



SATHYA SAI

The irresistible fragrance of

*His
Presence*



APR 24, 2011



The terribly agonising vacuity and devastating loss that every Sai devotee experienced on this day is irreparable.

It was almost as if everyone was dead and born again. Because Baba always said, "If you love Me, do not die for Me, live for Me."



APRIL



Prasanthi Nilayam, the chosen milieu of the lord to unfold His saga of love and sacrifice, became quieter. Earlier thousands congregated everyday to soak themselves with His form and manifold manifestations of His grace, and thus experience undiluted peace.

This they continue to do as there is no other place on this earth more love-charged than the Sai Kulwant Hall, the only difference being now they close their eyes and find that potent peace within.



APRIL



It is because Prasanthi Nilayam is this reservoir of perennial peace that streams of people from all corners of the world converge in this holy hamlet even today.

Mr. Rainer Benda, a devotee from Germany says, "Even now when I see the Maha Samadhi, for me it is not a tomb, it is the symbol of Constant Integrated Awareness - the supreme and sublime peace. Baba is taking us over the illusion of death; this place is highly precious - it exudes only peace and love."



APRIL

APRIL



MAY



JUNE



June & Spirituality, SS32H, Prasanthi Nilayam
Vishwanath Pandit and Prof. G. Venkataraman

JULY



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



2
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1

OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER



JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



2
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2

Right from April 2011 till now, the calendar of Prasanthi Nilayam was never free. Every month saw devotees and spiritual seekers thronging this divine town to offer their homage to Baba and return 'charged' with His love.



May 6, 2011

Easwaramma Day (Morning Program)

MAY



On the 13th day after Baba shed His mortal coil came Easwaramma Day, the day observed every year in honour of the mother of the Divine form.

To mark this solemn occasion a Mahanarayana Seva was organised wherein *prasadam* in the form of food and clothes were distributed to the thousands who had gathered at the Hill View Stadium, the very same venue where for years Baba served the poor and the needy setting an example to humanity.

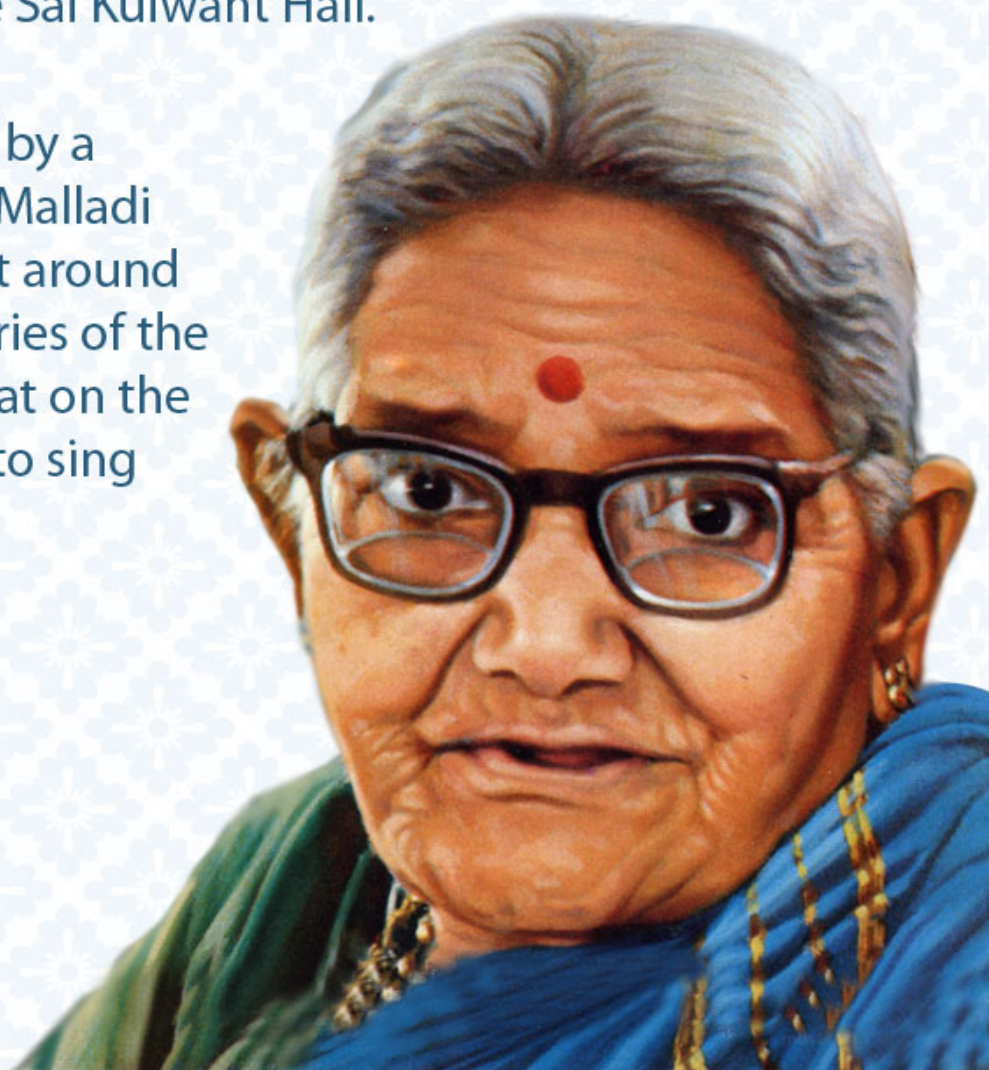


Easwaramma Day (Evening Program)



On the evening of that day three learned speakers shared their thoughts and feelings with the devotees who had filled the Sai Kulwant Hall.

This was followed by a music concert by Malladi brothers, who cast around them fond memories of the days when Baba sat on the dias asking them to sing more for Him.



July 12, 2011

JULY

Ashada Ekadashi in Prasanthi



The month of July saw the ever-looked-forward-to festival of Ashada Ekadashi. As always thousands of devotees had arrived from the states of Maharashtra and Goa with great love and devotion.

In the morning of this auspicious day the Warkaris reached Puttaparthi on foot to offer their salutations to Bhagawan. Like every year, they had started from Dharmavaram, carrying a palanquin and tread on foot, the over-forty-kilometers distance to Prasanthi Nilayam. After their procession, there was a music presentation by the Mategaonkar family.



July 12, 2011

JULY

Ashada Ekadashi in Prasanthi



The highlight of the celebration was a brilliant dance ballet by renowned dancer, Deepak Mazumdar and his disciple, Pavithra Bhatt along with children from the city of Mumbai.



Later Deepak said, "I felt Baba has never taken Samadhi, Baba is still here! I experienced the same vibrations, He is there all the time. I will always spread His message through dance."

Therefore this year too this colourful festival had it all - mellifluous music, grand dance and drama.



July 14, 2011

JULY

Sri Sathya Sai World Youth Conference (Day Two)

On the evening of July 14, youth from 16 countries (SSSO, Region 1,6,7 and 8), forming a choir group named LASA (Love All Serve All) offered a music programme to Bhagawan in the Sai Kulwant Hall.



Earlier, during the morning session, the Carnatic virtuoso duo Malladi brothers, Sri Ram Prasad and Sri Ravi Kumar, enthralled the audience in Prasanthi Nilayam yet another time with their mellifluous devotional renderings.



July 13, 2011

JULY

Sri Sathya Sai World Youth Conference (Day One)



As a run up to the Guru Poornima festival, the Sri Sathya Sai World Youth Conference was convened on July 13 and 14.

440 youth leaders and young office-bearers of the International Sai Organisation from 75 countries participated in this conference which had the theme, 'Ideal Sai Leadership'.

The conference was originally planned for Feb-Mar 2011, and it is noteworthy that the event of Baba giving up His physical form did not stop any of these dedicated Sai Youth from attending the conference. And this was evident in the numbers and their enthusiasm. It was organised in the Poorna Chandra Auditorium.



July 14, 2011

JULY

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July 15, 2011

Unveiling of the Maha Samadhi (Morning Program)

JULY



Guru Poornima day 2011 was a landmark event in the history of Prasanthi Nilayam. For weeks before this festival, the entire dais and the area around it in the Sai Kulwant Hall had been cordoned off for the construction of the Maha Samadhi.

When the red and orange curtains parted at 8 a.m. sharp that day to vibrant chants of vedic hymns, it revealed the heavenly and hallowed enclosure resplendent in white marble. This symbol of elegance and eternity, purity and sublimity will for ages to come continue to be a source of solace and spiritual peace for pilgrims from across the globe.



July 15, 2011

JULY

Unveiling of the Maha Samadhi (Morning Program)



As every Guru Poornima earlier, this year too the festival started with a programme by Bhagawan's students singing in praise of their Sadguru. This was interspersed with the narration of selected experiences which made everyone reaffirm to themselves that Bhagawan will ever be present beside His every devotee.

Later there were two inspiring talks by distinguished devotees, and after *arati* the Maha Samadhi was open for *darshan* for devotees who came in long winding lines to offer their salutations.



July 15, 2011

JULY

Aruna Sairam and Hans Raj Hans Offer Their Music

The evening of Guru Poornima 2011 was witness to two elevating musical performances, first by the famous car-natic vocalist, Mrs. Aruna Sairam followed by the popular sufi music exponent Mr. Hans Raj Hans. The latter had earlier performed before Him in Delhi during Baba's visit to that city in 2010.



Ecstatic with the opportunity, he later said, "Initially I was sad as I could not longer see His physical form, but soon I felt His illuminating presence all around, in every atom! I really didn't know who was singing and who was listening. The Avatar is always hidden; He is not just a body, He is a unique phenomena."



July 16, 2011

JULY

Musical Offering by Sai Students

Continuing the Guru Poornima celebrations, on the morning of July 16, there was a musical offering by the alumni of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions.



Nothing could have captured the solemn mood of the occasion better than the songs these former students of Baba chose to sing on that day. There were songs of self-affirmation conveying that He can never be far from us, at the same time there were melancholic melodies reflecting the deep sorrow gnawing their hearts.



July 16, 2011

JULY

'Avvaiyar' Drama by Tamil Nadu Bal Vikas Children

On the evening of July 16, Bal Vikas children from Tamil Nadu enacted an enthralling musical drama, Avvaiyar, portraying the life of a woman poet saint who is revered for her matchless devotion to the Lord.



Avvaiyar prayed that she becomes old so that she is not tied down by the shackles of worldly life.

Her invaluable contribution is the timeless devotional classics penned by her in Tamil which continue to inspire thousands even now.



July 25, 2011

Canadians Sing to Him

JULY

A week after Guru Poornima, 121 devotees arrived from California on a pilgrimage from July 21 till 30. On the evening of July 25, this group consisting of members from Glendale-Arcadia Sai Centre and the Glendale Balvikas of Southern California presented a musical programme entitled "From Many to One".



The sincerity in their voices and love in their hearts which was evident in their presentation moved one and all.



July 30 & 31, 2011

JULY

The 'Prema Bandham' Meet

Whenever the alumni gather at the feet of their Divine Master in Prasanthi Nilayam to express their love and gratitude, they refer to the event as 'Prema Bandham' meaning, 'the bond of Love'. The Prema Bandham of July 2011 was meant to be a gathering of the alumni settled in North America, but it evolved into a global meet.



And so, a number of them from different corners gathered with their families to bask in the divine presence and reconnect with their anchor of pure love. In their two-day meet, they held sessions with several university administrators and finally on the evening of July 31 made a soulful musical offering to Bhagawan.



August 4, 2011

AUGUST

Sai Youth from Australia Sing to Him



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In the first week of August sixty spirited youth from Australia were in Prasanthi to offer their love to Bhagawan.

They sang their hearts out on the evening of August 4 for an hour filling everyone with sweet memories of the Lord.

August 5, 2011

AUGUST

Choir by German Devotees

Along with the Australians were also 200 Germans in the month of August. They were in Prasanthi for their 7-day Summer Course. On August 5, they made their musical offering to Bhagawan entitled, 'Religions are many, God is one'.



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One of the youth members, David Samuel Burkhardt said, "When I touched the Samadhi, I felt so much energy and love! It was exactly the same feeling when I touched Baba's hand last year after the North European Choir performance."

Their presentation started with vedic hymns chanted with astounding clarity. This was followed by verses from Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Judaism and Christianity, and finally concluded with a few songs in English and German.



