

SRI SATHYA SAI SEVA SAMITHI, SAI GITANJALI

Address: #36, 21st Main, 8th Cross, JP Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore 560078

Phone: +91-80-26591707 Email: saigeethanjali1997@gmail.com



ANNUAL REPORT

June 2016 – May 2017

*Presented by Dr. H.S. Aswath, Convenor, Sai Gitanjali, on the occasion of
20th Anniversary of Sai Gitanjali on 28th May 2017*



Contents

Page No.

1. Introduction	1
2. Welcome	3
3. Annual Report	5
3.1 Spiritual Activities	9
3.2 Educational Activities	15
3.3 Service Activities	31
3.4 Participation in Central Programmes	37
3.5 Month-wise Programmes and Festivals	45
4. Facilities	62
5. Acknowledgements	63



A humble offering at the Lotus feet of Bhagawan

Introduction

Offering prayerful, loving and humble salutations at the Lotus Feet of our Beloved Lord Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba varu, on this auspicious occasion of the 20th Anniversary of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Kshetra, Sai Gitanjali at JP Nagar, Bangalore, I have great pleasure in extending our warm greetings to you and we most cordially welcome you to this mandir.

Sai Gitanjali was inaugurated and gifted to all of us by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba on 28th May 1997. This mandir has proved to be a Haven of Peace and Veritable Heaven of Bliss in JP Nagar, in South Bangalore after the Divine visits in May 1997 and May 1998. We experience His presence, His Footfall, His Benediction, His Blessings all the time during our programmes and specially during our evening Bhajans which are being conducted daily and regularly for the last twenty years. Later, for many years, Bhagawan has also graciously bestowed on all of us the unique opportunity to offer Bhajans in His immediate divine presence at Brindavan ashram on every Anniversary day.



Many devotees, seekers of Truth and others visit Sai Gitanjali regularly. Many come with apparently irretrievable problems, irrecoverable ailments and irreconcilable situations. Some have their problems solved mysteriously and miraculously while some are bestowed with strength to withstand courageously in facing the adverse situations.

On this auspicious occasion of this 20th Anniversary of Sai Gitanjali, let us recollect a few excerpts from Bhagawan's discourses during inauguration of the mandir in May 1997 and during the next visit in May 1998 for the first Anniversary of Sai Gitanjali.

In May 1997, speaking in sweet, simple Kannada, Swami gave a Clarion call for upholding Human Values in the society. Bhagawan exhorted the assembly to follow three essential things. *'Daiva Preeti'* – Love of God, *'Papa Bhiti'* – Fear of Sin, and *'Sangha Neeti'* – Morality in Society. But because of ego (Ahamkara) man is not following these. Ego distances man from Human values. Bharath is a small country. In Bharath, Karnataka is a small state. In Karnataka, Bangalore is a small city. In Bangalore, JP Nagar is a small extension. In this, you have a small house. In this house, you are living along with other members. If you contemplate like this, you will comprehend how infinitesimally small you are.

Swami further said that *We should all work with the conviction – "Work is Worship and Duty is God"*. Only such attitude will bestow on us happiness and peace. People pray for fulfilment of innumerable material desires reducing themselves to the level of beggars instead of trying to become bhaktas. We should pray for things we do not have and which we cannot get in any shop i.e., 1. Lasting peace (Shanti) and 2. Bliss (Shashwata Ananda) which humans lack today. Enduring peace and bliss can be had only through divine grace. Only such prayers will entitle one to be called a Bhakta.

Bhagawan also graced the mandir on its first anniversary on 28th May, 1998. Swami blessed the audience with His divine discourse emphasising that *Man needs to do 'Nama Smarana' as well as Seva to reach God. Swami explained, Vibhishana once asked Hanuman how he had not attained Rama even after repeating His name for many years whereas Hanuman had. Hanuman replied and said "I repeat Rama Nama and also do Rama Seva. You have to do both, just one is not enough"*.

Bhagawan also said *"you must consider every work as Lord's work. Whatever you do, do it with single pointed devotion, dedication and concentration"*.

During His visits to the mandir, we were all blessed with His Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan.

Many devotees are here for the last 20 years and also during the mandir construction stage. How fortunate are we all to have had the golden and lifetime opportunity of participation in the daily Namasmarana, Service activities and Balvikas programmes. This mandir has become a beacon of light, bringing hope, happiness and bliss to one and all. Let us offer our gratitude to Bhagawan for His unbounded grace, compassion, love and blessings to make us part of His divine mission.

Welcome

We are happy to have on this momentous occasion, Dr. Prithvi Raval as our Chief Guest. Dr. Prithvi is the son of Dr. R.S. Padmanabhan and Smt. Kamala Padmanabhan who by the dint of their prayers and divine blessings of Swami and close proximity to Bhagawan for over 60 years were instrumental in building this great institution, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Kshetra, Sai Gitanjali. Their entire family are the founder members. Smt. Kamala Padmanabhan is with us today. A hearty welcome to you madam.

Dr. Prithvi Raval is a Dental Surgeon and a Prosthodontist by profession. He graduated from the College of Dental Surgery in Manipal and has got a Post Graduate in Prosthodontics in United States. He is also a Fellow of several world renowned International Dental Societies and has served as the National Chair for the council on Dental Health.

Dr. Prithvi has been in close association with Swami and in His presence since his birth from 1950. Mrs. Kamala was asked by Swami to bring him to the inauguration of Prasanthi Nilayam Hall in Puttaparthi when he was 3 months old. Since he was an infant, Swami said that '*He would take care of the baby*'. Growing up with Swami meant in Dr. Prithvi's words – "He made me feel like His best friend in all the 60 years I have known Him".

Prithvi had direct guidance and advice from Swami which he followed prudently and wisely though there were some aberrations in his life. Remembering Swami irrespective of His physical presence is daunting; but we all know that He is behind every action we take and guiding us in advancement of our spiritual goal.

With the grace and blessings of Bhagawan Dr. Prithvi Raval has been doing yeomen service to humanity. A few of them have been listed below:

- He was the member of Rotary organization and also served as the Governor of Rotary in the year 2000 and rendered assistance to dental patients around the world
- He has a Mobile Dental Van which has rendered treatment for 25,000 school children and in the prisons of Bangalore
- He has 3 Rural Clinics; one in Kulu valley of Himalayas, one at Gudalur, Nilgiris for tribals and one for spastic children in Bangalore
- He is a founder and long-time trustee of Bangalore Medical Services Trust which runs – the Rotary – TTK Blood Bank, one of the country's foremost blood banks.
- For Rotary's centenary year, he helped plan and carry out an Avoidable Blindness project where one lakh cataract surgeries were performed all over India.
- He served 10 times as Rotary International Dental Volunteer and served refugees in Philippines, Jamaica, Central Amazon valley of Brazil, Guatemala in Central America and Kenya in Africa.

