

# Sanathana Sarathi

Devoted to the Moral and Spiritual Uplift of Humanity through

SATHYA • DHARMA • SANTHI • PREMA • AHIMSA

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Editor

**G.L. ANAND**



*"Your discrimination is like a signal. Never ignore this signal. When your inner self tells you that something is right, you should follow it scrupulously, irrespective of what others say. Let people talk whatever they want, but we should remain steady in our mind."*

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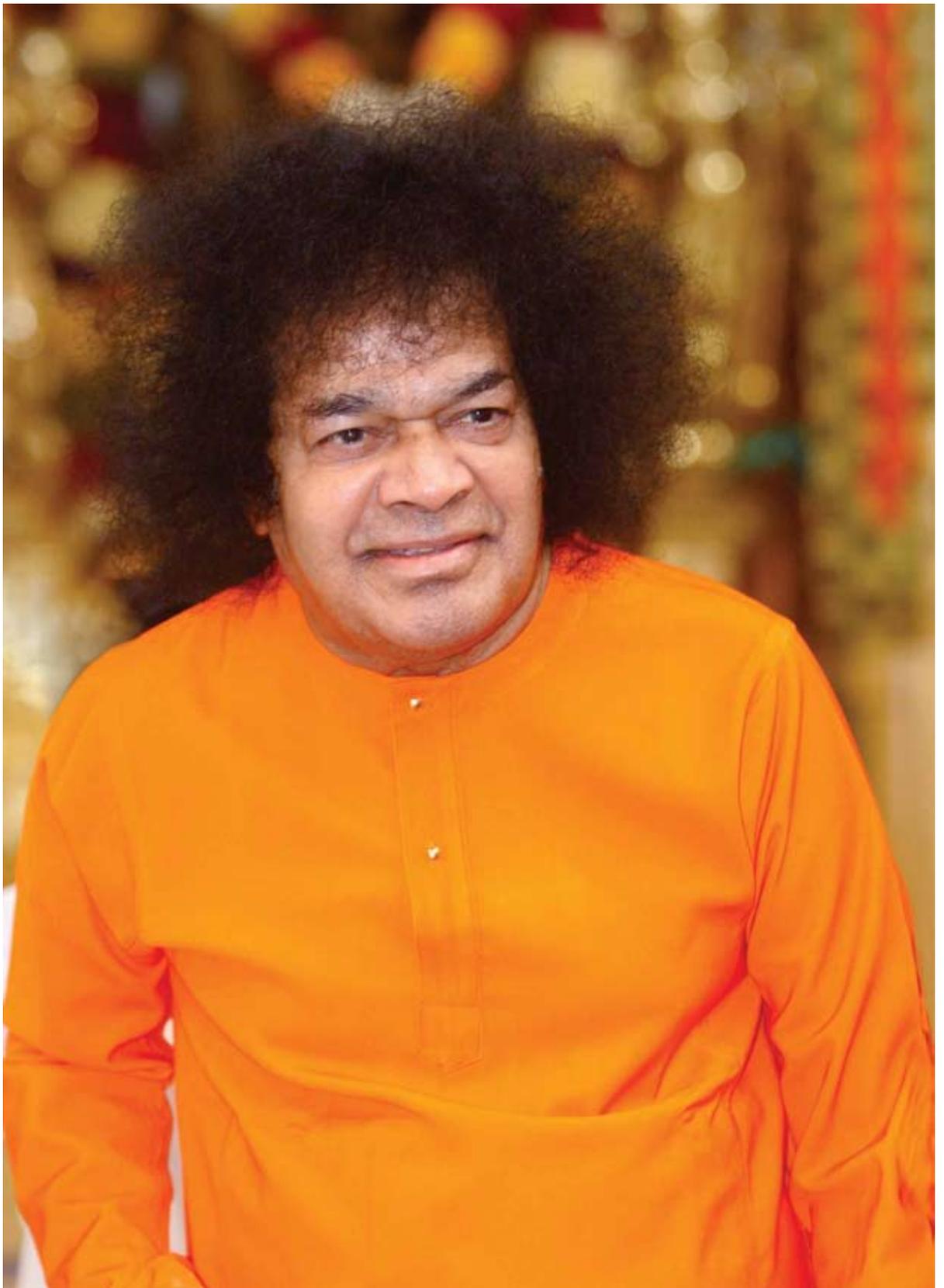
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### *Forthcoming Festivals at Prasanthi Nilayam*



- 15th – 21st Oct. .... Veda Purusha Saptaha Jnana Yajna**
- 10th November ..... Global Akhanda Bhajan**  
**(10th Nov. 6 p.m. to 11th Nov. 6 p.m.)**
- 19th November ..... Ladies Day**
- 22nd November..... 26th Convocation of Sri Sathya Sai University**
- 23rd November..... 82nd Birthday of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**



# CULTURE AND COUNTRY ARE MOST IMPORTANT IN BUSINESS

**T**ODAY'S FUNCTION IS BEING held to celebrate the anniversary of the School of Business Management, Accounting and Finance. What is meant by business? Does business mean exchange of goods? No, it is not so. Truly speaking, the entire world is engaged in business. Right from the Prime Minister of the country to an ordinary

worker, everybody is involved in some kind of business or the other and is following the working system appropriate to his occupation. Knowing fully well this reality, our students are making a mark for themselves in all fields of life.

## Never Forsake your Culture

Man is endowed with five senses of perception. The functioning of the five senses is also a type of business in which all the limbs are engaged. All the senses perform their



*There is nothing great in going abroad and earning a lot of money with your academic qualifications. Money comes and goes, morality comes and grows. You should develop morality. It is enough if you have morality. What can money do? Can you eat money? Unless you spend it to buy something, you cannot satisfy your hunger. Hence, money is not important, morality is important. Faith comes first, job next. Do not give up your sacred culture and love for your motherland.*

worker, everybody is involved in some kind of business or the other and is following the

business in the most appropriate manner with regard to the limbs they are associated

with. Those who give proper direction to their senses so as to lead them on the right path are truly first rankers. Business which is done mainly by reading books, business journals and comparing Indian business with overseas business cannot be called business in the true sense of the term. Indian business should be concerned with Indian traditions and values. It should keep in view the interest and situation of the country. Other countries are making changes in their business ventures just to increase their power. We should not imitate them in any such manner. We should adopt those practices which are appropriate to our culture and traditions.

Taking only money into consideration in business is flawed; culture has to be given utmost importance. Along with culture, the interest of the country should also be given high priority. True business is that which keeps in view both culture and country. Some people today ignore the culture due to the influence of modern times. You should never forsake culture at any cost. What is meant by culture? We should understand and follow our ancient traditions and values. We should never ignore our culture in our business matters. We should enquire into the relationship between culture and country. Culture has its existence due to the country. True humanness lies in the integration of culture and country. Culture is not related to your worldly relations and practices. Culture is concerned with the feelings of your heart and your power to discriminate between what is good and what is bad. Hence, you should develop strong power of discrimination. This discrimination brings about many changes in the life of man. It is due to lack of discrimination that our culture has suffered a decline. And because of the decline of culture, our

country has become weak. Wrong cultural practices followed by the people are, in fact, the main cause for the weakness of a country. Today people do not follow the true culture of our country. Consequently, the government also takes to wrong path. As you all know, different political parties today follow different cultural values and ideologies. But if they all work together for a common cause, the results are sure to be good.

### **Give up Craze for Fashions**

Once when I was a student, some political leaders approached Me and requested, "Sathya! We understand that You write good poetry. We have arranged a meeting in Bukkapatnam where a large number of people are expected to come. We request You to please write a good song that can inspire the people." Those were the days of the Second World War. Adolf Hitler was marching forward to conquer various countries in Europe. He was trying to invade Russia. India was then under rule of the Britishers. Taking the situation into account, I wrote a small playlet. In that playlet, I kept a rubber doll in a cradle and sang the following song, rocking the cradle gently:

*Do not cry, my child, do not cry.*

*If you cry, you will not be called a valiant son of Bharat.*

*Go to sleep, my child, go to sleep.*

*Did you get scared because the terrible Hitler has invaded the invincible Russia?*

*Go to sleep, my child, go to sleep.*

*Do not cry, my child, do not cry.*

*For the Red Army is marching under Stalin.*

*They will put an end to Hitler.*

*Then what else is the reason for your crying?*



*Is it because the countrymen lack unity?  
All the countrymen will unite and fight to  
win freedom;  
Go to sleep, my child, go to sleep.*

(Telugu Song)

I used to compose songs and make the children sing those songs in the village so that people might give up their craze for fashions and cultivate noble thoughts. The wrist watches had just arrived in those days. If anyone in the village wore a wrist watch, he was considered to be a great person. Not only that, gents used to keep a small moustache under their nose as a fashion. I composed a song on these fashions.

*Oh folks! What are these times that have  
descended on us!*

*People hang silver medallions from a  
leather strap on their left wrists – and call  
it fashion!*

*Grotesque appearances are made that  
cannot be seen by the eyes – and they call  
it fashion!*

*Long moustaches are cut to tiny patches  
under the nose – and they call it fashion!*

(Telugu Song)

Seeing all these fashions, I asked them, "My dear! Why have you done this? Your moustache appears like two flies sitting on your upper lip. This is not good." New fashions do not become prevalent all at once. These are the result of imitation; people see others and start imitating them. Gradually, this imitation changes into fashion for a particular period of time. See the influence of fashion on women! They have given up the use of auspicious turmeric and Kumkum (vermillion) mark on forehead and have started putting a miniscule dot which is hardly visible. All



***Mere acquisition of knowledge is not enough. Your knowledge may be as vast as an ocean, your common sense may be as great as the mighty Himalayas, but if you do not have discrimination, then everything is useless. It is enough if you have discrimination. Before you undertake any task, always enquire, "Is this good or bad, is this right or wrong?" You will come up in life if you develop this one quality in you. This itself is self-realisation.***



these fashions keep changing. How long does a fashion last? It lasts only for a few months. Similarly, fashions of youngsters and adults undergo change within a short period. As you all know, earlier bell bottom pants became a fashion for youngsters; these were tight from above and loose below like the shape of a bell. This fashion lasted only for a short time. After some time, pants of the shape of a pipe tightly sticking to the body came into fashion. Recognising that it was not good, people thereafter reverted to ordinary dress. In this manner, many unnecessary fashions appear from time to time like clouds in the sky which come and go. I corrected the people when they took to such fashions. Man should live like a human being.