August 9, 2011

AUGUST

Day One of Middle East Music Programme

The month of August was the holy period of Ramadan. And to observe this in the divine presence devotees came from UAE, Sultanate of Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Iran. The entire Sai Kulwant Hall wore an Islamic attire.



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On the first day of their 2-day Inter-faith Programme the devotees from Turkey made a musical offering. It started with a procession carrying a beautiful crystal replica of the holy mosque of Abu Dhabi. This was followed by traditional Islamic chants. The highlight of the day was the whirling dervishes performed by four mevleviis.

Reflecting on this experience, Mr. Kaya Gunatha, a devotee from Turkey said, "I do not even think Baba is gone. Where can He go? Everything is Him. I feel so much love and respect when I bow down at the Samadhi."



August 10, 2011

AUGUST

Day Two of Middle East Music Programme

The green scarved Sai devotees from the heartland of Islam offered their second music programme on August 10. It was a garland of multi-faith songs and Arabic bhajans interspersed with interesting anecdotes from Baba's life and lives of His devotees that reveal the universality of His Divine personality.



Finally they sang the title song "Sarva Dharma Ateeta Swarupa Karuna Sagara Sai" meaning, "My Lord Sai! You are the Ocean of Mercy and the One who transcends all forms of God." It was a moving experience to see their love and devotion to the Lord.



August 15, 2011

AUGUST

Drama on Independence Day by Sai Students

In the past few years, it has become a tradition for Baba's students to stage a drama on India's Independence Day. In 2011, the presentation was entitled 'Aazadi - The Inner Dependence'.

This drama portrayed the spiritual backbone which supported the Indian independence movement by depicting anecdotes from the lives of powerful personalities like Rabindranath Tagore, Chandra Sekhar Azad, Sathya Harishchandra and so on. It was an hour-long inspiring show.





August 20, 2011

Polish Choir in Prasanthi Nilayam



After Australians, Germans, Turkish and Iranians were the Polish in Prasanthi Nilayam to make their offering of Love to Bhagawan in the form of music.

126 of them performed in the Sai Kulwant Hall on the evening of August 20. They began with chanting vedic hymns and followed it up with songs in English, Sanskrit and Polish.



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Later, Ms. Maria Quoos, the conductor of the choir, said, "It was the biggest experience of my life; it was unbelievable! I had been praying for this chance for many years... It is difficult when I sit in front of the Samadhi now as my heart yearns for His form, His smiles and His looks. Nevertheless, I feel Him so strongly and deeply when I pray to Him and work for Him no matter wherever I am. Even this trip with this huge team materialised only because of His grace."



August 21-22, 2011

AUGUST

Srikakulam Parthi Yatra - Day One

It was a group of devotees from Srikakulam who started the practice of Parthi Yatra (Pilgrimage to Parthi) in 2004. Hundreds from this district were again in Prashanthi on their two-day pilgrimage.

On the evening of August 21, they presented a music programme led by Mr. Bharathi Ramesh and his party. The next day it was a dance ballet entitled 'Shiva Leelalu' choreographed by Mr. Raghupathruni Srikanth, a renowned Kuchipudi dancer.





August 22, 2011

AUGUST

Krishnastami in the Divine Presence

The celebration of the advent of Krishna began on the morning of August 22 with Bhagawan's students offering at His feet, songs and stotras in praise of Lord Krishna.



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Even as they sang, the 'cow procession' which is a delightful feature of this festival, reached Sai Kulwant Hall. Later, the students also performed a small dance depicting the life of Lord Krishna and its inner significance.



August 27, 2011

AUGUST

'Yugavathar Sai' Burra Katha in Baba's Presence

In the evening of August 27, Baba's students performed the traditional Burra Katha. These three alumni of Baba's university who are settled in different cities, came together to offer this special performance entitled 'Yugavathar Sai'. The trio who have pleased Swami with their presentations many times in the past urged the gathering to recount how blessed we all are to have been contemporaries of the Avatar of the age.





August 31, 2011

AUGUST

Id-ul-Fitr in Prasanthi

Id-ul-Fitr, the festival of charity, fell on August 31, a few days after Lord Krishna's Birthday and this was celebrated with great fervour in the Divine presence.



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On the evening of this day, the students staged a presentation which brought out the soul of this celebration and that of the religion Islam itself. The programme started with a Namaz followed by a meaningful skit which effortlessly explained the inner significance of the five pillars of Islam namely - Shahada (Faith), Salat (Prayer), Sawm (Fasting), Zakāt (Charity) and Hajj (Pilgrimage).



September 1, 2011

SEPTEMBER

Ganesh Chaturthi Celebrations

The festival of Lord Ganesha, also referred to as Vinayaka Chaturthi, began on September 1. In the morning the students sang hymns and songs in praise of the elephant-faced lord, following which they in their respective hostels welcomed with much fanfare and devotion the idols that would be worshipped for the next 3 days. This is a practice in all Baba's institutions.



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In the evening, the scintillating music continued with another soulful offering again by the students entitled "Naada Brahmarpanam". The talented boys from the Sri Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music mesmerised the audience in musical rhapsody.

September 3, 2011

SEPTEMBER

Ganesh Immersion Ceremony

It was truly heartwarming to see how the students celebrated this occasion exactly the way it was celebrated in Bhagawan's physical presence for decades. Chariots and palanquins, large and small, colourful and novel, flooded the Sai Kulwant Hall that afternoon, with bhajans, vedam and hails to the Lord echoing from every corner.



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Once all the Ganeshas had taken their place in the hall, the students sang a few songs and there was a small group dance too. As usual it was lively and lovely.

September 4, 2011

Sai Sannidhi Day

Every year the anniversary of the founding of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust is celebrated as the Sai Sannidhi Day. It is an occasion when all the former students of Bhagawan's university currently serving Him in the various institutions set up by Him, gather to offer their love and gratitude to their Master.



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On the evening of September 4 three speakers shared with the gathering their thoughts, Dr. Shashank Shah, Mr. Veda Narayan and Mr. B. Arvind.

This was followed by a soulful music programme by these students who are now staff in various Sai trusts. The group has as a part of it, Swami's students who have been serving for over three decades and also many of those who have joined after Baba chose to leave His mortal coil. Their spirit of dedication is exemplary.

September 6, 2011

SEPTEMBER

Onam Joy in Prasanthi

The Onam celebrations in 2011 started on 6 September with a unique get together called 'Hrudaya Sangam'. In 2008, the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, Kerala, started a rehabilitation programme that offers post-operative care and follow up to patients from Kerala who underwent surgery in the Baba's Super Speciality hospitals. Hrudaya Sangam was a gathering of the beneficiaries of this programme.



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That evening two patients, Ms. Zeenath Ashraf and Mr. Chandran spoke expressing their gratitude to Bhagawan. Later, the state coordinator of the Rehabilitation Programme, Dr. Anand Mohan explained to all the details of the noble initiative which has covered 95% of the patients from Kerala treated in Baba's hospitals.

September 7, 2011

SEPTEMBER

Onam Joy in Prasanthi - Day Two

On the second day of the Onam celebrations, Sai Kulwant Hall reverberated with 'Sampradaya Bhajans' by Mr. Vinaya Chandra Menon. This is traditional bhajan singing, more popular in South India, which is handed down by one's ancestors and is considered to be the forerunner of modern day Carnatic music concerts.

In the 50 mins session, the versatile singer sang with elan over 12 compositions taking everyone to great devotional heights.



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September 8, 2011

SEPTEMBER

Onam Joy in Prasanthi - Day Three

The Onam celebrations continued for the third day on September 8 and this evening it was the opportunity of child prodigy S. Mahadevan, a 12-year old from Kerala to make his musical offering.

The 45 minute session was followed by another rendering, a solo, by the familiar artist during many an Onam celebration over the decade, Music Director Mr. T. S. Radhakrishnan. The programme ended with Subramaniam Subramaniam in Bhagawan's Golden Voice.



September 9, 2011

SEPTEMBER

Thiru Onam - The Day of Joy

The ultimate day of Onam celebrations began with an enlightening talk by Mr. K. Jayakumar, IAS, currently serving as Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala. This was followed by Mr. V. Srinivasan felicitating the Annual winners of Essay Writing Competition conducted in schools and colleges by the Sai Organisation.





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The finale was an enchanting drama "Krishna Krupa Sagar" by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Aluva.

Based on the stories of Krishna as narrated by Bhagawan, this presentation which had many melodious songs enthralled the audience.

September 24, 2011

SEPTEMBER

Prakasam District Parthi Yatra - Day One

The two-day pilgrimage of the devotees of Prakasam district began on Sep 24. In the evening of this day, after an introductory talk by Mr. Sriramamurthy, the District President of Prakasam District, there was an excellent carnatic recital by Mrs. Dwaram Lakshmi. Accompanying her on the violin was Mrs. Challa Prabhavath, Principal of Venkateswara College of Music, Tirupathi.



The next day the Bal Vikas children staged a drama entitled "Seva Aradhana". Through a simple script and powerful dialogues this presentation beautifully brought out the philosophy of Sathya Sai Education.



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September 28, 2011

SEPTEMBER

Dasara Celebrations - Day One

On the auspicious day of the birth anniversary of Shirdi Sai Baba began the Dasara celebrations. In the morning the Kalasha Sthapana ceremony was performed in the Sanctum Sanctorum of Prasanthi Nilayam to start the festivities.

The evening saw a scintillating presentation of Classical Hindustani Music by Ustad Gulshan Bharti, a renowned exponent of the Lucknow and Senia Gharana. The renowned artist took the assembly into a transcendental state with his mystic Sufi rendition.



September 29, 2011

Dasara Celebrations - Day Two

On the evening of the second day of Dasara celebrations, Mr. Ajit Popat from London delivered an enlivening talk for half an hour. This was followed by a carnatic music concert by Mr. R. Raghavendra. Through his faultless voice the artist immersed the audience with devotional fervour.

SEPTEMBER



September 30, 2011

SEPTEMBER

Dasara Celebrations - Day Three

On this day started the Veda Purusha Sapthaha Jnana Yagna, the ceremonial sacrifice which is performed during every Dasara in Prasanthi Nilayam. In fact, it was the 50th year of this event as Bhagawan presided over the first such Yagna in 1961. Once the priests lit the fire with the friction of two pieces of wood, the sacrifice began.



In the evening, there were two speakers from the university, Jagadish Chandra, a faculty member and Nagarjuna, a student of II MBA. They were introduced by Mr. Shashank Shah, another faculty member who eloquently brought home the immense value Bhagawan attached to this celebration.

The programme for the day ended with Baul Sangeet, typical folk songs of Rural Bengal, performed by Sri Purna Das Baul and his son Sri Bibyendu Das Baul. The former had infact sung in Bhagawan's physical presence in November 1975. Immensely pleased, Baba had gifted him with a locket then which he wears till this day.



October 1, 2011

OCTOBER

Dasara Celebrations - Day Four

The evening of the second day of the Veda Purusha Sapthaha had two speakers. Saurabh Kumar from the Brindavan Campus and Dr. P. L. Rani, Asst. Prof. of English from the Anantapur Campus. While the former shared how Bhagawan so beautifully has woven the nine paths of devotion into the schedule of the students in Sai University, the later elaborated on how three S - Sri Sathya Sai - transforms during Dasara into Service (Grama Seva), Sacrifice (Veda Purusha Yajna) and Satsang (Prasanthi Vidwan Mahasabha).



After these talks, like during every day of Dasara, Bhagawan's discourse clip was played which was enjoyed by all. This was followed by a music programme "Prema Amrutham" by the students of the Brindavan campus of the University.



October 2, 2011

OCTOBER

Dasara Celebrations - Day Five

On the third day of the Veda Purusha Saptaha two more students were blessed with the opportunity to speak in the Divine presence; they were introduced by Dr. Shashank Shah. The first was Kumari Lalitha Sarma who reiterated that the mission of Sai is the purification of one's intellect. Dr. S. Sai Giridhar, who spoke next, dwelt on the 4 S's - Salokyam, Sarupyam Samipyam and Sayujyam, and explained how proximity to the lord can lead to ultimate merger with the Divine.

After these talks the students of the Anantapur campus of the University made a musical offering. All the songs were not only sung but also composed by the students.



