

Sri Sathya Sai Newsletter



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Ganeshaya Namah, Saraswatyai Namah, Sri Gurubhyo Namah Hari Om...

Om isavasyam idagm sarvam yat-kinca jagatyam jagat tena tyaktena bhunjitha ma grdhah kasya svid dhanam

(Isha Up. Text 1)

The Supreme Lord is enshrined in the hearts of all beings and envelopes each atom that stirs in the ephemeral world. Nothing exists without the Creator. Every bit in creation is the manifestation of Brahman - the Creator, and so too, is pervaded by Brahman. The Lord is the Highest Truth and the Ultimate Reality. Find joy in renunciation and rejoice in Him. Covet nothing for nothing is yours; be content, crave not the possession of others for everything belongs to the Lord.

Aneja dekam manaso javiyo nainad deva apnuvan purva marsat tad dhavato nyana tyeti tisthat tasmin napo matarsva dadhati.

(Isha Up. Text 4)

The Supreme Self is one without a second and dwells in every being. It is the highest and beyond It there is nothing. Though being all pervading, yet It moves not, given that It is already present everywhere and requires no movement. Although established in His place, the Personality of



Godhead is subtler and swifter than the mind. Being subtler, having preceded the mind, It is beyond the approach of senses and devas. Sitting, being static and stationary, yet It travels faster than those who run after It. By Its mere Presence It enables the cosmic energy to sustain activities of life, the air carries the water in the form of clouds and sustains the life-operating activities of all beings.

Tadejati tannaijati tad dure tadvantike tadan-tarasya sarvasya tadu sarv-syasya bahyatah

(Isha Up. Text 5)

Consciousness acts and acts not. Infinite Consciousness is non dual, It is the Absolute Truth and does not undergo any change, It is Perfect Awareness and remains pure and unconditioned. Distances matter not, far or near, the Universe is the external effulgence of the Infinite Consciousness. Everything is the manifestation of the Ultimate Being's unfathomably everlasting energy. His Omnipresence is in every being. Realise Him, Who is beyond conception and description inside self and so too, experience Him everywhere, in every speck of creation.

(Isha Upanishad Text 1/4/5)

Sweet Lord, Beloved Bhagawan...most dearly cherished Gurudeva...resplendently You reside in the shimmering sacred space within our spiritual heart, similarly, every bit around us radiantly reflects Thy Pristine Essence...You are vaster than the vast... inconceivably vast, yet, You remain nearer than the nearest and the dearmost delight of our soul. Oh! Magnificent Cosmic Heart, we are never alone for there is no place that You are not, wherever we go You are already there. Before we can think a thought it is already known to You. Transcendental, Eternally Boundless, Immeasurable and Supreme, You, are the goal of every quest, the answer to every question, the solution to every problem and the cure for all ailments. To You, Oh! Almighty Source of the Universe...Oh! Everlastingly

Blissful Mother Sai...how can we express the extent of our enchantment with You, our fascination with Your mystery and mystique. Oh! Sparkling Ocean of Consciousness, having seen You, Your Glorious Form, what else is there to be seen, what charm can the material world have upon us...? Having known a minuscule fragment of You, what more is there to know...? You are our very breath, it is You that we experience in all that surrounds us, yet, we miss Your Presence piercingly. All that we are, we submit to You...surrender is an enormously formidable word, we are unable to grasp its meaning, or follow it through, hence we take refuge at Your precious Lotus Feet, humbly, lovingly, oh-so-completely...for it is true, we need You...we seek You in all that we do...Precious Gurudev...we are nothing without You...



These earnest words of appeal to Shirdi Sai rang out melodiously from the loud speakers. The Samadhi Mandir was packed to capacity and devoted hearts craned their necks for a glimpse of their beloved 'Baba'. Among the gathering were a teenager and her Mother. The youngster could not even get a peek at the divinely sculpted image of Baba that touched so many hearts with myriad emotions. She kept standing up on her toes, shifting her head from side to side getting somewhat irritated with the jostling and pushing resulting from the impatience of the huge gathering of devotees. She looked at her mother, about to complain at the humongous lines and the not so disciplined crowds, however her mother's calmness quietened her outpour of grumblings. In this entire melee, her mother had a smile on her face and her eyes were somewhat closed, she looked the picture of bliss. She nudged her mother out of her reverie and asked her just how she could tolerate everything; by everything she meant everything...the present and the past. She was very well aware of her mother's trials and tribulations, difficult and despairing times, yet her resolve and spirit never could be suppressed.

And, now here in the mandir she was not even craning her neck to look at Baba. Her mother smiled, "If you simply close your eyes and look within...you will find yourself closer to Baba than you can ever imagine. This wonderful image represents Baba, and we all love to offer our wholehearted worship and adoration to Him here, but if you know Him to be the resident of your heart, your enchantment will never diminish. The inner joy tends to outrun the outer experiences."

"All that is fine, Ma, but you do have a secret that keeps you going...which Baba only must have shown you...the amount you talk to Him."

"Perseverance, my child, just like you keep on practicing your dance movements, trying to learn all the latest steps, persisting on, urging your teacher to demonstrate all that there is, so as to become skilled and grow into a super fine danseuse...the same way, Baba is my Master, and I insist that He should refine and redefine my life...and open me up to a higher way of living and being. Hmmm, now it's entirely your fault, you started it...don't blame me for the lecture you are about to receive. Your attitude can decide your kismet, child; anger, annoyance, grumbling and gossip only helps tighten the clutches of negativity on your psyche. Think of our 'bhajiwali', Savita, who comes on her daily rounds whatever the weather. The last few days too, she has been walking about with her cart in spite of the rains...and the showers have been quite heavy. When we asked her why she had no raincoat on, she had replied in a matter of fact manner that it had been used to cover the vegetables. I even offered her a raincoat but she said that it wouldn't help as she was already fully drenched. Her 'no complaining' attitude and grit keeps her sturdy and cheerful, and protects her from ailments...cold, cough and flu, so common during the monsoons. She doesn't anticipate anything, she just knows she has to get on with life. Everything can be understood if you simply dive into the depths of Baba's simple sayings - 'Shraddha and Saburi...Faith and Patience'...enhance your faith in patience, girl, and have patience in your faith...then nothing can overwhelm you. Baba encourages all to cultivate devotion and stay far away from gossip for those who gossip not only cause harm to the ones they are talking about, but they insult the Goddess of speech - Mother Saraswati, moreover, be sure, given the opportunity, they will definitely speak ill of you when you are not present, because they thrive on it. Baba also says that other people's acts will affect them but, your acts will affect you and He further asserts that harsh words cannot pierce your body, therefore, if anybody speaks

ill of you, just continue on with your chores unperturbed. When you intently study Baba's life story, you will realise how He treats all as one...all beings get the same love from Him...receive same amount of compassion, the doors of His Dwarkamai were always open for all beings...four legged or two, winged or otherwise...thus, He instructs - Whatever creature comes to you, human or otherwise, treat it with consideration."

