All divine forms have emerged from him. He is so young, yet all divine powers are immanent in him. Where is Dakshinamoorthy? He is omnipresent. *Sarvatah Panipadam Tat Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah Sruthimalloke Sarvamavruthya Tishthati* (with hands, feet, eyes, head, mouth and ears pervading everything, he permeates the entire universe). Dakshinamoorthy is in our eyes that see, the ears that hear, the nose that breathes. All the words that belong to him. In fact, he is the prime



Spend your life in the constant contemplation of God. Engage the body also in God's work. Make your life divine by developing devotion to God. It is only when you lead a divine life that your intellect will blossom. Your humanness will then be sanctified and your life will be redeemed. But first of all, you should live like a real human being. Then only can you attain divinity.



musical concert. It is only by his divine will that everything becomes possible. Nothing is possible without his will. All divine forms have emerged from him. He is so young, yet all divine powers are immanent in him. Where is Dakshinamoorthy? He is omnipresent. *Sarvatah Panipadam Tat Sarvathokshi Siromukham, Sarvatah Sruthimalloke Sarvamavruthya Tishthati* (with hands, feet, eyes, head, mouth and ears pervading everything, he permeates the entire universe). Dakshinamoorthy is in our eyes that see, the ears that hear, the nose that breathes. All the words that belong to him. In fact, he is the prime



mover of all our activities. Hence, we should lead our lives in constant awareness of the Dakshinamoorthy principle.

Divinity is all-pervading. There is no place in this universe which is not permeated by God. There is no object in this world which is not divine. All beings, nay, even small insects represent the principle of divinity. One divine principle manifests itself in different forms.

Jewels are many, but gold is one.

Cows are many, but milk is one.

Beings are many, but the indweller is one.

(Telugu Poem)

Everyone has to recognise this truth. We sing the glory of God by many names like Rama, Krishna, Govinda, Narayana. These are all names ascribed to God by man. God has no particular name or form.

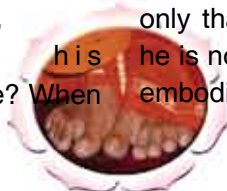
Ignorance of Man is the Cause of his Bondage

Dakshinamoorthy principle permeates all beings. He is Chaitanya Swarupa (embodiment of consciousness). Wherever there is consciousness, there is Dakshinamoorthy. Though divine consciousness is immanent in all beings, man is unable to realise it due to his body attachment. It is overshadowed by the body-mind-intellect-mindstuff-ego complex of man. Added to this are the Arishadvargas (the six inner enemies of man, viz., desire, anger, greed, delusion, pride and jealousy) which come in the way of the realisation of this divine principle. These are like the dark clouds that cover the resplendent sun. The sun is not visible when it is covered by clouds. When the clouds are driven away, the sun becomes visible in all its splendour. Similarly, man has to remove the clouds of ignorance, ego and six inner enemies to visualise his resplendent divinity. How is it possible? When

strong wind blows, the clouds are blown away. Similarly, when you chant the Divine Name and constantly contemplate on God, these dark clouds of evil qualities melt away. In fact, these inner enemies of man have no existence at the time of his birth. Man acquires them during the course of his life. They are self-acquired. They come one after the other and settle as thick clouds on his psyche. For example, a single bangle worn on the hand does not make noise. When the second bangle is added, they start making noise. Man starts his life as a single individual. In course of time, he develops illusion due to Kama (desire). He marries and gets a wife. Thus, one becomes two. Gradually, the two multiply themselves into many, that is, children, grandchildren. Thus, the size of the family goes on increasing. This bondage is of man's own making; it is not given by God. Hence, one has to exercise caution right from an early stage of one's life. This was the Sadhana (spiritual practice) undertaken by Dakshinamoorthy. That was how he remained ever young and free from bondage. We should follow the path shown by Dakshinamoorthy.

Man should Realise his Divine Nature

A human being should lead his life in a manner that is worthy of his status as man. He should not degenerate himself into an animal. Only then can he call himself a human being. Otherwise, he may turn into a mere animal. The animal qualities of Kama (desire), Krodha (anger), Lobha (greed), Moha (delusion), etc., are found in large measure only in animals. Man should always live like a two-legged human being, not like a four-legged animal. He has therefore to constantly remind himself that he is a human being, not an animal. Not only that; he should have the conviction that he is not merely a human being, but verily the embodiment of divinity so that he may say



anybody. Even when you come across your enemy, offer your salutations to him. You find many foolish people in the world. All sorts of differences and conflicts crop up when you associate yourself with such people. Instead, contemplate on God. One who constantly contemplates on God is the noblest of all human beings. *Sarvada Sarva Kaleshu Sarvatra Hari Chintanam* (everywhere, at all times, under all circumstances, contemplate on God). Spend your life in the constant contemplation of God. Engage the body also in God's work. Make your life divine by developing devotion to God. It is only when you lead a divine life that your intellect will blossom. Your humanness will then be sanctified and your life will be redeemed. But first of all, you should live like a real human being. Then only can you attain divinity.