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October 3, 2011

OCTOBER

Dasara Celebrations - Day Six

Aman Jhaveri introduced the speakers on the fourth day of the Veda Purusha Sapthaha. Rishabh Sachdev, a post graduate student who spoke first, expounded on the theme "Life is a Challenge - Meet it!" by drawing instances from his personal life. This was followed by Prof. Anantharaman, the Media Coordinator of the Trust, taking the dias and sharing how each of our lives should become His message.

In the evening was a splendid performance by the students of the Sri Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music, first a Carnatic presentation followed by a thrilling Hindustani recital.



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October 4, 2011

OCTOBER

Dasara Celebrations - Day Seven

October 4 was Durga Astami, the day marked in Prasanthi Nilayam for the worship of instruments. As per tradition, at 8 in the morning all the vehicles which had the privilege of serving Bhagawan were brought to Sai Kulwant Hall and ceremonially worshipped.

In the evening Shivam Chopra from the Brindavan campus was the first speaker who narrated his personal experiences with Bhagawan and emphasised the virtue of gratitude. Amey Deshpande, the next speaker, who is a doctoral research scholar, through a string of interesting anecdotes brought out beautifully the sublime and superlative love of Swami.



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This day also was the 56th Anniversary of the Sri Sathya Sai General Hospital, Prasanthi Nilayam. Commemorating this, the staff of this hospital staged a drama "Journey to Sai...With Sai"; with melodious songs and touching visuals they reiterated how Sai indeed was the Divine doctor treating patients in His hospital.



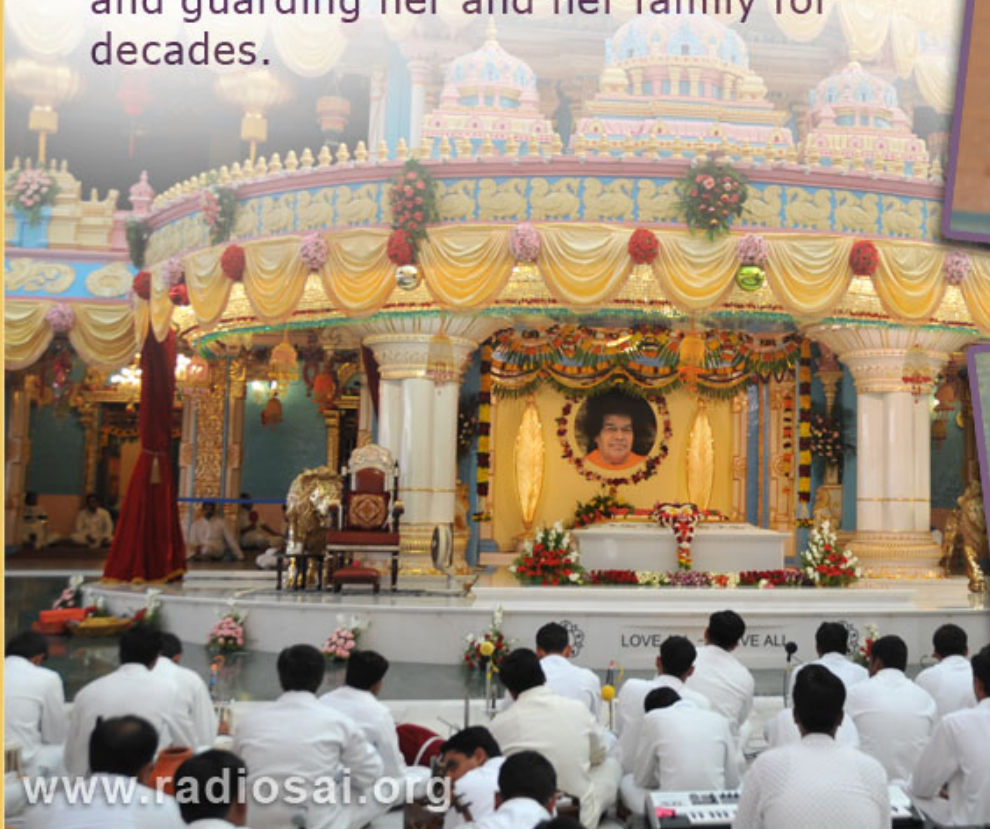
October 5, 2011

OCTOBER

Dasara Celebrations - Day Eight

The first speaker on the penultimate day of Dasara celebrations was Kumari Lalitha. She elaborated on the theme "The Divine Shakthi" and explained how the ultimate aim of this festival is to lead us from darkness and illusion to light and enlightenment.

She was followed by Ms. Suma Rao, a faculty member of the Anantapur campus, who narrated how Bhagawan's love has been guiding and guarding her and her family for decades.



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On this day it was the turn of the students of the Prasanthi Nilayam campus to present a music programme and they did with elan. Their presentation was accompanied by brilliant visuals of Bhagawan inaugurating various institutions in Prasanthi Nilayam. There was another visual treat in store - the 2002 Dasara Celebrations and the Divine Discourse of Bhagawan.

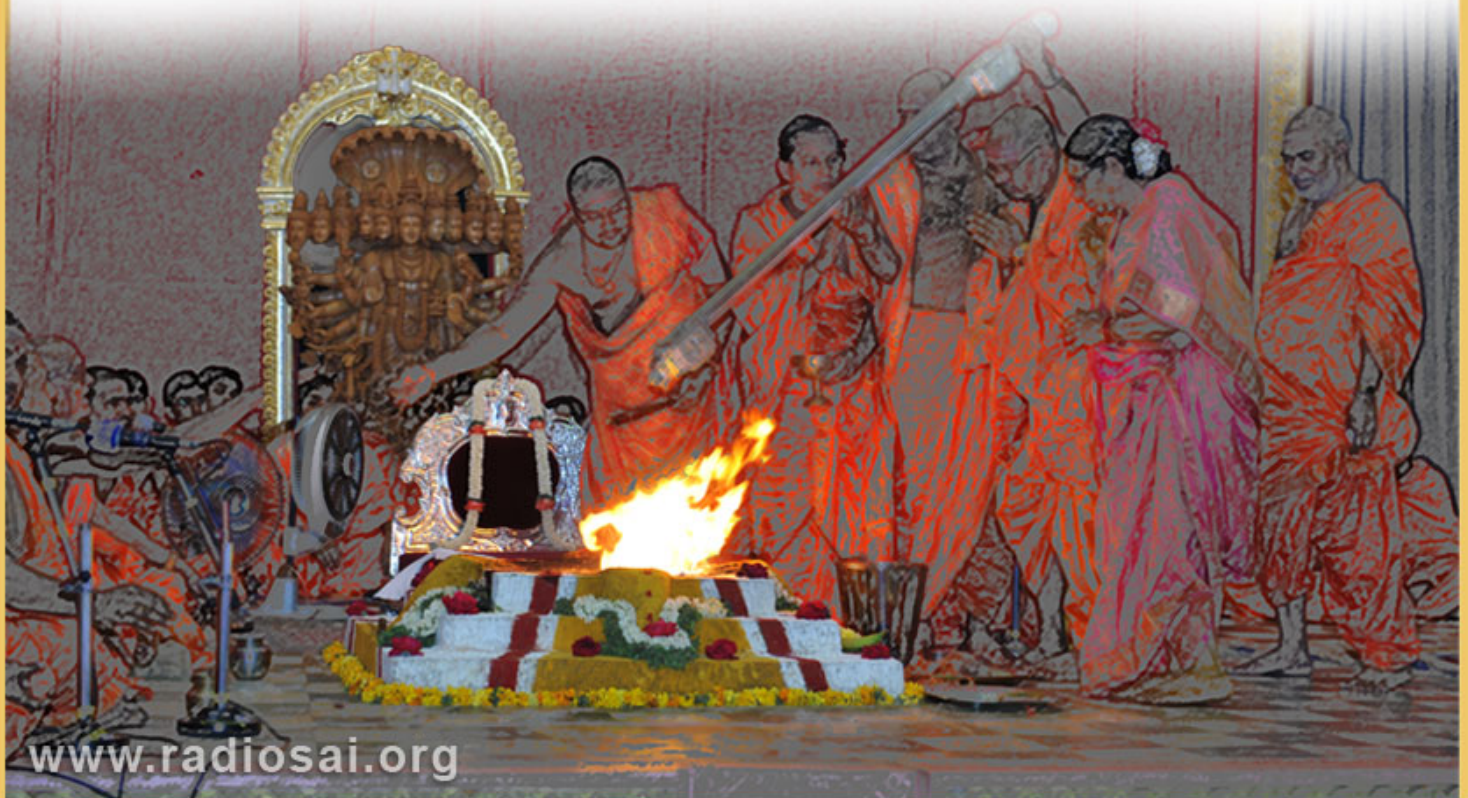


October 6, 2011

OCTOBER

Dasara Celebrations - Day Nine - Poornahuti

The Veda Purusha Sapthaha Jnana Yajnam reached its grand culmination on the morning of October 6. After 9 am all the priests went to the Poorna Chandra Auditorium in a procession carrying the sacred items needed to complete the proceedings of the sacrifice. Soon the poornahuti (the final offerings to the fire) was done and then the priests sprinkled the holy water on all who were blessed to be part of the celebration. The Governor of Tripura, Mr. D. Y. Patil was also present.



OCTOBER



In the evening the first talk was by Ratheesh Kumbalath, a final year student of MA Economics who spoke on the topic, 'Gratitude to Mother, Motherland and Divine Mother'. He was followed by Mr. Sanjay Sahani, the Director of the Brindavan campus of the University, who through various revealing anecdotes and experiences amplified the glory and the mystery of the Sai Avatar.



And then came the most awaited Bhagawan's Discourse snippet which allowed all to listen to the Divine Voice and ruminate on His words. The final programme for the day was a Hindustani vocal concert by the much accomplished and acclaimed Pandit Ranjan and Pandit Sajan Mishra from Varanasi. Thus concluded the 9-day glorious dasara celebrations.



October 7, 2011

OCTOBER

Music Programme by UK Youth

On the calm morning of the seventh of October, after the pleasantly hectic days of Dasara celebrations, Prasanthi witnessed a soothing performance by the youth from United Kingdom who have been part of the Annual Grama Seva ever since its inception.

It was a medley of vigorous songs and excellent instrumental renditions.



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In the evening, the Sai Youth of Tamil Nadu presented a drama entitled, "Rama Raajyam Sai Samraajyam" (The Kingdom of Rama, The Empire of Sai). Interspersed with various anecdotes from the Ramayana, the presentation highlighted the importance of Indian Culture as expounded and exemplified in the life of Bhagawan Baba.



October 8, 2011

OCTOBER

This day saw a riveting presentation from the Sai Youth and children of the state of Odisha.

The students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Baripada, Odisha, staged a drama entitled "Konark" which depicted the story of the construction of the magnificent Sun Temple in Konark through creative dance and acting.

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Odisha Parthi Yatra



This was followed by a music programme "Sai Symphony" wherein the youth sang their hearts out belting out lovely devotional songs.



October 15, 2011

OCTOBER

Kerala Youth Parthi Yatra and OS Arun Concert

Over 400 Youth from Kerala were in Prasanthi on their spiritual pilgrimage and they spent three days starting from October 15 listening to talks by distinguished elders.



On the evening of this day was an elevating concert by Sri O. S. Arun. Known for his sonorous voice which he wields with much confidence, the artist engaged the audience for over half an hour with many popular devotional songs and Sai bhajans. He was infact blessed with the opportunity of performing in the physical presence of Bhagawan earlier during the Ati Rudra Maha Yajnam celebration in 2007.



October 20, 2011

OCTOBER

Avatar Declaration Day

It was on this day 71 years ago that the 14-year old Sathya Narayana Raju returned from the school in the afternoon, cast away his books and emphatically declared:

"I am no longer your Sathya. I am Sai Baba! My devotees beckon Me. I have My work to attend to. I am leaving!"





This day was spent in prayer and quiet contemplation by the devotees in Puttaparthi. In the evening Prof. Anil Kumar in his short talk recounted some of the moving declarations of Bhagawan and exhorted all to know that God never forsakes anyone who takes refuge in Him.

Next, an excerpt of Bhagawan's discourse which He had delivered on this day in 2002 was played followed by the primordial bhajan Manasa Bhajare Guru Charanam in the Divine voice.

October 26, 2011

OCTOBER

Diwali Celebrations

The festival of Diwali was celebrated with much devotional fervour with the state of Gujarat leading the festivities.

The first programme was a couple of traditional folk dances by the youth of Gujarat reminiscing the golden days of Lord Krishna during the Dwapara Age.