### **Unnecessary Changes are Harmful**

Today many changes are being made in the field of education also. Many meaningless changes are being made in the syllabus. Authorities may thrust such changes



from above. But, do they prepare the teachers who are responsible for putting these changes into practice? No, not at all. What can the students learn from if teachers are not qualified? First of all, qualified teachers are required. Our university is making great efforts to prepare such qualified teachers. If the teachers are good, the students will also become good.

Not only in the field of education, but changes are being made in the area of health also. Earlier, people used pitchers, plates and pots made of clay by local artisans. After some time, stainless steel utensils replaced the clay utensils. But now plastic pitchers, plates and pots have come into vogue. These plastic articles have exposed man to great dangers. The plastic bags and other articles have created enormous waste material which is not biodegradable. Even if you bury it underground, it does not decompose and remains as it is even after many years. Much land is being spoiled by this plastic waste. Vegetables grown in such land are harmful to man. In this way, many harmful changes have come in the life of man today. Therefore, we should not resort to unnecessary imitation and changes, particularly in the field of education.

### **Living in Present is Most Important**

We should follow our indigenous system and experience the happiness of living in the present. Then our future will also become happy. Many people are worried about their future. Do not brood over past; don't worry about future. Past is past; forget the past; do not think about it. Present is important. It is not ordinary present; it is omnipresent. Many people worry about their past and future and spoil their present. We should make proper use of our present. Sathya Sai colleges are the only institutions which teach

the students to make proper use of their present, though the environment in these institutions may appear to be like that of a rural institution.

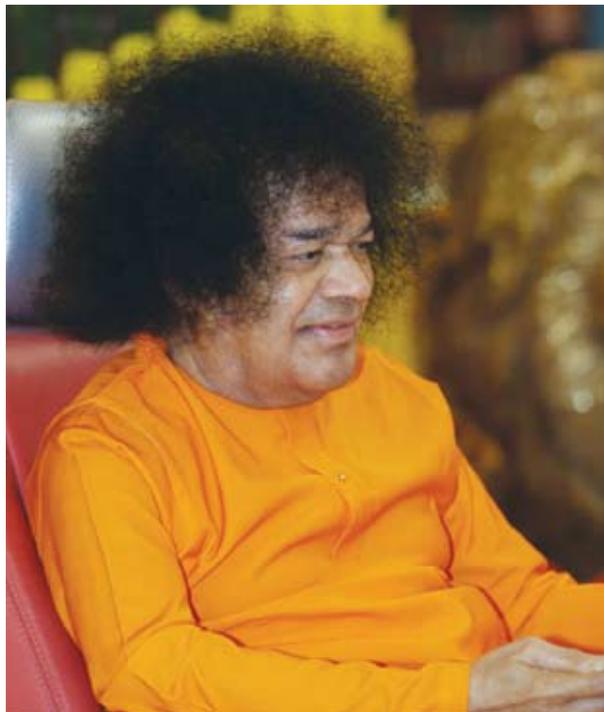
Future does not always bring happiness. And so far as the past is concerned, how much happiness have you experienced in it? Therefore, live happily in the present. Nothing is lost when you lose money. Acquisition of good qualities makes your mind steady. A steady mind is a good mind. It is the mind that brings about transformation in the life of man. Even the parents do not know the mind of their children. The parents also should live in present. What is the use of thinking about the past? Presently, our students have achieved great progress in many fields and set ideals for all. What should we do in the present? Follow the maxim in the present: *Less luggage more comfort makes travel a pleasure*. We should not worry about the past at all. Thinking about past will not do any good to us. Therefore, we should lead our life in the present and achieve all-round progress. You should realise the significance of the word 'present'. What does it mean? When you are in the class, you are present, otherwise you are absent. Absence will reduce your value. In every aspect of your life, present is important.

You achieve good results in all subjects when you are present. Therefore, all of you should think about only present. Today many elders have fond memories of past times, thinking, "Our past time was so good, but everything has turned bad in the present time. In those days, children respected their elders; they conducted themselves with great humility. They revered their elders and learnt good things from them. In fact, there was no need to go to teachers; the grandmother in the



house taught many good things to children. In ancient times, all led a happy life.” “Old is gold” is an old proverb. True to this proverb, people in olden times were like pure gold. By their teachings, they helped the people to take to

the noble path of unity. Why Subhash Chandra Bose had to leave the country? It was nothing but enmity. When does enmity arise? It arises when selfishness overtakes you. Though he had to leave the country, he fearlessly kept



*One can achieve anything in life with the help of God's grace. When you face all the tests of God with total faith and do your duty, you are sure to succeed. Do you know the depth of faith of overseas devotees? Many of them come to Puttaparthi and live in small hutments. Even then, they are very happy. It is not possible for anyone to describe their happiness which is the result of their unflinching faith. If you have such strong faith in God, He will take care of you wherever you are.*

noble path. But today we have damaged this path. Therefore, we should repair this damage and restore the path again.

### **Love and Serve your Motherland**

Today wherever you go, you see people fighting with one another. There is neither unity nor purity anywhere; it is enmity everywhere. Anybody you come across, you will see him in anger. You talk to someone, he will talk against you. We should therefore drive away the evil qualities like anger, jealousy, hypocrisy, etc. We should never harm anybody; we should not cause pain to anyone. *Help Ever, Hurt Never.* You can achieve anything through unity. Therefore, you should always stick to

serving the people wherever he went. Our country is in dire need of such noble people. Our professors also said, “Swami, our students are very good. They can bring about many good changes in society. Many parents today are sending their children to overseas countries. But, why should they send them out? Instead they can remain in our country and bring about changes in the community.” Instead of earning 10,000 rupees a month abroad, it is better to be satisfied with 1,000 rupees in Bharat. In overseas countries, even pure water is scarce. Life is full of difficulties. Half of your earning will go as house rent. All other things are equally expensive. A small banana costs ten rupees! Wherefrom can you get



so much money? How can you bring up your children? Impossible! In Bharat, your children would be happy and satisfied if you give them a simple food of rice and chutney. Forgetting this simple life in our own country, people want to go to foreign countries undergoing all sorts of difficulties.

I have never visited any foreign country except East Africa. Even in East Africa, I spent most of My time seeing wild life in the forests and observed the good qualities of wild animals. There I saw large hordes of elephants; that looked very beautiful and majestic. I offered bananas to some elephants which they accepted very gladly and wanted more of them. Their ears were as big as a winnowing pan. When they swished their ears, mosquitoes sitting even at a long distance would fly away. There were many zebras and giraffes also. They were happily moving in the forest. None of these wild animals causes any harm to man. They will be inimical towards us only when we approach them with the intention of harming them. Otherwise, they will be friendly with us and follow us like pets. I saw a group of lions sitting at one place with their young ones. Even when we were very close to them, they did not show any feeling of enmity. In this way, all the wild animals behaved in a very gentle manner. Your evil qualities are reflected in the animals. If your feelings are good, the snakes will also not harm you even if you were to lie down by their side. Otherwise your own pet cow may gore you with its horns. If a person is angry with you, what is the reason? It is only reaction, reflection and resound of your own feelings. It is only the evil qualities of man which bring about a change in the gentle nature of animals, birds and beasts. Today there is hatred and conflict even between two

sons of the same mother! What is the reason for this mutual hatred? Their evil qualities are responsible for this. We should never give room to such qualities.

### **Cultivate Unshakeable Faith in God**

You are studying in a good college. You should uphold the good name of this college with your good conduct. If you want to earn a good name, you should join good company. *Tell me your company, I shall tell you what you are.* As is your company, so you become. Hence, join good company. It is a great good fortune to be associated with good company. Therefore, you should join such good company and try to develop all-round goodness. Yesterday, the talks delivered by two of our M.B.A. students were very good. Listening to them was a great pleasure to Me. We are very happy to have such good boys in our college. These two boys stood first in their class and were awarded gold medals. But you should not be satisfied with these awards and rewards. You should become good boys. Even the value of gold may diminish but not the value of goodness. Hence, you should cultivate goodness and earn a good name which will remain forever.

First of all, you should develop self-confidence. If you have self-confidence, everything will turn out to be good for you. Devotees like Dhruva, Prahlada and Radha led their lives with sacred feelings. Everything became good for them because they had good thoughts. Wicked Hiranyakasipu subjected Prahlada to all types of sufferings. He attempted to get Prahlada trampled by elephants. Prahlada continued to chant the divine name of Narayana. He was never afraid of elephants. He saw Narayana in elephants also. Hiranyakasipu threw him before snakes but he escaped unharmed.



When he was pushed down from a mountain top and thrown into a deep sea, Lord Narayana held him in His arms and saved him. In this manner, one with faith in God will never be put to harm. Hence, you should develop unflinching faith. Your firm faith in God confers on you all types of knowledge. Where there is faith, there is love. Where there is love, there is Atma. Atma has no specific name or form. Similarly, faith has no form and divinity is also formless. *Love is God. Live in Love. Truth is God, God is Truth.* The entire creation has emerged from 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)

Realisation of truth is Sakshatkara (God-realisation). Therefore, we should develop faith in this truth. No doubt, people do have faith but their faith is wavering. As is the faith, so is the result. If you have total faith, the results are bound to be good in all respects. When you are confronted with difficulties, you tend to lose your faith. You may lose anything but not faith. You should consider faith as your life. That is the path you should follow. You have a strong belief that your parents are your parents. Even if a thousand people tell you that they are not your parents, you will not agree with it. You must have such total faith in God also. God will go to any extent to help those who have such unshakeable faith in Him. Your faith in God should be total. You may have to undergo any number of difficulties and hardships, yet your faith should remain firm. Ramadas worked as Tehsildar (revenue officer).