Embodiments of Love!

As long as you harbour evil qualities like desire, anger, greed, etc., humanness cannot blossom in you, and you cannot experience bliss. You should have the realisation that

you are the embodiment of bliss, wisdom divine, beyond duality and all-pervasive divine principle. When you lead your life beyond duality with the awareness of your divine reality, only then can you call yourself a true human being. Whenever you are assailed by evil qualities, get rid of them by chanting the Divine Name of God. Then you will be able to realise your divinity.

You are all embodiments of love. You cannot live without love even for a moment. You may express love in any form, but lead your life as an embodiment of love. In this way, you will eventually attain divinity. This is the important message I am conveying to you today.

– **From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on 11th September 2006 on the occasion of Ati Rudra Maha Yajna.**

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF SANATHANA SARATHI Exhibition on "Journey with Sai"

An exhibition of photographs and other audio-visual materials is proposed to be organised at Prasanthi Nilayam as part of golden jubilee celebrations of "Sanathana Sarathi" around Sivarathri 2007, highlighting the visits of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to various places. It will be based on the reports in "Sanathana Sarathi" and other relevant records. Copies of publications/ records giving details of these visits as also the relevant photographs, CDs, video films, documentaries, etc., are required by us for this purpose. All the material received will be gratefully acknowledged and safely returned, if required.

It is therefore appealed that those devotees / Sai Organisations who possess such materials may kindly send them to: The Convener, Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam – 515 134, Dist. Anantapur (A.P.).
Email: editor@sssbt.org

Convener
Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust



SRI SATHYA SAI GRAMA SEVA 2006

SINCE THE YEAR 2000, SRI SATHYA SaiGramaSeva has come to assume an important part of Dasara celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam. Like previous years, thousands of students of the three campuses of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning at Prasanthi Nilayam, Brindavan and Anantapur assisted by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam along with staff of these institutions took part in Grama Seva 2006 which was conducted from 26th September to 2nd October 2006, covering more than 125 villages in the three Mandals of Puttaparthi, Bukkapatnam and Kothacheruvu. The students distributed Bhagavan's Prasadam (sanctified food) and new clothes with love and humility to more than 2,50,000 people in the massive operation of selfless

service which was meticulously planned and perfectly executed.

The Grama Seva started on the morning of 26th September 2006 soon after the commencement of Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna in Poornachandra Auditorium. Veda chanting and Bhajan singing students and staff of the Institute circumambulated the Bhajan Mandir, received Bhagavan's blessings and departed for Grama Seva carrying with them the Prasadam blessed by Bhagavan for offering it with love to villagers at their doorstep. The enthusiasm and joy of the students was seen to be believed when they started on their mission of love and selfless service in nearly 50 vehicles packed with new clothes



Continued on page 312 ...

CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

2ND SEPTEMBER 2006 WAS THE 34th Annual Day of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust which has successfully executed stupendous projects for the welfare of the masses like drinking water projects, free educational institutions, free hospitals and various other welfare schemes under the direction of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. A bouquet of devotional songs was offered at the Lotus Feet of Bhagavan to express gratitude to Him for all these schemes and projects which have touched the lives of millions of people and set a shining ideal of selfless service to mankind.

Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 3.30 p.m. Soon after His arrival, He lighted a candle

34th ANNUAL DAY OF SRI SATHYA SAI CENTRAL TRUST

and cut the cake placed in the verandah. The programme which was organised by Bhagavan's students working in Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust and various other departments began at 4.05 p.m. after Bhagavan was seated on the dais. What followed was a soul-stirring programme of Telugu and Hindi devotional songs set to scintillating music. It enthralled the audience for over one hour and came to a close at 5.35 p.m. with a loud prolonged applause of the devotees expressing their appreciation for this well-planned and well-executed programme. At the conclusion of the programme, Bhagavan blessed the participants, distributed clothes to them and posed for group photos with them.

ONAM CELEBRATIONS

Three-day Onam celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam from 3rd to 5th September 2006 were marked by a series of excellent cultural and musical programmes by the devotees of Kerala who came to Prasanthi Nilayam in large numbers to celebrate this holy festival in the Divine proximity of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. As part of these celebrations, four magnificent dramas were staged by the Bal Vikas students of Kerala, in addition to the soul-elevating musical concerts by renowned musicians and Bhajans led by the Sai Youth of Kerala. All through the three days of the Onam celebrations, sweet and auspicious notes of Panchavadyam music

added sweetness and delight to the festivities. On the holy day of Onam, 5th September 2006, Bhagavan gave His Divine Message exhorting one and all to imbibe the qualities of broad-mindedness and equal-mindedness as exemplified by the people of Kerala.