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And then followed a sterling "Talwar Nrutya" (Sword Dance) by Rajendra D. Raval.

Whirling himself continuously for more than fifteen minutes and performing many stupendous feats not with one sword but two, the artist stunned the audience with his skill, and in the end received rapturous applause.



October 27, 2011

OCTOBER

Gujarati New Year

Celebrating Gujarati New Year, Bal Vikas children from Sri Sathya Sai School, Surat enacted a drama entitled "Living in Sai's Omnipresence" on this evening. Enacting real-life instances when Swami had come to the rescue of devotees in mysterious manner, they portrayed how Bhagawan is still safeguarding and uplifting us.



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This was followed by an atypical but highly impressive 'Beda Dance' by renowned artist Sri Chirag Mahida from Baroda. The artist, with his scintillating balancing acts enthralled the audience for the next fifteen minutes gradually scaling the benchmark of his breathtaking feats of balancing while engaged in dancing, before peaking into grand finale where he balanced more than ten round pots arranged one on top of the other. It was a thrilling show.



November 12-13, 2011

NOVEMBER

Global Akhanda Bhajans

The 24-hour long Global Akhanda Bhajan in the second weekend of November has been a practice in Prasanthi Nilayam for many decades. It started in a humble way with eight families in Bangalore in 1944 but continued after that year after year with Bhagawan's direct guidance and blessings.



At 6 pm on November 12 the bhajans started with an invocatory prayer "Shuklam Baradharam..." and it continued from then with various student and devotee groups taking turns to participate in the event. The grand finale was on the evening of November 13 when Sai Kulwant Hall reverberated with Bhagawan's mellifluous voice. "Hari Bhajan Bina..." and "Prema Muditha Manasa Kaho..." transported everyone to the times when Swami uplifted every soul in the hall with His powerful renditions.

November 16, 2011

NOVEMBER

Concert by Sumeet Tappoo

The week-long festivity celebrating 86th Birthday of Bhagawan got underway on the evening of November 16 with a vocal musical concert by upcoming star Sumeet Tappoo. Singing with a lot of feeling interspersed with impromptu commentary recalling his sweet moments with Bhagawan, Sumeet left everyone in the audience teary-eyed with love and devotion for Bhagawan.

Sharing his experience later he said, "After I placed the flowers at the Samadhi and returned to the stage, all of a sudden, there was this confidence, and this energy, which just came flying from Bhagawan's chair towards me and that gave me so much strength to perform... I was totally lost because I felt His presence so immensely; it is unbelievable. It was just a mesmerising feeling."

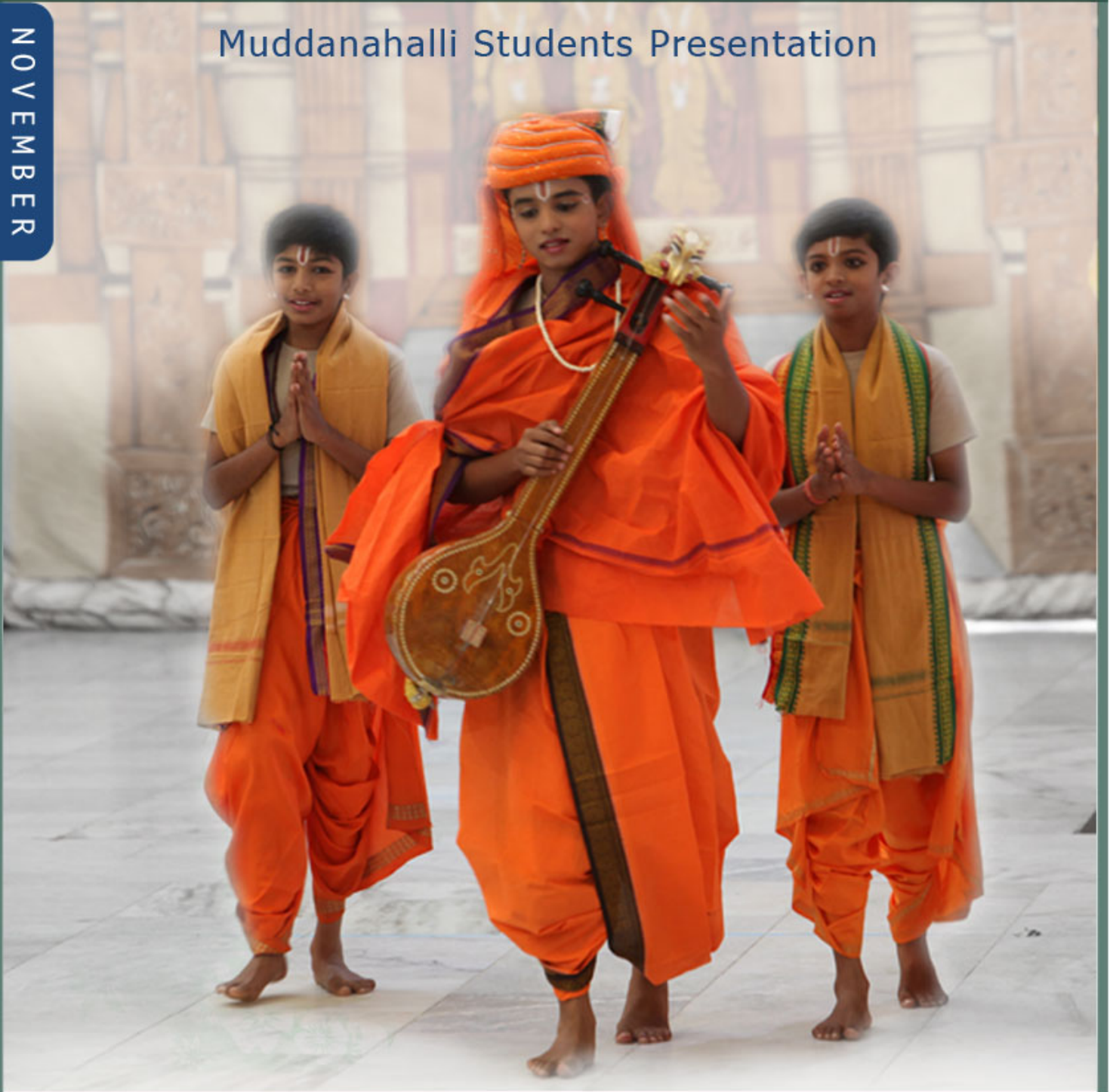


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November 17, 2011

NOVEMBER

Muddanahalli Students Presentation



On the evening of November 17 it was a flashback to the life and times of Lord Rama. The students of Sri Sathya Sai Grama, Muddanahalli presented an innovative musical drama 'Sri Rama Nama Amrutham'.

As lovely compositions of poet saints like Tyagaraja and Ramdas were being sung the students enacted various telling scenes from the Ramayana. It was a forty-minute presentation which had colourful costumes and beautiful backdrops.



November 18, 2011

NOVEMBER

Rathotsavam

November 18 is a marked day in Puttaparthi for religious fanfare and piety coupled with devotional pomp among village folks, as this is the day when statues of Lord Rama and Mother Sita would be taken in a procession along with Venugopala Swami from the Mandir in Prasanthi Nilayam to the Peddavenkama Raju Kalyana Mandapam, near Hanuman Temple.

This year, the highlight of the morning's schedule was the Celestial Marriage of the Divine Couple, Lord Sri Ramachandra and Mother Sita performed with religious rites in the Sai Kulwant Hall.

Ecstatic mood of the village folk dancing to the tune of drumbeats, breaking coconuts and offering arathi enroute, was evidential of the religious fervour attached to the festivity.



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Concert by Sumitra Guha



The evening of the third day of the 86th Birthday celebrations witnessed a hindustani vocal concert by well-known exponent of Indian classical music, Ms. Sumitra Guha.

Ms. Guha, whose concerts are counted as 'experiences' that bear the stamp of exclusive musical devotion, earlier had the opportunity to sing in the physical presence of Bhagawan in 2005.

November 19, 2011

NOVEMBER

Ladies Day Morning Programme

Prasanthi Nilayam witnessed a glittering Ladies Day like it happens every year on November 19 with thousands of women devotees participating from all over the globe.

After Vedic chants and Band performance by students from the Anantapur campus, there were three speakers who were introduced by Ms. Chetana Raju. The first, Dr. Malathi Srinivasan, a Sai university alumna and currently Principal Scientist, CSIR, Bangalore, shared what she had learnt at His lotus feet being a student of His college.



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Mrs. Madhuri Naganand, the second speaker shared her very personal experiences with Bhagawan while the third speaker, Ms. Phyllis Krystal, a nonagenarian and veteran devotee from the US, reiterated how Sai is omnipresent and our duty is to take His mission forward.



November 19, 2011

NOVEMBER

Ladies Day Evening Programme

The evening session of Ladies Day began with a speech by Mrs. Mallika Srinivasan, CEO, Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd. This was followed by a colourful dance skit "Prayer of Gratitude" by the tiny tots of Primary School.



A carnatic vocal concert by Ms. Bhagyalakshmi Suresh was the third programme for the evening. This soulful performance enriched and elevated everyone to great heights of devotion and joy. The function ended with an impressive video show on the activities of the Eswaramma Women's Welfare Trust.



November 20, 2011

NOVEMBER

Performance by Dana Gillespie

Dana Gillespie of London Blues Band fame took the audience through her memory lane, presenting an electrifying music concert on the evening of November 20. The underlying theme of her performance was Love and Unity.

Singing with the aid of recorded tracks of music, Dana continued for an hour, offering interesting interludes between songs to explain their significance as well as to recount snippets of her wonderful moments with Bhagawan.



November 21, 2011

Convocation Drama

On the eve of the 30th convocation of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, the students from the University presented a drama "Guru Mahima". This presentation depicted the lofty relationship between Guru and disciple, and how a true Guru stands by disciples who are dedicated and devoted.

Earlier, the programme commenced with a felicitation ceremony honouring three senior faculties of the Institute, Prof. K. Venkataramanaiah, Dr. N. Sivakumar and Dr. N. Venkatesh Rao.

NOVEMBER



November 21, 2011

Convocation Drama

NOVEMBER



NOVEMBER



November 22, 2011

NOVEMBER

Convocation Ceremony of SSSIHL

Like it has been happening every year since the establishment of the University in 1981, November 22 this year too witnessed a grand Convocation ceremony.

After the procession of distinguished guests, officials and professors culminated at the Sai Kulwant Hall stage, Bhagawan's voice declaring the convocation open was played which received thunderous applause. Later the Vice Chancellor introduced the Chief Guest, Prof. P. Balram, Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru who gave an impressive keynote address.



NOVEMBER



November 22, 2011

NOVEMBER

SSSIHMS Anniversary and Karaikkudi Mani Concert

Marking the 20th Anniversary of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthi Gram, the staff of this 'Temple of Healing' presented a video show depicting the genesis and growth of the Institution on the evening of November 22.

'Taala Vaadya Kacheri' by mridangam maestro Karaikkudi Mani and troupe was the next programme for the day. Speaking later about his experience, this celebrated and revered artist said, "Swami is here! His *sukhsuma sareera* (subtle form) is here!... I never imagined that I will be playing right in front of Bhagawan's Maha Samadhi! I have performed all over the world but presenting something here is absolutely divine. I cannot imagine my good luck... it is purely His blessing. I was filled with a different kind of energy..."



NOVEMBER



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November 23, 2011

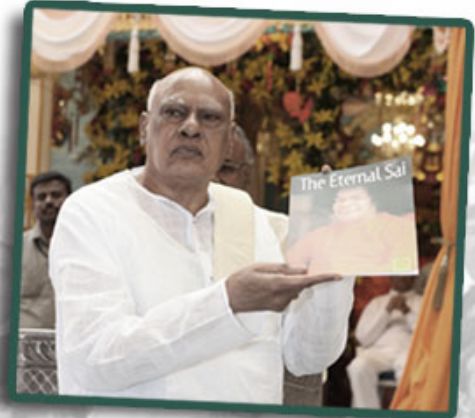
86th Birthday Morning

23rd November is known the world over for one main reason, that it earned a date with Divinity, welcoming the Almighty in human form. The programme on this most auspicious day began with vedic chants by boys. This was followed by a welcome speech by Mr. V. Srinivasan who spoke briefly about the Trust's activities and then requested the Chief Guest Mr. K. Ros-saiah, the current Governor of Tamil Nadu, to release the annual statement of the Trust's activities.



