Aum Sri Sairam

Issue:4



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## Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Educare

(a CBSE Sai school accredited at 'A+' level by SSSNAC)

Chromepet, Chennai – 600 044 www.sssieducare.org

# Sai Mission

SSSIE e-Newsletter - December 2020





#### Loving Sairam.

Hearty welcome to the 4th Issue of SAI MISSION - SSSIE e-Newsletter!

The year 2020 has passed. Taught us what silence is. Educated us how it is to be enormously patient. Distanced us from souls around us. Brought us closer to the soul inside us. Cleanliness is next to godliness became sanitization is next to godliness for everyone. Theatres, Malls, Parks became empty. Hospitals and Testing Centers became over crowded. Was it due to Fate? Was it the mistake of any particular person or country? Was it a planned work of any aliens? Was it due to change in the position and tilt of the planets? The question has no answer. But, it resulted in a deep introspection inside us. It brought inside us a great sense of discrimination between good and unwanted activities. It made us admire the nature. It gave us time to feel the love and affection of our family members. It also gave birth to this grand 'SAI MISSION'. Let us not search for the answer. Let us be in the present and do our bit to answer the question, 'What am I doing to carry forward the Sai Mission?'. Come Let us delve inside 'SAI MISSION' December 2020! ~Team Sai Mission

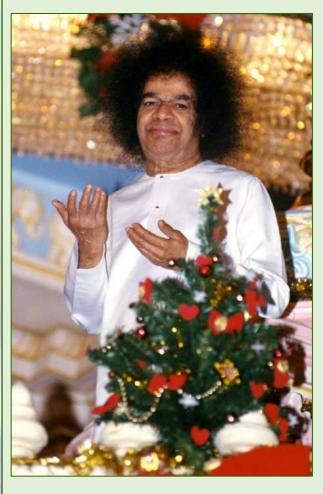




## Follow the Master

#### SRI SATHYA SAI UVACHA

Of what use is to celebrate festivals, if you do not change your old ways of thinking and behaving? Bhagawan's Divine Message:



Jesus was supremely pure and sacred. To forget Jesus' teachings and to profess love for Him is no love at all. You must all remember: "God is One. Love is God. Live in Love." There is no use in merely invoking the name of Jesus and praying to Him without regard to His most vital message: "God is in everyone. Do not revile anyone. Do not cause harm to anyone". This was Jesus' greatest message. Jesus sacrificed his life to establish "Peace on earth and goodwill amongst all human beings". Without peace, mankind cannot achieve progress in any sphere, be it material, spiritual or moral. What the world needs today is the redeeming and unifying force of love that Jesus gave - love which continually expands and embraces more and more people. Mankind should become one family. The world will then become a paradise. Hence today onwards, give up narrow ideas regarding your religion, nation, caste or creed, and develop a broad outlook. I wish you all happiness.









# SASIE Events



## SWAMI'S 95<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS 19 - 23 NOV 2020









#### 19 NOV 2020 - MAHILAS DAY







Birthday celebrations commenced by marking the celebrations of the Global Mahilas day. Amidst the vibrant Veda chanting Poorna kumbha sthapana was done sanctifying the premises of the campus this was followed by a musical offering suffused with love and devotion by the Mahila staff. In the evening proceedings **Vilakku Puja (Lamp worship)** was performed with the prayers to dispel our darkness and brighten our hearts with love.







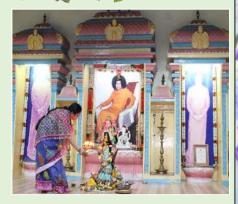














**MAHILAS DAY - GLIMPSES** 





#### **20 NOV 2020 - GRAMA SEVA**

**Hands that serve are holier than the lips that pray.** Grama Seva was performed at the **Old age home, Nanmangalam** on 20th Nov 2020. With the absence of students due to Lockdown, it was an exclusive opportunity for the SSSIE Staff to offer the Seva at the lotus feet of our beloved Bhagawan.

The group comprised of Correspondent Sri S.Loganathan, Principal Smt. K.Saimeera, teaching and non-teaching staff started from SSSIE offering prayers to Lord Sri Vidya Ganesh. At the old age home, special Arathi was performed at the Shirdi Sai Mandir. The Grandmas and the Grandpas felt extremely happy interacting with our staff. After Prayer at the Bhajan hall, the Prasadam (Sambar rice, Curd rice and Laddus) was served. Swami's pocket size photograph and Vibhuti Prasadam were also distributed. In the end, each inmate was presented a blanket as a gift of Love from Bhagawan.