"Ma, I wonder if your lecture will ever end, after all this is your favourite topic and subject — Baba and His Advent....Shirdi and Parthi...but, you know what...? ...when you speak about all this, in this Samadhi Mandir or at Prashanti Nilayam, it feels different, I mean, it makes me want to listen, not just hear...I quite enjoy all that you say...it makes me think and visualise Baba...it stirs something in my heart...a kind of a tug...a pull that I cannot understand. Okay, Ma, we are almost at the Samadhi, I'd like to stare at Baba, and say all that I have piled up to say to Him, my friends have sent their requests too...quickly tell me about the secret that always makes you smilingly reach out and rise above all your difficult times."

"Before that, my dear, there is one more statement of my Beloved Master that I would like to place in your space. Just like when Shirdi Baba appeared as Sathya Sai, He dazzled all with beautiful maxims that touched the core like - Love All, Serve All; Help Ever, Hurt Never; Hands that serve are holier than lips that pray; Work is worship, Duty is God...and of course Samastha Lokaah Sukhino Bhavantu/ Samastha Jeeva Sukhino Bhavantu, if this one sterling statement is annexed to the above dictums you can use it as an ideal to harmoniously deal with any situation, come what may — Let there be no insistence on establishing one's own view, no attempt to refute other's opinions, no discussions of pros and cons of any subject.

Now, I will tell you my secret...my secret is that I am forever aware that Baba lives within me, He resides in my heart...it glows with His Presence...He is the Sun and I am His ray...can a ray, however tiny, ever be separate from the Source...can a ray ever cease to be energized by the Eternal Flame? The entire Cosmos stems from Him, is within Him and He, that Ultimate Cosmic Being...dwells within me...as well as all that is around me...for He is the in-dweller of all. There is no place that He is not for He is faster than thought...He already pervades every inch of space, so He is there everywhere, there is no need to call Him anywhere or from any place. We all are fortunate benefactors of His ceaseless grace! All is known to Him, the tale of the Universe is His drama, He is the Ultimate Script Writer and the Divine Director. He writes His play on the screen of the Ether...He chooses His characters and each one is given a different role...nothing and no one is unknown to Him. for He is the All Knowing Supreme Being. I do not know much about surrender, though my soul constantly seeks refuge at His Lotus Feet knowing it to be a sacrosanct sanctuary. In Him, culminates any and every relationship...He is my Mother, Father and Beloved One...Guru, God and Guide...so how can I have any trace of anxiety or grief or fear...when I know myself to be His dear...dear child...?

Hush now, we will continue later...let us join in the 'jay jaykar'...all are exclaiming His Glory...moreover, it is almost our turn at the altar...and time for your 'chat' with Baba. Remember, when you look at Him, He will certainly be looking at You...and, when You take a step towards Him...you will find that He walks with you, the most steadfast companion ever. Life, dearest child, then becomes a wonderful journey, and you look forward to every moment whatever it may hold...for when you are aware that He 'holds' you...aware of His hold on you...nothing else can have a lasting hold on you..."

Seva Activities...

Think about this...

Give food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, and clothes to the naked. Then God will be pleased.

– Shirdi Sai Baba

There was a blind girl who hated herself just because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He was always there for her. She said that if she could only see the world, she would marry her boyfriend. One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her and then she could see everything, including her boyfriend. Her boyfriend asked her, "Now that you can see the world, will you marry me?"

The girl was shocked when she saw that her boyfriend was blind too, and so she refused to marry him. The boy walked away, and later he wrote a letter to her saying:

"Just take care of my eyes, dear."

This is how most of human brains behave after a change in status. Only few remember what life was before, and who's always been there even in the most painful situations.

In a world filled with hatred, there are very few



people who truly care for fellow beings! Always keep them happy.

(http://www.videoinspiration.net/blog/inspirational-famous-short-stories/)

Selfless love transcends the word sacrifice... being unconditional it chooses to aid and assist, care and comfort, smoothen and soften, soothe and serve beyond the restrictions of replies, reciprocations, returns or rewards.



S.A.I. – <u>SEVA...ALL INCLUSIVE</u> (Collective Seva)

Wherever Love is evident, take it that it is God's own Love. When the human heart melts at the suffering of others... believe that God is present there.

- Baba

Mobile Medical Van 1 Coverage Details:

Days & Area

1st Sunday **Hadshi**

3rd Sunday **Khamgaon**

5th Sunday **Ambegaon, Pavna Dam**

1st and 3rd Monday Camp (Ghadge Maharaj School)

> 1st Tuesday **Janwadi, Gokhalenagar**

> > 3rd Tuesday **Diveghat**

4th Tuesday Nagar Road, Chandan Nagar

Alternate Wednesday **Dehu Road**

Thursday Mulla Road, Khadki

1st Friday **Hanuman Tekdi**

2nd and 4th Friday **Pashan**

1st and 4th Saturday **Yerwada**

> 2nd Saturday Kondhwa



Mobile Medical Van 2 (New) Coverage Details:

Ailments, diseases and illnesses abound increasingly in shanties and run-down sections of urban habitats. Thus, in order to make medical facilities easily available and to encourage the inhabitants to avail of these no cost services to bring about healing and restore a sense of wellbeing, these camps are mainly conducted in hutment areas of Pune like - Dias Plot, Kashivadi, Lohiyanagar , Katraj, Tadiwala Road, as well as other places such as - Ganjpeth, Yerawada, Shaninagar, Ambegaon, Mazdoor Addas of upper Indiranagar, Waraje Mazdoor Addas, etc. Apart from visits to Phulgaon Village on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, these vans also offer Medical Services to certain orphanages as well as labourers at construction sites. The youth wing members wholeheartedly support this most relevant initiative.