Bhakti and Vibhakti: A Drama

The programme of Onam celebrations had a very befitting start on the afternoon of 3rd September 2006 when the Bal Vikas students of Kozhikode district of Kerala presented a dance drama "Bhakti and Vibhakti" explaining the true meaning of devotion to God. It depicted a few deeply moving episodes from the lives of two famous devotees of Lord Krishna who





Bal Vikas students of Kozhikode express their joy and devotion in the opening dance of the drama "Bhakti and Vibhakti".

is worshipped as Guruvayurappan in the Guruvayur temple of Kerala. The drama, which began with a soulful prayer song and dance, first showed how Lord Krishna came in the form of the commander-in-chief of the king to save his devotee Poonthanam Nambudiri when he was attacked by dacoits in the forest on his way to the Guruvayur temple. The second devotee of the Lord whose life was portrayed in the drama was Melpathur Narayana Bhattathiri, who was cured of his paralysis by the Lord and whose pride of scholarship was subdued by Him when He accepted even incorrect chanting of His Name by Poonthanam Nambudiri, making Melpathur realise that the intense devotion of the devotee was more important than the grammatical accuracy of chanting. Beautiful dances of the students set to sweet music and accompanied by melodious devotional songs coupled with excellent acting of the children enraptured the audience for nearly one hour. The drama which started at 4.35 p.m. came to a close at 5.30 p.m. At the end of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the students and posed for photographs with them.

Drama on Service to Parents and Music Programmes

A musical concert by the renowned musician Sri Sankaran Namboothiri was the attraction of the morning programme on 4th September 2006. The artiste enthralled the audience with Mira Bhajans and other devotional songs for nearly one hour and filled each heart with devotion and joy. On the afternoon of 4th September 2006, there was another captivating musical concert and a drama on the sublime theme of service to parents. First, the drama "Matru Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava" was presented by the Bal Vikas students of Sri Sai Vidya Vihar, Alwaye which depicted how Pundarika received the illuminating teachings of service to parents from Sage Kukkuda and how through his



Pundarika learnt the lesson of service to parents by the example of Sage Kukkuda who achieved great spiritual heights by serving his parents.

devotion and service to his parents, he earned the grace of Lord Panduranga. In conclusion, the drama portrayed the shining example of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who set up prestigious educational institutions, super speciality hospitals and executed stupendous water supply projects, fulfilling in a grand way the simple desires of Mother Easwaramma for a small school, a dispensary and a well for the people of the village. This was followed by an excellent presentation of devotional music by the well-known musician Sri Vayyankara Madhusoodhanan.



Programmes on Onam Day

On 5th September 2006, Sai Kulwant Hall was beautifully decorated with festoons made of palm leaves, garlands of flowers of many colours and colourful cloth hangings in typical Kerala style. Bhagavan was offered a grand welcome with Poornakumbham and Talapoli



All the main teachings of Bhagavan came alive in the drama "Sai Tips to Fly High" enacted by the Bal Vikas students of Kollam.

(lighted lamps) and Mangalavadyam amidst Veda chanting by the Bal Vikas children of Kerala when He came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 7.45 a.m. to shower the bliss of His Divine Darshan on the devotees on this auspicious day. The programme began at 8.00 a.m. with a welcome song to Bhagavan after He was seated on the dais. Thereafter, a very educative and illuminating programme entitled "Sai Tips to Fly High" based on the teachings of Bhagavan was presented by the Bal Vikas students of Kollam. The programme comprising a series of skits highlighted the main teachings of Bhagavan and provided valuable tips on value-based living.

On the afternoon of 5th September 2006, Bhagavan blessed the huge gathering of devotees with His Divine Discourse. Before Bhagavan's Discourse, Prof. E. Mukundan,

State President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Kerala described the Seva activities being conducted in Kerala by the Sai Organisation and introduced the two speakers who were blessed by Bhagavan to address the gathering. The first speaker was Sri M.P. Veerendra Kumar, Member of Parliament from Calicut, who remarked that Bhagavan has incarnated to give to mankind His message of love. Peace and unity could be established in the world if man followed the message of Bhagavan, added the learned speaker. The second speaker, Justice Sreedharan, Lokayukta of Kerala, expressed deep gratitude to Bhagavan for providing guidance and showing him the right path when he was faced with difficult situations in the performance of his duties. The learned speaker prayed to Bhagavan for His blessings so that all His devotees could do their duty honestly and live up to His expectations. After these brief speeches, Bhagavan gave His Discourse which was like a shower of bliss for all. (Full text of Bhagavan's Discourse has been given elsewhere in this issue.)

After Bhagavan's Discourse, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidyapeeth, Srisailam presented the drama entitled "Na Me Bhakta Pranashyati" portraying the story of Sakkubai's devotion to Lord Krishna and the Lord's unlimited grace on



A scene from the drama, "Na Me Bhakta Pranashyati".

her. The day's programme concluded at 5.10 p.m. with an excellent presentation of vocal music by the famous musician Sri Vishnu Bhat. The celebrations came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan and distribution of Prasadam to all.