***We should never ignore our culture in our business matters. We should enquire into the relationship between culture and country. Culture has its existence due to the country. True humanness lies in the integration of culture and country. Culture is not related to your worldly relations and practices. Culture is concerned with the feelings of your heart and your power to discriminate between what is good and what is bad. Hence, you should develop strong power of discrimination.***



He prayed to Rama, "Swami, whatever revenue I have collected I have spent it in Your service." He sang thus:

*Oh Ramachandra! I have spent ten thousand gold coins to adorn Mother Sita with a gold necklace and another ten thousand sovereigns to decorate Your brother Lakshmana with a gold belt. That crest jewel which adorns You cost me another ten thousand gold coins. Unmindful of my travails, You are flaunting the jewellery as if You got it with Your own money!* (Telugu Poem)

The compassionate Lord Himself appeared before the king and paid the money due from Ramadas. Later on, Ramadas repented and prayed for forgiveness, saying, "Unable to bear the hardships of Your test, I have spoken such harsh words. Oh Lord! Please forgive me."

One can achieve anything in life with the help of God's grace. When you



face all the tests of God with total faith and do your duty, you are sure to succeed. Do you know the depth of faith of overseas devotees? Many of them come to Puttaparthi and live in small hutments. Even then, they are very happy. It is not possible for anyone to describe their happiness which is the result of their unflinching faith. If you have such strong faith in God, He will take care of you wherever you are.

*God is your sole refuge wherever you may be,*

*In a forest, in the sky, in a city or a village,  
on the top of a mountain or in the middle of  
deep sea.* (Telugu Poem)

### **Study to be Steady**

First and foremost you should develop confidence. Mere acquisition of knowledge is not enough. Your knowledge may be as vast as an ocean, your common sense may be as great as the mighty Himalayas, but if you do not have discrimination, then everything is useless. It is enough if you have discrimination. Before you undertake any task, always enquire, "Is this good or bad, is this right or wrong?" You will come up in life if you develop this one quality in you. This itself is self-realisation. So, it is important to have discrimination first. Unfortunately, people use their discrimination to suit their self-interest. This individual discrimination varies from person to person. The same thing is viewed by ten people in ten different ways. You must adopt fundamental discrimination which is beneficial to society at large. Only fundamental discrimination will give you self-satisfaction which in turn will lead you to self-realisation. So, proper discrimination is of prime importance for self-realisation.

Students! You are like pure gold. You are all very good. But sometimes you encounter waves of disturbance and doubts in your lives. Many a time, your faith is shaken by some aberrations. Do not pay attention to these. They will go as they come. Come what may, you must remain fearless and steady. Your studies are meant to develop steadiness in you. Study to be steady. Keep this always in your mind. Look at these two boys. How happy they are! In fact, all the M.B.A. students are good. It is not possible to say that one is good and the other is bad. Their singing also was so good. They are intelligent, virtuous and full of vigour. They will be an asset wherever they go. Such boys should stay back to serve the institution so that they can impart their goodness to others.

There is nothing great in going abroad and earning a lot of money with your academic qualifications. *Money comes and goes, morality comes and grows.* You should develop morality. It is enough if you have morality. What can money do? Can you eat money? Unless you spend it to buy something, you cannot satisfy your hunger. Hence, money is not important, morality is important. Faith comes first, job next. Do not give up your sacred culture and love for your motherland. Subhash Chandra Bose never forgot his motherland even when he was staying in other countries. You should proudly proclaim, "This is my motherland." Do not tarnish the image of the sacred culture of your land. Be happy.

**– From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse  
in Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam on  
22nd August 2007 on the occasion of 21st  
Anniversary of the School of Business  
Management, Accounting and Finance of  
Sri Sathya Sai University.**



# CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

## Youth Camp of the State of Himachal Pradesh

**A** FEW DAYS AFTER THE conclusion of Sri Sathya Sai World Youth Conference held at Prasanthi Nilayam from 26th to 28th July 2007, a youth camp was organised by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Himachal Pradesh from 2nd to 6th August in the Conference Hall at Prasanthi Nilayam in which more than 600 youth from the State of Himachal Pradesh took part. Beginning with this, a series of such youth camps are proposed to be organised at Prasanthi Nilayam by Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of various States of India to carry forward the task of transformation of the youth through selfless service and through practising the nine point code of Sadhana taught by Bhagavan. Many eminent speakers addressed the youth during the course of the camp. The interactive sessions which followed these talks cleared the doubts of the youth and illumined the path of their self-transformation.

A group of these youth presented an excellent music and cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall on 5th August 2007 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The first item of the programme was a Bhangra dance, the spectacular performance of which enraptured the viewers. The second item of the programme comprised three moving Qawalis which expressed the feelings of deep love of the youth for Bhagavan. The programme which began at 4.10 p.m. came to a



*During the course of their youth camp, the youth of Himachal Pradesh presented a cultural and music programme in Sai Kulwant Hall on 5th August 2007. The picture shows a scene of Bhangra dance performed by them.*

close at 5.00 p.m. Bhagavan sat through the entire presentation, showered His love and blessings on the youth at the conclusion of the programme, distributed clothes to them with His Divine Hands and also posed for group photos with them. After a brief session of Bhajans, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.35 p.m. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

## A Scintillating Music Concert

A scintillating music concert was presented by the Leipzig Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra of Germany in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 4th August 2007 in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. This was their final concert after performing in many cities of India on their "Musical Tribute to India" Tour 2007.





*The Leipzig Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra of Germany presented a soul-stirring music concert in Sai Kulwant Hall on 4th August 2007.*

The concert comprised nine selected compositions of five renowned musicians of the world, namely, Johannes Brahms, Ludwig Van Beethoven, L. Subramaniam, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy and Johann Strauss. The performance kept the audience spellbound for over an hour. Bhagavan sat through the entire performance and blessed the artistes at the end of the concert. He also distributed clothes to them with His Divine Hands and gave them the coveted opportunity of group photos with Him. The concert which started at 4.20 p.m. after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall came to a close at 5.30 p.m. with a loud prolonged applause of the audience who expressed their deep appreciation of the performance through this.

### **U.S.A. Devotees' Pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam**

A group of devotees including 60 Bal Vikas children came to Prasanthi Nilayam from the north-east region of the U.S.A. in August 2007 and presented an excellent music programme in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 7th August 2007. The programme comprising 12 devotional songs in English and Hindi enthralled the audience in Sai Kulwant Hall for more than one hour. Sung with deep feelings of devotion, the songs touched the hearts of one and all. The programme which started at 3.50 p.m. came to a close at 5.00 p.m.



*Bal Vikas children and devotees from the north-east region of the U.S.A. presented an excellent music programme in Sai Kulwant Hall on 7th August 2007.*

Bhagavan sat through the entire presentation, blessed the participants at the end of the programme and distributed watches, clothes and gifts to them. After a brief Bhajan session, the programme came to a close at 5.35 p.m. with Arati to Bhagavan.

### **Devotees of Karimnagar District on Pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam**

More than 4,000 devotees from the Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh came on a pilgrimage to Prasanthi Nilayam from 9th to 11th August 2007. On the afternoon of 10th August 2007, these devotees presented a cultural programme in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The first item of the programme was a musical



*A scene from the playlet "Chaduvu" presented by the devotees of Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh in Sai Kulwant Hall on 10th August 2007.*

dance playlet titled “Chaduvu” (education) which highlighted the teachings of Bhagavan, underlining specially the eternal traditional values of Indian Culture and the importance of value-based education for children. The simple story unfolded through appropriate dialogues interspersed with beautiful songs and dances of children. At the conclusion of the play, Bhagavan blessed the cast and also materialised a gold chain for a child participant. The second item of the programme was vocal devotional music by both ladies and gents singers who enthralled the audience for more than an hour and a half with their sweet, melodious songs. At the end of the programme, Bhagavan blessed the participants, distributed clothes to them and posed for photographs with them. The programme which started at 3.55 p.m. after Bhagavan’s Darshan in Sai Kulwant Hall, came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.55 p.m. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

### **60th Anniversary of India’s Independence**

A grand and solemn function was held at Prasanthi Nilayam on 15th August 2007 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of India’s Independence. The highlights of this function were a moving and inspiring Discourse by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, talks by three eminent speakers, an excellent music programme comprising patriotic and devotional songs and a drama by the Sai Youth of West Bengal. The venue of the function was Sai Kulwant Hall which was beautifully decorated for this important occasion.

*Talks by Eminent Speakers:* The programme began at 4.05 p.m. after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall. The first speaker who addressed the gathering was Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai University. Quoting from a

Discourse of Bhagavan, Dr. Venkataraman dwelt at length on the real meaning of Swarajya as explained by Bhagavan and exhorted one and all to make India a moral giant in the world instead of a superpower or a nuclear power. For this, the people had to attain freedom from their lower self (ego) and establish the rule of the higher self within themselves and follow Bhagavan’s value-based system of education which could lead to the blossoming of their character, said the eminent speaker. Thereafter, another former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai University, Sri S.V. Giri delivered his talk. Extending his greetings to one and all on this very important occasion of the 60th anniversary of India’s Independence, Sri Giri referred to the various important milestones in the history of India’s Independence, comparing them with the unfolding of the saga of Bhagavan’s Life and Mission, which had now culminated in the clarion call of Bhagavan to the youth of the country to transform India through selfless service, self-sacrifice and self-transformation. The last speaker, Sri V. Srinivasan, All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, referred to the great sacrifices made by freedom fighters of the country and observed that Thyaga (sacrifice) was the only means to attain Swarajya, that is, the rule of the Atma. Sri Srinivasan called upon the youth of the country to follow the path of self-sacrifice shown by the freedom fighters, establish a caring and sharing society in Bharat and make her the spiritual leader of the world.