- In Rotary, he is the recipient of the Rotary International’s highest awards - “The Service Above Self Award”, “Meritorious Service Award” and “Distinguished Service Award” (only 50 Rotarians around the world get this award)
- In the field of his hobby, motorcycling, he started the India chapter of IFMR (International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians) and served as its World President between 2009-2012. He has done solo rides to Leh, Ladakh, Badri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Gujarat and entire South India.

Dr. Prithvi will be sharing his experiences with Bhagawan since his boyhood days.

We are happy to have with us, revered Sri. Gangadhara Shetty Sir, Sri. Ram Kumar Sir, Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Karnataka. Sri. Gangadhara Shetty Sir has graciously attended all the 20 anniversary celebrations of Sai Gitanjali.

We are also happy to have with us, Sri. Sai Chandrasekhar, District President, South Bangalore, who will be addressing us.

We have with us many elders, senior members, devotees and office bearers of the organisation, who have kindly responded to our invitation.

A Hearty Welcome to you all.

I will now present the Annual Report of Sai Gitanjali activities for the year June 2016 – May 2017.

Annual Report

(June 2016 to May 2017)



There are currently **387** registered members participating in activities of three wings –

- ❖ Spiritual wing
- ❖ Educational wing
- ❖ Service wing

The report will be presented describing activities in each of these wings and then the month-wise programme and festivals.



Spiritual Activities

Daily morning puja for the last 20 years at 10:30 am with flower Archana, Ashtottara, Gayathri chanting and Mangalarathi at 10.30am.

BHAJANS

Daily Bhajans take place for 45 minutes and special Bhajans on Sundays and Festivals for 1 hour.

Youth Group Bhajans take place on Saturdays with Vedam Chanting. 15 most common Vedic mantrams have been taken up and this schedule is also put up on the notice boards.

There are 108 Bhajan singers including ladies, gents, youth groups, Balvikas gurus, parents and children. (32 gents, 40 ladies, 36 Balvikas team)

Bhajan singers participated in Bhakti Bhavanandam Akhanda Bhajan programmes conducted at Brindavan. (3rd July 2016, 4th December 2016)

Regular Bhajan training sessions take place at the Samithi level and district level every month

VIDEO SHOW – ‘ANIRVACHANIYA’

Held once a month on Saturdays and Sundays alternately, with a display of video clippings of Swami’s Darshan, Discourses and celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam coinciding with any festival that falls during the month. Also includes some of the activities taking place at Sai Gitanjali.





NAMA LIKHITA JAPA

This has been taken up as an important activity. As of May 2017, 211 books have been received totalling 38,40,200 Namas. Out of this, 147 books were offered at the foundation of the newly built “Sai Geethanjali”, Cantonment mandir, during the Prana Prathishta of Bhagawan’s Moorthi and Kumbabhishekam held from Saturday 20th August to Monday 22nd August 2016.

VEDAM CLASSES

Vedam classes have started at Sai Gitanjali from 18th June 2016.

For all members including ladies, gents and children the classes take place on every Saturday at 7:30am conducted by Youth team.

Classes for Balvikas gurus are conducted by Smt. Girija Rao on every Tuesday.



RUDRA PARAYANAM

18 Trayambaka Rudra Parayana and 4 Ekadasha Rudra Parayana sessions have been conducted this year in devotees’ homes on second and fourth Sundays. Sai Gitanjali Youth Groups and members actively participate.



STUDY CIRCLE

- Study circle sessions are being held on 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month, for the last 16 years.
- Currently, “Sathyam Shivam Sundaram” series by Bhagawan Baba has been taken up for study after completion of “Rama Katha Rasa Vahini”, “Bhagavatha Vahini”, “Gita Vahini” and “Sandeha Nivarini”.



LAKSHARCHANA

Three Laksharchanas have been conducted this year on

- 1) Sunday, 17th July 2016 - as part of Guru Poornima celebrations. 97 devotees participated.
- 2) Sunday, 9th October 2016 – 69 devotees took part.
- 3) Sunday, 19th February 2017
Children from Sri Sangameswara School in Byrasandra and Balvikas children have also been actively taking part with great enthusiasm.

SATSANG

Four Satsangs have been organized with learned speakers this year at Sai Gitanjali.

1. Talk by Sri Krishan Kaul on “Evolution of Mind” on Sunday, 21st August 2016

Sri. Krishan Kaul of UK conducted an interactive session on the topic “Evolution of mind”. Attendance was 87.



2. Workshop on "Scientific Exposition of the Gayatri Mantra" by Sri Krishan Kaul on Sunday, 28th August 2016

This was an enlightening talk and a 4-hour workshop with PowerPoint presentation that concluded with an interactive session of Q & A. This workshop brought out the great significance of the power of Gayathri Mantra.



3. Talk by Sri. Ruchir Desai on Sunday, 9th April 2017

Sri. Ruchir Desai, Associate Professor, Department of Management and Commerce SSSIHL, Brindavan Campus shared his experiences with Bhagawan since his student days and specially dwelt on how we can connect ourselves with Bhagawan. Attendance was 115.



CEILING ON DESIRES – COD

This is one of the Nine Point Code of Conduct. This concept is being put into practice with great enthusiasm by all the wings. We have COD programmes operating at:

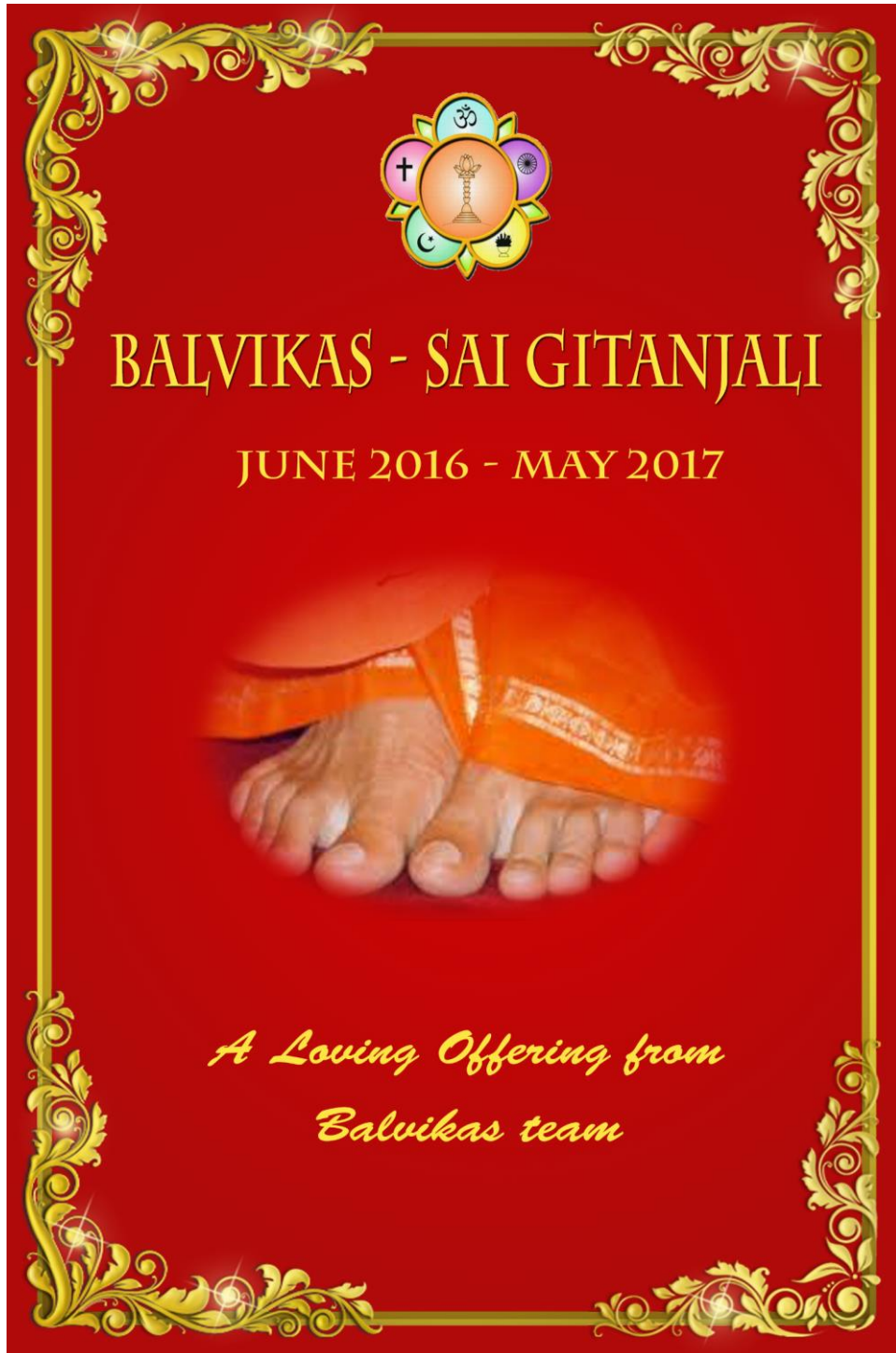
1. General Institutional level
2. Ladies – Spiritual
3. Balvikas Gurus
4. Youth Groups

The proceeds of this sadhana are utilized for conducting our programs.

Newly entering members are apprised of the importance of this concept, as Swami lays great stress on devotees practicing this for faster spiritual advancement.

A large red dashed rectangular border frames the central text.

Educational Activities



- Balvikas classes for Group 1, 2 and 3 are conducted every Saturday between 4.00 pm and 5.15 pm at Sai Gitanjali.
- 76 children attend these classes. The gurus, children and parents are a part of all activities in the mandir.
- Balvikas classes are conducted in 3 schools - St. Marks Public School, Sai Vidya Kendra and Manovikas Kendra, a dayschool for the specially abled children.
- A team of 23 Gurus conduct Balvikas classes at Sai Gitanjali and the schools.
- **Study Circle** is conducted on the 1st Wednesday of every month for the Gurus.
- Sai Gitanjali **Mandir Cleaning** is done by the Gurus and Parents on the 2nd Thursday of every month.
- **Bhajan training** is conducted for Gurus on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.
- **Vedam classes** for Gurus happen every Tuesday.
- Children, gurus and parents render **bhajans** on the last Saturday of every month

REGULAR BALVIKAS ACTIVITIES





❖ BHAKTI BHAVANANDAM

It was a wonderful opportunity to present soulful bhajans at Brindavan for Bhakthi Bhavanandam by **Nine** gurus from Sai Gitanjali on 2nd July 2016.

❖ SPORTS DAY

Fun, frolic and joy filled the air at Sai Gitanjali to host **Sports Day** for the Balvikas children on 9th July, 2016.

Gurus planned a variety of individual and team events for children of all age-groups.

Children were thrilled and excited to participate in these novel events. They thoroughly enjoyed and took home some cherished moments of the day. **65 children and 11 gurus**, along

with the Balvikas alumni had a memorable sports day.



❖ BALVIKAS ALUMNI - ZONAL MEET

A zonal meet of the Balvikas alumni was organised in Brindavan on 24th July, 2016. Alumni from Doddaballapur, Tumkur , Chickballapur and the 5 districts of Bangalore participated. This day long programme comprised of cultural programmes, skits, music, games and inspirational talks.

Six girls from Sai Gitanjali presented a thought-provoking skit called 'Mastermind'.

A musical treat in the form of a Jugalbandhi was presented by three boys from Gitanjali. Sai Prasad on sitar and Vishal on violin presented the Jugalbandhi with Harish supporting them on the tabla. Keerthi from Gitanjali, presented a monoact on "Bhakta Markandeya".

The alumni children from Sai Gitanjali excelled in 'Bhajan Antakshari', games and other activities of the programme.



❖ DISTRICT LEVEL & ORAL EXAMS

Following the events of sports and cultural activities, Sai Gitanjali geared up to host the District level and oral exams for **Bangalore South district**. These exams were conducted on 30th July, 2016.

9 children appeared for the Group 1 district level exam and 10 for the oral exam.





❖ GANESHA MAKING

A unique fun filled activity of making their own eco-friendly Ganesha, for the festival of Ganesha Chaturthi was conducted in Sai Gitanjali. Ms. Yashoda, a professional in clay crafts and jewellery making, patiently taught the children, simple steps to make lovely Ganeshas, using nontoxic terracotta clay.

The annexe area of SAI GITANJALI wore a festive look with all the children seated in rows, helping one another and learning the craft of Ganesha making! **75 children** of all age groups participated and carried home their own Ganesha for Pooja.



Ganesha Idol Making
Sai Gitanjali



❖ MAHILA CONFERENCE – PRASANTHI NILAYAM

Five gurus from Sai Gitanjali participated in the “All India Mahila Conference” held in Prasanthi Nilayam on 24th and 25th of September 2016.

The beautiful art and quilled craft work, exhibited by Ms. Mrudula Murthy, District Education Co-ordinator, South District, were adorable and greatly appreciated (Picture Shown Below).



All the gurus actively participated in group discussions and other events of the conference.





❖ HANDS THAT SERVE - BALVIKAS ALUMNI AT SSSIHMS

A team of **sixteen** Balvikas alumni from Sai Gitanjali started on early hours of a Sunday to offer seva at the **SSSIHMS**, Whitefield.

This team of **seven** boys and **nine** girls actively helped in different

departments. The girls served in the dietary department and helped in cleaning the labs, while the boys served food and cleaned the AC filters on the terrace. This seva was offered on 2nd October, 2016.