Love is God – Live in Love: A Drama

Love is the main teaching of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba who is Himself the embodiment of love. A drama on the theme of love was enacted by the 10th Class students of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, Prasanthi Nilayam in Sai Kulwant Hall on 21st September 2006. It brilliantly depicted how modern man in the hustle and bustle of a metropolitan city could lead his life successfully

by putting into practice this valuable maxim given by Bhagavan: "Start the day with love; spend the day with love; fill the day with love; end the day with love. This is the way to God." It powerfully brought home the truth that man could overcome even most difficult situations in life with courage and confidence if his heart was filled with the nectar of love. Simple story, elevating theme, good direction and superb acting of the students made it an outstanding presentation. The drama which began at 4.10 p.m. came to a close at 5.00 p.m. Bhagavan witnessed the entire drama and blessed the cast in the end. He also blessed them with the coveted opportunity of group photo with Him.

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and food packets prepared overnight by the students of Anantapur Campus of the Institute. On the auspicious day of Vijaya Dasami, which happened to be the last day of Grama Seva, the students of Anantapur Campus performed Grama Seva in Prasanthi Nilayam township. Like last year, a group of 19 youth specially came from London this year also to participate in Grama Seva. Bhagavan blessed the group and provided them this rare opportunity of performing selfless service in villages.

Over the years, Grama Seva during Dasara celebrations has created a unique bond of love between the students and the people of the villages. The villagers clean the roads and decorate the villages with buntings, festoons and Rangoli to welcome the students who bring to them not only

the Prasadam but Bhagavan's Divine Love. They join the students in Nagar Sankirtan in large numbers and offer all types of help in the distribution of Prasadam. This exchange of mutual love between the students and the villagers is the most ennobling and endearing feature of Grama Seva where the difference of the giver and receiver is obliterated and all get united in a unique bond of love. As one hears from the students, the joy of Grama Seva cannot be described in words. It is a love to love and heart to heart experience which elevates and captivates one and all. This kind gesture of Bhagavan saturated with His Divine Love has brought about a perceptible change in the lives of the villagers which was significantly witnessed during the Grama Seva this year.



NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

RUSSIA

IN THE SOUTHERN FOOT OF THE Ural Mountains is the rustic Chelyabinsk region of Russia. A medical camp was held from 5th – 12th August 2006 in Nyazepetrovsk city in the Chelyabinsk region. About 200 Sai volunteers from Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus, the U.K. and the U.S.A. participated in the camp. Of these, 96 were medical personnel. A total of 7,000 patients were seen during the eight days of the camp. Medications and 1,000 eye glasses were given to patients and 7,500 syringes were given to a nearby hospital for its use. Education and screening for diabetes, hypertension, obesity, asthma and heart disease was conducted. Twenty volunteers helped renovate parts of



The medical camp organised by Sai volunteers for eight days in Nyazepetrovsk city of Russia examined nearly 7,000 patients and provided medications.

the hospital in the city while several others worked in the kitchen preparing meals and cleaning up.

KAZAKHSTAN

The large community of Akmola Oblast includes Astana, the capital city of Kazakhstan



Annual Sai children's camp held from 24th July to 2nd August 2006 in which 74 participants from 14 Russian-speaking countries took part.

in the prairies of western Kazakh. The 2nd annual outdoor Sai Children's camp was held from 24th July to 2nd August 2006. About 74 participants from 14 Russian-speaking countries took part in the event. The participants built a conference room at the campsite where the walls were adorned with Swami's sayings from His Discourses. Lectures on Sri Sathya Sai Education in Human Values were conducted in the conference room. Sai Spiritual Education children performed dramas and plays. Teachers narrated stories of Swami's childhood and enacted playful episodes to inspire the children. There were daily sessions of prayers, meditation, discussions, storytelling and Bhajan singing. Group activities included climbing a mountain and meditating on the

glory of Sai at the mountain top. Everyone present at the camp felt spiritually refreshed.

U. S. A.

Sathya Sai devotees from Tampa Bay, Florida conducted a free medical camp on 10th June 2006 at the Homeless Emergency Project Community Centre in the heart of several low-income homeless living shelters for indigent population. 30 physicians, 15 nurses and 70 volunteers served 305 patients. Every patient was given a loving and caring health screening and medical advice. Patients were screened for diabetes, hyperlipidemia, dental health, vision, hearing, breast cancer, head and neck cancers, asthma, HIV, hepatitis C and syphilis. In addition, individual consultations were provided by experts in internal medicine, family practice, paediatrics, pulmonology, gastroenterology, endocrinology, dermatology, cardiology, oncology, gynaecology, psychiatry, dentistry, ophthalmology, adult and paediatric nutrition and smoking cessation. Paediatric vaccinations were provided as needed.