*Divine Discourse:* After these talks, Bhagavan very graciously blessed the devotees with a very moving and inspiring Discourse full of patriotic fervour, reminding the countrymen of the great sacrifices made by freedom fighters. He dwelt on the important role played by renowned freedom fighter, Subhash Chandra

Bose in the freedom struggle of India. The Discourse, in fact, was a torrential flow of patriotic fervour which inundated each heart with the spirit of patriotism.

*Music Programme:* After the Discourse of Bhagavan, the students of Sri Sathya Sai University presented a music programme of patriotic and devotional songs, beginning with a very fine rendition of Vande Mataram song. Their inspiring patriotic songs elicited enthusiastic response of the audience who



*The inspiring patriotic songs of the students of Sri Sathya Sai University elicited enthusiastic response of devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall on the 60th anniversary of India's Independence.*

waved national flags as the students presented their beautiful compositions.

*Drama by the Sai Youth of West Bengal:* The last item of the programme was an excellent drama by the Sai Youth of West Bengal on the theme of India's freedom struggle. Significantly, this drama was a part of the youth camp programme conducted in the Conference Hall at Prasanthi Nilayam from 13th to 17th August 2007 in which more than 1,000 youth from West Bengal took part. The drama vividly picturised the scenes of freedom struggle through powerful dialogues interspersed with appropriate songs and dances of the youth. Powerful interventions of four



*An excellent drama on the theme of India's freedom struggle was presented by the Sai Youth of West Bengal in Sai Kulwant Hall on 15th August 2007.*

great leaders of India presented in the costumes of Subhash Chandra Bose, Rabindranath Tagore, Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi heightened the patriotic spirit which the drama highlighted. In conclusion, deep gratitude was expressed to Bhagavan who is the greatest source of inspiration for modern youth for the transformation of the country into a land of prosperity, morality and spirituality. The drama which started at 5.55 p.m. came to a close at 6.30 p.m. Bhagavan witnessed the entire presentation, blessed the cast at the end of the drama and posed for photographs with them. The glorious celebration of 60th anniversary of India's Independence came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 6.30 p.m.

### **Vijayawada Devotees' Pilgrimage**

About 3,000 devotees came to Prasanthi Nilayam on a pilgrimage in the 3rd week of August 2007 for the Darshan and benedictions of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. On this occasion, a group of Bal Vikas children of Vijayawada presented an excellent programme of devotional songs and dances on 18th August 2007 in Sai Kulwant Hall in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan. The programme which started after the afternoon Darshan of Bhagavan with prayer to Lord Ganesh



came to a close with a thrilling presentation of yogasanas along with a song and dance relating to yoga. Bhagavan blessed the children at the conclusion of the programme and also materialised a gold chain for one of the girls.

### **Tamil Nadu State Youth Camp**

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Tamil Nadu organised its youth camp from 19th to 21st August 2007 in the Conference Hall at Prasanthi Nilayam in which more than 4,500 youth from various parts of Tamil Nadu came to participate. Many eminent speakers addressed the youth, exhorting them to adopt the path of selfless service for their self-transformation and serving the community at large.

### **21st Anniversary of SBMAF**

The School of Business Management, Accounting and Finance of Sri Sathya Sai University completed 21 glorious years of its service to society on 21st August 2007. To mark this important occasion, Bhagavan blessed the students and staff with an inspiring Discourse on 22nd August 2007. Besides, a series of talks were given by eminent scholars and students of the university on the impact of the School of Business Management on society, particularly the corporate world, and the progress made by it under the guidance of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

The programme to celebrate this important event started on the afternoon of 21st August 2007 after the arrival of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall at 4.00 p.m. At the outset, the Principal and Dean of the SBMAF, Prof. U.S. Rao addressed the gathering. Prof. Rao expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for making this Management School so special and unique, and remarked that it was bringing about a silent revolution in the corporate world and society at large by infusing the spirit of sacrifice and selflessness in its students who were dedicating their lives

in the service of society. Prof. Rao's talk was followed by speeches of two students. The first student to address the gathering was Sri Amey Deshpandey, a research scholar of Sri Sathya Sai University. In an emotional speech interspersed with beautiful devotional songs, the speaker expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for providing the students the rare opportunity of witnessing the unfolding of His Divine master-plan of the transformation of the world and for making them a part of His Divine Mission. The second speaker was Dr. Subhash Subramanyam, who sang melodious songs and conveyed his gratitude to Bhagavan who was transforming the lives of His students by His Divine touch and love.

On the morning of 22nd August 2007, Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.15 a.m. The day's programme began at 8.30 a.m. with the introductory speech of Sri Anil Vinayak Gokak, Vice Chancellor, Sri Sathya Sai University. Sri Gokak expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for providing the opportunity to celebrate this function in His Divine Presence. He advised the students to cultivate purity of heart, experience bliss and attain self-realisation which was the goal of life. After the speech of Sri Gokak, Bhagavan called the two speakers who spoke on the previous day, showered His blessings on them and materialised gold chains for both of them. After this, Bhagavan blessed the gathering with His nectarine Discourse (full text given elsewhere). The programme concluded at 10.05 a.m. with offer of Arati to Bhagavan.

Two speakers addressed the gathering on the afternoon of 22nd August 2007. The first speaker was Sri Lokesh Aswani, a second year MBA student of Sri Sathya Sai University. Dwelling on the importance of sacrifice and

selfless service, Sri Aswani expressed gratitude to Bhagavan for providing opportunities to the students and devotees for making them as part of His Divine Mission by setting up educational institutions, hospitals and other social service institutions. The second speaker was Prof. A. Anantha Raman, a faculty member of Sri Sathya Sai University. The learned speaker referred to the water project and other social service projects of Bhagavan and observed that all these were not only the fructification of Bhagavan's Divine Will but also the ideals before the world how to serve mankind with selfless love.

On 23rd August also two speakers were blessed by Bhagavan to address the audience in Sai Kulwant Hall. The first speaker was Sri Sathyabrata Paul, a second year MBA Finance student of Sri Sathya Sai University who narrated his personal experiences of Bhagavan's grace and observed that the life of Bhagavan itself was the most sacred text for all to observe and benefit from. The second speaker was Sri G. Srirangarajan, a faculty member of the university, who described how Bhagavan taught illuminating lessons to students through His conversations with them.

On the last day of this programme, i.e., 24th August 2007, there were two eminent speakers who addressed the gathering. The first speaker was Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai University who observed that both Bhagavan's life and the institutions set up by Him were shining beacons of light for mankind to progress on the path of transformation and liberation. The learned speaker observed that it was the first time in human history that an Avatar's message was spreading in

all parts of the world instantly through various media like "Sanathana Sarathi", Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust and Radio Sai Global Harmony. The last speaker of this illuminating programme of talks was Prof. M. Veerabhadraiah, a faculty member of Sri Sathya Sai University. The learned speaker described various incidents relating to Bhagavan's omnipresence and observed that one could experience the bliss of Bhagavan's Divinity in every nook and corner of the world with deep devotion and purity of heart.

### **Varalakshmi Vrata**

More than one thousand ladies participated in the worship of goddess Lakshmi in a glittering function of Varalakshmi Vrata in Sai Kulwant Hall on the morning of 24th August 2007. On this occasion, beautiful decorations



*Ladies performing the worship of the goddess Lakshmi during the Varalakshmi Vrata conducted in Sai Kulwant Hall on 24th August 2007.*

were done in Sai Kulwant Hall and specially on the dais where an altar for goddess Lakshmi was set up.

Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.30 a.m. and blessed the inauguration of the function by lighting the sacred lamp. The performance of Vrata began soon after



that. As the chief priest gave instructions for the performance of the Vrata, all the ladies started conducting the rituals for the worship of the goddess with their Puja material which the organisers had provided to them. The worship continued for nearly an hour and a half and came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 10.10 a.m.

### **Bhagavan Visits SSSBPT Office**

It was a memorable day and a momentous occasion for the staff of Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust when Bhagavan paid a visit to the Book Trust office on 24th August 2007. The occasion was the 6th anniversary of the inauguration of its building which Bhagavan had inaugurated on 23rd August 2001. The programme began with lighting of the sacred



*Bhagavan in the central hall of Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust office, which He graciously visited on 24th August 2007.*

lamp by Bhagavan. During this visit, Bhagavan gave a nectarine Discourse (full text given elsewhere), watched a video presentation on Book Trust, went around various departments and blessed the staff.

Bhagavan was received traditionally with Poornakumbham, Veda chanting and Bhajans as He arrived at 8.50 a.m. Speaking on this occasion, the Convener of the Trust, Sri K.S. Rajan said that this visit of Bhagavan would be written in golden letters in the annals of

the Book Trust. Giving a brief account of the progress made by the Book Trust, Sri Rajan said that Bhagavan's message was spreading to every nook and corner of the world through the medium of "Sanathana Sarathi", books and audio-visuals. He observed that all this was possible only due to Bhagavan's grace. Sri Rajan concluded his speech with a prayer to Bhagavan to address the staff so that they could cherish His words in their hearts and act accordingly. Bhagavan spent more than one hour in the Book Trust office and left for Sai Kulwant Hall at 10.05 a.m. after blessing Prasadam and accepting Arati.

### **First Anniversary of Orthopaedic Department, SSSIHMS**

On 13th July 2007, the orthopaedic department of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthigram, Puttaparthi completed one year of its establishment.

During the last one year after its opening, more than 20,000 outpatients were treated and about 1,000 major surgeries were performed with good outcome. The types of surgeries performed include total joint arthroplasty, spinal surgeries, all major fracture surgeries, arthroscopic surgeries, Ilizarov method of treatment and surgeries for congenital deformities and paediatric orthopaedics. It is to be noted that the entire treatment is totally free of cost to all irrespective of caste, religion, gender, nationality or financial status.

