

Vidyullekha

2026 JANUARY



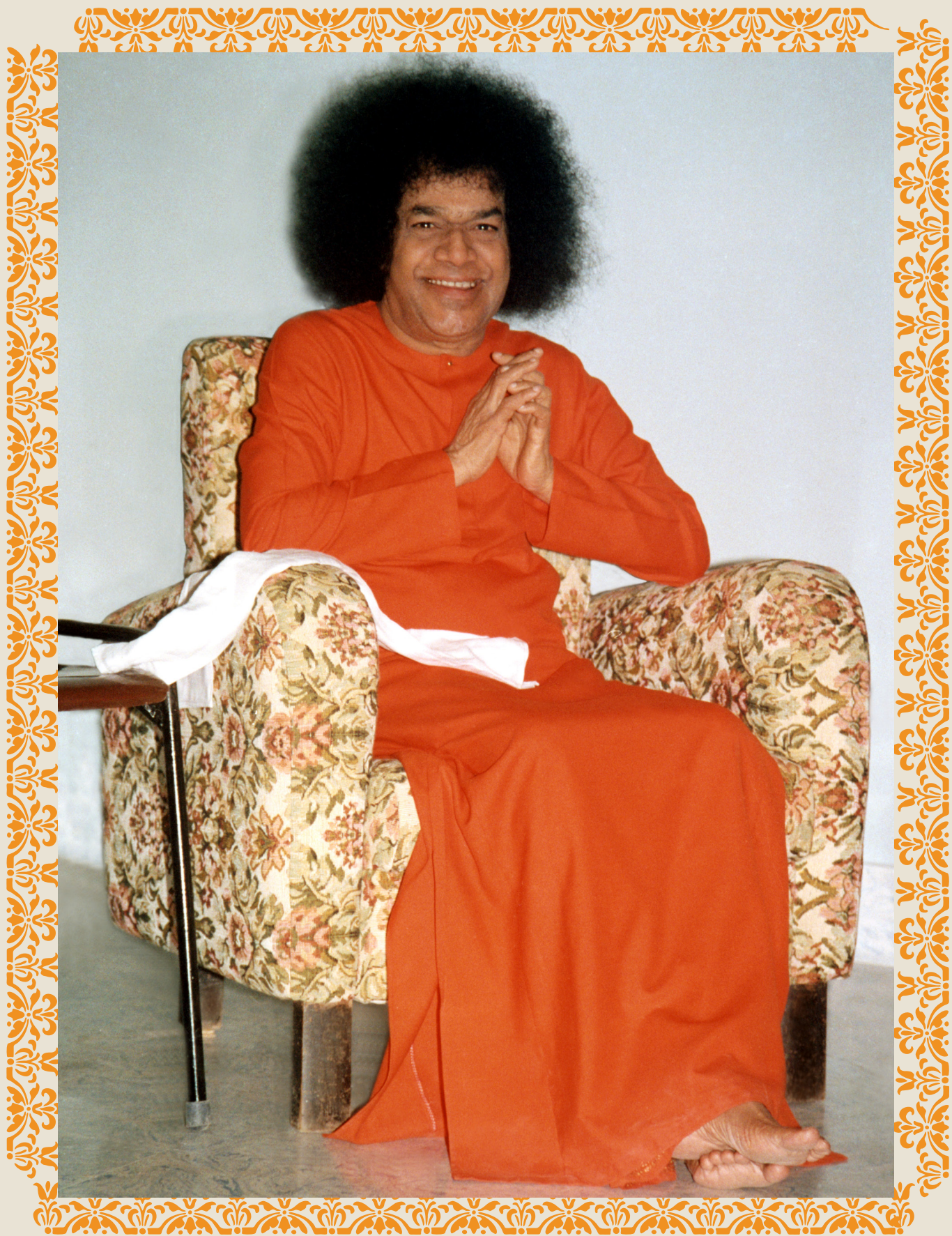
Sri Sathya Sai Alumni





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Letter from the Editor

Aum Sri Sai Ram

Our editorial team generally works with words to transport readers to scenes of Bhagawan blessing students with profound wisdom or joyous moments. Yet today, marking the 100th year of His Divine Advent, we feel inadequate. Mukam karoti Vachalam with His grace, the mute become eloquent. Yet, the same ancient texts describe Him and the indescribable. Yatho vaacho nivartante apraapya Manasa saha, beyond the ken of word and mind.

When the heart is full, words are few. A picture speaks a thousand words. True to that, for this commemorative volume, celebrating the 100th year of the Avatar, we have chosen to go back in time, take our readers back to those captured instances, where our beloved Bhagawan imparted the highest wisdom as indelible memories, to momentous occasions when we sat at His feet while He wrought history for generations. These are Magic Moments, when we reminisce, relive and re-experience His glory, His love, and His Message.

The sheer magnitude of Love and care that the Lord has poured into crafting the lives of students and building our educational institutions over the years is truly indescribable, and words alone cannot do justice to the emotions that permeate every aspect of our sacred campuses. Back when He was accessible physically, Bhagawan would instruct our teachers, Remember these moments when I have graced you with My proximity the memory of these chances will keep you close to Me and make your lives as sweet as now. Taking a leaf out of the book of these very fortunate teachers of ours, looking back at the glorious milestone moments with our dearest Bhagawan that shaped the illustrious legacy He has created for generations, would be the most fitting celebration to begin the glorious year of 2026.