Mr. Rossaiah next made a heartwarming speech exhorting all to feel His presence and continue doing His work. Then the audience heard the voice of Bhagawan explaining how love is the solution for all problems. Later the Malladi brothers offered a fantastic carnatic vocal concert very much tailored to the day.

Every devotee who participated in this sacred celebration also partook free food which was served lovingly by sevadals.



November 23, 2011

NOVEMBER

Birthday Evening

The first programme for the evening of the 86th Birthday was a mandolin concert by maestro U. Srinivas and U. Rajesh. Reminiscing the priceless opportunities they had with Bhagawan, this duo weaved a spellbinding show.





Renowned ghazal and bhajan singer Anup Jalota who carved a niche in devotional singing with his self adapted style made the second presentation. After his powerful performance he said, "I came to Prasanthi after so many years today... But Baba was and is always with me. Today, I could feel Him... it was not darshan but a feeling... a feeling is more powerful than darshan itself! He is so much there!"

November 24, 2011

NOVEMBER

Mobile Hospitals Inauguration

The Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Andhra Pradesh launched seven new Mobile Hospitals in Andhra Pradesh on the morning of November 24 to benefit villagers who live far away from health care facilities.

Atma Sri Sai Ram
BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI SEVA ORGANIZATIONS
SRI SATHYA SAI MOBILE HEALTH SERVICES,
ANDHRA PRADESH

DIAGNOSTIC SUPPORT EQUIPMENTS :

- Ultra Sonogram
- X-ray
- E.C.G
- Semi Auto Analyzer
- Haemo Meter
- Centrifuge
- Auto Clave
- Steam Sterilizer
- Eye- Refraction Equipment
- Ophthalmology Scope
- Nebuliser
- Dental Equipment
- Gynecology Test Kit
- Generator



Speaking on the occasion, Mr. S. G. Chalam, State President of Sai Organisation, Andhra Pradesh thanked Bhagawan for His infinite grace and compassion, and later requested the Trustees to cut the ribbon and inaugurate the medically-equipped buses.



November 25, 2011

NOVEMBER

US Youth Music Programme

More than 60 Sai Youth from all over the USA were in Prasanthi Nilayam since November 19 to participate in Bhagawan's birthday celebrations. As a token of their gratitude to Bhagawan, they presented a short musical program, 'Sai, Divine Mother', on the evening of November 25.



Interestingly, while speaking to Mr. Phil Gosselin on March 6, 2011 Bhagawan had sweetly blessed the youth by saying, "Tell them to come for My Birthday." Baba had further guided the youth to have the theme of the pilgrimage as "Living in Sai". Only later did all of them realise its profound significance.



December 14, 2011

DECEMBER

Music Programme by Youth from Paschim Bangal (West Bengal)

Over 200 youth from the state of West Bengal arrived in Prasanthi Nilayam on Dec 13, 2011 for a 3-day pilgrimage. The next evening they had the opportunity to perform a music programme in the Divine Presence.

This was a bouquet of six songs commencing with one on His Works and fittingly concluding with a song of Resolve, inspiring one and all to face all obstacles and tread the path directed by Him.



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December 20, 2011

DEVOTIONAL SINGING BY DEVOTEES OF SOUTHERN EUROPE

Over 180 devotees from the South European countries of Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina arrived early in the Christmas season for they have been given the unique privilege of decorating Mandir and the rest of Prasanthi Nilayam this year. One of them said, "Swami is here with us like before. I feel His light and love more. For me nothing has changed; it's just that we don't see His physical body."





This group also had the opportunity to sing out their feelings to Bhagawan on the evening of Dec 20, 2011, and they did this with amazing devotional fervour. Later, Mr. Adriano, the group leader, said, "I like to insist that Swami Is and not Was. Swami is telling us that He is hiding Himself a bit more than before. We only have to work more so that we can feel Him more than earlier."

December 23, 2011

DECEMBER

Parthi Yatra by Vizianagaram District Devotees

Over 1300 devotees from Vizianagaram District arrived in Prasanthi Nilayam on Dec 22, 2011 on a 3-day pilgrimage. On the evening of the next day, they staged a musical dance drama, "Palle Sevaye Paramatmuni Seva" (Service to villages is service to God).



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Based on real-life incidents this performance depicted how Sai Youth bring transformation in villagers and in even prisoners with their selfless service.



December 24, 2011

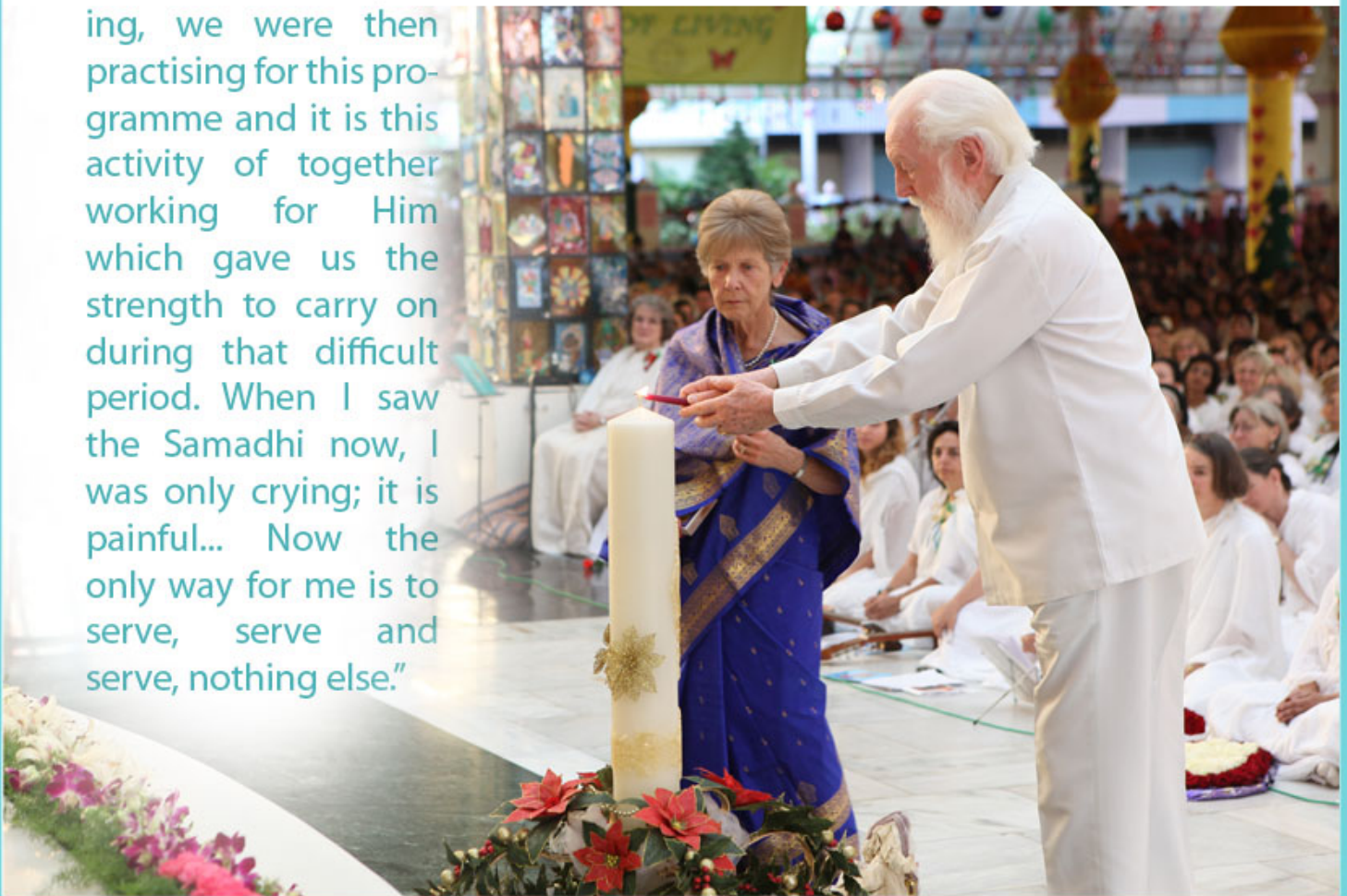
DECEMBER

Devotional Fervour on the Christmas Eve in Prasanthi Nilayam

Embracing peace, and breathing in love and light of Bhagawan, over 240 choristers from different countries serenaded the Lord for an hour singing Glory To The Lord, on Christmas Eve.

It was conducted by Ms. Gisela Sebastian, an accomplished singer cum musician from Germany who later said, "When we heard the news of Swami's pass

ing, we were then practising for this programme and it is this activity of together working for Him which gave us the strength to carry on during that difficult period. When I saw the Samadhi now, I was only crying; it is painful... Now the only way for me is to serve, serve and serve, nothing else."





The session continued with Prof. Anil Kumar contemplating on the significance of the Advent of Jesus and the Holy Night relating the same with Bhagawan's life and teachings.



December 25, 2011

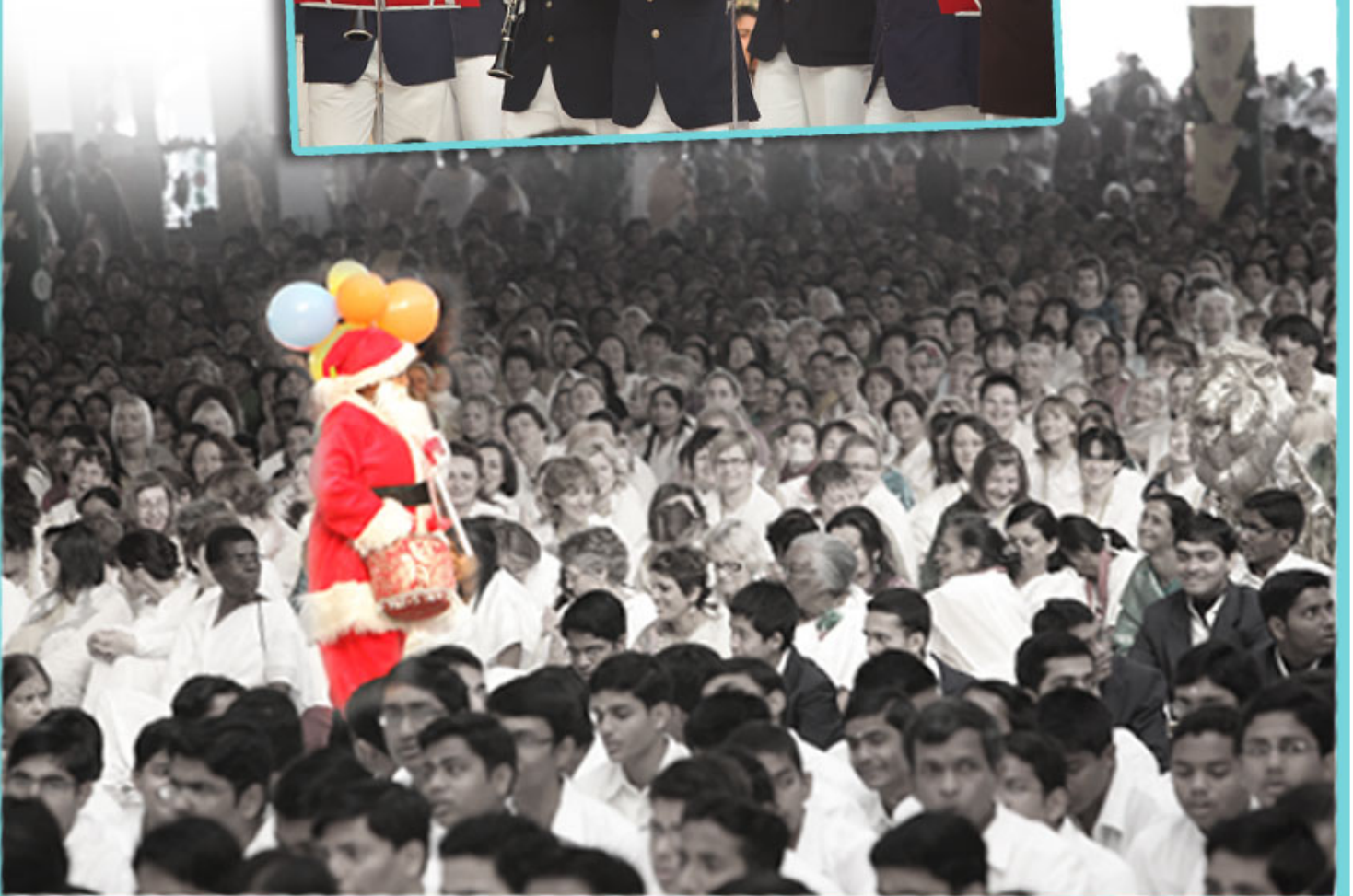
DECEMBER

Christmas Joy Fills Prasanthi

Announcing the arrival of the Saviour Jesus, a group of over 100 choristers from overseas presented a half-an-hour Carol singing at the Sanctum Sanctorum in the early hours of Christmas morning.