It is worthy of mentioning here that the expenditure for the entire Seva was met with the contributions made by the students by following **Ceiling On Desires (COD Project)** at home during Deepawali vacation, avoiding /reducing the want of Crackers, Dresses, Sweets etc. The programme ended with Mangala Arathi.









PRAYER BEFORE GRAMA SEVA



















**GROUP POSE** 

## 21 NOV 2020 - SRI SATHYA SAI LAKSHARCHANA

SRI SATHYA SAI LAKSHARCHANA was organized on 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2020 praying for Universal Peace. At SSSIE, the management members, teaching and non-teaching staff participated in the Archana and received the blessings of Bhagawan. **Sri Sathya Sai Sahasra Namavali** and **Sri Sathya Sai Ashtotra Namavali** were chanted during the Laksharchana and Akshata was offered to Swami by all the staff.

Students and parents participated in the Laksharchana from home by chanting the Sahasranamavali and offering their sincere prayers to Bhagawan.





# 95)

#### SRI SATHYA SAI LAKSHARCHANA PERFORMED BY STAFF









SRI SATHYA SAI LAKSHARCHANA - GLIMPSES

#### **DEVOTIONAL SONGS OFFERING DURING SAMITHI PROGRAMME**

Sairam. With Swami's Blessings, on **21**<sup>st</sup> **Nov 2020**, as a part of the 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations organized by the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi, Chromepet, SSSIE students were blessed with an opportunity to present devotional songs on Bhagawan. Students belonging to Sai Gana Priya team, offered a bouquet of mesmerizing songs at the Divine Lotus Feet of our beloved Bhagawan. Link to watch: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-S7NTYjBork">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-S7NTYjBork</a>



## SRI SATHYA SAI LAKSHARCHANA PERFORMED BY STUDENTS

























SRI SATHYA SAI LAKSHARCHANA PERFORMED BY STUDENTS AT HOME



























SRI SATHYA SAI LAKSHARCHANA PERFORMED BY STUDENTS AT HOME





#### 22 NOV 2020 - CHANTING 95 TIMES SAI GAYATHRI

In the glorious presence of Sai Baba, a great Vedic scholar **Pandit Sri Ghandikota Subrahmanya Shastry,** was inspired to announce Sri Sathya Sai Gayatri—the mystic formula devoted to Sri Sathya Sai.



Om Saieshwaraya Vidmahe Sathya Devaya Dheemahi Thanna Sarvah Prachodayath



Commemorating the 95 years of love in action, chanting of SRI SATHYA SAI GAYATHRI for 95 times was offered at the Divine Lotus feet on 22nd November. Children enthusiastically participated in the Sadhana at their home.



Om Saieshwaraya Vidmahe Sathya Devaya Dheemahi Thanna Sarvah Prachodayath

We know Sri Sathya Sai as Supreme Divinity Incarnate

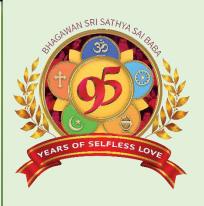
We meditate on this God of Truth

May Almighty God lead us to Liberation

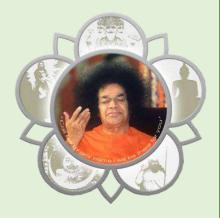
This Sri Sathya Sai Gayatri, like other Gayatris, is on a par with Veda Mantra or mystic formula. It has 24 letters; it consists of three lines, each with 8 letters. Such a composition has unique properties. According to Maharshi Vararuchi, the numerology of all letters adds up to 108. That is why recitation is to be done 108 times; to realize the full effect of Siddhi-which is signified by the 108th number, i.e. the Meru or the tassel of a rosary or Japamala. Ashtottara Sata Nama—the 108 name chantings lead to the realization of God, which is the goal.



#### 23 NOV 2020 - SWAMI'S 95TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION







The epitome of Swami's 95th birthday celebrations was held in a spectacular manner in the magnificently decorated Ramsai Hall on 23rd Nov 2020 between 9:00 and 11:00 am, following all the COVID-19 safety measures.

For the first time, the birthday celebration was held in the absence of our dear children due to Lockdown. Few senior students and alumni brothers took it as their blessed chance to come to SSSIE and participate in the program.

The entire programme was organized spectacularly in an eye-catching way through a compering between **Sage Vishwamitra and SSSIE staff.** The celebration began with a grand procession to our beloved lord comprising vibrant Veda Parayanam, soulful Swagatham singing.