MONTH	TOTAL CAMPS IN MONTH	TOTAL PATIENTS
APRIL 2015	6 CAMPS	415
MAY 2015	16 CAMPS	1134
JUNE 2015	19 CAMPS	1667

- On April 24, wholesome food was lovingly prepared by devotees of Pimpri-Chinchwad and around 500-600 food packets were collected and distributed to the devout gathering and warkaris at Alandi.
- Across the months of April, May, June, 11 bags of **dry ration** were distributed to the needy in different areas of the city.
- In the month of May, 40 sarees were given to needy women and rag pickers in different areas.
- On May 5, on the eve of Eashwaramma Day, devotees visited the **Leprosy Home** and presented sarees to 70 elderly ladies. Also, biscuit packets were distributed to 180 men and women.
- On May 30 and June 28, devotees conducted a **Medical Camp** and carried out Narayan Seva at the Sarthak Orphan Ashram at Ambale Village.
- On May 30, 96 kgs of rice were given to 130 girls and 96 women at Maher Home, Vadgaon Budruk.



Regular Seva...

At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.

— Mother Teresa

- Members assemble at the Pediatric ward of Sassoon Hospital for Narayan Seva, every Sunday. Serving patients of various wards as well as their relatives who may not have proper facilities for food, the youth collect food packets made by devotees and distribute them along with fruits and biscuit packets.
- Needy patients at the hospital are given medical aid in the form of medicines.
- Every first Sunday, Nagarsankirtan is held at the Hanuman Mandir, Camp.

Evergreen Messages..

"Mamaivaamso Jeevaloke
Jeevabhootha Sanatanah" (The Eternal
resides in every being in the world as a
fragment of Mine) says the Lord in the
Gita. We have to develop the faith that
it is the same Lord Who dwells in all
beings as a spark of the Divine. You are
not the body. You are not even a
separate spirit. You are a fragment of
the Divine. – Baba

Liberation happens when you love every being so intensely that you are aware of only One. Soak your heart in Love. Then you attain God soonest. - Baba

At the end, knowledge, love and action mingle together. To those seeking knowledge He is Eternal Light, clear and radiant as the Sun at noonday, in which is no darkness; to those struggling for virtue He is Eternal Righteousness, steadfast and impartial; and to those emotionally inclined He is Eternal Love and Beauty of Holiness.

- Radhakrishnan on Hindu Moral Life and Action By Aloysius Michael

Like the glow of the flame in a fire, like the rays of the sun, like waves in the ocean, Divine Love is the basic quality of a true human being. - Baba

Youth Seva...

The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But...the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Memories are made of such heartwarming moments...!

This is the story of Prashant Nalawade, who journeys through life as a physically challenged person who is flowing with courage and determination. Though differently-abled, Prashant proved himself quite capable, maneuvering himself 9 kms on his hand-cycle to his place of work at Deccan Education Society at F C Road from his home at Karvenagar Wadarvasti. His fortitude saw him through this enormous effort.

However, his struggle was known to Beloved Bhagawan...and, at the right time a shower of Divine Grace embraced Prashant's life when...Sai Hands (Hands of Sai) stepped in, empowered by an angelic endeavour to ease out his hardship and smoothen his existence.

On Thursday, 21st May 2015, Prashant's dream came true! It was celebration time!

Bhajans expressing gratitude to Bhagawan were held and during the course of the evening a brand new Activa was handed over to Prashant.

All hearts were full of delight, even more so when, with tears of joy, Prashant revealed that during his childhood, a lady would visit the Home for the Physically Challenged at Wanowrie and hold Balvikas lessons. At that time, he too had the good fortune to attend these classes! The Lord connects us all in mysterious ways!





Nagar Road Seva...

Bear all, do nothing; Hear all, say nothing; Give all, take nothing; Serve all, be nothing.

- Baba

- Veda practice class is held every Tuesday from 7 pm 8 pm at 'Asanjo' in Kalyani Nagar.
- Veda chanting classes are also being conducted for Balvikas children. The children attend these classes in large numbers on the first Sunday of every month, between 8 am and 10 am, at Sai Centre, Neco Garden.
- Veda classes are also being conducted regularly every Saturday and Sunday at Bramha Sun City, Wadgaon Sheri.
- Every month, devotees visit the Maher Ashram and regularly conduct Narayan Seva for the children at the orphanage.
- On every second Thursday of the month, protein food is given to the parents at the Pediatric Ward at Sassoon Hospital.
- Every month, Rudram recital is held on the Ardra Star Day. During this sacred hour, the environment also reverberates with Ganesha Atharva Shirsham, as well as Purusha Suktam.

Sahakar Nagar Seva...

Though my work may be menial, though my contribution may be small, I can perform it with dignity and offer it with unselfishness. My talents may not be great, but I can use them to bless the lives of others. The goodness of the world in which we live is the accumulated goodness of many small and seemingly inconsequential acts.

- Gordon B. Hinckley

- Every first Sunday of the month, **Ekadash Rudram** chanting is held at the Shirdi Sai Mandir at Pune-Satara Road from 9 am 12 noon.
- On the first Thursday of every month, devotees participate in the **Public Bhajan** which is held at the Shirdi Sai Mandir on Pune-Satara Road, from 7-8 pm.
- On the third Sunday of every month, Samiti Bhajan is conducted at a devotee's residence opposite Bharatiya Vidyapeeth, Pune-Satara Road.
- Narayan Seva is carried out at the St Hilda's Girls Hostel, Guruvar Peth, on every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.
- On 24th April Maha Narayan Seva was conducted and food packets were lovingly distributed in and around Ganjpeth and Sahakar Nagar.
- 30th May was a beautiful heartwarming experience for 45 devotees who took part in a group bhajan held at 'Baba Nivas', Sri Sathya Sai Panduranga Kshetra, Hadshi.
- As a part of the upcoming 90th Birthday Celebrations of our Beloved Lord, a series of 90 bhajans has been initiated. These bhajans are being held on a rotational basis in the homes of devotees.
- Devotees of this area deem it an honour to participate in the recently inducted 2nd Medical Van services and play a significant role as and when the camps are conducted

Camp Seva...