Later in the day the Violin Band of Higher Secondary School followed by the Institute Brass Band belted out scintillating tunes. The final session in the morning had a bouquet of traditional Christmas songs and carols by the students from the Institute.





December 25, 2011

DECEMBER

Christmas Evening in Baba's Abode



The programme began with Ms. Sylvia Alden, the conductor of the Christmas choir, narrating some beautiful experiences with Bhagawan. She was followed by another veteran devotee Mr. Arthur Hillcoat from Australia who stressed on the need to follow Bhagawan's teachings.

Then, the Divine Voice that echoed in Prasanthi Nilayam for so many decades was heard - the epochal 1996 Christmas Discourse thrilled every devotee. The grand finale was Baba singing *Love is My Form*.

DECEMBER



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December 26, 2011

DECEMBER

A Musical Offering by International Sai Children

On the third day of the Christmas celebrations International children presented - "The Gift of Love". It was a collective musical offering interspersed with personal reflections of 54 tiny tots from various countries led by Ms. Alma Badings from The Netherlands.



DECEMBER



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December 27, 2011

DECEMBER

Odisha Devotees Parthi Yatra, Day One

On the evening of Dec 27, 2011, devotees from the state of Odisha presented a bouquet of three programmes. Girl students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Bhadrak staged an Odishi dance drama "Jagan-nath Leelaamurtham".

The second was a skit by the Sai Youth of Cuttack based on real life incidents which occurred in the village Samsaraa of Odisha. A patriotic dance by the students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Balasore, "Bharat vandana" formed a fitting finale to the day's proceedings.



December 28, 2011

Devotional Music Programme by Odisha Youth

DECEMBER



On the third day of their 3-day Parthi Yatra the 2000 youth of Odisha presented a garland of some of Bhagawan's most loved songs delivered with wonderful feeling and strict adherence to raga and tala which had the audience mesmerised.



Earlier the state president of Odisha stated how apart from participating in the daily schedule of Prasanthi Nilayam, the youth had also taken up cleaning activities, blood donation and study circle sessions in the ashram with lot of devotion.

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December 29, 2011

DECEMBER

Drama by Rajasthan Youth and Balvikas

Over 200 devotees from Rajasthan arrived on a three day pilgrimage to Prasanthi on Dec 27, 2011.

On the final day of their stay, they staged a drama on the life and message of Swami Vivekananda.

The presentation started with the depiction of the spiritual inclination of Narendranath Dutta from his early childhood and progressed through the intense inquiry of his adolescence, culminating with his spiritual maturity at the feet of his master, Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa.



DECEMBER



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December 30, 2011

DECEMBER

Sarvadharam Swaroopa Sai – a 'Vidya Vahini' Programme

On the evening of Dec 30, there was a Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini affiliated programme, "Sarvadharam Swaroopa Sai", a drama by Sri Sathya Sai Jagriti Vidya Mandir, Darwa, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana. It showcased how role model teachers following Bhagawan's ideals could influence the society greatly.



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Earlier Mr. Amar Vivek, an alumnus of the University, narrated a couple of beautiful incidents with morals showing how Bhagawan influences lives of many who have surrendered to the Divine Will.



December 31, 2011

DECEMBER

Gratitude Programme by Primary School Alumni

Hundreds of alumni from the Sri Sathya Sai Primary School (with higher secondary wing for girls) assembled on the New Year Eve, commemorating three decades of the running of their alma mater, on the evening of Dec 31. The Primary School was founded in 1981 and it is for the first time the alumni from the school had a get-together of this sort in the Divine Presence.



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The first speaker that evening was Ms. Sai Geetha M. N. (1983-1993) who took the audience down the memory lane with wonderful tales of many a student with Mother Sai. The second was Mr. Partish Dubey (1978-1995) who began with the inception story of Bhagawan's school at Ootacamund which was later shifted to Prasanthi Nilayam. Also on this occasion was released a commemorative book containing voices from three decades entitled "Love Everafter".



January 1, 2012

JANUARY

Alumni Meet on New Year Day

As the New Year got ushered in with new hopes and expectations, it was also a time to renew our eternal bond of Love with our Lord! The alumni continued their glorious tradition of re-dedicating their lives at the Divine Lotus Feet on the New Year Day by expressing their heart-felt gratitude to Bhagawan in the form of a series of songs and speech offerings. A flag salute was also offered to Bhagawan by the Flag Bearing Squad.



Earlier in the morning the Brass Band from the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus presented a half-an-hour display. After this the students from the Senior Hostel presented a New Year Cake at Bhagawan's Lotus Feet followed by handmade New Year Greeting Cards by the tiny tots from Sri Sathya Sai Primary School.



January 7, 2012

JANUARY

All India Bal Vikas Group III and Alumni Meet Day One

Early on in His Divine Mission Bhagawan Baba set up the Bal Vikas program to nudge and guide the tender children on the path of truth and righteousness. On January 7 and 8 more than two thousand Bal Vikas children, gurus and alumni converged at Prashanthi Nilayam for the All India Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Group III and Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Alumni conference held in the Poorna Chandra Auditorium.



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In the evening of January 7 apart from four talks by these student delegates there was a music programme by Bal Vikas children from Kerala entitled "Naadalaya" followed by students of Karnataka and Maharashtra presenting a vocal concert "Sri Sathya Sai Mahima".



January 8, 2012

JANUARY

All India Bal Vikas Group III & Alumni Meet Day Two

On the second day of the conference, apart from talks and presentations in the Poorna Chandra auditorium just like the previous day, in the evening outstanding alumni of Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas were felicitated with achievement awards followed by the unveiling of Sri Sathya Sai Bal Vikas Logo.



A little boy Satyajit from Kerala then gave a confident speech which received tremendous applause. The programme concluded with an instrumental presentation by the students from Chennai.



January 9, 2012

JANUARY

Presentation by Australian Sai Children

'There is only one caste, the caste of humanity' Baba reiterated often. The children of Australia brought out this universal message on the evening of January 9 by presenting a musical program and skit "Australia Dreaming" where they showed how the rich and ancient aboriginal culture of Australia has remarkable similarity with Swami's timeless message!





January 11, 2012

JANUARY

The Inaugural Ceremony of Annual Sports & Cultural Meet

The extraordinary sporting and cultural event of Sri Sathya Sai Educational Institutions took place over a week starting on January 11 when the students not only offered march-past, the ceremonial lighting of the torch, feats involving much skill, dexterity and grit but was also an amazing display of their continued love and devotion for Bhagawan.





January 12, 2012

JANUARY

Shadow Play by Brindavan Campus

The Brindavan campus of the University came up with an amazingly innovative medium of "Shadow Play" to render a heart-touching and inspiring presentation on Swami's life and message on the second day of the Sports and Cultural Meet.



The talent and creativity of the students were in full display in the way they brought out different episodes of Bhagawan's life, His eternally enduring message and His massive humanitarian projects bringing succour and hope to millions.



January 13, 2012

JANUARY

Drama by Higher Secondary School Boys

On the third day of the Sports and Cultural Meet the students from the school in Prasanthi came up with a thematic drama "God is good. Hold on to Him!"



It was a story of transformation of an impatient and doubting youngster to one who becomes aware of God's Divine ways of reaching out to people. In the end he is convinced that God's delays are not His denials. The presentation was entwined with beautiful songs and moving dances.



January 14, 2012

JANUARY

Music College & Anantapur Campus Presentations

The fourth day of the Sports and Cultural Meet was steeped in classical music. First the seniors from the Sri Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music performed a number of scintillating compositions.



They were followed by a fusion music presentation by the Anantapur Campus of the University. Though the genres were different, as were the rhythm and the tunes of the two performances, they were united by the deep undying love and devotion for Bhagawan.



January 15, 2012

JANUARY

Makara Sankranti and Sports & Cultural Week's Valedictory

Over the years Makara Sankranti, the day the Sun embarks on its northward journey, has been celebrated with much gaiety and exuberance in Swami's Divine presence.



This year the auspicious day was celebrated in a glittering Valedictory function of Annual Sports & Cultural Events befitting in spirit, sparkle and spontaneity to the spectacular weeklong festivities of sports & cultural events.

While the morning proceedings began regally with the brass band leading a procession from the Yajur Mandiram to Sai Kulwant Hall, over the course of the day four students spoke passionately sharing their thoughts on Bhagawan.



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On the final evening of the Annual Sports and Cultural Festival, students from the Prashanthi Nilayam Campus presented a drama 'Gautam Buddha', taking the audience to a journey through the princely life of Siddhartha culminating in the enlightened life of Gautam Buddha.

January 23, 2012

JANUARY

Chinese New Year Celebrations - First Day

On the first day of the Chinese New Year, 36 High Lamas of Tibetan Order from Sera Jhe Monastery in Mysore joined by hundreds of devotees from various countries, including westerners, presented a Buddhist devotional evening engulfing Prasanthi with holy chants.



The proceedings included traditional offerings to Bhagawan by Capt. Ong and family, offering of Tibetan Khatas by the High Lamas, and lastly offerings of amulets and naivedyam by devotees from Singapore. After this, purificatory rites and Buddhist chants for Universal Peace reverberated in the Sai Kulwant Hall filling all assembled with sublime peace.



January 26, 2012

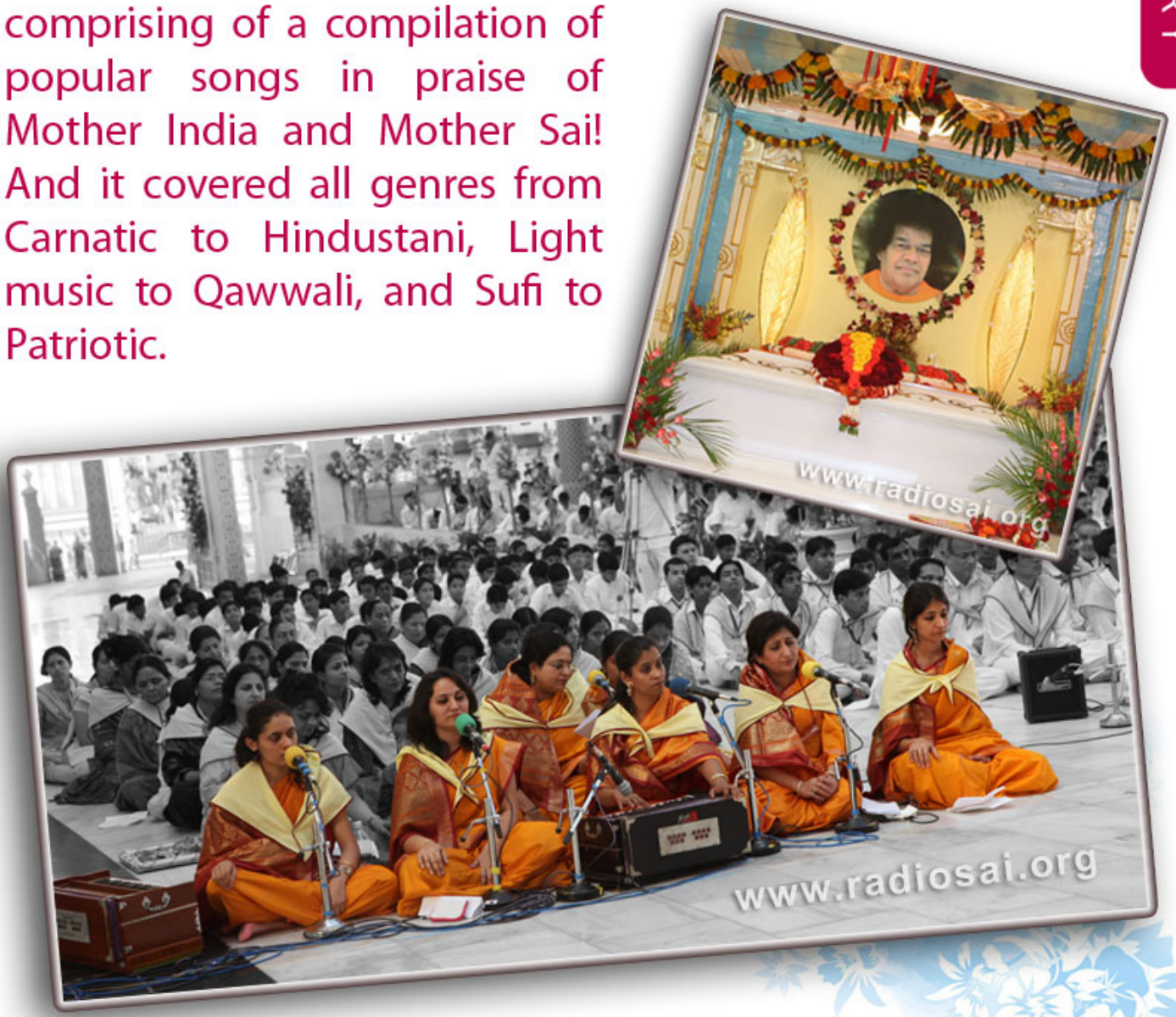
JANUARY

Parthi Yatra of Delhi Sai Youth, Day One

When the entire country's attention was turned to Delhi on India's Republic Day, the Sai Youth from this capital city made their visit to Prasanthi where over three days they engaged themselves in many spiritual and service activities.