### **All India Conference of District Presidents and Office Bearers**

An All India Conference of District Presidents and State Office Bearers of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of India was held at Prasanthi Nilayam from 29th to 31st August 2007. Over 700 participants from all the States of India attended the conference.

The conference commenced after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Sai Kulwant Hall on the morning of 29th August 2007.

The working sessions, which were very intensive, were held in the Conference Hall at Prasanthi Nilayam. Four large screens were set up with LCD projectors to enable clear presentations to be made to the delegates.

Two presentations were made in the first session held on the morning of 29th August. The first one was on the working of the Technology and E-Media Group. This highlighted all the technology initiatives in the field of water purification, sanitation, agriculture, housing, software, power, etc., which had been implemented at various rural locations in different parts of the country. The second presentation was on the website of the Sai Yuvak and its working, giving details of the facilities available to the members of the Organisation to keep themselves abreast on youth activities throughout India. All the delegates assembled for Darshan and Bhajan in the afternoon. In the evening, they again adjourned to the Conference Hall for the second working session. This consisted of addresses by Sri K. Chakravarti, Secretary of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Sri S.V. Giri, former Vice Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai University, Dr. G. Venkataraman, former Vice Chancellor, and Dr. Safaya, Director of the Super Specialty Hospital. All the speakers gave insights to the participants on Grama Seva, Prasanthi Seva, Working of the Prasanthi Digital Studio and Radio Sai Global Harmony, the conduct of medical camps and the duties of the Seva Dal.

After Darshan on the morning of 30th August, the third session of the

conference began with the address of Sri Anil Gokak, Vice Chancellor of the University on the Sai System of Integral Education. This was followed by a presentation by Sri Shashank Shah, a research scholar, who gave the students' perspective on the Sai Integral Education of the university. Thereafter, Sri Srirangarajan, a faculty member of the university, spoke on how outsiders view the products of the university. Sri Nimesh Pandya, a leading legal luminary and faculty member of the Institute of Sathya Sai Education, Mumbai, followed with an address on the relevance of Educare to the Sai Organisation. The fourth session of the conference held on the evening of that day had a detailed presentation on Sri Sathya Sai Village Integrated Programme (SSS VIP). This focused on Grama Seva activity on the basis of each family in the village and how the Organisation should build up from this basic unit to serve the whole village on a sustained and holistic basis. Thereafter, Sri Vinay Kumar, a youth leader from Karnataka, shared his experiences on Grama Seva conducted near Bangalore, in which the organisers constantly felt Bhagavan's Presence.

On 31st August, after morning Darshan, the fifth and final session of the conference had a detailed and inspiring presentation on the working of the Mobile Hospital Project in Puttaparthi Mandal by Dr. Narasimhan, coordinator of this project. Thereafter, Sri Srinivas Yalamati of Hyderabad gave some experiences of the Hyderabad youth in Grama Seva activities. That afternoon, when all the participants had assembled for Darshan, Bhagavan in His infinite compassion, personally distributed to all the 700 delegates a symbol of

His love and grace in the form of His own robes.

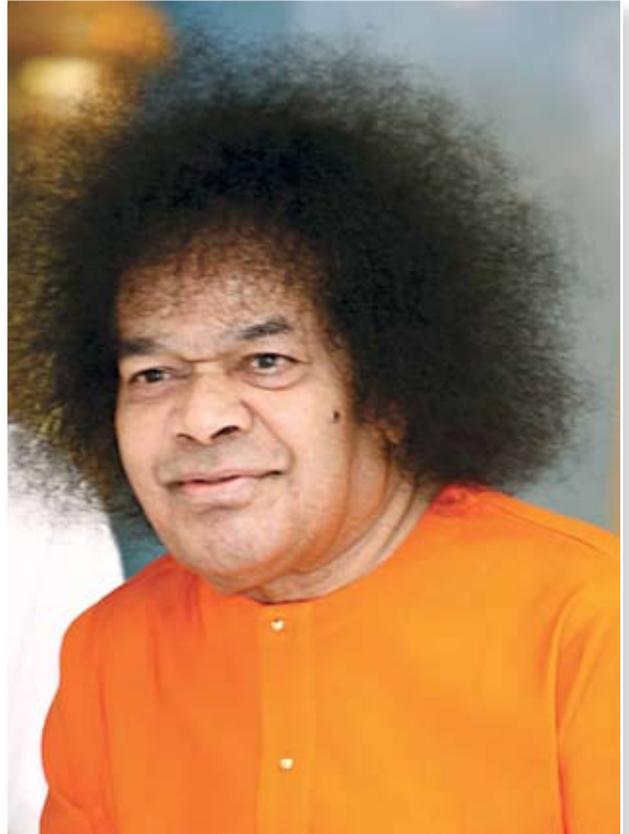


# ETERNAL TRUTHS SHOULD FORM THE SUBJECT OF BOOKS

**A**LL THE FORMER STUDENTS who are working here are discharging their duties with steadfastness and devotion. It is because of their hard work that this Book Stall has made great progress. It is not enough if you merely bring out books; you should put into practice what is given in the books. You should understand and assimilate all the teachings that are contained in the books and practise them. Pustaka (book), Mastaka (head) and Hasta (hand) should be in harmony.

## Reading without Practising is Useless

What the world needs today is service. You should love everybody. *Love All, Serve All*. This is what you are supposed to do. Whatever work you may do, do it with the feeling that you are doing the work of God. There is no place in this world where God is not present. He is all-pervasive. Never doubt that God is here and not there. He is everywhere. God is in you, with you, above you, below you and around you. Whatever happens is only due to the Will of God, and not merely by your own efforts. (Bhagavan showing His handkerchief) Here you see a cloth. It may appear to be a cloth, but in reality it is not so; it is a bundle of threads. Further, the threads are made out of cotton. So, first cotton, next thread and then cloth. Similarly, you are not one person but three: the one you think you are, the one others think you are and the one you really are.



*Writers should write good books which are beneficial for readers. We should not print substandard books which create debasing worldly desires in readers. What is the fate of such books? Nobody reads them. Eternal truths should form the subject of books, which get imprinted on the hearts of readers.*

With regard to a book also, there are three persons involved in it: the one who writes it, the one who prints it and the one who reads it. Merely bringing out of books is not important. It is more important that you should bring out good books which broaden the vision of the people in the wide world. We should not be narrow-minded; we should develop broad feelings. We should publish books which are essential for everybody. Money is not important; morality is important. *Money comes and goes, morality comes and grows.* We should develop morality. Many books are written, many people read them, but it is all useless if nothing is put into practice. We should put into practice at least one principle given in the books we read. There may be many items of food in the plate, but our hunger is not satiated by merely repeating the names of those items. Take at least one item and eat it. A large number of books have been written on Swami. But, are you putting into practice even one principle contained in them? No. What is the use of reading books if you do not put anything into practice? If you read ten teachings in a book, put at least one of them into practice. Only then will you derive the necessary strength and capability from your reading.

### **Writers and Publishers should have Purity of Heart**

Our Rajan is putting in a lot of efforts to develop the Book Trust. He is doing much more than what is expected of a person of his age. Students are also cooperating, thereby creating a congenial environment which is conducive for the smooth functioning of the Trust. You may consider any workplace, good results are possible only through cooperation. What sort of cooperation is required? It should



*Your devotion should be full and total like an ocean which is ever full and does not diminish at all. On the one hand, its water keeps evaporating and on the other, rivers keep pouring water into it with the result that it always maintains its fullness. Make your heart like an ocean. Do not allow it to be disturbed by the waves of your desires. Any number of waves may arise, but the ocean maintains its pristine state. Hence, keep your heart always pure, steady and selfless.*



be a cooperation which is based on heart-to-heart relationship between each other. Not only that, you should know each other's mind and develop perfect understanding.

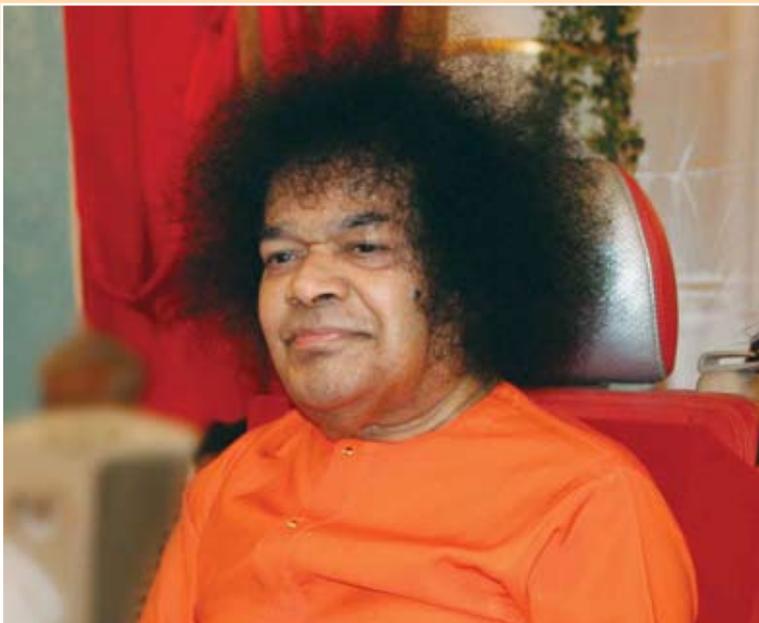
*All are one, be alike to everyone.* All should work with unity. One may write the book, another may print it and yet another may sell it. But all should work in perfect harmony. When there is unity, there will be peace and harmony. How can you develop purity? Purity is not possible when there are negative feelings in your mind. First of all, there should be unity. Where there is unity, there will be purity. Where there is purity, divinity will manifest there. Therefore, first of all develop unity and purity. Then only can you attain divinity. Hence, you should all be united. What I see is not the Pustaka (book) that you print; I see your Mastaka (head). Rajan brings so many books and other publications to Me that are printed by the Trust. But these do not give Me any satisfaction. I see the purity of the heart of the person who has written the book.