The video 'His Work' was shown continuously in one of the rooms and devotees were standing by to answer any questions about Swami. Lunches were provided to all visitors and all were given a carry bag with "Love All, Serve All", the five human values being emblazoned on it. The Clearwater City Commissioner, Carlen Petersen, visited the camp and was very impressed by it. He noted that it was a good example for others in the community. At a formal monthly Homeless Coalition meeting presided over by community shelter directors, social service agency heads and the mayor's representative, the Sathya Sai Baba Organisation and its volunteers were formally recognised and thanked for organising the medical camp and serving the community.

The city of Denver is situated amidst the beautiful Rocky Mountains in Colorado. Sai young adults and advisors met for a leadership conference in Denver on 25th – 27th August



The leadership conference held in Denver focused on the role of young adults in the Sai Organisation.

2006. Dr. William Harvey, a member of the Prasanthi Council, spoke of the importance of faith and patience in the lives of young adults. Sri Jonathan Roof, the current president of the Central Council of the U.S.A. Sathya Sai Organisation, narrated inspiring personal experiences with Swami and pledged his commitment to the young adult programme and its growth. Dr. Mayur Pandya spoke of his experiences with Bhagavan during his undergraduate and graduate years as a student of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Dr. Hymon Johnson provided Sai spiritual interludes as the master of ceremonies. There were also two panel discussions and three workshops on leadership, communication, spirituality and role of young adults within the Sai Organisation. The programme concluded with several young adults sharing their experiences of working at the disaster relief project following the devastation by hurricane



Katrina. Everyone felt spiritually uplifted by the conference and looked forward to the future growth of the young adult programme.

LATIN AMERICA

In the country of Panama, Colon is the second largest city. In 1987, the first Sai Spiritual Education class was established in Colon, Panama for 10 to 15 children. Most of these children have joined the youth movement of the Sai Organisation, and are active in service activities such as organising medical camps, giving blood donations, and visiting elderly people and hospitals. The interest to do service first started in Sai Spiritual Education classes. The children also learn about the unity of religions and Sathya Sai Human Values. Currently, the Sai Spiritual Education classes have up to 40 children in Colon, and an equal number in Panama City. On Sunday, 30th April 2006, Sai Spiritual Education teachers of Panama organised a "Super Sports Sunday" at the University of Panama. About 40 children participated in the sports day. The children were divided into four teams, each with 10 players, ranging in ages from 4 to 15. The fun-filled afternoon was spent with activities such as olympic relays, questions and answers on class material and even a game for teachers. The children are transformed and their attitude towards the parents and elders is that of love and respect.

The Sathya Sai School in Paraguay was founded in 2001 with 20 students. Now the number of students has grown to 43 and the school is located in the same building as the Sathya Sai Centre. Over the years, Education in Sathya Sai Human Values has had an impact on the lives of the children, parents and teachers. In many of the families, the Sai School children have set an



Education in Human Values has made a great impact on the lives of children of the Sathya Sai School in Paraguay.

example and inculcated human values in their brothers and sisters who have not attended the Sai School. On one occasion, a student taught another child the importance of non-violence in speech. Another student was severely handicapped and was unable to ambulate or speak. With Sai love and encouragement from other students, he is now beginning to walk and speak a bit. As a miracle of Sai love spreading across people, the father of one of the students was so grateful to Bhagavan for the transformation he saw in his son that he offered to accommodate the Sai School in a larger building with a sports playground.

U. K.

On 17th June 2006, Sri Kalyan Ray, chairman of the education committee of Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation, had an open meeting with Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of U.K. in Harrow, London. The meeting was attended by key office bearers, trustees, educationists and invited guests. Sri Kalyan Ray first informed the audience that Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation held the highest level of responsibility in terms of governance for all Sai activities outside India. He added that





Meeting of educationists and office bearers of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of U.K. held in Harrow, London to chart out a long-term Sai Education plan to integrate human values with daily life of all citizens of the world.

the education committee of the Foundation had seven members at present who had a combined experience of 150 years in the field of education. He noted that the Committee was a task force and that its work would be characterised by order, authenticity and accountability. He further said that the primary task for the education committee would be to prepare a global overview of all spiritual education activities currently taking place, their impact and identifying opportunities for the future. Information from around the world would be compiled and the result would be a comprehensive 15-year strategic Sai Education plan which would be developed to integrate and harmonise human values into a lifelong learning process for all citizens of the world. At the end of his presentation, Sri Kalyan Ray took questions from the audience and further explored some issues for discussion.