After the traditional 'Jai Vijayee Bhava' song offering, 95 lamps of love were lit by the staff and the guests marking the glorious 95 years of love in action by Bhagawan, with the accompaniment of the mellifluous 'Akhand Jyothi Jalao...' song.

Director Sri P.Kumarasamy welcomed the gathering and introduced the Guests of the day **Sri Vanchinathan** and **Smt. Bhavani Vanchinathan**, ardent devotees of Bhagawan and SSSIE well-wishers. He advised everyone to join together in carrying out the Sai Mission through SSSIE.

Then, fascinating cultural programmes and thoughtful speeches by students occupied the stage. A video compilation presenting a glimpse of various sports and fine art activities of the students were displayed.

Chief Guest Smt. Bhavani Vanchinathan expressed her gratitude to Bhagawan for blessing her to be present on the holy occasion at the **Mini Prasanthi Nilayam - SSSIE.** She extolled Bhagawan as the embodiment of Divine Love walked on earth. The music group offered Happy Birthday Song to Swami. It was followed by a touching video compilation of SSSIE students from different parts of the world wishing and singing their heartfelt wishes to Bhagawan. For the lord who is dancing in our hearts as our Athma Sai, Jhoola Seva was offered. The programme ended with Mangala Ararthi and Prasadam Distribution.

# Procession and Inauguration-Glimpses

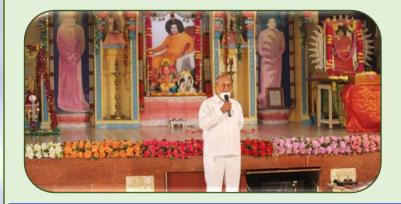














## 95 LAMPS LIT AROUND BEAUTIFUL RANGOLI OF BHAGAWAN







# Cultural Programme - Glimpses

Glory of Sai - Speech by Sainath.S Class X



Mathro Devo Bhava, Pitru Devo Bhava - Speech by Kunal.S.S Class II





## Sri Sathya Sai Vaibhavam - Bharatanatyam Performance















# Speech and Felicitation - Glimpses



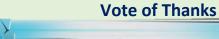




Smt. Bhavani Vanchinathan







Principal Smt. K. Saimeera



Sri K.N.Sekar, Trustee, Sai Educare Trust felicitating Smt. Bhavani Vanchinathan Sri Kannan, DP, SSSSO (Kanchipuram -North) felicitating Guest Sri Vanchinathan





Mangala Arathi







## Dhyana Vruksha (Meditation Tree) Planting

The meditation tree sapling - **Dhyana Vruksha** sent by Bhagawan from Prasanthi Nilayam was planted inside SSSIE Campus by the dignitaries from Sri Sathya Seva Organization, Kanchipuram (North) and SSSIE Management Members on this holy occasion.













#### YOGA TRAINING FOR MAHILA STAFF (18<sup>TH</sup> OCT – 22<sup>ND</sup> NOV 2020)

Our dear Swami emphasized the importance of a sound body, mind and spirit for happy and peaceful living. He says our body is a temple of God. Following His Divine instructions, SSSIE took initiative for the sound health of its Mahila staff by conducting yoga and pranayama classes for 5 weekends under the guidance of a dedicated **Yoga guru and health specialist Smt. Sudha, an ardent devotee of Bhagawan and parent of SSSIE alumnus.** 

The Yoga session commenced on October 18th and concluded on 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The teachers as well as non-teaching Mahila staff were trained in Pranayama and various Yogasanas, which are going to help them to keep up their body in good condition throughout their life. The Yoga practice and guidance continues on every Friday at 3.45 p.m. regularly.









In meditation you first get sense control.

And yoga will help you with the body and when the mind is steady, concentration will come automatically.

When you get such concentration, then you get peace of mind.