The taste of the food will be good if it is cooked in a clean vessel. Cleanliness of the vessel is very important. So is the purity of the heart. Therefore, make your heart pure and sacred.

### **Control your Desires**

Everything may change in the world, but the heart does not change. Here I am referring to the spiritual heart, not the physical heart. Spiritual heart signifies God. God has no specific form. He is referred to as Atma which is present everywhere. But you cannot see it when it is clouded by your thoughts and desires. The moon is always present in the sky, but you will not be able to see it when it is covered by clouds. You cannot deny the presence of the moon just because it is covered by clouds. If you want to see the moon, you have to wait for some time. You will see it once the clouds move away. *Chandrama Manaso Jataha Chaksho Suryo Ajayata* (the moon was born out of the mind and the sun out of the eyes of the Supreme Being). The Atma is shining like moon in the sky of our heart. But sometimes, it is covered by the clouds of our thoughts and desires. In some seasons, you find thick clouds. When there are thick clouds, you are not able to see the moon. In the same manner, the Atma is immanent in everyone. You are unable to see the Atma because of the thick clouds of your thoughts and desires. So, you should control your desires.



*Whatever you may do will be a mere waste if you forget God. Keep God as your highest goal. God is not present in a far off land. He is present everywhere. People may say anything, you may face any number of difficulties, but you should never forget God. Only when you have such pure, steady and unwavering devotion can you be called a true devotee. You cannot call yourself a devotee if you have wavering and unsteady devotion.*

*Less luggage more comfort makes travel a pleasure.*

You can experience immense happiness if you reduce the luggage of your desires which overshadow your happiness. When you reduce your desires, everything will become good for you. This is referred to as Vairagya (renunciation) in Vedanta. What is meant by Vairagya? It means reducing your desires. Do not go on increasing your desires day by day. As our body grows old, our life-



span goes on decreasing with every passing day. Hence, it will be very beneficial for us if we reduce our desires. You can be always happy when you reduce your desires. You may read any number of books and listen to all kinds of sacred texts. But first and foremost, you have to reduce your desires. Only then can you derive benefit from them. Everyone has desires, but some are necessary and some are not. When we wake up in the morning, what is it that we do? We get up from the bed with a lot of desires.

*Oh man! You struggle hard in life merely for the sake of filling your belly. You acquire myriad types of knowledge from various fields. Examine and enquire for yourself what great happiness have you achieved by spending all the time from dawn to dusk in acquiring worldly knowledge and earning wealth while forgetting God. (Telugu Poem)*

### **Develop Steady Devotion**

Whatever you may do will be a mere waste if you forget God. Keep God as your highest goal. God is not present in a far off land. He is present everywhere. People may say anything, you may face any number of difficulties, but you should never forget God. Only when you have such pure, steady and unwavering devotion can you be called a true devotee. You cannot call yourself a devotee if you have wavering and unsteady devotion. Your devotion should be full and total like an ocean which is ever full and does not diminish at all. On the one hand, its water keeps evaporating and on the other, rivers keep pouring water into it with the result that it always maintains its fullness. Make your heart like an ocean. Do not allow it to be disturbed by the waves of your desires. Any number of waves may arise, but the ocean maintains its pristine state. Hence, keep your heart always pure, steady and selfless.

Our Rajan is straining hard to bring



about changes in the publication of books. He brought out many good books on 80th Birthday. Do your work without any expectation. Whatever you do, do it as an offering to God. *Sarva Karma Bhagavad Preetyartham* (do all actions to please God). That is true devotion. Do not observe differences such as, “This is my work, that is Swami’s work and that work pertains to Mandir or public.” All work is God’s work. One who writes the book, one who prints it and one who reads it, all are one. Never entertain any feelings of difference. You can develop steady devotion only when you do not observe differences. Your devotion should always be steady. Devotion that is wavering is of no use. What happens when you have a wavering mind? Your entire life becomes unstable. Do not give room to unsteadiness of your mind. Desires and thoughts may arise. But we should use our power of discrimination to determine, “Is it good or bad? Is it right or wrong?” When you know that something is right, follow it; never leave it. Your discrimination is like a signal. Never ignore this signal. When your inner self tells you that something is right, you should follow it scrupulously, irrespective of what others say. Let people talk whatever they want, but we should remain steady in our mind. Greatness does not lie in bringing out books; understand the essence contained in them. Essence is of prime importance. There can be no book without matter. Similarly, there can be no matter without subject. What type of subjects should you select? You should select such subjects which are related to the heart. Ignoring those subjects will amount to ignoring the voice of the heart.

Writers should write good books which are beneficial for readers. We should not print

*Continued on page 327 ...*

# ONAM CELEBRATIONS AT PRASANTHI NILAYAM

**L**IKE PAST MANY YEARS, thousands of devotees from Kerala came to Prasanthi Nilayam this year also to celebrate the sacred festival of Onam in the Divine Presence of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Besides the main function held on the Onam day, 27th August 2007, many other music and cultural programmes were presented by the devotees and Bal Vikas children of Kerala on 25th, 26th and 28th August 2007.

## **Krishna Kripa: A Dance Drama**

On the eve of the holy festival of Onam, the Bal Vikas children of Kozhikode and Malappuram districts of Kerala presented a dance drama portraying the story of Lord Krishna's love for



*The drama "Krishna Kripa" presented by the Bal Vikas children of Kozhikode and Malappuram districts of Kerala portrayed the story of Krishna's friendship with Sudama.*

His classmate and childhood friend Sudama and Sudama's unwavering devotion towards Krishna. Presented in Sai Kulwant Hall on the afternoon of 25th August 2007, the dance drama appropriately titled "Sai Kripa"

depicted Lord's Kripa (compassion) on His ardent devotee, Sudama. Excellent dances of the children, sweet music, melodious devotional songs and perfect choreography made the drama an excellent presentation. The drama which started at 4.00 p.m. came to a close at 5.00 p.m. Bhagavan blessed the children at the end of the drama and posed for group photos with them. He also materialised a gold chain for the child who played the role of Sudama. After a brief session of Bhajans led by Kerala devotees, the programme came to a close with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.20 p.m. Prasadam was distributed to all in the end.

## **Excellent Devotional Music**

Three artistes enthralled the devotees in Sai Kulwant Hall with their excellent musical presentations on the afternoon of 26th August 2007. The first presentation was made by Smt. Ambili, a renowned playback singer. The programme began with a prayer in praise of Lord Ganesh at 4.10 p.m. after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall. This was followed by devotional songs in praise of Krishna, Rama, Siva and Sita. The singer concluded her presentation with a fine rendition of the popular song "Sathyam Sivam Sundaram". At the end of her presentation, the artistes who provided instrumental support to her presented a musical symphony to the delight of one and all. The second programme was Carnatic devotional music presented by Sri Ranganatha Sharma and party. The singer started with "Gajananam Bhuta Ganadi Sevitam" invoking Lord Ganesh. This was followed by three famous Kritis



(compositions) of Thyagaraja. His next item was a popular Tamil composition followed by a soul-stirring rendition of Mira Bhajan "Tum Bin Meri Kaun Khabar Le". Then came a deeply devotional composition "Twameva Mathacha Pitha Twameva" followed by the Sai Bhajan "Partheeshwari Jagat Janani". As the Bhajan proceeded to a faster tempo, all the devotees joined by clapping rhythmically giving the concert a befitting conclusion.

The last item of the day's programme was a fine Veena recital by Prof. M. Veerabhadraiah, a faculty member of Sri Sathya Sai University. At the outset, the artiste rendered a popular Bhajan in praise of Lord Ganesh followed by brilliant rendering of Bhajans and devotional songs.

At the end of these musical presentations, Bhagavan blessed all the artistes and distributed clothes to them. The day's programme concluded with Bhajans led by the Bal Vikas children of Kerala. Arati was offered to Bhagavan at the end of Bhajans at 6.10 p.m.

### **Onam Function**

27th August 2007 was the Onam day. Sai Kulwant Hall was beautifully done up with colourful festoons, decorations of tender coconut leaves and other beautiful decorations with flowers. A floral carpet and Onathappan (pyramidal structure signifying the deity of Onam) were also arranged in front of the dais.

Bhagavan came to Sai Kulwant Hall at 8.35 a.m. in a grand procession led by the brass band of Sri Sathya Sai University, Bal Vikas children of Kerala holding lighted lamps in their hands and a Veda chanting group with Poornakumbham. As Bhagavan entered the Hall amidst sacred Vedic chants, Nadaswaram troupe of the university welcomed Bhagavan with their sweet musical notes. The morning

programme concluded with Bhajans which filled each heart with divine vibrations. Arati was offered to Bhagavan in the end at 9.25 a.m.

### **Thyagaraja: A Dance Drama**

On the afternoon of 27th August, the programme began at 3.45 p.m. after the Darshan of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall. After Bhagavan occupied His seat on the dais, the students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Always (Kerala) presented a drama entitled



*The students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Always enacted the drama "Thyagaraja" in Sai Kulwant Hall on 27th August 2007.*

"Thyagaraja" depicting various incidents from the life of this legendary musician and devotee of Lord Rama. Superb acting of the children, appropriate costumes, fine rendering of Thyagaraja compositions, scintillating music, and excellent direction made the drama an outstanding presentation. At the end of the drama, Bhagavan blessed the children, posed for photographs with them and distributed clothes to them. The drama was followed by Bhajans led by the Kerala Bhajan group. The programme came to a happy conclusion with Arati to Bhagavan at 5.30 p.m.