❖ SWACHATA PROGRAMME @ VIDYA JYOTHI SCHOOL

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation had launched a **“SWACHATA SE DIVYATA TAK”** drive across India from October 2nd 2016, till the Avatar declaration day on October 20th, 2016. In response to this noble campaign, **14** Balvikas gurus from Sai Gitanjali, conducted a Swachata awareness programme in **Vidya Jyothi High School, BTM Layout**, on October 18, 2016. The programme was well attended by high school students numbering around 100, and staff numbering 30.

Games, related to the event and a small video show was presented in the school.

The students, staff and gurus cleaned the premises of the school. The response and participation from the school towards this campaign was very encouraging.

As a token of appreciation, the school was gifted a nice wall clock with Swami's photo, which now adorns their office room.



Swachata Programme
Vidya Jyothi School

❖ BALVIKAS EXAMS AT SAI GITANJALI.

Sai Gitanjali was the centre for South district for a series of examinations held on October 23rd, 2016. Project evaluations and viva were conducted in Sai Gitanjali for the State Level examinations.



GLOBAL AKHANDA BHAJAN

November, the much-awaited month in the calendar for Sai devotees, witnessed children and gurus practising hard to give their best towards the “**Global Akhanda Bhajan**” held at Sai Gitanjali on 13th and 14th November, 2016. This year, 23 gurus rendered mellifluous bhajans for 2 hours on day 1, while our children presented vibrant bhajans for 2 hours during their turn on day 2 of the Global Akhanda Bhajan.



❖ BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Balvikas children of all age groups, came with a lot of enthusiasm to celebrate the birthday of OUR beloved Bhagawan. Children dressed up in their best attire, held placards of Swami's sayings during the 'Rathotsavam'. Gurus and children joined the procession and sang bhajans. 8 alumni boys helped in manoeuvring the Ratham and bursting crackers.



As a part of Swami's birthday celebrations, on 21st November, gurus visited **Mano Vikas Kendra**, a day school, for the specially abled children. The children from the centre, who cannot speak properly, tried to sing bhajans in their broken voices, but from the bottom of their hearts. Gifts were given to the children and Prasadam was distributed.



❖ BHAKTHI BHAVANANDAM

Gurus, alumni and Balvikas children were blessed to have got an opportunity to render bhajans in Swamy's ashram at Brindavan on Dec 4th 2016.

❖ CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

December brings in cheer and joy, for old and young alike. This Christmas season brought out the best from children and gurus. The children dressed in red and white, presented carols. Santa shared his bounty amongst all present. The Gurus put on their creative caps to decorate the Mandir beautifully.



❖ NATIONAL CONVENTION OF ALL INDIA SRI SATHYA SAI BALVIKAS – PRASANTHI NILAYAM

It's a nostalgic trip to Prasanthi Nilayam for the gurus and graduating Balvikas children, every January. Both gurus and children carry a lot of sweet memories of their 9-year journey that now culminates in the convocation ceremony in HIS Divine omnipresence.

Nine children from Sai Gitanjali who successfully completed the nine year Balvikas course, delightfully received their diplomas. Apart from the graduating children, **eight** gurus and **eight** alumni boys, attended the two-day meet at Prasanthi Nilayam on 7th & 8th January 2017. Sahil, Balvikas alumni from Sai Gitanjali, had a wonderful opportunity to introduce the cultural programme presented by Karnataka.





❖ EASWARAMMA PURASKAR

An inspirational rally of children dressed as “noble women”, Swami’s Pallakki and a grand award ceremony, highlighted the Easwaramma Puraskar presentation function at Brindavan on 6th February, 2017.

Nine gurus from Sai Gitanjali participated in this programme. Saishri from Sai Gitanjali got an opportunity to enact as Smt. MS Subbulakshmi in the rally. **Six** alumni boys were a part of the Pallakki procession.



Easwaramma Puraskar

❖ SHIVARATRI

The holy night of Shivaratri is yet another occasion for all of us to unite and engage in contemplating the Divine.

Gurus teamed up once again to decorate the altar and mandir with Shivalingas, Damarus and Rangoli.

On Maha Shivaratri, 24th of February, gurus presented Shiva bhajans from 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm. Balvikas children presented SHIVA bhajans on 25th February.



SHIVARATRI



INTRODUCTORY BALVIKAS CLASSES

“Saptavarna Academy of Fine Arts, Begur”, extended an invitation for Balvikas gurus to introduce Balvikas classes in their summer camp, consisting of 30 children. The children were between 5 and 15 years.



3 Gurus and 2 alumni of Sai Gitanjali helped the children of the academy in chanting shlokas and Bhajan singing. They also had craft activities and value games. The organisers were highly impressed by Swamy’s value based Balvikas Program.

❖ HANDS THAT SERVE – BALVIKAS ALUMNI @ SSSIHMS

With the onset of summer vacation, the Balvikas alumni teamed up once again to offer seva at SSSIHMS on April 10th, 2017.

13 Balvikas alumni (5 boys and 8 girls) offered service at the dietary, served food in the wards and cleaned AC filters of the hospital.



❖ PRACTICE SESSIONS @ SAI GITANJALI

Sai Gitanjali hosted practice sessions for Balvikas children from all districts of Bangalore, participating in the Easwamma day bhajans. Prasadam was served at the end of the practice session. Gitanjali premises was extensively used for training and practice sessions for the folk dance presented by the little girls on Easwamma day.



❖ EASWARAMMA DAY

Our young bhajan singers from Sai Gitanjali, rendered soul stirring bhajans at the SAI RAMESH hall in Brindavan as a part of Easwamma day celebrations.

Seven girls from Sai Gitanjali were part of the team that presented a folk dance.

Sai Janani from Sai Gitanjali was awarded the trophy for scoring the highest marks in South district in Group 3.



This completes the Balvikas report.

Other Educational activities being conducted at Sai Gitanjali are as given below.



LIBRARY

- Library is open on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 4.30pm to 6.00pm.
- All new publications from Prasanthi Nilayam are added to the Library.
- Currently, it holds over 2000 publications.
- There is also a separate section for Balvikas children with many books and publications.
- We expect more members to visit the library for silent study.

SRI SATHYA SAI LITERATURE DISSEMINATION CENTER

- Open on all Sundays and Festival days.
- 10 member dedicated team is involved every week
- Latest publications from Prasanthi Nilayam are also available.
- Sanathana Sarathi subscriptions and renewals are also undertaken in four languages (English, Kannada, Telugu, Tamil).
- Many other divine articles like Vibhuti packets, Agarbattis, Nama Likhita Japa books, CDs, Padukas, Calendars, Pocket size photographs are also made available.
- The services of this centre are made available to other Samithis and centres during important occasions
- There is also a request counter where devotees can ask for earlier publications of Bhagawan Baba which are normally not available at the counter.