PRINCIPAL MRS. K.SAIMEERA FELICITATING SMT. SUDHA, YOGA TRAINER

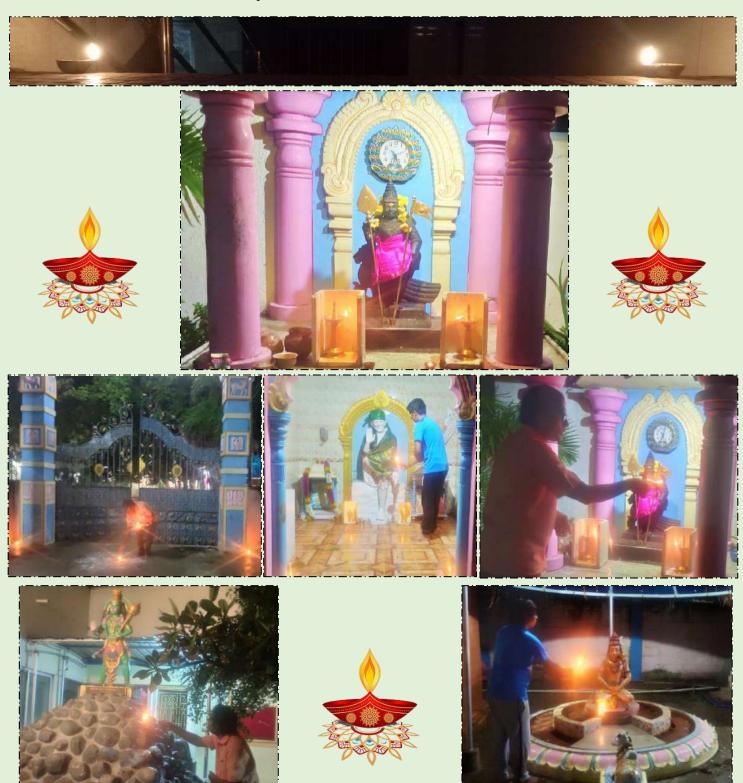


**GROUP POSE WITH PARTICIPANTS** 



#### **KARTHIKA DEEPAM CELEBRATION (29 NOV 2020)**

On the holy occasion of Karthika Deepam, special Bhajan and Prayer was organized at SSSIE. The campus was lit up with lamps all around. Every year, students will be getting the opportunity of playing 'MAAVALI' on Karthika Deepam day. But, this time, due to Lockdown, everybody missed the Maavali. After Mangala Arathi at all Mandirs inside the Campus, 'PORI URUNDAI' Prasadam was distributed.





#### **TOWARDS EXCELLENCE IN VALUE EDUCATION (DEC 2020)**

Apart from regular Balvikas class, Veda class, Sathsang sessions etc. organized for the students to impart value-education and make them as ideal Sai students, to further intensify integrating values in academics and to follow the **SSSVV method of classes**, a special value education committee has been formed with Correspondent, Principal and teachers who completed Diploma/Certificate course in Sri Sathya Sai Educare organized by the **Institute of Sathya Sai Education**, **Dharmakshetra**, **Mumabi**. Value-based activities, Value Games, Study Circle, hands-on-demonstration of value integration in academic subjects are regularly organized by the Committee on every Thursday. Special activities are organized to make the teachers aware of the 5 fundamental values (Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema and Ahimsa) and their sub-values that come to more than 80 in total.

#### Values Related to Truth

Accuracy Curiosity Discernment Fairness Honesty Integrity Intuition Justice Optimism Purity Quest for

Knowledge

Reason Self Analysis Self Awareness Sincerity Fearlessness Spirit of enquiry Synthesis Trust Truthfulness Determination Unity of thought, word & deed



#### Values Related to Right Conduct

Self-help Skills: Ethical Skills: Care of Code of possessions conduct Diet Courage Hygiene Dependability Modesty Duty Posture Efficiency Self reliance Ingenuity Tidy appearance Initiative

Social Skills: Good behaviour Good manners Good relationships Helpfulness Not wasting

Perseverance Punctuality Resoucefulness Respect for all Responsibility

#### Values Related to Peace

Attention Calm Concentration Contentment Dignity Discipline Equality Equanimity Faithfulness Focus Gratittude Happiness Harmony Humility

Optimism Patience Reflection Satisfaction Self-acceptance Self-confidence Self-control Self-discipline Self-esteem Self-respect Sense control Surrender Understanding

Virtue

Inner silence

#### Values Related to Love

Interdependence Acceptance Affection Kindness Care Patience Patriotism Compassion Consideration Reverence Dedication Sacrifice Selflessness Devotion Empathy Service Sharing Forbearance Sympathy Forgiveness Thoughtfulness Friendship Tolerance Generosity Trust Gentleness

Humanness

#### Values Related to Non-Violence

Psychological: Social: Benevolence Appreciation of Compassion other cultures Concern for & religions others Brother/ Consideration Sisterhood Forbearance Care of Forgiveness Environment Good Maners Citizenship Happiness Equality Loyalty Harmlessness Morality National Universal Love Awareness Perseverance Respect for Property Social Justice



#### **BEDSHEET DISTRIBUTION SEVA (NOV – DEC 2020)**

With Swami's Grace, and contribution from the **SHREE BANASKANTHA PALANPUR JAIN ASSOCIATION,** SSSIE has been regularly engaged in various Seva activities to help the poor and needy. The regular Rice distribution Seva organized at SSSIE Campus, at concessional rate for the poor people, is one such example. To cope with the cold winter season, more than 500 bed sheets have been distributed by SSSIE, donated by the Jain association.

