### **Namah Sivaya : A Ballet**

On the afternoon of 28th August 2007, the Bal Vikas children of Wayanad district of Kerala

enacted the ballet “Namah Sivaya” portraying significant episodes from Siva Purana. The programme started at 4.10 p.m. after the Divine Darshan of Bhagavan in Sai Kulwant Hall. The children performed a number of dances to the tune of appropriate music, delighting one and all for more than half an hour. Bhagavan blessed the children at the conclusion of the ballet at 4.45 p.m.



*A scene from the ballet “Namah Sivaya” presented by the Bal Vikas children of Kerala in Sai Kulwant Hall on 28th August 2007.*

## **Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences (Super Speciality Hospital), Prasanthigram**

**Information for all Patients coming to Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospital, Prasanthigram**

In the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences – commonly and popularly known as Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospital, a new building called Screening and Registration Block was inaugurated by Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on Thursday, 9th August 2007.

All patients who require treatment for illnesses pertaining to cardiology, urology, plastic surgery, ophthalmology and orthopaedics are initially examined in this block and are given dates of appointment for thorough and detailed diagnosis, treatment/surgery in the main building for diagnostic tests like X-ray, scanning, blood test, urine test, etc., up to a fixed quota and others will be given subsequent dates. After the tests and clinical examinations and diagnosis, the patients are admitted to the wards concerned for treatment or surgery, **absolutely free of charge**. Please note **NO OTHER** illnesses are attended to in this hospital.

Patients who are coming for the first time are requested to bring reports of all previous tests/treatment from outside. In case of children, both parents may accompany the patient. They may be seated from 6.00 a.m. onwards in the respective places indicated by the Seva Dal, in the Screening and Registration Block. In case more than one attendant comes, he/she will not be allowed.

Patients who have papers showing their earlier visit to this hospital and who are to undergo review should come with discharge sheet on the date indicated in the discharge sheets at 7.30 a.m. and will be escorted to the respective departments in the main building. It is advisable to attend on the stipulated date. However, if this date is missed please write to the

P.R.O., SSSIHMS, Prasanthigram, 515 134 – Dist. Anantapur, A.P. (or)

E-mail – [enquiry@sssihms.org.in](mailto:enquiry@sssihms.org.in) (or)

Fax No: 08555 – 287544

to obtain new appointment. Patient coming without prior appointment may have to travel again after obtaining appointment.

All patients are advised to come to this hospital after obtaining **PRIOR APPOINTMENT**, to avoid inconvenience and travel expenses.

Attached to this building is a canteen functioning for the convenience of patients and their attendants, where breakfast and lunch are available on payment.

*Director*

# NEWS FROM SAI CENTRES

## ITALY

**T**HE MOTHER SAI HOUSE IS A beautiful architectural complex built in Divignano near the city of Milan. Over 300 participants from Austria, Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia, Germany, Greece, France, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Holland and Italy attended the European Sai Games held at the Mother Sai House from 28th to 30th April 2007. The participants had three intensive days of sports, spiritual Satsang, educational activities and devotional singing. The event opened with a parade by all athletes singing their national anthems and carrying their national flags. The parade ended with the Sai children singing the song "Love is My Form" after which the sports competitions started. Competitions



*European Sai Games were held at the Mother Sai House in Divignano near Milan, Italy from 28th to 30th April 2007 in which 240 athletes from Austria, Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia, Germany, Greece, France, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Holland and Italy took part. Picture shows a soccer match in progress.*

were held in archery, soccer, volleyball, tennis, swimming, table tennis, cross-

country races and chess. In addition to the sports activities, there was an exhibition on the unity of religions. The programme included moments of meditation, prayer and drama. More than 50 volunteers served the 240 athletes who enjoyed their stay in the Mother Sai House. The European Sai Games closed with prolonged applause to all medal winners and the children singing and expressing their gratitude to Bhagavan for its success.

## KAZAKHSTAN

A medical camp was conducted in Ulenty village in rural Kazakhstan in mid-April 2007. In this medical camp, 31 Sai devotees



*Sai devotees organised a medical camp in Ulenty village in rural Kazakhstan in April 2007 which benefited 671 patients.*

including five health professionals lovingly served 671 patients. The team consisted of a gynaecologist, a paediatrician, a dentist and a physiotherapist. People from neighbouring villages also came and benefited from the medical camp. Medications were



## SERBIA

provided free of charge to all patients. Lectures and presentations were given on disease prevention and on leading a healthy lifestyle. During the camp, Narayana Seva in the form of food and clothing distribution was carried out for 669 villagers. A local school building, which was ravaged by fire, was restored. An evening concert by children brought joy to those present. Lessons in human values were also taught to the school children. Sai devotees and villagers alike felt uplifted by the prevailing selfless love and spirit of service.

## UKRAINE

The 9th Annual Conference of the Ukrainian Sathya Sai Organisation was held on 2nd, 3rd and 4th February 2007 in the Solnechnaya Poliyana Recreation Centre located in the town of Sumy.

A medical camp was conducted from 2nd to 3rd June 2007 in Korolyovka village in the



*The houses of the elderly in Korolyovka village in the Kiev region of Ukraine were repaired as part of the service activities of the Sai Organisation.*

Kiev region of Ukraine. Concomitant with the medical camp, service activities were organised to assist the elderly in the village with repairs and maintenance of their homes.

A seminar based on Sathya Sai Human Values was organised in Belgrade, Serbia on 19th and 20th May 2007 by the European Sathya Sai Education Institute. The objective of



*The European Sathya Sai Education Institute organised a seminar on Sathya Sai Human Values in Belgrade, Serbia on 19th and 20th May 2007. The objective of the seminar was to train teachers for Sathya Sai Education in Human Values.*

the programme was to train teachers for SSE and SSEHV teaching in Europe. The seminar was attended by devotees from Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## SRI LANKA

Buddha Purnima was celebrated on 2nd May 2007 at Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre in Colombo. The celebrations included singing of Buddhist hymns by Sai Spiritual Education students, service activities, talks by distinguished speakers and a sermon by Rev. Dunukewatte Jinananga Thero, chief incumbent of Arjuna Raja Maha Temple, Gampaha. In their speeches, the speakers drew parallels between the teachings of



*Many service activities were organised as part of Buddha Purnima celebrations held on 2nd May 2007 at Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centre in Colombo.*

Lord Buddha and the Divine Message of Bhagavan Baba. The event was attended by Sri Karu Jayasuriya, Federal Minister of Public Administration, Sri Tissa Attanayeka, Member of Parliament, and Sri Reginald Coory, Chief Minister, Western Province.

### DUBAI

Easwaramma Day was celebrated in Dubai on 4th May 2007. It was a large gathering of 1,240 people including 213 children who



*Easwaramma Day was celebrated in Dubai on 4th May 2007 in which 1,240 persons took part including 213 children.*

participated in the programme. The theme of the programme was “Service to Mankind is Service to God” portrayed through a series of colourful dances, songs and skits. The chief guest for the occasion was Smt. Saroj Thapa, wife of the Consulate General of India in Dubai. Dr. Acharya, Chairman of Sai Organisation, Dubai gave the welcome address. This was followed by the keynote address by the chief guest, wherein she quoted Bhagavan’s maxims of “Help Ever, Hurt Never”, and “Love All, Serve All”. She observed that when a good thought was translated into good action, it took the form of service. She also drew the attention of all to the work that required everyone’s support and encouragement - the training and handling of children with special needs. The main programme was followed by Prema Dhara, a choir which presented three beautiful songs of love to Bhagavan. This was followed by the screening of the film, “His Work” which inspired and touched the hearts of all. The evening concluded with a universal prayer for world peace chanted by 213 children.

### U. S. A.

On 19th May 2007, a free medical camp was conducted for homeless people in the Fulton County in Georgia. Thirty physicians/nurse practitioners, fifteen nurses/allied healthcare workers and 75 volunteers served with love and selflessness in this camp. The 128 patients seen on that day were screened for blood glucose, cholesterol, obesity, dental carries, vision, pulmonary function testing and infectious diseases. Consultations were also provided for internal medicine, paediatrics, psychiatry, ophthalmology, cardiology, podiatry and nutrition. Vaccination records were reviewed and free immunisations were provided. Several adults received vaccinations for Hepatitis A & B and meningitis.



*A free digital mammography camp was conducted by the Sai Organisation at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in St. Louis, Missouri on 10th June 2007, in which 49 women were screened for breast cancer.*

A free digital mammography camp was conducted at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in St. Louis, Missouri on 10th June 2007. Full-field digital mammography is the current state-of-the-art screening technology for breast cancer. A free mobile unit was used by the Sai devotees to screen 49 women on that day. A team of 35 volunteers served the patients. Women's health education was given under the supervision of two physicians. An interactive educational presentation with posters and a flip chart on osteoporosis, heart disease, nutrition, cancer of breast and cancer of cervix was conducted. Blood pressure was also checked and follow-up for the patients have been arranged. The Director of Health of St. Louis County also attended the camp.

– **Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation**

## B H A R A T

**Andhra Pradesh:** Prakasam district started two orphanages under Sri Sathya Sai Deenajanodharana Pathakam on 15th July 2007 – one at Chirala town and another at Pulavaripalem near Chinna Ganjam, taking four boys in each centre.

East Godavari district conducted a mega medical camp in Konda Modalu Girijan village on 22nd July 2007, treating 520 Girijans. 16 patients needing further treatment were brought to Rajahmundry and provided necessary treatment along with food and accommodation.

Srikakulam district opened its third orphanage in the district at Srikakulam and admitted nine selected children. This district is giving monthly pension of Rs 100 each to nine selected old persons at Sompeta. At Palasa, Sai Organisation members gave nine bottles of blood to the needy patients in different hospitals. The district provided Amruta Kalasams (food provisions) to 36 selected families in Palakonda slum area on 15th July 2007 and gave 369 Amruta Kalasams to poor tribal families on 22nd July 2007 at Polla Service Camp. The district is conducting Bal Vikas classes for 5th Class students in 11 schools in Srikakulam.