Service Activities

Maha Narayana Seva at SSSIHMS, Whitefield General Canteen

Performed once every 2 months, this seva is undertaken to serve 850 patients and their attendants at General Canteen of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield. Three years of this seva have been completed.

This year, Maha Narayana Seva as above coincided on these 4 auspicious occasions:

1. On Avatar Day - Thursday, 20th October 2016
2. On Ladies' day - Saturday, 19th November 2016
3. On Tamil New Year day - Friday, 14th April 2017
4. During Sai Gitanjali Anniversary celebrations – Thursday, 25th May 2017

Maha Amrutha Kalasha Seva

We support 2 institutions regularly every month by giving Amrutha Kalasha (AK) sets – Sri Sangameshwara School, Byrasandra East (10 sets every month) and also the Sevalal Canteen at SSSIHMS, Whitefield (15 sets every month). A total of 386 Amrutha Kalasha (AK) sets, 1150 litres Cooking Oil, 100 kg Tur Dal, 135 Kg Urad Dal were given at both the institutions and in settlements in different areas of South Bangalore during this year. (1 AK set = 5 Kg Rice + 1 Kg Tur Dal)



Sunday Narayana Seva – every Sunday morning, cooked food is served to nearly 50 Narayanas at select locations.

This is ready to eat food prepared in the houses of the devotees with a previously prescribed menu.





Tailoring Course at Sai Gitanjali for under privileged girls/ladies:

- Running for 18 years since 1999.
- 164 students have been trained so far.
- Trainees have learnt stitching garments for girls, boys and women.
- Certified students are being employed in garment factories or are self-employed.
- Their products are put on exhibition and sale on important festivals.
- Children's garments specially made by our students are being distributed every year on Mother Eswaremma day, 6th May at Brindavan ashram. This year, over 70 children's garments were distributed.



Vibrionics Healing Therapy

Sai Vibrionics clinic functions regularly on every Saturday and Sunday from 5 to 6 pm.

- A team of 5 practitioners (3 Mahilas & 2 Gents) render this service.
- 288 Patients with ailments like cold, cough, joint pains, arthritis, diabetes, blood pressure, skin ailments have been treated this year. Patients are experiencing wonderful stability in their respective ailments and are very happy about the treatment.
- By our Beloved Lord's grace, two patients have been completely cured of psoriasis (skin ailment) and some patients got complete relief from respiratory allergies. Many patients have been relieved from acidity, ringing in the ears and gynaec-ailments.



Brindavan Seva - On request from the organization, a dedicated group of 8 members has been created to offer regular monthly seva at Brindavan.

Sri Sathya Sai Vriddhashrama, Whitefield Seva – with monthly assistance, by regular sustenance of the Vriddhashrama by donating provisions, medicines, medical equipment, clothing, household infrastructure items, this seva has been continuing for the last four years.

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences (SSSIHMS), Whitefield Seva – once every 5 weeks, a dedicated group of members take part in this seva.

Vibhuthi Packing Seva – close to 12,000 Vibhuthi packets packed this year that were used for various festivals and occasions

Vibhuthi Seva at Gokulam Ghoshala at Puttaparthi – once a quarter, 300 vibhuthi packets are supplied to the ghoshala to be mixed with cattle fodder. Three years of this seva completed.



Blood Donation Seva – on demand, requests are met. A directory of blood donors is being maintained who on call are ready to donate blood.

Participation in Central Programmes

Participation in Central Programmes

Sai Varunanjali

A prayer to Varuna, the Rain God was organized at the district level on 19th June 2016 at Sai Kuteer in Raja Rajeshwari Nagar. A number of devotees from Sai Gitanjali took active part and set up a Sai Literature sales centre at the venue.



Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Jyothi

A National level education programme, 'Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Jyothi' has been planned with the vision – "Inspiring Children by Empowering Schools". The scheme plans to take up 900 schools all over India covering all the states to promote and propagate Bhagawan's ideals of Human Values in Educational Institutes.

Under this scheme, we are happy to mention the opportunity given to Sai Gitanjali to adopt 2 schools.

1. Sri Sangameshwara School, Byrasandra, Jayanagar 1st Block East
2. NSVK Kannada Primary School, Jayanagar 7th Block

In this regard, 3 programmes have been organized by Sai Gitanjali, this year, in the schools.

SSSVJ - 1st Programme on Monday, 18th July 2016:

Inauguration of SSSVJ at Sri Sangameshwara Vidyalaya, Byrasandra, Jayanagar 1st Block East. After the inaugural prayers, there was a talk on the project, and scholarships were distributed to the needy students. Amrutha Kalasha sets were distributed to the families of needy students. Milk Prasadam was distributed to 300 children.



SSSVJ Programme at Sri Sangameshwara School

SSSVJ - 2nd Programme on Monday, 29th August 2016:

The 2nd programme of the SSSVJ was at NSVK Kannada Primary School, Jayanagar 7th Block.

After the inaugural prayers, there was a talk on the Project and Scholarships were distributed to the needy students. This was followed by inauguration of a new Badminton court in the playground. Prasadam was distributed at 12:15pm.



SSSVJ Programme at NSVK Kannada Primary School

SSSVJ - 3rd Programme on Thursday, 22nd September 2016:

The 3rd programme of the SSSVJ was at Sri Sangameshwara Vidyalaya, Byrasandra, Jayanagar 1st block East. The programme included Sri Vidya Ganapathi Mahotsava celebration. This was followed by inauguration of a new Table tennis court at the school. Prasadam was distributed at 12:15pm. Attendance was 350.

In both the schools, Sai Gitanjali gave scholarships to 80 students covering admission, tuition, note books, uniforms and foot wear.

Sri Sathya Sai Veda Poshana workshop on Sunday, 25th September 2016

This was the third edition of the State level Sri Sathya Sai Veda Poshana Workshop on Durga Suktam and Medha Suktam that was conducted at Sai Gitanjali. The participants included certified Vedam trainers, aspiring Vedam trainers and all other aspirants desirous of learning Vedam. The speakers were Prof. Dr. M A Lakshmithathachar, Head of Samskriti Foundation at Mysore and Sri. N Sudhindran, an alumnus of the SSSIHL. Lunch Prasadam was served to the participants.



'Swachata Seva' at Brindavan on Sunday, 2nd October 2016

Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, Karnataka has been blessed with this service opportunity as part of the All India Programme – “Swachata Se Divyatha Thak” which means “Cleanliness is next to Godliness”.

The programme was launched on Gandhi Jayanthi, 2nd October 2016 at Trayee Brindavan and well attended by all the office bearers and devotees of the organisation. It started with inaugural prayers at Trayee Mandir and then all the members proceeded to preselected location in Kadugodi town near Brindavan ashram and took up cleaning work for half a day.