The trials and turmoils, the search and sorrow - these are the same in quality for all. The responsive heart listens to these with sympathy and answers with Love.

- Baba

- Fruits and biscuits are distributed at **Sassoon Hospital** every Sunday.
- Balvikas classes are conducted every Friday at 8/6 Atur Park from 5.30 pm - 6.45 pm; They are also an ongoing endeavor at Rose Parade, NIBM Road as well as at Bramha Estate, Kondhwa. Classes are also held every Sunday at the School for the Physically Challenged at Wanowrie from 10 am – 11 am for 140 students.
- **Balvikas** classes also take place regularly at Bhairwadi Village, 50 kms away from Pune.
- Medical Camps are held: Every 1st and 3rd Monday at Ghadge Maharaj School, Koregaon Park; Every second Saturday of the month at Salunkhe Vihar; Every second Tuesday at Undri; Every first Saturday of the month at Tadiwala Road.
- Medical Van Seva is also carried out for villagers at Bhairwadi Village on the first Sunday of every month.
- On the day of Ugadi, Green Mahotsav was held in tune with the Vanamahotsav activity. Approximately 20-25 trees were planted at the Sankat Haran Mahadev Mandir, near NIBM.
- A Summer Camp was organised between 15th and 24th April. The ten-day event was mostly based on the reality shows being featured on television. It was an interesting parent-children-trainer intense program. Hands-on activities, role-plays, team building, presentations were the core tools used to represent the ideas. Small artifacts created by the children were sold on the last day of the event. The aim of the various events was to endorse the values of Balvikas. It also served to generate interest among local children to participate in Balvikas programs. Approximately 45 children participated. The highlight was the involvement of 10 Balvikas children from the slums. The seamless blending of children across boundaries was highly appreciated.
- To give relief from the sweltering heat of the summer season, buttermilk was served to more than 100 labourers at a construction site near Clover Palisade, Undri.
- In May, to commemorate Swami's beloved elephant Sai Gita's anniversary, a programme was organized for Balvikas children at the Katraj Zoo, wherein an elephant was adopted for a day under the "Adopt an Animal Scheme". Under this scheme of the zoo, by contributing a nominal amount towards the food and maintenance of any animal, one can adopt the animal for a day.
- **Umbrellas and Slippers** were distributed to the underprivileged in different parts of the city to tide over the monsoon weather.
- Festival of Joy is a series of events planned for Balvikas through the year to celebrate Bhagawan's 90th birthday. Details are enumerated in the activities of Balvikas. From Camp Samiti, Kaustubh Dhayal and Pragya Megrajani stood third in the 'Slogan Writing and Poster making' Competition.
- Six children from Camp Samiti participated in the Veda Chanting competition (Samiti Level) organised on June 18. Aditi, from Camp Samiti was selected for the District Level competition.



Kothrud Samiti Seva...

Protect your enthusiasm from the negativity and fear of others. Never decide to do nothing just because you can only do little. Do what you can. You would be surprised at what "little" acts have done for our world.

Steve Maraboli

(Unapologetically You: Reflections on Life and the Human Experience)

- On 21st April, Veda Chanting was held from 6 am to 6 pm at Ganeshdeep, Kothrud.
- On 24th April, Maha Narayan Seva was conducted in Mogarwadi, as well as surrounding villages, wherein rice pulav and sweet boondi was served door to door to all residents.
- **Gayatri Mantra** encircled the environment on 1st May, as devotees gathered at Ganeshdeep to wholeheartedly chant and pray for the unfortunate victims of the earthquake in Nepal.

PCMC Seva...

God is Love; so, you must become Love in order to merge with Him. God is beauty, so be beauty. God is compassion, so be compassionate.

- The Pimpri unit has been blessed with the opportunity of annadaan on the third Saturday of every month at the Mother Teresa Home at Chinchwad.
- Narayan Seva is also carried out once a month at the old age home 'Kinara' at Rupinagar.
- Seva is being organised fortnightly by the PCMC Samiti for the brick kiln workers at the brick kilns near Ravet and Dehuroad. Besides medical treatment, this also includes promotion of positive health through fortification of their daily diet by encouraging them to grow their own vegetables in surrounding plots of land. Vegetable seeds and immunity restoring tonics are being provided to them. A fortified nutritive diet is being made available for young expectant mothers in collaboration with the local anganwadi, besides provision of routine antenatal care, including iron supplementation, tetanus immunisation, blood investigations and facility for ultrasonography through collaboration with local radiologists.
- An attempt is also being made to encourage literacy among the adolescent school drop outs. Early age at marriage and consequent teenage pregnancy is the prevalent cultural and social norm among these labourers. Taking this as a challenge, our dedicated seva dal has been encouraging these adolescent girls to read and write while also imparting life skills to them.

- With the onset of the monsoon, seva activities at the brick kiln gathered momentum. Besides their routine protein food supplement, 'under 5' children at the brick kiln were treated to milk, which turned out to be a delight for them, since this appeared to be a scarce commodity among these children!
- Other endeavours, like Balvikas, medical treatment for ailments affecting the labourers, protein food and milk supplementation are fortnightly activities at the brick kiln.

















 The International Yoga Day was celebrated by the PCMC Samiti on Sunday, 21st June 2015 at Pyramid Hall, Shahu Nagar. Twenty-six yoga aspirants participated in the Yoga Shibir organised. A seasoned Yoga Guru Mrs Prabha Gujarati, who has more than 25 years of experience in Yoga, conducted the Shibir. All the participants resolved to lead a healthy life based on Yoga.







Phulgaon Samiti Seva...

Service to humanity is service to God. Let the love and light of the Kingdom radiate through you until all who look upon you shall be illumined by its reflection. Be as stars, brilliant and sparkling in the loftiness of their heavenly station.