#### **BHUMI PUJA FOR NEW WATCHMAN ROOM (12 DEC 2020)**

First impression is the best impression. It is the Watchman who represents the culture of a place to all the outsiders. To modernize the Watchman room and make their stay more comfortable, it was planned to build a new watchman room at the entrance of SSSIE. The Bhumi Puja for the room was performed on 12th Dec 2020, in the presence of all the school dignitaries and staff.







#### SHANI PRADOSHAM (12 DEC 2020)

Shani Pradosham, the Pradosham falling on a Saturday corresponding to planet Saturn is considered important among other Pradosham. On 12th Dec, the date of the last Shani Pradosham of the year 2020, special **Lingabhishekam** and **Rudram chanting** was performed by the hostel staff. It is coincidental and noteworthy to be mentioned that the Shivalinga located at the old dining hall, was moved to the Prayer Hall, a day ago, due to construction work. The incident conveys that the Divine Linga itself willed to get Abhishekam done on the holy Shani Pradosham.















#### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION (25 DEC 2020)

With Swami's Divine Blessings, Christmas was celebrated by staff at SSSIE, with love and devotion to Lord Sai Jesus, with Sarvadharma Bhajans and Swami's Divine Discourse. **Correspondent Sri S.Loganathan** expressed his feelings that the usual joy of celebrating the Christmas at SSSIE was missing due to the absence of students. The programme ended with Mangala Arathi and Prasadam Distribution. In connection with the celebration, special value song and Christmas Carols contests were organized for the students, participating from home.













#### **STUDY CIRCLE**

With the blessings of our dear Lord Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, as a part weekly Sathsang of SSSIE, study circle was held on 19th of December on the topic 'Importance of Margazhi month'

The session was interactive and interesting, focusing on both spiritual and scientific aspects of this spiritual month.

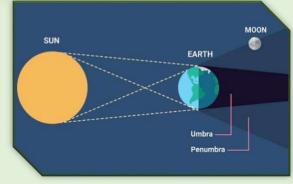
















# Sai Teacher Corner

## **MY TRANSITION PERIOD - SMT. VEDA NAYAGI, PGT (BIOLOGY)**



Offering my most humble Pranams at the Divine lotus feet of **MY BELOVED BESTIE SAI BABA!**I always consider Baba as my best friend. My relationship with Sri Sathya Sai Baba is very much unique and peculiar I feel. Till now, I wonder how and from when I started to realize that baba is my bestie and he is with me always.

It was on 28th Feb 2019, the day of transition, as it happens for all girls after getting married, rest of their life will be with the better half and his family. I had the same phase in my life. I was much worried about my life because everything here was new for me.

I just spoke with Baba: "Baba till today you are the only person to whom I share my feelings. I don't know what to say but, I want You to be with me always. With these words to Baba, I started my journey. On 1st March 2019, I got call from our SSSIE for an interview. While entering the school I was feeling as if I was entering heaven. It had its own vibrations of Divinity.





First person to welcome me was, Bhagawan Shirdi Sai Baba. I didn't have words to express my feeling at that moment. I was literally overwhelmed after seeing Shirdi Sai Baba temple in the entrance.

I entered the main office and informed them regarding my interview to the school. When I was waiting for my turn in the corridor, there came the man of simplicity and humbleness. Our revered Director sir. He enquired me regarding my visit to school. I was called inside Director Sir's room for giving my interview. I got to know who was the man of simplicity and humbleness was and along with him there were two main people, our correspondent sir and Principal madam. Finally, I attended my interview successfully and got selected.

From Day 1 to till date I should admit that I learnt and still learning many things both in terms of professional and in personal life. As our school name carries the term 'Educare' - meaning character development with academic excellence, after witnessing the school activities for both teachers and students I really understood what Educare is about.

I have worked in other schools where they completely focus on academic achievements. Both teachers and students will definitely undergo a phase of mental stress and its consequences. But, in SSSIE, the spiritual activities which we practise makes us free from any kind of stress and enriches our mind and soul with full of positive energy.

Swamy gave me an opportunity through SSSIE to upgrade myself from what I was to What I am now? – Within a month, Baba gave me a chance to attend the Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini workshop at Madurai. That was the stepping stone for my carrier.