'Swachata Seva' at Sai Gitanjali on Sunday, 16th October 2016

As part of the above programme, devotees of Sai Gitanjali also rendered Mandir cleaning seva on Sunday, 16th October 2016. Before starting of the programme, a photo of Mahatma Gandhi was placed at the altar and the bhajan “Vaishnava Janeto..” was sung followed by Mangalaarathi.

Mandir cleaning covered the complete area from the roof to the ground floor. Around 55 devotees participated enthusiastically.





Intense Sadhana drive titled – “Month of Giving and Forgiving” as given by All India President for one full month during the Aradhana Mahotsava period - starting 27th March 2017 to 27th April 2017

This covered a month long intense sadhana by the devotees at 3 levels - individual, family and organization, as an offering to Bhagawan. The guidelines given were profound and lofty and included service not only to humans but also to animals, birds and conservation of nature. Necessary communication was made to all the devotees during evening announcements and was also put up on the notice boards. The guidelines given are worthy of following throughout the year.

Maha Narayana Seva during Aradhana Mahotsavam on Sunday 16th April 2017

A decision was taken this year by the state level and Maha Narayana Seva team that during Aradhana Mahotsavam, Narayana Seva should be extended to the Northern and Southern districts of Bangalore, in addition to this seva being done in Bangalore city which at present caters to 41,000 Narayanas. Groceries sufficient for an additional 60,000 Narayanas were dispatched in two big trucks from Sai Gitanjali on 16th April 2017. Before flagging off the trucks, pooja and Mangalarathi were conducted at the mandir hall and also at the annexe.

All the senior office bearers of the organization and also all the devotees associated with the Maha Narayana Seva were present on this occasion. With this, the avowed objective of serving one Lakh Narayanas during Aradhana Mahotsavam was fulfilled.





Sixth Aradhana Mahotsavam of Bhagawan observed on Monday, 24th April 2017

From Sai Gitanjali, 40 gents took part in the seva at Mahratta hostel choultry on 22nd, 23rd and 24th April. On 23rd, 25 ladies from Sai Gitanjali took part in vegetable cutting seva. On 24th April, cooked food was distributed at select locations for over 1100 Narayanas by dedicated seva groups.

In the evening, special bhajans were offered by all groups of singers. Attendance was 140.

Sri Sai Gayatri Kotimantra Japa Yagna & Sri Sai Gayatri Maha Yaaga at Brindavan

Performed on 6th and 7th May 2017 at Brindavan for World Peace and Welfare. Devotees of Sai Gitanjali had the opportunity to participate in the event.





Month-wise Programmes & Festivals

JULY 2016

Guru Poornima on Tuesday, 19th July 2016

The morning programme started at 5:15am with Omkaram, Suprabhatam, Nagarasankirtan and concluded with Mangalarathi. 28 devotees attended. From 8:00 am onwards, Sai SathCharita Parayanam was performed by devotees in their individual homes.

The evening programme started at 5:40 pm with chanting of Gayatri, Vedam and Sri Sathya Sai Ashtottaram. This was followed by special Bhajans by all groups of singers, Mangalarathi and Prasadam distribution. 154 devotees participated.



AUGUST 2016

Sri Krishna Janmashtami on Thursday, 25th August 2016

The programme started at 5:20pm with chanting of Vishnu Sahasranama and chapter 5 of Bhagavad Gita – “Karma Sanyasa Yoga” followed by special Bhajans by all groups of singers. It concluded at 7pm with Mangalarathi and Prasadam. 112 devotees participated.



SEPTEMBER 2016

Ganesh Chaturthi on Monday, 5th September 2016

Ganesh Chaturthi celebration started at 5:30pm on Monday, 5th September 2016 with chanting of Vedam (Ganapathi Atharvasirsham) and Swami's Ashtottaram followed by Bhajans by all groups of singers. It concluded at 7pm with Mangalarathi and Prasadam distribution. Attendance was 82.



Bhagawan Shirdi Sai Jayanthi on Wednesday, 28th September 2016

Bhagawan Baba announced that the date of birth of Shirdi Sai Baba is on 28th September. Since that time, Sai Gitanjali has been celebrating this occasion with special Bhajans on Bhagawan Sri Shirdi Sai Baba.

From 6pm to 7pm, special Bhajans were offered by all groups of singers. This was followed Mangalarathi and Prasadam distribution.



OCTOBER 2016

Commencement of Devi Navaratri (Padya) on Saturday, 1st October 2016

In the evening, between 4:20 pm to 6:35 pm, ladies performed Sri Lalitha Sahasranama and Kumkumarachana. Attendance 45. This was followed by Devi Bhajans and Mangalarathi. Attendance was 72.



Vijaya Dashami and MahaSamadhi day of Bhagawan Sri Shirdi Sai Baba on Tuesday, 11th October 2016

The programme started at 5:30pm with Vedam and Ashtottara chanting, and special Bhajans by all groups of singers. It concluded with Mangalarathi and Prasadam viniyoga. Attendance was 114.

Avatar Day – Thursday, 20th October 2016

Celebrated with Vedam chanting, Ashtottara and special Bhajans. The programme concluded with Mangalarathi and Prasadam viniyoga. Attendance was 92.

NOVEMBER 2016

Global Akhanda Bhajan, Saturday 12th Nov - 6:00pm through Sunday 13th November 2016 - 6:00pm

With bountiful blessings of Bhagawan, Global Akhanda Bhajan, the 24-hour non-stop singing of Bhajans was conducted at Sai Gitanjali from Saturday 12th Nov 6pm through Sunday 13th Nov 6pm. Devotees from all the neighbouring Samithis in South Bangalore District participated with great enthusiasm and devotion, filling the atmosphere with divine vibrations. Dedicated slots were given to Brindavan singers, youth groups, Balvikas group, Samithi/Bhajan Mandalis and students and staff from Pandit Puttaraj Gawai Trust for disabled. Attendance at the start was 230 devotees and at conclusion it was 350 devotees.

The programme also included, Omkaram, Suprabhatam and Nagarasankirtan on Sunday, 13th November early morning. 60 devotees participated.



Bhagawan's 91st Birthday for 5 days, 19th Nov – 23rd November 2016

Day 1: Saturday, November 19th

Ladies' Day:

Ladies' day was celebrated at Sai Gitanjali on 19th November 2016 in the evening. The programme commenced at 5:30pm with Omkaram, Gayathri and Bhajans by ladies. The special programme of the evening was a musical offering by a young and upcoming Carnatic musician Kumari Apoorvalakshmi and her team. This was followed by presentation of mementos, vote of thanks and the programme concluded with Mangalarathi followed by Prasadam distribution. Attendance was nearly 100.



Day 2: Sunday, November 20th

In the morning at 9:30am, Vastra Daanam was organised to Inmates and Staff of Sri Sathya Sai Vriddhashrama, Gokulam Canteen Complex, Whitefield.

At 10.30am, Amrutha Kalasha Sets were donated to the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Whitefield.