– Abdu'l Baha

- Medical Camps are held at Phulgaon every 1st, 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.
- Narayan Seva is conducted every Sunday at the Matimand Vidyalaya for children with special needs.
- Efforts are on to turn Phulgaon into a 'Swachch and Adarsh Village'. Dry and wet garbage is separated and 800 dustbins for the dry garbage have been distributed to the residents. The wet garbage, on the other hand, is converted into compost to be used for the benefit of the crop. Each home in the village will have easy access to the road as well as the convenience of a street lamp. The water purification plant is another highlight of these efforts and is aimed at getting hygienic, purified water for all the villagers. The village now has an underground drainage system in place and the drainage water, through the aeration method, will be naturally recycled to be reused for farming purposes.
- A regular survey is conducted of those suffering from various ailments and they are taken to the PHC (Primary Health Care Center) for further treatment.
- The entire Gram Panchayat is computerized thus facilitating a foolproof, prompt and systematic service for any official work. The Gram Panchayat is also ISO 9001:2008 certified.
- On June 21, International Yoga Day was celebrated which saw 1000 participants from the Sainik School and the Hari Uddhav Dhotre School doing yoga and pranayam under the guidance of a trained Yoga Guru from the Art of Living Foundation.
- Farmers' Week was celebrated in the beginning of July at Phulgaon. Scientist Dr Jagtap visited the village along with senior administrative officers of the Government Agricultural Department. Dr Jagtap gave a talk and advised the farmers on various topics like poultry, cattle, organic farming, with a special focus on the entire sugarcane farming process. He spoke about how to increase the productivity of

sugarcane, per acre tonnage and so on. The next day, the Deputy Commissioner of the districts that come under Pune Administrative Division, spent four hours at the village, checking the gram panchayat. He went through the records and gave advice on important topics like how to become a "nirmal" gram.















Balvikas PCMC...

We may not be able to prepare the future for our children, but we can at least prepare our children for the future.

- President Franklin D. Roosevelt

Award-winning essay by 15-year-old Ankitha Sai Venkata, a Balvikas student. This was sent through her school to Rama Chandra Mission. It was a national level competition conducted to encourage spiritual thoughts in children and youth. This time, the title was 'To thine ownself be true'. Ankitha stood second in Maharashtra.

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life,' said Steve Jobs, a man known for breaking the stereotypical limitations of technology. He was a man who did what he believed in and could never be suppressed when it came to touching new frontiers. Why is it that everyone speaks of him with such a high regard? It is simply because he was not afraid to be true to himself, rose through all the negative criticism he got and was determined to fulfill what he believed in. He was fired from Apple Co., and was termed as a complete failure but he bounced back and has turned Apple into one of the world's most valuable brands. He had faith in his capabilities and was not afraid to fight for what he thought was correct.

As a teenager living in such a modernized world, we go through many struggles daily in order to do what we feel is correct. We face moral dilemmas everywhere and see many of our classmates and friends falling prey to peer pressure, a commonly discussed topic everywhere around the world. Things such as cheating in tests, using electronics in the middle of lectures and bunking classes are done by a major population of our classmates, yet we must try very hard to not succumb to such a low moral level. In schools, the students strive to be termed as a 'popular child' and are frightened of becoming lonely and friendless. I have found that many people around me tend to go with the crowd as they do not want to be an outcast in the school. They don't want to make themselves a target for bullying and just want to fit in. Is it actually worth doing things which you find to be very wrong just so you can fit in with the crowd? They try to act like the children who are very popular and are very easily influenced by them. They end up becoming a replica of those children to a level where they have forgotten who they really are 'inside'. Oscar Wilde once said, "Most people are other people. Their thoughts are someone else's' opinions, their lives a mimicry, their passions a quotation."We should not have a metamorphic personality where we change our beliefs and values just to please other people. We should be associated with people who like us for who we are and don't expect us to change for them. I don't think that the popularity you may get for doing the wrong thing is worth the guilt you feel deep inside you. We should be mentally strong enough and have confidence in ourselves to fight, if needed, for what we believe is right. If anybody is doing something wrong such as bullying or cheating, we should be brave enough and confident enough to tell them they are wrong. It is quite difficult to stand up to our classmates and it definitely takes a lot of courage.

Whenever we want to do something good in life, we need to have the determination and fearless attitude to achieve our goal. Our focus when trying to reach our goal should be unwavering and we should never give up halfway in our journey to achieve our goal. This, however, will not be easy. We are bound to be made the target of many negative remarks. A famous person once said, "No matter how good a person you are, there will always be someone criticizing you." One of the best examples of this quote is Mahatma Gandhi. He received loads of negative comments for the mountain he was attempting to climb but he believed in what he thought was the right thing to do and he continued his struggle. Now, we have such a beautiful nation, free from unfair British rule, all thanks to him. Not just our forefathers but also nowadays, athletes receive so much criticism right after one bad match but that doesn't stop them from giving it their best in the next match. This leads us to the question of whether criticism should be ignored or taken into consideration. I definitely think that criticism should not be ignored completely and heed should be paid to it to a certain extent. If you feel that the criticism being thrown at you is correct and would make you better at whatever you are doing, you should definitely take that criticism and make it constructive. However, if the criticism you are receiving is asking you to change drastically and violate your personal rules and guidelines, it is okay to ignore it. An anonymous quote states, "Don't mind criticism. If it is untrue, disregard it. If it is justified, learn from it."

When Shakespeare said, "To thine ownself, be true" he was trying to tell us to be strong in what we believe in. We should not be easily affected by the opinion of the people around us but we should still accept constructive criticism. In the Indian culture, we give a lot of importance to the lotus flower as it grows in very dirty and murky water but turns out to become such a lovely, beautiful and pure flower. Just as the lotus flower, we too must strive to become unaffected by the negativity, bad influences and self-doubts to become wonderful human beings.

Balvikas...

If you raise your children to feel that they can accomplish any goal or task they decide upon, you will have succeeded as a parent and you will have given your children the greatest of all blessings. - Brian Tracy

Raising a child whether yours or not, is being anointed or chosen by God to be the guardian of his kingdom in a form of a child. - Unarine Ramaru

This being a special year to commemorate **Beloved Bhagawan's 90**th **Year of Advent**, Balvikas is celebrating a **'Festival of Joy'**. A variety of events have been organized for BV students ranging from 6 years – 16 years.