On the evening of January 26, the women's wing made a scintillating musical presentation comprising of a compilation of popular songs in praise of Mother India and Mother Sai! And it covered all genres from Carnatic to Hindustani, Light music to Qawwali, and Sufi to Patriotic.



January 27, 2012

JANUARY

Parthi Yatra of Delhi Sai Youth, Day Two

On the second day of the Delhi Youth Parthi Yatra the men's wing rose to the occasion with a full-throated musical performance which they called "Sai Ke Deewane". It was soaked in fervour and fervent devotion of the youth for their Lord.





January 30, 2012

JANUARY

Chinese New Year



Chinese New Year was celebrated in all its richness and touching traditional rituals for the 15th year in Prashanthi Nilayam on the evening of January 30. More than 250 devotees from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore participated in the event which had the theme "Love and Gratitude".



Apart from traditional Chinese prayer ceremony including songs and other offerings to Swami, the evening consisted of a drama presentation on the Legend of Miao Shan, a princess who renounced worldly comforts in pursuit of the Ultimate Goal finally to emerge as a Bodhisattva. Staged by the youth and children of Sai Study Group, Medan, Indonesia, it highlighted man's evolution from human to Divine.



February 12, 2012

FEBRUARY

Parthi Yatra by Tamil Nadu devotees

More than 1000 devotees poured into Prashanthi from the southern state of Tamil Nadu for their 3-day Parthi Pilgrimage in the second week of February.

The most touching aspect was how over 300 devotees from the Nilgiris district learnt the Telugu language to present on the evening of February the awe-inspiring story of Raja Harishchandra.



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The second programme on the evening of February 12 was a soul stirring concert on the Pancha Ratna Kritis of Saint Thyagaraja which was offered by eminent musicians led by the Padma Bhushan awardee Sri Trichur Ramachandran.



February 17, 2012

FEBRUARY

Burrakatha on Shiva Parvathi Kalyanam by Alumni

Three alumni, Prabhakar, Aravind Sai and Raghu Ram, ably guided by their guide and mentor Mr. M. Krishna Bhaskar, performed with much élan and poise, a Burra Katha 'Shiva Parvathi Kalyanam' (Celestial Marriage of Shiva and Parvati) recounting the events that led to this Divine Cosmic Union.



This more than an hour long scintillating presentation enraptured all in the hall bringing to memory the times when Bhagawan encouraged and loved to see presentations of this art form.



February 18, 2012

FEBRUARY

Parthi Yatra by Hyderabad Devotees, Day One

Over 1200 youth and children from Hyderabad made their spiritual pilgrimage to Prasanthi on Feb 18 and 19.



On the first day, apart from organising a workshop in Sai Seva projects during the day, in the evening the Shivam Bhajan Group made a musical offering "Sri Sathya Sai Naadha Neerajanam". This was followed by a dance presentation by students of Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Hyderabad representing the various Indian folk dances.

FEBRUARY



February 19, 2012

FEBRUARY

Parthi Yatra by Hyderabad Devotees, Day Two

The second day of the Hyderabad Youth Parthi Yatra witnessed a classical carnatic vocal concert by Dr. Panthula Rama, popular as 'Nightingale of Andhra'.



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Her impressive concert was followed by a dance ballet by Bal Vikas students of Hyderabad entitled 'Shivanandalahari'.



February 20, 2012

FEBRUARY

Maha Shivarathri in the Divine Presence

On the most auspicious day of Shivarathri, the morning programme began with an half an hour presentation by the University Percussion Band of Nadaswaram and Pan-chavadyam. Later the boys began their rendition of hymns dedicated to Lord Shiva followed by scintillating carnatic pieces lasting for an hour.



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In the evening the highlight was a holy "Maha Rudrabhishekam" to the sanctified Sayeeswara Lingam in the Sanctum Sanctorum in Sai Kulwant Hall prior to the commencement of Akhanda Bhajan.



Night-long Shivarathri vigil continued with enthusiastic students along with various groups leading the bhajans for the entire 12 hour duration culminating with a recorded mellifluous piece from Bhagawan "Subramaniam Subramaniam..."

February 22, 2012

FEBRUARY

Gratitude Programme by School Students

On the evening of Feb 22, two graduating batches from Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School, 10th and 12th standards, offered their gratitude at Bhagawan's lotus feet, bursting into stories galore of the bond of love between Mother Sai and His children. Beginning with a qawwali, soon the presentation got into interactive mode, where boys shared how Swami had touched their lives so indelibly.



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Later, Mr. Sivaramakrishnaiah, Principal, Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School offered the hall tickets for the Board exams at Bhagawan's lotus feet seeking Divine blessings.



February 23, 2012

FEBRUARY

'Shivoham' Dance by Students

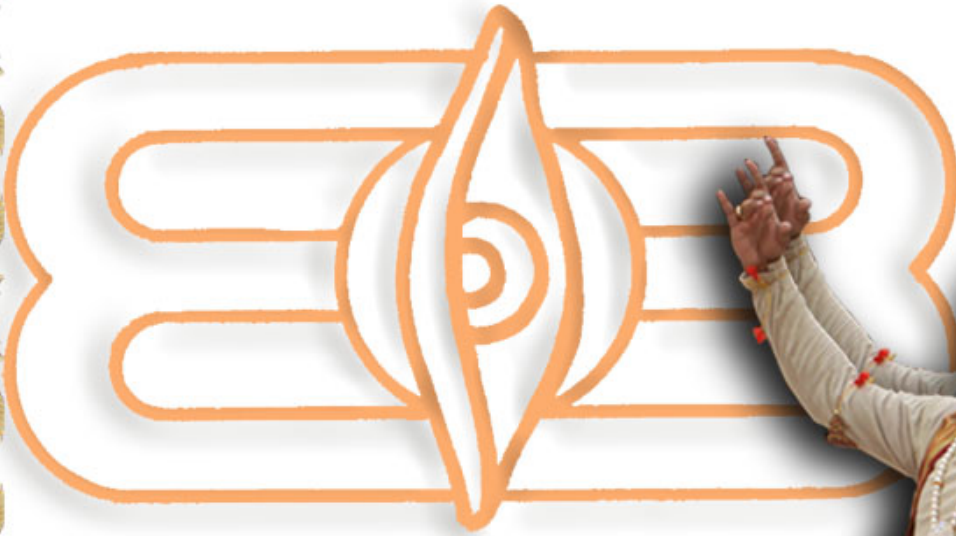
The deep and esoteric spiritual concept of the essential oneness of the Shiva-aspect and the Shakti-aspect, different only in their relative manifestations, was expressed most elegantly by "Shivoham", a dance presentation by the post-graduate students of the university.



The graceful choreography by the lithe performers to the enchanting scores consisting of shlokas from Sri Rudraprasnah Laghunnyasah, Shri Rudram and Siva Panchakshari Mantra, among others, composed by the students of the Institute themselves, filled the audience with bliss and sublimity.

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FEBRUARY



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February 25, 2012

FEBRUARY

Adilabad Parthi Yatra, Day One

On Feb 24 over 1500 devotees arrived from Adilabad. That evening they held a massive procession featuring folk dances, ritual rallies and effervescent fireworks on the streets of Puttaparthi.



On the evening of 25, the pilgrims provided a unique vaudevillian show in Sai Kulwant Hall which included Dances, Burra Katha, Hari Katha, Poetry, Talks, Video Clippings and Songs.



February 26, 2012

FEBRUARY

Adilabad Parthi Yatra, Day Two

On the second day of their Parthi Yatra, the devotees from Adilabad presented a trip down the memory lane of their past performances through various videos and stills.



It had instances of Bhagawan's interaction with them apart from the water project gifted to them by Swami and their service activities in the district.

The video was interspersed with poetry and devotional singing by the delegates.



March 4, 2012

MARCH

Gratitude Programme by Anantapur Students

On the evening of March 4 outgoing students of the under graduate and post graduate courses from the Anantapur campus presented a 45-minute programme that consisted of songs interspersed with commentary, poems, experiences and expressions of gratitude to Bhagawan.



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The students also offered cards, bouquet, etc. while the teachers took the hall tickets of the students to Bhagawan for blessings.



March 8, 2012

MARCH

Holi Happiness in Prasanthi, Day One

Over 700 devotees from Bihar and Jharkhand arrived in Prasanthi to celebrate the boisterous and colourful festival of Holi 2012.

On the first day of their celebration on March 8, Kumari A. Jyotsna, presented a string of devotional songs soothing the minds and hearts of the evening's assembly.



The fifty minute rendition included some Telugu numbers hailing Bhagawan and a couple of Meera bhajans apart from special holi songs.



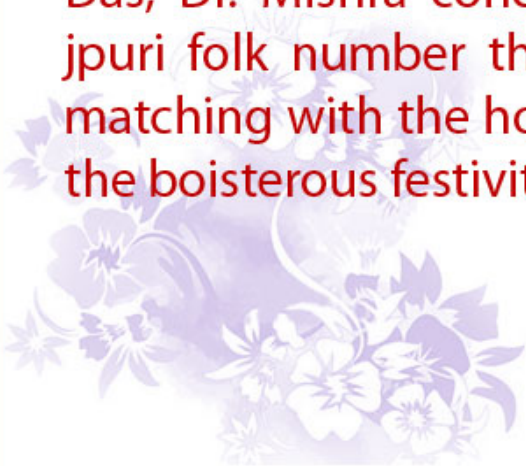
March 9, 2012

MARCH

Holi Happiness in Prasanthi, Day Two

Singing aloud with voice ecstatic "Holi Hey!" accomplished Hindustani vocalist Dr. Krishna Kumar Mishra and troupe presented a vibrant Holi evening on March 9, 2012. It was the second day of the Holi celebrations in Prasanthi.

Presenting eight compositions in an hour that included that of Kabir Das and Tulsi Das, Dr. Mishra concluded with a Bhojpuri folk number that rose the tempo matching with the holistic excitement of the boisterous festivity.



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MARCH



March 15, 2012

MARCH

Gratitude Programme by Music College and UG Boys

On the evening of March 15, the graduating batches of students from the Sri Sathya Sai Mirpuri College of Music and undergraduate students from the Prasanthi Nilayam campus of the University presented a musical offering interspersed with words of love and gratitude in the Divine presence.



Following this was a scintillating jugalbandi consisting of nine musical instruments, Veena, Violin, Tabla, Mrudangam, Pakhawaj, Khanjeera, Ghatam, Octopad and Keyboard. All of them were learnt by the students in the Prasanthi portals.



March 18, 2012

MARCH

Gratitude Programme by Post Graduate Students

Three days after the under graduate boys presented their 'Gratitude Programme', the post graduate students of Prasanthi Nilayam made their offering of love and this was a moving and multi-talented presentation consisting of talks, songs, instrumentals, poetry and dances. They even had a band performance.