In the evening at 5:30pm, there was Rathotsavam with devotees chanting Vedam, singing Bhajans and following the beautifully decorated Bhagawan's Ratha/Chariot in a grand procession around the streets of Sai Gitanjali. Attendance was close to 180. This was followed by special Bhajans by all groups of singers and Mangalarathi.



Day 3: Monday, November 21st

In the morning, Balvikas gurus and parents of Sai Gitanjali visited Mano Vikas Kendra in JP Nagar 3rd phase, a school for children with special needs. Bhajans were held and gifts were distributed to the children along with snacks.



Evening program at Sai Gitanjali started with circumambulation of mandir 9 times singing Bhajans and Deepotsavam with lighting of 91 oil lamps at Swami's altar. Bhajans continued in the mandir and concluded with Mangalarathi.



Day 4: Tuesday, November 22nd

In the morning, the mahila bhajan team visited old age home - Belaku Vriddhashrama in Jayanagar 9th Block. Bhajans were sung and this was followed by Narayana Seva to the inmates.

Bhajans in the evening at Sai Gitanjali by all groups of singers. Attendance was 51.

Day 5: Wednesday, 23rd November 2016
91st Birthday of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba varu

Celebrations on the auspicious day of Bhagawan’s Birthday started at 5:15am in the morning with Omkaram, Suprabhatam and Nagarasankirtan and concluded with Mangalarathi. Attendance was 33.

The evening programme commenced at 5:15pm with chanting of Omkaram, Vedam and Sai Ashtottaram. This was followed by special Bhajans by all groups of singers. The programme included Jhoola Mahotsavam with beautifully decorated Jhoola for Bhagawan and cutting of Swami’s Birthday Cake. The programme came to a close at 7:10pm with Mangalarathi and Samoohika Pushparchana to Swami’s Padukas by all devotees. Prasadam was distributed in the end. Attendance was over 620.



DECEMBER 2016

Christmas

Celebrated on Sunday, 25th December 2016.

In the morning, Amrutha Kalasha sets were distributed at select locations.

In the evening, Vedam, Ashtottaram and special bhajans were offered by all groups of singers. Christmas carols and songs were sung by Balvikas and youth teams. The programme concluded with cutting of Christmas cake, Mangalarathi and Prasadam distribution.

Candles were lit for 'LOKA KALYANA' by all devotees in the open-air annexe. Attendance was 194.



JANUARY 2017

New Year Day

Celebrated on Sunday, 1st January 2017.

Special bhajans were offered by all groups of devotees. Attendance was 135.

Vaikunta Ekadashi

Celebrated on Sunday, 8th January 2017.

In the morning, at 5:00 am, there was Omkaram, Suprabhatam and Nagarasankirtan.

In the evening, there was chanting of Vishnu Sahasranama and Bhagavad Gita - chapter 17 'Shraddhatraya Vibhaga Yoga', followed by special Bhajans by all groups of singers. Attendance was 138.



Makara Sankranti

Celebrated on Saturday, 14th January 2017. In the morning, Amrutha Kalasha sets were distributed at needy locations.

In the evening, special Bhajans were offered by all groups of singers. This was followed Mangalarathi and Prasadam distribution. Attendance was 33.



FEBRUARY 2017

Maha Shivaratri Akhanda Bhajan

The auspicious festival of Maha Shivaratri was observed with Akhanda Bhajan from Friday, 24th February 6:00 pm, and it concluded at 6:00 am on Saturday, 25th February with Mangalarathi and Prasadam distribution. This is a district level programme, where all the Samithis and Bhajan Mandalis of this area joined in offering Bhajans throughout the night. Attendance in the beginning was 225 and at conclusion was 117.

The programme also included chanting of Lingashtakam and Nagarasankirtan in the morning of Saturday, 25th February. Attendance was 60.



MARCH 2017

Free Diabetes screening camp

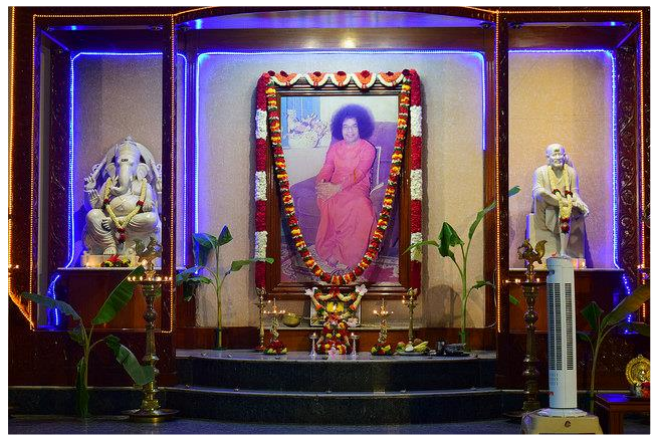
Free Diabetes Screening Camp was organized at Sai Gitanjali, on Saturday, 18th March 2017 with the active assistance of Dr Mohan's Diabetic Speciality Centre.

The programme started with inaugural prayers to Bhagawan. The screening covered 70 devotees who got benefitted. Height, weight, blood pressure, sugar levels were checked and necessary advice was given based on the reports. It concluded with Mangalarathi.



Ugadi

Celebrated on Tuesday, 28th March 2017. In the evening, special Bhajans were offered by all groups of singers. This was followed Mangalarathi and Prasadam distribution. Attendance was 80.



APRIL 2017

Tamil New Year day

Celebrated on Friday, 14th April 2017. In the evening, special bhajans were offered by all groups of singers. Attendance was 83.

May 2017

Mother Easwamma Day on Saturday, 6th May 2017

In the morning, Balvikas team participated in bhajans and cultural programme at Brindavan.

In the evening, at Sai Gitanjali, Vedam chanting and special bhajans were offered by all groups of singers. Attendance was 116.



Buddha Purnima on Wednesday, 10th May 2017

In the evening at Sai Gitanjali, special Sarva Dharma bhajans were offered by all groups of singers.

Combined Nagarasankirtan on Sunday, 14th May 2017

A combined Nagarasankirtan was organized as part of the holy Buddha Purnima by Banashankari Samithi in association with other neighbouring samithis at Sri Siddhi Maha Ganapathi Temple, Jayanagar 7th Block. Sai Gitanjali members took active part in the event. Program started at 5 am and included Omkaram, Suprabhatam, Vedam and Nagarasankirtan. About 100+ members attended the event.



20th Anniversary celebrations for 5 days starting Wednesday, 24th May 2017 to Sunday, 28th May 2017

Day1: Wednesday, 24th May –

In the morning, donation of daily provisions and essential groceries to Sai Ashrayadham – A Home for the Blind and Orphans, Belthur Medahalli Road, Kadugodi Post, Whitefield by the Seva wing of Sai Gitanjali.