The **1**st **event** of this wonderful 'Festival of Joy' was a **Poster/Slogan Competition** and the children were placed in four separate age groups. The topics given to them were –

- 1) Nature Is The Best Teacher (Age Group 6 8 years)
- 2) Love All, Serve All (Age Group 9 10 years)
- 3) Help Ever, Hurt Never (Age Group 11 12 years)

4) God Is Love (Age 15 years and above)

With Swami's blessings, 100 BV children from all Pune Samitis zestfully participated in this creative programme in which three winners from each group were selected.

The 2nd event of this festival is a Veda Chanting Competition. This competition has two levels -Samiti Level and District Level. Once again there has been an overwhelming response from all Samitis. 77 children enthusiastically took part in the Samiti Level contest and they were divided into two groups -Basic and Advance. 33 students were selected to take part in the District Level Competition held on 5th July.







Animals Have Feelings Too...

In my values, animals are the real victims upon this Earth. They didn't declare war, they don't have weapons, and they don't want to destroy humans or impose religion. Their only 'crime' is that they exist. - Amina Tharwat Abaza

An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language. - Martin Buber

To the world she was just another 'stray', conversely, to all those who served at the animal shelter - Jeev Raksha in Pune, this compassionate canine had earned the name - Mother Teresa.

She had spent a lot of time fending for herself on the streets before a good Samaritan brought her into this particular home for abandoned and injured animals, along with her litter of five new born pups. Mumma dogs do have a tough and challenging time anyways, managing their brood all on their own, in addition to this, the monsoon weather made the rough times even rougher. Jeev Raksha did its best for this canine with white / brown patches and her little darlings. However, though this mumma managed to endure the ordeal that she and her family of young ones had gone through, regrettably, her frail pups did not survive.

It so happened, that due to lack of space at the shelter, the helpers had put some abandoned puppies in her cage as a temporary arrangement. Later, during their rounds, these volunteers were elated to find the puppies being

nursed by this lonely mumma dog. This only encouraged them to put any further 'new entrant' puppies in her cage and they were not disappointed, for this canine had the same motherly sentiments for all the puppies that were sent to her. So many little ones survived because of her tender care and the shower of timely loving attention. She would not only suckle them, but lick and clean them constantly, gather them close, curving her body around them, keeping them warm and safe, just as though they were her own. Inspired by her kind and gentle demeanour, that radiated so much love, the volunteers at Jeev Raksha christened her—Mother Teresa.

She was even given a special enclosure of her own so that she could continue her 'seva' undisturbed...and miraculously she continued to nurse forsaken newborns for at least four and a half months!

This canine 'Mother Teresa' that sweetly wagged her tail as an affectionate welcome to all forsaken puppies surely set a trail and a tale for many human beings to emulate.





Ashadhi Dindi Warkari Medical Seva...

For three days, Pune city delightedly played host to the warkaris and their steadfast devotion, unflinching faith and unmatched love for Lord Vitthala. The environment rang out with sacred hymns dedicated to Vitthala, Tukaram and Jnanadev. During these days, medical camps were organized for these devotees in different parts of the city. The first camp was held at PCMC in Nigdi on Friday, July 10, followed by camps in Pune City at Ganj Peth, Rasta Peth, Somvar Peth, Ramoshi Gate and Bhairoba Nala. Two medical vans were used for this seva. The total number of patients served by the first van were around 2479 and by the second van were around 1733.

Members of the Youth Wing actively participated in all the camps and were present with both the medical vans. Youth Wing members also distributed around 850 guddani (chikki) during these camps. They were thankful to Swami for giving them the opportunity to serve His devotees. Swami's Presence was felt throughout this three-day seva; it was only with His blessing and grace that all the camps went off so well and they could reach out to so many warkaris en route to Pandharpur.











































































Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya...

Here is a devotee's understanding of Swami's ever-shining grace and love that melted the darkness of stress that overwhelms when faced with a beloved parent's suffering...

On a warm sunny day, Broke a sudden thunderstorm, Bringing devastation in its wake, An illness so dark, Yet there seemed to be always a spark,

A flicker of light,

A ray of hope,

That all was not lost.

A trial of patience, endurance and love, The Lord sat even in the hospital ward,

In the form of a life size statue of His Shirdi Sai Avatar

As if to say, 'Why fear, when I am here? Through all the despair, darkness and gloom, He guided me to look for His light, To have hope and faith, In His light shining within, And to wait for the dark clouds to part, To reveal His splendor,

Stream forth joy and mirth, healing and grace!

And let the warm sunshine,

Lessons to Learn...from the Darkness of Reaction to the Light of Response...

A woman was waiting at an airport one night, with several long hours before her flight. She hunted for a book in the airport shops, bought a bag of cookies and found a place to drop. She was engrossed in her book but happened to see, that the man sitting beside her, as bold as could be...grabbed a cookie or two from the bag in between, which she tried to ignore to avoid a scene. So she munched the cookies and watched the clock, as the gutsy cookie thief diminished her stock. She was getting more irritated as the minutes ticked by, thinking, "If I wasn't so nice, I would blacken his eye."

With each cookie she took, he took one too, when only one was left, she wondered what he would do. With a smile on his face, and a nervous laugh, he took the last cookie and broke it in half. He offered her half, as he ate the other, she snatched it from him and thought - Oh, brother, this guy has some nerve and he's also rude, why he didn't even show any gratitude!

She had never known when she had been so galled, and sighed with relief when her flight was called. She gathered her belongings and headed to the gate, refusing to look back at the thieving ingrate. She boarded the plane, and sank in her seat, then she sought her book, which was almost complete. As she reached in her baggage, she gasped with surprise, there was her bag of cookies, in front of her eyes. If mine are here, she moaned in despair, the others were his, and he tried to share. Too late to apologize, she realized with grief, that she was the rude one, the ingrate, the thief. (The Cookie Thief by Valerie Cox/Inspirational Stories.com)

Too often, we are ever-ready to jump to conclusions and blame others till the light of understanding and revelation through certain circumstances awakens the conscience and dissolves the trend of such dark thoughts.

Heart to Heart... ... a personal experience by one of us...

My mother was diagnosed with cancer in 1967 when little was known about cancer in the country and treatment options were few and far between. She was only 55 years of age but she took the news in her stride and faced the surgeon's scalpel with amazing calm and fortitude. Her philosophy was that if it was time for her to go, even the best of surgeons could not save her, and if it was not, then the worst of surgeons could not kill her. There was a Master Surgeon 'up there' and it was in His Hands where she would place herself. It brought little comfort to us, her children and our father, but that was her belief.