You take 1 step; I will take 100 steps towards you! - says our beloved Bhagawan. I could witness this assurance given by Swami getting materialized when I started my Seva as a SSSVV Trainer at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Educare, Chromepet. Being a Fresher to the school and to the Sai system of education, I was little bit tensed as how I am going to execute the task levied upon me. I only prayed to Swami to help me. Swami has His own way of helping His devotees. The motivation and the encouragement given by the state co-ordinators and the SSSVV Trainers lifted my morale and I started the training with full enthusiasm.



Due to the unparalleled leadership of our revered **Director Sri P.Kumarasamy** who is also the former State Co-ordinator for SSSVV and the dynamism of our respected **Principal Smt. K.Saimeera**, the school is already acting as a model school for Vidya Vahini. Here, all teachers write their lesson plans only in the SSSVV 7 assets method from LKG to XII. This has been enforced by the Management as a part and parcel of their regular tasks. Hence, Swami made my job very easy. The job which I was thinking like climbing the Everest became very simple due to the incessant support and guidance received from Sri Kumarasamy Sir.





#### त्रा सत्यसार । यद्या याहिता

Yes, of course, there were certain challenges which I can say, were negligible. I had to spend more time with the fresher teachers, of whom, some were more experienced and aged than me. Though they were very cooperative, it was only my thinking inside me that they might feel why Vedha is troubling me like this. I feared of some ego clash getting created. But, with Swami's grace, all supported and obeyed words very well. I was in a position to prepare and update my knowledge beyond their expectations. That paved way for making the session more interesting for teachers. With the Mission of SSSVV strongly imprinted in my mind, I learnt how to handle and fulfil the needs of the teachers. I developed lots of patience, mode of speech and words while communicating with teachers as a trainer.

Meanwhile, I got a golden opportunity to take online class in the presence of **Smt. Karuna Sarup Munshi**, **Director**, **SSSVV** and other members of SSSVV. That was the best moment in my life. Now, I feel very happy that Swami has blessed me with which I am capable of. But, I am not satisfied yet. I need to work hard to ensure that every class in the school becomes a SSSVV class, every teacher in the school becomes a SSSVV Teacher and every student in the school become an ideal Sai student.











# Sai Stupents Corner

## My unforgettable Blessings in 2020



#### TUMU MANI SAI PAVAN, CLASS XI

My humble Pranams at the lotus feet of my beloved master Sri Sathya Sai Baba Varu. "The grace of God is like insurance. It will help you in your time of need without any limit" - Baba

- ❖ In the year 2019, I was selected for the State Level Veda Competition. But I took it very easily and didn't practise Veda regularly. On the Day of the Competition, the judges asked me to chant various lines from the portion. But, those lines did not come to my mind that time me due to which got disqualified from the Competition. After that moment, I felt so sad and realized my mistake. Swami says, "Every experience is a lesson. Every loss is a gain". From that day onwards, I performed every action sincerely.
- ❖ In the year 2020, I was selected as one of the participants for Chanting Veda at Prasanthi Nilayam as a part of the Tamil Nadu Group. I was so happy and remembered the quote, "Hard work Never Fails" and thanked Swami for giving me that Golden Opportunity.
- ❖ Since my childhood, I was suffering from Thyroid disease, but with Swami's grace that issue was totally removed in 2020.
- ❖ It is in 2020, by Swami's Grace, I was selected to study at Swami's School "Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Educare".

## My Resolution for 2021

Swami says, "Before you speak, ask yourself: Is it kind, is it necessary, is it true, does it improve the silence?" This quote of Swami, would cover every aspect of our actions like before we Speak something or do something or spend something, first we should ask ourselves whether is it correct, is it kind, is it necessary, is it true and does it improve the Silence. So, following this quote, is my first resolution for the New Year 2021.



- My Second resolution is to be like Swami's Vajra Sankalpa! Hereafter, if I think to do something, I will definitely finish that work on time.
- ❖ My third resolution is to stay positive always. If we always stay positive, no one in this world can stop us to fight till the end and finish the race.
- My fourth resolution is to spend less time on Social Media. Our time would get wasted a lot by spending it in Social Media. So, instead of spending time on Social Media, I would hereafter prefer reading Swami's Books.
- My fifth resolution is I will always be Brave and confident. Swami says, "Always Be Confident and Brave". From this year, I am going to be more brave and confident.
- My last Resolution is one of the divine principles of Swami, "Help Ever, Hurt Never".

### My unforgettable Blessings in 2020

- ♣ I joined Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Educare.



VEDESH M CLASS V

## My Resolution for 2021

- ♣ I will improve my concentration
- **↓** These resolutions are not only for 2021 but for all the forthcoming New Years.