In the quaint town of Milton Keynes, U.K. a pagoda was constructed in 1981 to remind people to live harmoniously together in love, tolerance, patience, mutual respect and non-violence. It is called the Peace Pagoda. 18th June 2006 marked the 26th anniversary of

the establishment of the Peace Pagoda. The celebrations were organised and led by the devotees from Milton Keynes, Bedford and Luton Sai Centres. Volunteers served food for more than 400. The programme began with invocation and multi-faith prayers. There were many speeches on peace and faith. After lunch, participants were entertained by a variety of musical, dance and cultural events. The concluding dance was a dedication by the SSE Children of Luton Sai Centre to the goddess of learning – Saraswati. The event was a great inspiration to all who attended and a reminder that peace began with a transformation of the self and imbibing Sathya



18th anniversary of the Peace Pagoda established in Milton Keynes, U.K. was celebrated by organising programmes to promote peace and harmony in the world.

Sai Human Values.

THAILAND

On 7th May 2006, the children who attend the Sai Spiritual Education Programme in Thailand organised the celebrations for Easwaramma Day under the guidance of the Central Coordinator and EHV Coordinator of the Sathya Sai Organisation. The event's guest of honour was Sri Seetharam, the



A cultural programme was organised to celebrate Easwamma Day in Bangkok, Thailand on 7th May 2006.

attaché to the Indian Embassy. A total of 83 Sai Spiritual Education students participated in the programme which was attended by over 100 students, 10 teachers and 250 people from the general public. The programme started with invocation Stotras and prayers. This was followed by a spiritual play produced by the children. Certificates and medals were given to the students and the programme ended with Arati, prayers to Bhagavan and dinner.

ITALY

North-east of the holy city of Turin in the province of Novara is the city of Divignano. The first national meeting of all children attending EHV programmes in Italy was held at the Mother Sai Complex in Divignano from 29th April – 1st May 2006. In all, 23 children and their families attended the conference. The meeting was filled with daily team activities emphasising cooperation and love. There were also daily Bhajan singing and creative activities. Parents participated in inspiring study circles and workshops on self-esteem, leadership, practice of spirituality and Sai Human Values. All families attending the conference benefited by sharing experiences of applying

Sathya Sai's teachings in everyday life at home with their children.

– Prasanthi Council

BHARAT

Andhra Pradesh: Khammam district undertook relief work and helped flood-affected people. It distributed food packets on 6th and 7th August in the areas near Bhadrachalam. After recession of water, it distributed rice, oil, onions, etc., sufficient for a week in Bhadrachalam. Clothes, bed-sheets and utensils were also distributed in these villages on 13th August 2006 along with bread, milk packets and water packets. Seva Dal members had to walk through two-foot deep mud to reach Tulapuram village to render the above services to 65 houses on 12th August 2006. The district also provided 5 kg rice, 800 gm green Dhal, ¼ kg tamarind, ¼ kg dry chillies, one detergent soap, one toilet soap, 1 kg potatoes, water packets, bed-sheets and clothes to 68 houses in Pathanalaram village on 15th August 2006.

Adilabad district provided 197 food packets and 10 cans of drinking water to the occupants of vehicles stranded on the highway for three days due to breach of bridge as a result of floods. It also rendered medical services to the stranded passengers on 7th and 8th August 2006. The district gave to each of the 50 flood-affected families in Vadduru and Arlipi villages 10 kg rice, 1 kg Dhal, 1 kg sugar, 1 kg oil, 1 kg wheat along with other cooking material. It also gave 2 bed-sheets, 1 towel and 1 Sari to each family. The district distributed 700 food packets, 20 litres milk and bread in VenkataraoPET village near Kagaznagar on 7th August 2006. The district served tiffin and milk in the morning and food packets in the afternoon to the flood-affected people in Islampura and Gauthami



Nagar areas of Manchiryal town on 5th August 2006. The district conducted a free medical camp at Manchiryal town and treated 500 patients suffering from viral fever and gave the necessary medicines.

Srikakulam district distributed 3,500 food packets to flood-affected people in Srikakulam town and another 400 packets in the nearby villages. It also held mobile medical camps and rendered services to 1,256 flood victims. It also carried out sanitation work in flood-affected areas by removing the silt from the roads. This district conducted a series of medical camps at different places – in Tekkali treating 1,200 cases, in Kotabommali examining 890 patients, in Kasibugga examining 560 sick people, in Palasa treating 360 patients, in Palakonda treating 1,691 patients and in Venkateswara Colony examining 341 patients. It also conducted medical camp in Polla and Seethampeta tribal villages, examined 321 patients and also distributed rice and clothes to needy people. Medical camps were also conducted in Veeraghattam, Javam and Childiuri villages examining 940 patients. The district came to the rescue of 23 fire victim families in Kondapuram by providing 10 kg rice, new clothes and utensils to each family. It also distributed to the needy in Polla tribal villages 450 kg rice, 21 bed-sheets and nine Amruta Kalasams (containing different food provisions).