In the evening at Sai Gitanjali, there was Deepotsavam - lighting of 108 lamps at the main altar, followed by special Bhajans by all groups of singers. Nearly 56 devotees attended the program.



Day2: Thursday, 25th May –

In the morning, Maha Narayana Seva was performed to 850 patients and attendants at SSSIHMS, Whitefield

In the evening at Sai Gitanjali, devotees gathered at the entrance of Sai Gitanjali and offered bhajans during the parikrama of the mandir 9 times and then continuing the bhajans in the mandir hall. Nearly 77 devotees attended the program.



Day3: Friday, 26th May –

In the morning, Sai Gitanjali Mahila team rendered Bhajans at Belaku Vriddhashrama in Jayanagar 9th Block. This was followed by donation of daily provisions, Sai Protein and Nama Likita Japa books. Narayana seva was organised for the inmates and others. Nearly 30 devotees participated.



In the evening, special bhajans were offered at Sai Gitanjali by all groups of singers.

Day 4: Saturday, 27th May –

In the morning, Amrutha Kalasha sets were provided to the needy families at select locations.

The Balvikas team organized a very interesting program at Pragathi Charitable Trust, Govt. Primary school, near Lalbagh East Gate, Siddhapura. The programme included showcasing talent by the children of the orphanage, bhajans, talk on Bhagwan Baba and his ideals, and concluded with Mangalarathi. Snacks, T-Shirts and Stationary items were distributed. Nearly 36 boys of the orphanage participated.

Our Balvikas team is reaching out to many schools in the neighbourhood of Sai Gitanjali for propagating Bhagawan’s ideals. This is the first time that they have taken up this school for this endeavour.



In the evening, at Sai Gitanjali, there was special musical programme by the well-known singer Sri. Maruti Prasad and team. In the past, he had the rare opportunity of being blessed by Bhagawan. The performance was soul-stirring and was very well received. Nearly 172 devotees attended the program.



Day 5: Sunday, 28th May –

In the morning, the program commenced with

- ‘Vastra Daanam’ - donation of new clothes, to Gents staff of Sri Sathya Sai Gokulam Canteen, Sri Sathya Sai Gokulam Guest House and Sri Sathya Sai Vriddhasrama, Whitefield.
- Donation of Kitchen vessels at the Sevalal Canteen at SSSIHMS, Whitefield

In the evening at Sai Gitanjali, 20th Anniversary programme started at 5:15pm and was well attended by nearly 230 devotees including Smt. Kamala Padmanabhan, Sri Gangadhara Setty Sir, Sri Ram Kumar Sir, Sri Sai Chandrasekhar and Chief Guest Dr. Prithvi Raval.

The programme included:

- Lighting of Lamp
- Presentation of Annual Report by the Convenor of Sai Gitanjali, Dr. H. S. Aswath
- Address by Sri. Sai Chandrasekhar, District President
- Address by Chief Guest Dr. Prithvi Raval
- Distribution of Certificates
- Vote of Thanks, Mangalarathi and Prasadam distribution

Dr. Aswath, Convenor of Sai Gitanjali welcomed the assembly and described the activities of Sai Gitanjali in the annual report for the year June 2016-May 2017. He described the manifold activities of Sai Gitanjali including activities those outside of Sai Gitanjali. He also highlighted that the bhajan training sessions, Bal Vikas programs at the district level and state level are also conducted at Sai Gitanjali.

This was followed by a very inspiring talk by Sri. Sai Chandrasekhar. He described Sai Gitanjali as a place of pilgrimage and every visit to Sai Gitanjali was a blessing. He then urged everyone to take part in the various activities of Sai Gitanjali as this was a great opportunity.

Next, Dr. Prithvi Raval who was the chief guest on this occasion spoke about his close association with Bhagawan since his childhood and said, “Growing up with Swami meant: phases of fun, being disciplined, orderly, neat and sensitive to other’s feelings, humanness, acting on Swami’s words and dispersal of affection and Love”. He further said, “HE made me feel like His best friend in all the 60 years since I have known Him”. He also dwelt on the teachings of Bhagawan and their implementation in our daily lives. Everyone felt that this was an impressive presentation highlighting his personal experiences with Bhagawan, over several decades. We from Sai Gitanjali owe our gratitude to him for so readily and graciously accepting our invitation to be the Chief Guest at the 20th Anniversary celebrations of Sai Gitanjali and sharing his invaluable personal experiences with Bhagawan.

Three persons were honoured with certificates of appreciation for their outstanding contributions: Sri. S. Palanethra for Education; Dr. K. H. Lakshminarasimhaiah for Propagation of Swami’s ideals through publication of monthly journals and Dr. P. Sriram for Humanitarian service.

This was followed by distribution of certificates and mementos to Balvikas students.

The program concluded with offering of Mangalarathi and performing of Pushparchana to Bhagawan’s Divine Padukas by nearly 230 devotees who attended the evening program.



Facilities

- Building and premises are being maintained with utmost care with regular cleaning, periodic white washing, generator/inverter/UPS maintenance, timely payment of property taxes etc.
- Facilities are made available for all activities of Sri Sathya Sai Organization meetings and programmes, Trust meetings, District level Bhajan Training Programmes, Balvikas Examinations, dance and drama practices etc.
- Three state level offices are functioning from Sai Gitanjali premises: 1. Radio Sai Studio, 2. Sri Sathya Sai Publications Society, 3. Sai Sathya Sai Trust, (Karnataka)
- Recently Sri Sathya Sai Trust, Karnataka office has been shifted to Sai Gitanjali. They have been allocated a suitable place and this has been named “SAI PADMANABHAN BLOCK”, in memory of Dr. R.S. Padmanabhan. This had been inaugurated with elaborate poojas and Mangalarathi in the presence of senior members of our organization.

Acknowledgements

We wish to acknowledge with gratitude the efforts of office bearers, Youth groups, colleagues and staff, members and devotees functioning in various activities of Sai Gitanjali, for their unstinted and wholehearted cooperation, hard work, total dedication and devotion offered so lovingly at the Lotus Feet.

We thankfully acknowledge the contributions made to Sai Gitanjali by District Presidents and South Bangalore District Presidents and office bearers.

We acknowledge the overwhelming support and assistance given to us by Sri. Y.N. Gangadhara Setty Sir, Sri. B.R. Vasuki Sir, Sri. Ramkumar Sir and the members of Sri Sathya Sai Trust (Karnataka) in the running of this mandir.

We gratefully acknowledge the loving and inspirational guidance being given to us by our State President Sri. Nagesh G. Dhakappa Sir, all the time, and the office bearers of the State level organisation.

May I now conclude this Annual Report with fervent prayer to Bhagawan to shower His Grace and Blessings on all! May we, with His Grace, continue our Sadhana and total engagement in His Work and Mission all the time, always, till the last breath.

.....
Om Jai Sai Ram