The session ended with the playing of a discourse clip of Bhagawan where He exhorts His students to be ideal boys.



March 23, 2012

MARCH

Ugadi in the Divine Presence

Celebration of Telugu New Year, Ugadi, began on the morning of March 23 with veda chanting followed by Panchanga Shraavanam (reading out predictions for the year) in Telugu by noted vedic scholar Sri Kuppa Siva Subrahmanya Avadhani Garu. On this New Year named as Nandanam, boys from the University sang a couple of Telugu songs after which the audience listened to the profound words of Bhagawan that was played in the Hall.



The evening function was marked by an excellent talk by Mr. V. S. Murthy. This was followed by a string of devotional numbers by popular singer Ms. Nithya Santoshini.



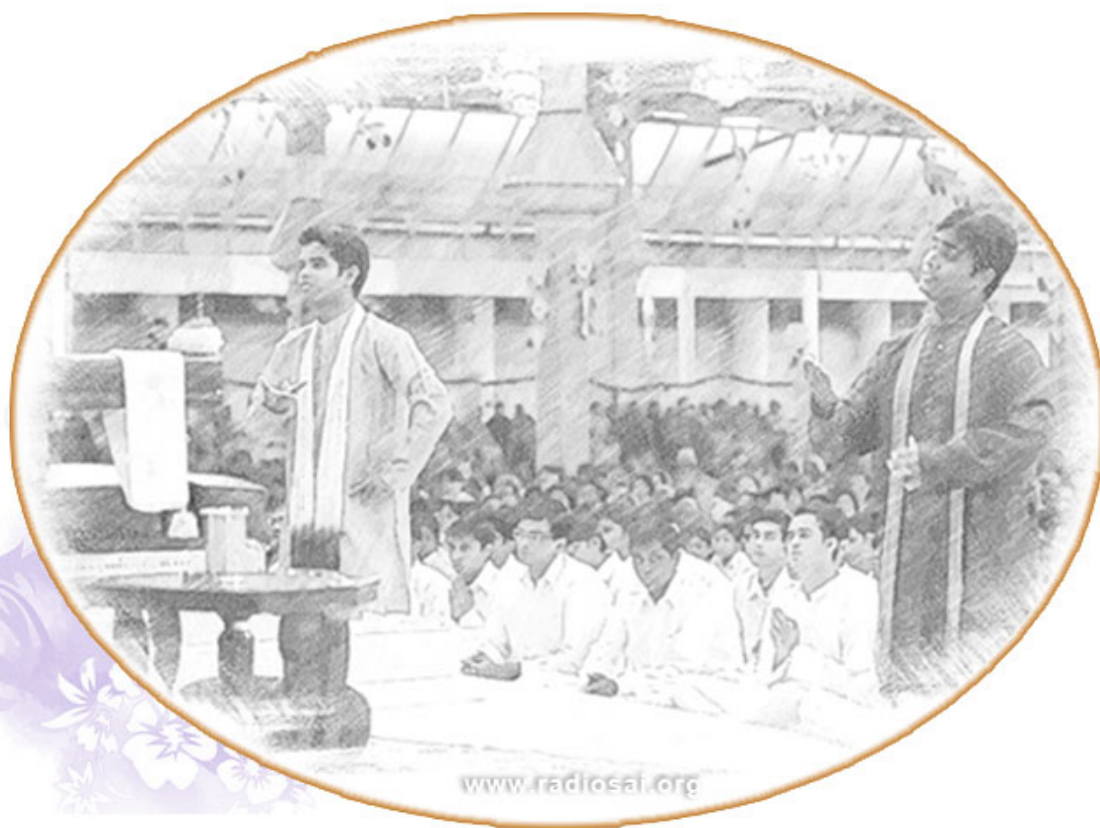
March 25, 2012

MARCH

Gratitude Programme by Brindavan Campus Students

On the evening of March 25 the graduating students of the Brindavan campus of the University conveyed their gratitude to their Mother Sai through talks, dances and songs.

It was also the anniversary day of Bhagawan's final public darshan and the students fondly recollected that scintillating smile, those endearing eyes, that enchanting gait, those beckoning fingers and those wonderful memories.



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APR 1, 2011

APRIL

Sri Rama Navami in the Divine Presence

The Sri Rama Navami festival on the morning of April 1 began with a 20-minute vedic chanting followed by a 40-minute musical offering by the students of the University.



A short clip of Bhagawan's Divine Discourse followed that enlivened the audience with golden memories of Bhagawan narrating Ramayana stories.



In the evening, the richly talented and devoted students of the music college presented a scintillating musical display that lasted seventy minutes.



APR 13, 2011

APRIL

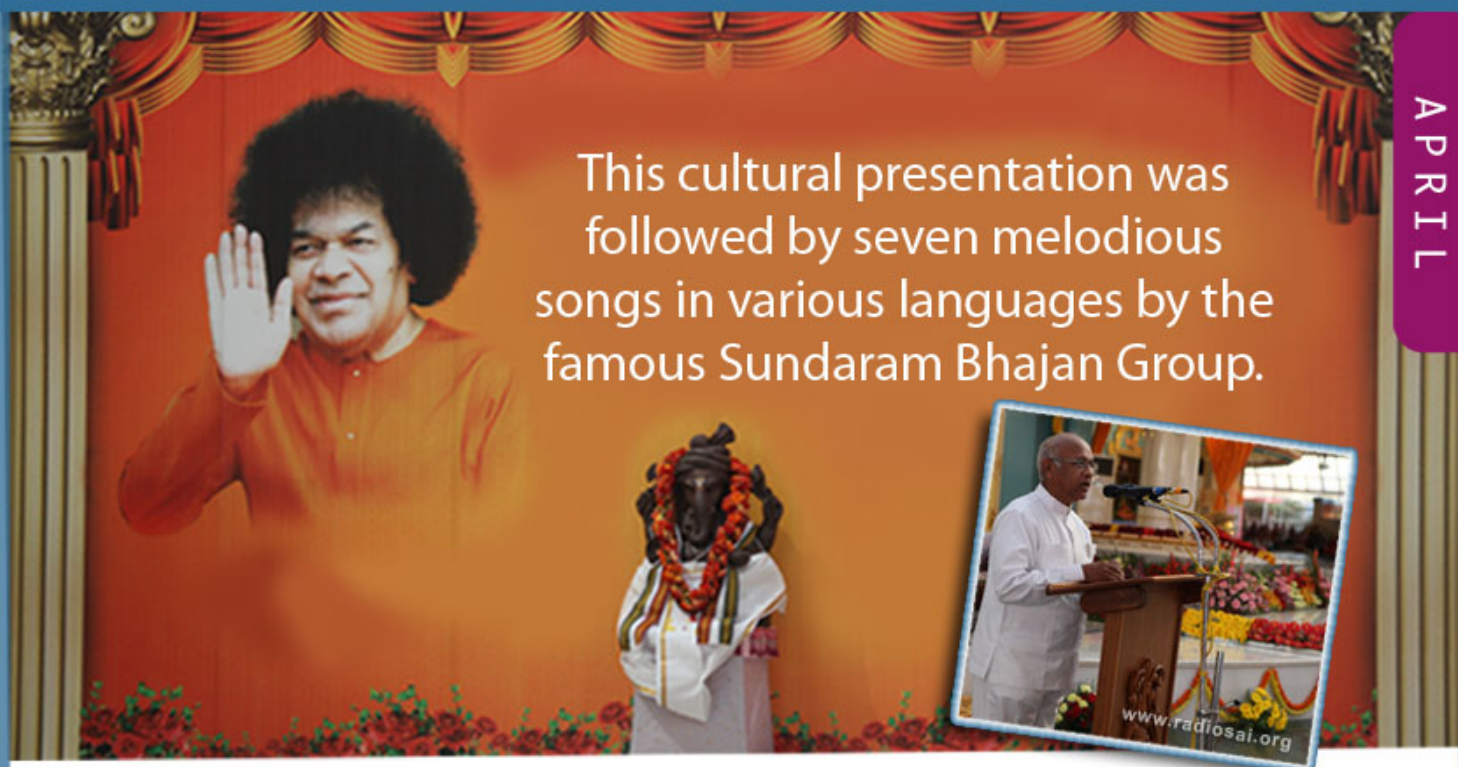
Special Children Steal Hearts



It was a very special Tamil New Year in Prasanthi Nilayam. Hearing and Speech Impaired Children from Vela School, Villipuram captured all hearts in Prasanthi Nilayam with a scintillating dance performance in the Divine Presence entitled, "Dikku Leni Vaariki Devude Gathi!"



This cultural presentation was followed by seven melodious songs in various languages by the famous Sundaram Bhajan Group.



Earlier in the day, the Tamil Nadu devotees and youth conducted the morning session in Sai Kulwant Hall rendering both Vedam and Bhajans.



APR 14, 2011

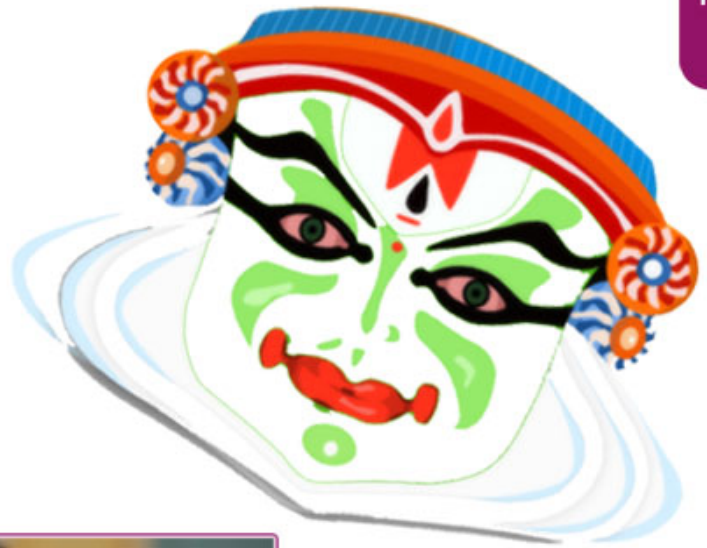
APRIL

Vishu - Kerala New Year

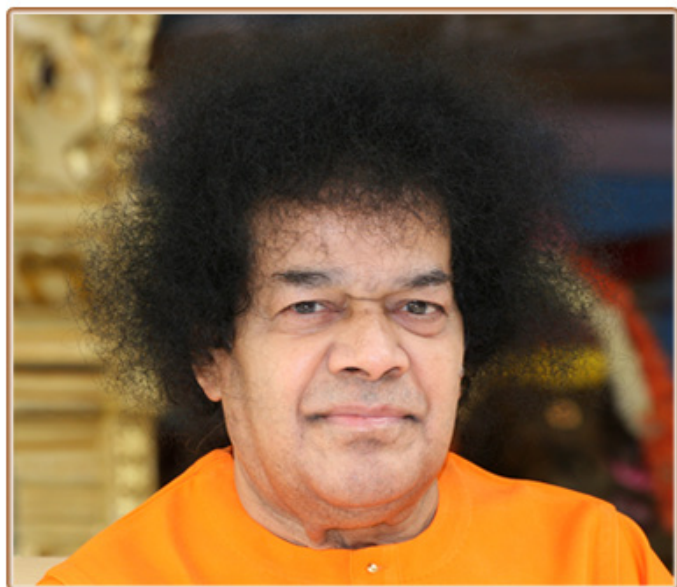
Painting holy Vishu with devotional hues noted Carnatic vocalist Padmasri Sirkazhi Sivachidambaram presented a musical offering on the evening of April 14.



Earlier, the speaker for the evening, Mr. Jyothilal, IAS, Secretary, General Administration to Govt. of Kerala, elucidated on Bhagawan and His divine glory.







The adorable form of Bhagavan Baba may not be visible now in Prasanthi Nilayam but His all-enveloping love is palpably felt. It is for this reason that this Holy town still mesmerizes the mind of every person who step into it.

No one can be untouched by Pure Love once he or she touches the sacred land of Puttaparthi. The continuous stream of devotees and their loving presentations in the Sai Kulwant Hall all round the year stand testimony to this fact.

Baba's Love beckons us and beseeches us to be a spark of the Goodness and Godliness that He Personified. The irresistible fragrance of His presence goads us to grow from 'I' to 'We' ot 'He'!



Radio Sai

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