#### **MY DREAM FOR 2021**









R. U. JASWANTH KUMAAR CLASS V









SHIVANI.S CLASS IV









CHETAN.R CLASS V



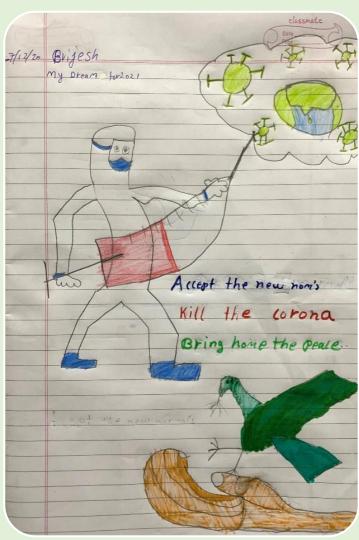






BRIJESH RAMAN K CLASS VII







**CLASS VII** 



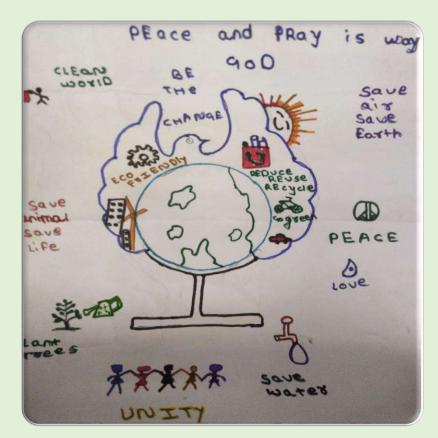






MOHIT KUMAR NISTALA CLASS VII

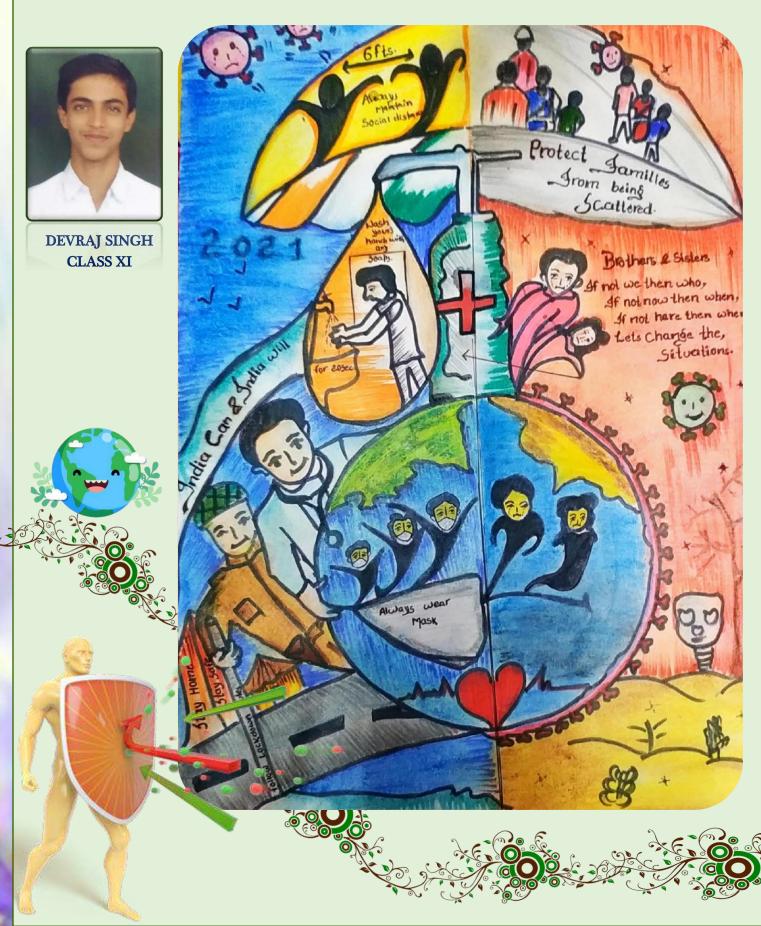
















# Saints of Brakath

#### SUNDARAMURTHY NAYANAR (SUNDARAR)



Sundaramurthy Nayanar was an 18th Century Poet-Saint and was one of the most prominent Nayanmars. He was born in **Thirunavalur village** located in erstwhile Thirumunaippadi Nadu (Panruti Taluk, Cuddalore District, TN) to Sadaya Nayanar and Isaignaniyar. His childhood name was **Nambiyarurar**. It is significant to note that both of his parents find a place among the 63 Nayanmars.