Two or three years later, my parents went to Puttaparthi for the first time. Swami immediately told her that He knew what her problem was. He offered her two choices: He could completely cure her but it was her karma and she would have to carry over her karmas to her next birth, or she could cope with her illness. My mother opted to deal with her illness and only asked Swami to give her the strength to bear whatever pain and suffering she would have to face.

This He did in full measure and while she survived till the age of 80, she underwent many health problems. A heart attack, eye surgeries, a stroke leading to semi-paralysis, followed by a minor stroke a year later, and then her cancer returned. She had immense faith in Swami and it was only at the end of her life, that she used to stand in front of Swami's picture and ask Him in despair why there was no space for her near Him. Otherwise, for more than 20 years, she bore all her illnesses with total stoicism and courage with Swami's grace strongly behind her.

When she finally passed away 3 months short of her 81st birthday, Swami gave us many signs that she had reached Him safely. A cousin's son saw her sitting on Swami's lap the same night smiling and ever so happy. My sister's son saw her 4 or 5 days later in a boat crossing to the other side of the sea with Swami.

"Paar karo udhar karo, hey Parthipuri Bhagawan" she often sang. And indeed, Swami had helped her cross to the other side of the world, safely and eternally at His feet, something for which she had been yearning.

Get Inspired...

A 100-year-old grand old man saw his grandson having a heated discussion with his wife. He asked his grandson, "Why do you raise your voice when you are angry with your wife?"

Grandson: That is because I lose patience and that is why I raise my voice. **Grandpa:** But, your wife is near to you only. She can hear you even when you say the same sentence in a calm manner. Why do you have to raise your

Grandson: Because when I raise my voice, my voice is heard and I also let out the steam by raising my voice.

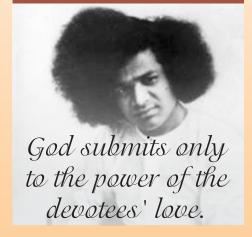
Grandpa: That is not the exact reason my dear grandson. The reason is this. When you are angry with your wife, your heart moves away from her heart. So even when both of you are physically close to each other, you feel that you are far away from one another and hence raise your voice. Grandson: If that is the reason for raising the voice, what do we do when we are in love?

Grandpa: When two people are in love, their hearts are close to each other. Even if you whisper softly, you both can hear very clearly. At such times one can communicate with their loved ones even through the language of silence.

Life is a gift

(http://www.videoinspiration.net /blog/inspirational-famous-short

Refresh Yourself...



Protect The Planet.

Be aware...and beware...it is up to us to care for our environment. Our concern, commitment and contribution can grant Earth a fresh lease...so save trees...

A particular housing society in Pune has many beautiful trees. The gorgeous Gulmohur, the mighty Evergreen, the tree most associated with Mother Sita – the amiable Ashoka, the modest Mango trees, a few Neem, Fig and Jamun and the majestic Banyan too, to name a few. Mostly all residents had taken the presence of this wondrous foliage for granted except for some of those who had that 'much required' extra love for the environment and were aware of the threat it faced. Perhaps the others did care; however, living in the fast lane of life they seemed not to have the time to do something for the peril faced by the plants, trees and the surroundings, leaving it all up to the efforts of the next person.

It so transpired that some of the residents, namely three, in their own individual way, found out that these precious trees were to be 'trimmed'. Having experienced such a scenario in the past and knowing full well that the ones who come for such an 'axe wielding' activity do not know the difference between trimming and hacking, since they hold no particular sentiments or love for the trees and for them it is just a job to finish, one of these ladies had printed out a letter to the managing committee to involve concerned members to monitor the trimming as and when it did take place. Two of these 'concerned' ladies took off to the administrative offices to seek some kind of assistance for this upcoming project. They shunted from one bureau to another for guidance and at last reached the right authorities - PMC's Garden Department Office at Sambhaji Park. There they met with the person-in-charge who gave an assurance that he would immediately help them out when the need arose. They were to notify him at once since it was a national/global project to create awareness about saving trees...and so too, to protect our flora and fauna. The onus was on every

citizen to take active participation in the green movement

The relief from this assertion was short lived, for by the time these ladies came back to base, unknown to them, when their backs were turned, the tree trimming had commenced... and, just as they had suspected, it was not trimming, it was brutal hacking. As one of these ladies walked her dog around the society compound she was shocked to see the massacre the trees had faced. Huge, gigantic branches had been chopped off. Her fury was understandable. She quickly called her friend and after doing another 'rekki', they straight away confronted the chairman of the society, who just would not admit to his fault nor acknowledge how much he had erred. He kept saying he had taken permission for this assignment. When asked why he had ignored the letter requesting their involvement in this activity and just who had supervised this whole 'trimming' operation...he had no specific answer. It was found out that the plumber cum handyman of the colony was put as 'charge d'affaires'...huge branches innumerable years old were hacked and sold...not many were aware of this money making racket. Some elderly residents openly shed tears at this despicable act, for the trees had been their lifelong companion.

The chairman was directed to put a stop to the next day's 'trimming' until further notice or he would have to face the consequences. World over people were involved in saving trees and here there was an attitude of sheer nonchalance. Was money making more vital than our essential heritage? Have we even spared a thought as to what are we bequeathing upon our children? Would they have to pay for our ignorance, our gross negligence, our attitude of indifference and callous disregard for Nature...left with only pictures of trees and certain animals thrust into extinction...all due to gross human neglect? Don't we know nor have gratitude for all that we receive from our natural habitat...? Would Nature have to accede victory to a terrain made up of only concrete...? Isn't it time to change our

lackadaisical attitude?

Being cautious, these ladies had asked the security guards and the gardener to keep a watch and to inform them if at all the private firm that had been assigned this trimming work came in the next day. Sure enough information was received that they were all ready to start their toil in the morning. When the chairman went back on his word and refused to cooperate, these ladies quickly got on the case and called up the officer at the PMC Garden Dept. He spoke to the chairman and ordered him to stop the work and also said that he was on his way to the society to check the damage and destruction.