East Godavari district was worst affected by floods. Sai Organisation in this district carried out relief work on large scale in Amalapuram, Ambajipeta, Rajole and Ravulapalem areas. Thousands of food packets, water packets, milk packets, biscuits, candle match boxes were distributed to flood-affected people, going in by

walking in muddy areas. Sanitation and medical aid was undertaken on large scale. Requested by Government, Sai Organisation undertook cooking of food and serving to 3,000 flood-affected people sheltered in S.B.K. College in Amalapuram. Sai Organisation also undertook necessary sanitation work and also provided medical aid. In a few areas, cattle feed to the tune of 500 kg rice bran and paddy grass was also provided.

West Godavari district carried out flood relief work in seven villages near Polavaram. Daily 2,000 food packets were distributed for 10 days from 10th August 2006. Sanitation and medical camps were also conducted. Clothes were distributed to 75 families.

Nellore district came to the rescue of 32 families of Balaji Nagar Yeddulethu Sangam area who lost everything in the fire accident on 27th August 2006. The district youth distributed to all the 32 families Amruta Kalasams, clothes, blankets, soap, school uniforms, notebooks, pens, etc., on 29th August 2006. The affected people were also served food packets as temporary relief.

Assam, Manipur and N.E. States: Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, always in the forefront of Sai educational activities in Assam, was appropriately the venue of a three-day training programme for teachers of Sai schools in Assam. Organised with much enthusiasm by the Sai devotees of Golaghat, an important town of Upper Assam, the event generated hope and expectations amongst the education fraternity. Experts from Mumbai delivered illuminating lectures on a wide range of topics. Foundation of Sathya Sai Education, Principles – the Human Workshop, Path to Human Education, Role of Arts and Music, Prayer and Positive



Thinking, Jyoti Meditation, Unity and Continuity of Indian Culture, Role of Parents, Observation Technique and Evaluation, etc., were some of the important aspects of Sai Education which formed the integral part of the training programme. Experimental learning workshops were also conducted. Thirty-eight teachers from Sai schools of Golaghat, Sivasagar and Dibrugarh attended the course. In addition, six members of the management of Sai schools also attended. The training programme which commenced on 27th July 2006 came to a close on the evening of 29th July 2006.

Gujarat: Surat witnessed a devastating flood from 7th to 11th August 2006. Almost 90% of the city was under water. Several places were 15 to 20 feet under water. Sai Organisation started relief work immediately. The most essential need in the beginning was drinking



A kit containing essential items of daily use was distributed to 2,100 flood-affected families in Surat by the Sai Organisation.

water. This along with milk, dry snacks, etc., were distributed wherever needed. Thereafter, kits containing food grains, utensils, blankets, etc., were prepared and distributed from door to door. In all, 2,100 kits containing 5 kg rice, 5 kg wheat flour, 2 kg sugar, 2 kg oil, 1 kg Dhal, 1 kg salt, 250 gm tea, 2 kg g onion, 1 kg potato, 400 gm spices along with



Seva Dal members engaged in the work of clearing road after the flood water receded leaving slush and filth.

candles, match boxes, etc., were distributed to as many families.

From 15th to 27th August and on 2nd, 3rd, 10th and 24th September 2006, medical camps at various places were organised and more than 4,000 patients were provided free treatment. All were given chlorine tablets. Drinking water was tested in 3,598 houses and necessary advice and chlorine tablets were given. Seva Dal members undertook cleaning work in four schools and three affected areas. In the above relief work, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithis of Surat, Vadodara, Sachin, Bardoli, Navsari, Gandeva, Chikhli, Amdavad and Saurashtra took part. Doctors team from Dharmakshetra, Mumbai rendered their services.

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Surat organised a free medical check-up and treatment camp in Narayanpura, a very remote village at the border of the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra on 23rd and 24th September 2006. 585 patients were treated in the camp. 48 patients were identified for cataract operation. They will be brought to Sri Sathya Sai Eye Hospital, Surat where operations will be performed.



A new Health Centre was inaugurated on 24th September at Amdavad. At present, the work has commenced with general OPD and dental care. In the very near future, ophthalmology department will be started. Thereafter, cardiac diagnostic care unit also will be provided in due course. This project is being mainly handled by the Sai Youth of Ahmedabad in keeping with five-year action plan of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, Ahmedabad.

Punjab: A medical camp was organised on 3rd September 2006 in village Kotkala, district Bhatinda in which a team of 11 professional doctors examined more than 750 patients. Free medicines were also distributed. The camp was highly appreciated by local people. Another medical camp was organised on 6th September 2006 in village Chahal, district Hoshiarpur in which more than 250 patients were examined and free medicines were distributed.

An 81-hour workshop for repairing cycles, scooters, bikes and cars was organised on 10th September 2006 to provide free service to the pilgrims on the eve of 'Maa Chintpurni Mela' (fair to worship goddess Chintpurni).