Karimnagar district opened newly-built Sri Sathya Sai Gurukula Vidya Niketan on 16th July 2007 at Bejjanki.

Visakhapatnam district conducted a mega medical camp in Pedabarada village on 15th July 2007, treating more than 1,000 patients.

Kurnool district helped 1,200 families affected by recent floods by giving to each family food provisions and articles of daily use.

**Assam, Manipur and N.E. States:** A State-level Youth Conference was held on 23rd and 24th June 2007 at Sri Sathya Sai Sadhana Nilayam, Guwahati in which more than 100 youth from all over Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura as well as representatives from Manipur took part. While inaugurating the



conference, the State President dwelt at length on how to become an able instrument of Bhagavan. The Trust Convener outlined Bhagavan's messages and directives to the youth. The State youth leader exhorted the youth delegates to come out with renewed vigour to serve society. Guest faculty Dr. G.K. Sarma from Assam Institute of Management and other faculty members gave valuable inputs on various facets of Swami's Life and Mission. After thorough discussion, a month-wise plan on youth activities was drawn up.

A Manipur meet was held on 14th and 15th July 2007 at Kangla Hall, Imphal, the capital of Manipur. The meet covered a Youth Conference and Bal Vikas Gurus Master Training under the theme "Seva and Self-transformation". On each day, more than 300 devotees including the youth, Gurus and Bal Vikas children from the four districts and Kanglatombi Samithi participated in the meet. Five youth from Assam were also present as delegates. Ten resource persons (5 gents and 5 ladies) also took part in the meet deliberating on different topics. Veda chanting by the Bal Vikas children of Kanglatombi (Senapati district) and Thoubal district sanctified the atmosphere. The programme concluded with cultural programmes presented by the youth and Bal Vikas children. On this occasion, the inaugural issue of Sanathana Sarathi in Manipuri language was released by the State President.

**Gujarat:** A State-level Youth Conference was held on 15th July 2007 in Gandhinagar in which 650 youth participated from all over the State. The theme of the conference was "Gram Seva is Ram Seva". The conference started with Veda chanting by Bal Vikas students. The State President, the State

Youth Coordinator and other guest speakers addressed the youth and explained how 9 codes of conduct and ceiling on desires could be useful in Grama Seva as well as in their own life. They also explained to the participants that the purpose of this conference would be fruitful if they transformed themselves by doing selfless service.

After these talks, the youth were divided into three groups. The subjects allotted to each group were: (1) Veda Workshop, (2) Social Service through Ladies, (3) Grama Seva is Rama Seva. Then each group leader conveyed the conclusion of their discussion in open forum. Further, one representative from each district narrated his experiences of Grama Seva, elaborated on the activities carried out and the future planning beside the benefits achieved by the villagers.



*Sai Youth of Gujarat have undertaken a mega tree plantation programme in all the villages adopted by the Sai Organisation of the State for all-round rural development.*

Sai Youth have undertaken a mega tree plantation programme in all the adopted villages of the State. The plants selected are such that the villagers can get income from these.



**Kerala:** Essay competition for students is an annual feature of the educational programmes of Sri Sathya Sai Organisation of Kerala. This year, it was conducted all over Kerala on 5th August 2007 on the topic "Serve Man, Serve God". 5,768 school students from 491 institutions and 1,110 students from 110 colleges participated.

To evolve an action plan for Sri Sathya Sai Yuva Vikas, a one-day camp was organised on 15th August 2007 at Sri Sathya Sai Centre, Alwaye. 62 faculty members participated from different parts of the State. This is a one-year programme for youth, with a two-hour session every week. There are four modules in the curriculum based on Sri Sathya Sai philosophy towards a better self, family and society and the path of spirituality.

As part of Sri Sathya Sai Integrated Village Project, veterinary camps were conducted in 13 out of 14 districts of Kerala under the supervision of the technology group of the Sai Organisation of the State.

There is an acute scarcity of drinking water in Vypin area of Ernakulam. During this rainy season, the Sai Organisation distributed material for rain water harvesting to hundreds of houses in this area.

Thiruvananthapuram district distributed 1,800 kg rice to the needy under Sri Sathya Sai Annapoorneswari Project of Sai Youth.

Preventive medicines were distributed to thousands of people as a measure to check the spreading of Chikungunya fever. In Ernakulam district alone, 25,000 people benefited.

On 1st July 2007, Malappuram district undertook the cleaning of the premises of 45 houses in Harijan colonies. In June 2007, Wayanad district performed the cleaning of wells and surroundings of houses. In the same



*Sai Youth of Thiruvananthapuram distributed 1,800 kg rice to needy people under Sri Sathya Sai Annapoorneswari Project.*

month, Thiruvananthapuram district did the fencing of open wells to ensure clean drinking water. It also gave six solar lamps to the students where there is no electricity.

**Orissa:** Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Orissa has started five new Sai Centres during the last six months for conducting its educational, spiritual and service activities. The first centre was set up at Chandragiri in Gajapati district. The second centre was set up at Baliapal in Balasore district. The third centre, set up at Malyani under Nilagir Samithi, was inaugurated on 8th May 2007. The fourth



*Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation of Orissa started five new Sai Centres in Orissa for conducting service activities. The picture shows the new Sai Centre of Baliapal in Balasore district of Orissa.*

centre of Kujanga Seva group in Jagatsinghpur district was inaugurated by the State President on 28th June 2007. The fifth centre, set up at Bhuban in Dhenkanal district in a building complex which will house a dispensary and a prayer hall also, was inaugurated on 8th July 2007.

World famous car festival was celebrated on 16th July 2007 at Puri, the abode of Lord Jagannath. About 15 lakh devotees from different parts of India and abroad came for the Lord's Darshan. This year, 460 Sai Youth of the State extended selfless Seva at Puri Rath Yatra. They rendered yeoman service by distributing drinking water, carrying patients in stretchers, undertaking sanitation work, etc.

**Tamil Nadu:** A comprehensive free health check-up camp was conducted on Wednesday, 15th August 2007 in the premises of the Primary School of Karakambakkam village for the labourers and their families involved in the Sri Sathya Sai Ganga Canal Project extension



*A team of 21 doctors rendered service in the medical camp conducted by the Sai Organisation of Tamil Nadu for labourers and their families on 15th August 2007.*

work on the Kandaleru-Poondi stretch. The poor and needy of the village as well as the students of the primary school also benefited by the camp. A team of 21 doctors rendered Seva in the above camp. The team included physicians, surgeons, pulmonologists, paediatricians, gynaecologists, family physicians, ENT surgeons and dental surgeons.

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*... Continued from page 317*

substandard books which create debasing worldly desires in readers. What is the fate of such books? Nobody reads them. Eternal truths should form the subject of books, which get imprinted on the hearts of readers. We should perform actions without deviating from the path of Sathya (truth) and Dharma (righteousness). Sathya and Dharma are not different from each other. *Sathyannasti Paro Dharma* (There is no Dharma greater than adherence to Truth). Sathya and Dharma are one and the same. Without Dharma, there cannot be Sathya and without Sathya, there cannot be Dharma. They are interdependent and are like mirror images of each other. We can achieve anything when

we follow Sathya and Dharma. When we make Sathya and Dharma as our goal, we will certainly achieve the object of our life. Today it is not possible to explain this subject in detail due to time constraint. I wanted to tell you something related to publication of books only. What type of books should you publish? You should publish only good books. You have listened to many Discourses and read many books. Treasure all that you have heard in your heart and try to put it into practice.

**– From Bhagavan's Divine Discourse in Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust office on 24th August 2007.**

# No Short Cut to Liberation

ONCE THERE LIVED A shopkeeper in a village. In the talk of a noble man, he once heard, "If one utters the Name of God at the last moment



*We can remember God's Name at the last moment of our life only by constant practice and by the grace of God, not by resorting to tricks.*

of one's life, one attains liberation." The shopkeeper thought, "I have four sons. I will name all of them after the Names of God and form the habit of calling them by these names. One does call one's sons at the last moment of one's life. Isn't it? In this way, I will easily attain liberation."

With the passage of time, his sons grew up. The shopkeeper's end came near. Realising that his life principle was going to ebb out at any moment, he called his sons, "Oh Rama! Oh Krishna! Oh Govinda! Oh Madhava!" The sons came near him and enquired with great

anxiety, "Dear father! What for have you called us? How are you?" He saw all of them together. At that moment, he remembered his shop and asked, "Oh! Have all of you come? Who will look after the shop?" He breathed his last while uttering these words. At the last moment of his life, his mind was fixed on his shop only.

We can utter God's Name at the last moment of our life only by remembering His Name all through our life, by doing intense practice and by God's grace. It is utter ignorance to use force and resort to tricks for remembering God's Name in our last moments. We should form the habit of contemplating on the Name of God when our body, mind, senses and intellect are healthy and strong.

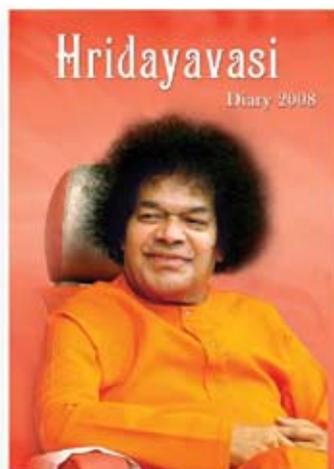


*When all his four sons came to his bedside, the shopkeeper remembered his shop instead of God and breathed his last.*

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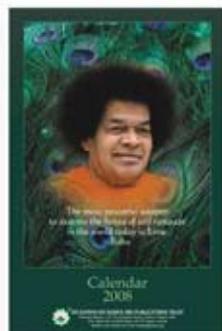
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# CALENDARS 2008

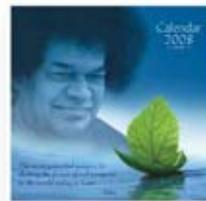
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