The officer arrived soon enough and after his rounds, he wanted to put a case on the society along with a fine. Though the society had got permission to trim, they had gone way beyond the stipulated measurements, as regards the inches to be trimmed and the number of branches to be cut. This had been clearly mentioned in the letter granting consent for this task.

That is when the chairman looked visibly worried. All the other committee members gathered around trying to placate the officer. They even tried to take him aside and assure him a nice favour in return for the goodwill of overlooking this blunder. However the ladies were vigilant and the officer was firm. Needless to say the committee members got a sounding off.

They apologised to the ladies, who in turn asked them to seek forgiveness from the trees and Mother Nature for disrespecting and not valuing her bounty. The matter came to a close when the ladies asked the officer not to book charges as yet, and to give a warning to the managing committee that in future no trimming should take place without their involvement.

A few days later one of the leading city newspapers carried an article wherein a chairman of another society was jailed for allowing trees to be cut down in the society compound.

God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools. - John Muir

??? Question Time ??? To React or to Respond? What would 'you' choose? ... For reaction is anger and response is love.

Situation: Almost every day we come across situations where we are given the opportunity to exercise a choice - to speak the truth or tell a lie. In such circumstances, what would you prefer to do? Would you utter an untruth to get out of a sticky situation or perhaps to seek attention or would you rather speak the truth however hard it may be at the time? Is it fear that makes you tell a lie – isn't it better and brave to face the fear with truth than to give into the quicksand of lies? Does a lie come easily to your tongue or do you make efforts to resist, trying your best to stick to the path of sathya? Do you believe that several more lies will be needed to cover up for that one lie? You may get away with one or two untruths but do you conceal a niggling fear that falsehood may eventually catch up with your life and taint your character?

Response: (The answers in bold are in Swami's words)

- Uttering truth is easy. But indulging in falsehood is tortuous process. One has to take a lot of trouble to cover up one lie with more lies.
- People feel that adhering to truth is difficult. Actually it is uttering untruth
 that creates difficult problems. All kinds of plans have to be made to cover
 up a lie. But to stick to the facts as they are is easy. One cannot always
 avoid committing a wrong but one should learn the lesson from it and

avoid repeating it.

- Truth is one's real nature and when you are yourself, there comes a great flood of joy welling up within you. When you deny yourself and deceive yourself, shame darkens your mind and breeds fear.
- There is no greater Dharma than adherence to truth. You need have no fear as long as you adhere to truth. It is the liar who is haunted by fear.
- Oh, what a tangled web we weave; when first we practice to deceive.
 -Anonymous
- Even if you are a minority of one, the truth is the truth. Truth stands, even if there be no public support. It is self-sustained. - Mahatma Gandhi
- The ability to lie is a liability. Anonymous
- Friends, if we be honest with ourselves, we shall be honest with each other.
 Georae MacDonald
- When you tell the truth it will become your past; when you tell a lie it will become your future. - Anonymous
- When in doubt, tell the truth. Mark Twain
- It is better to ultimately succeed with the truth than to temporarily succeed with a lie. *Anonymous*

At His Lotus Feet...

Infinitely Yours... Infinite is Yours...

A search begins each morn...

...a search that continues through till dusk...

...and lingers...

...into yet...

...another beckoning dawn...

You wonder what ...?

You wonder how ...?

You wonder whv...?

Who am i...?

Why am i here...?

How can i uncover reality from the

material veneer...?

How much longer to live in denial...

...lured by the illusory world...

...representing a life...oh, so superficial...? You ponder, introspect, seek and sigh...

The cry of your soul...

... can you any longer deny?

The mind supposes and presupposes, Meandering through the limitless river...

... of thought processes,

Past impressions and future

apprehensions,

Obstruct you from living in the present... Nowhere else will you get that joy,

As you get when you bathe in the bliss within,

...merged in that exalted homecoming...

...exultation most profound...

...you then radiate it to the environment

The bliss within shimmers with the light of eternity...

...thus so...

...the finite body...whispers of infinity...

Infinity ensures...

Infinite is yours...

...when you whisper to the Lord -

This child of Yours...

...yearns evermore for You...

Through the vast endless hours...

... Your...this child...

...is infinitely Yours...

May the unmatched brilliance of the Beloved One,

Light up the way for us...

May we ever be conscious...

...that He exists within each of us, Each atom echoes this fact...

...in a divine chorus,

May we strive to reacquaint ourselves, With the beauty of our soul,

...ever so flawless...

May we...with intense intent realign our

May we attempt to understand...

...our existence and purpose...

May we recoil from all that is monotonous...

...to know ourselves to be radiantly lustrous...

May we ever be aware...

...of our individual owing to the Cosmos...

...to evoke His Presence amongst us... May we ascertain our Truth...

...from the One ever so loving and riahteous...

In so many ways has He shown -

...whatever maybe the terrain...

...never do we remain pathless...

It is time enough to draw grace sumptuously glorious...

To reflect how far have we drifted...

...from the Cosmic Compass...

Thus,

Dear ones...

Upon each of us...

... now lies the tremendous onus...

May we continue to stumble upon inspiring clues,

He sends our way...

...and intends us...

...to unravel splendours wondrous...

...vast in source though appearing

wordless...

May His grace expand our efforts and intensity...

...to so melt His all compassionate heart to relent...

...and appear before us...

...may we then breathe easy...

...content and sanguine -

...that we...

... are not just alive and causeless...

....but have finally got our life back...

Having overcome a gargantuan crisis...

Wholesome prayers to our cherished

...for His love to prevail...

...the light of His compassion...

...the grace of His empathy...

...the transformation only His Presence can herald in...

My dears...

Whisper ceaseless whispers...

Weep and cry earnest tears...

Anchor your ship along the Cosmic shores,

And even as the soul endures...

...remember with certainty...

...Infinite is yours...

Rightfully so,

...when your core intensely appeals for encores,

You leave Him no choice...

...there and then...

The Infinite One is yours...

To That Supreme One...

Forthwith...urgently...unhesitatingly...

Let us whisper...

A myriad adoring whispers –

Come, Oh! Beloved One...

Our love enduringly infinite is Yours...

...and ever will be...

We await Thee...ardently...

Oh! Precious Lord.

...hence so...in unison...

...every heartbeat passionately implores,

And no longer demurs...

...even as we remain...

...infinitely Yours...

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