An 81-hour Akhanda Bhajan at State level was held from 14 to 17 September 2006, wherein about 15,000 people attended and received Bhagavan's blessings. All Samithis of Punjab participated in it. A blood donation camp was held on this occasion, in which 81 bottles of blood were donated. In addition to that, 97 people pledged to donate their eyes.

A Bal Vikas day was organised at Jalandhar on 24th September 2006 in which 260 children participated. Awards were given to the participating childrer

and their parents.

Tamil Nadu: Global Blood Donation Day was observed by Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Tamil Nadu on Sunday, 17th September 2006. This noble service of blood donation is carried out by Sai brothers and sisters to save precious human lives. Seva Dal volunteers campaign on door-to-door basis in their respective areas and gather donors irrespective of caste, creed or religion.

In Chennai Metro, South, North and West districts put together, donors donated 758 units of blood. In Tiruvallur district, 147 units of blood were donated. In Kancheepuram district, 202 units of blood were donated. Blood pressure, haemoglobin and blood group were checked for every donor before the donation was carried out. Sai Bhajans were sung during



On the Global Blood Donation Day, Sai Organisation of Tamil Nadu organised blood donation drives and collected over 1,100 units of blood.

the entire period of blood donation so that the unknown recipient would get the liquid love charged with divine vibrations.



Your Attitude Determines Your Life

ONCE KRISHNA THOUGHT OF testing the nature of Yudhishtira and Duryodhana. First, He called Duryodhana and said, “Duryodhana! A great

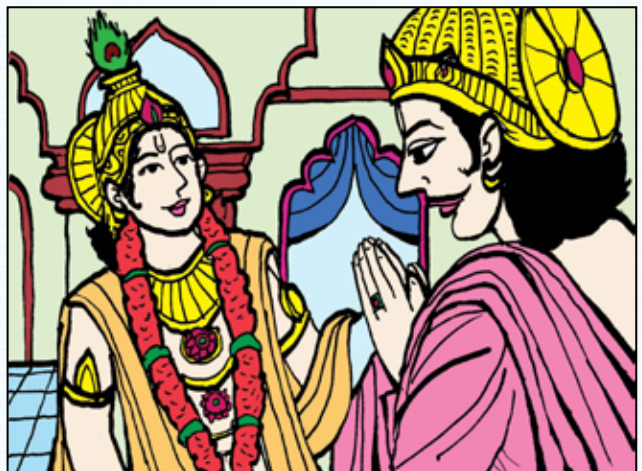


Duryodhana could not see goodness in anyone except himself. He could see only the faults of others.

task is to be performed. For that, a noble person is required who is pure, kind-hearted and an embodiment of peace.” Duryodhana promised to do so and said, “I will surely bring.” Saying this, he went in search of such a person. He ascended his chariot and wandered the whole day. Proud as he was, he did not consult anyone, anywhere. He came back and told Krishna, “Krishna! A thoroughly noble person is nowhere to be seen in this kingdom. I think, I am the only such person. If You tell me the task, I will surely perform it.” Krishna sent him away, saying, “All right. I will call for you when the occasion arises.”

Krishna then came to the Pandavas. He called Dharmaraja (Yudhishtira) and said, “I have a task to perform. For that, I need a very mean-minded person who is given to untruthful and evil ways. Can you bring such a person?” Folding his hands in all humility, Dharmaraja said, “Surely, I will try.” He searched the whole day to find such a person. But all appeared to be good to him. After coming back, he said most humbly to Krishna, “Oh Lord! There is no wicked person in our kingdom. I am the only one who has some wickedness or the other. Please make use of me.”

In the egoistic outlook of Duryodhana, all appeared to be wicked. In the humble nature of Dharmaraja, all appeared to be good. Good and bad depend upon our attitude.



To Yudhishtira, all appeared to be good. He saw his own faults instead of those of others.

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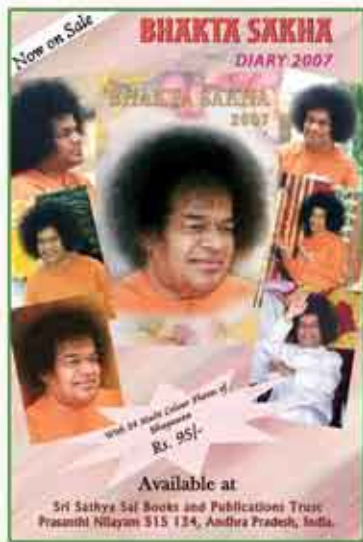
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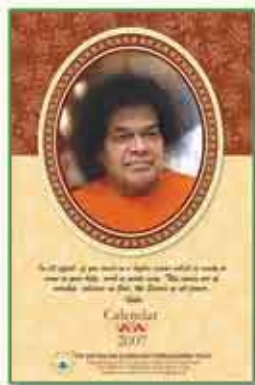
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