Sundarar also known affectionately as "Thampiran Thozhan" (Comrade of Lord Shiva) and "Vanthondan" (the argumentative follower). He was a contemporary of Chola King Cheraman Perumal, and Kotpuli Nayanar, both of them also figure in the 63 Nayanmars.



There is a legend associated with Sundarar's life – that he was once an attendant of

Lord Shiva in Mount Kailash and he went by name **Alala Sundararan**. There he came across two girls **Aninthithai** and **Kamalini**, who were attendants to Goddess Parvathi and wanted to marry them. Knowing his desire, Lord Shiva blessed them to be born on earth. Alala Sundaran was born as Nambiyarurar, Kamalini as Paravai Nachiyar and Aninthithai as Sangili Nachiyar, in different locations. When Sundarar's marriage was about to take place, Lord Shiva intervened and stopped the marriage. He visited the place as an old ascetic and said that Sundarar was meant to be his servant. He further said that Sundharar's grandfather, **Aruran of Navalur** had pledged him as his servant and had given this in writing on a palm leaf manuscript. Sundarar and the people assembled for the wedding scoffed at him and called him a madman - "**piththan**". When the crowd asked the ascetic to show the evidence, he asked them to follow him to Thiruvennainallur where he had kept the original palm leaf manuscript. On reaching the Thiru Arudthurai temple in Thiruvennainallur, the ascetic went inside the sanctum and disappeared. Sundarar and others were shocked. Then the Lord's divine voice was heard saying that he had come to remind Sundarar of his previous birth as Alala Sundaran – a servant in Mount Kailash. He further told Sundharar that since he quarrelled with him, he would henceforth be known as "Vanthondan" and asked Sundarar to worship him by way of singing his praise.



Since Sundarar had called Lord Shiva a madman, the lord instructed him to compose a hymn starting with a word piththan. This resulted in his first song – 'Piththa Piraichudi'. Since Lord Shiva stopped Sundarar's wedding, the lord at Thiruvennainallur is called by the name "Thaduththatkonda Nathar". After this, it is believed that Sundarar travelled many places and rendered many pathigams in praise of Lord Shiva. At some places, it is further believed his renderings performed miracles.

It is believed that once **Thirupunkoor**, a place near **Vaitheeswarankoil**, was devoid of rains for a long time. The reigning Chola king sought Sundarar's help to address this problem. The saint agreed to help but put up a condition saying that 12 acres of land be donated to the Thirupunkoor temple if he is able to bring the rains. The king agreed and as soon as Sundarar completed his hymn praising the lord at Thirupunkoor temple it started pouring incessantly. After few days, Sundarar was summoned again by the king to fix the problem of heavy rains. Sundarar once again insisted that 12 more acres be given to the temple should the rains stopped after his song. The same happened and the temple became richer by 12 more acres.

At Avinashi temple, Sundarar rendered his pathigam and resurrected an eight-year-old boy who had died three years ago, after being swallowed by a crocodile. The legend states that at Thiruvarur he recited the names of all sixty-three Nayanars and this recitation is called "Thiruthondar Thokai". In one of his pathigams, he refers to himself as the servant of these Nayanmars.



During his pilgrimage, he met Paravai Nachiyar in Thiruvarur and Sangili Nachiyar in Thiruvottriyur. These were the incarnation of the two attendants of Goddess Parvathy whom Alala Sundaram had fallen in love with. In both the places, it is believed that Lord Shiva had played a major role in arranging his marriage to these two women. Sundarar is believed to have visited 84 temples and rendered around 3800 pathigams (hymns). However, only 100 hymns (1000 verses) are available today.

Sundarar's pathigams "Thiruppattu" are collected into the seventh volume of the Thirumurai along with the compositions of Thirugnanasambanthar and Appar. The popular compositions of Sundarar are Ponnar Meniyane, Piththa Piraichudi etc. Saint Sekkizhar's Periya Puranam speaks in great details about Sundaramurthy Nayanar's life. Both Sundarar and his contemporary King Cheraman Perumal embarked on various pilgrimages together. However, when Sundarar reached Thiruvanchikulam, he became tired of life and requested Lord Shiva to take him up to his abode. It is said that Lord Shiva instructed the celestial gods to bring him to Mount Kailash on a white elephant. The king followed him on his horse. This occurred on a "Swathi Nakshtram" day in the Tamil month of "Aadi".



DARSHAN AT KUMARAN KUNDRAM SRI SUBRAMANYA SWAMI TEMPLE – 01 JAN 2015

# SASIE Sweet Memories















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O Lord, take my love and let it flow in fullness of devotion to Thee!