On this special occasion of our celebration of His 100th year, we take joy in inviting you, our reader, to reminisce with us, historic events captured in precious pictures. With a prayer to transport us to His presence. As we believe, every memory of Him is worth all the sacred scriptures and more.

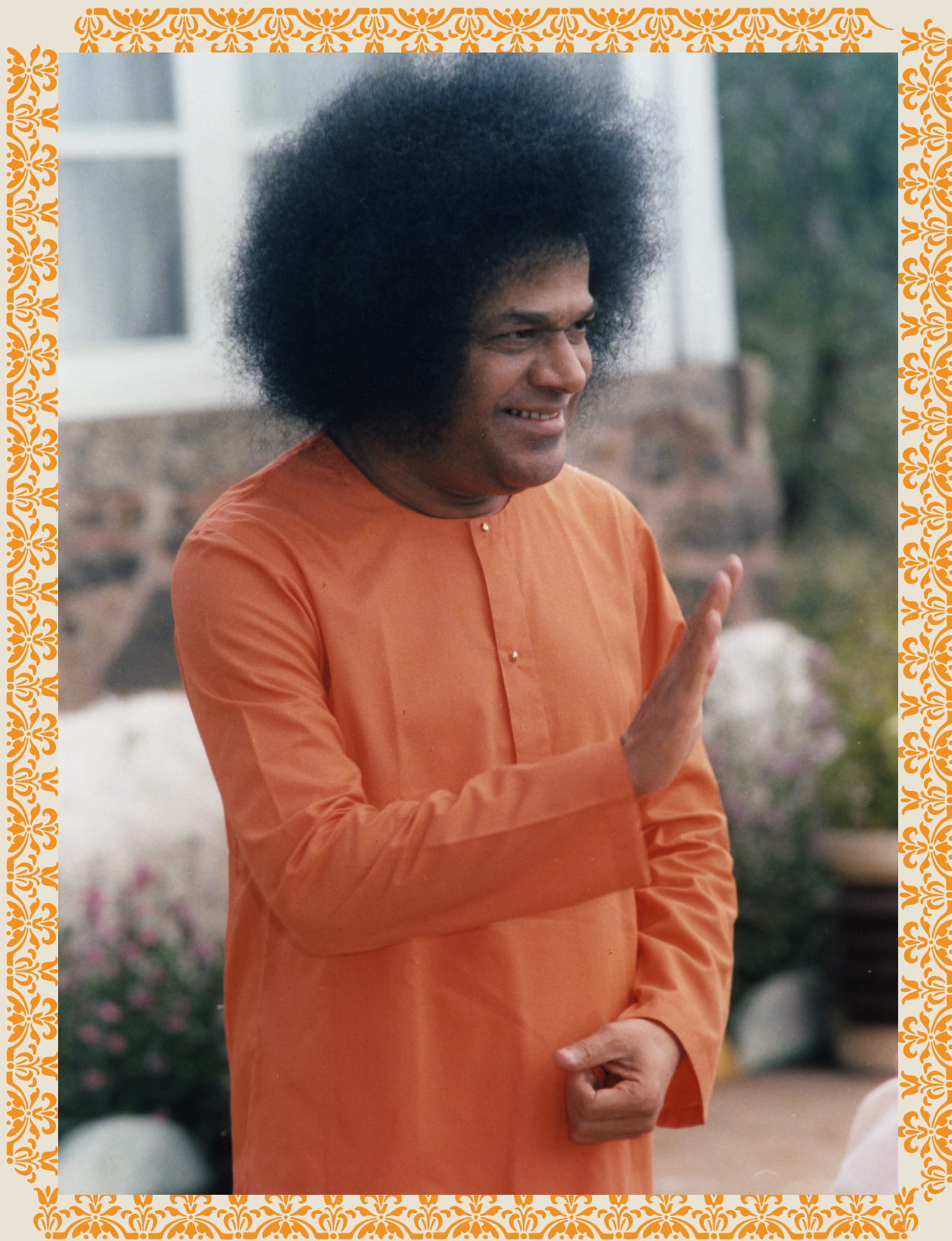
In this Commemorative Volume edition of Vidyullekha we attempt to cover many of the key events in each of the 5 institutions Primary School, Secondary School, Anantapur, Brindavan and Prashanthi Nilayam campuses – graced by our Dearest Swami. Each picture waxes eloquent of His joy behind which lie the effort, pain and sacrifice the Avatar undertook in the crafting and evolution of these sacred institutions to their present stature.

It is our prayer that these pictures will evoke in us His energy and enthusiasm, Love and sacrifice, most important, gratitude to Him for having blessed us to be part of His-Story. May He continue to bless all of us to keep thinking of Him, ever more.

Do share your feedback, dear reader, at vidyullekha@saistudents.org

The team has sourced the His-story behind the images from people who witnessed the picture being taken first hand.

However, as these pictures date back to the last seven decades, in case we missed out anything please do write to us.






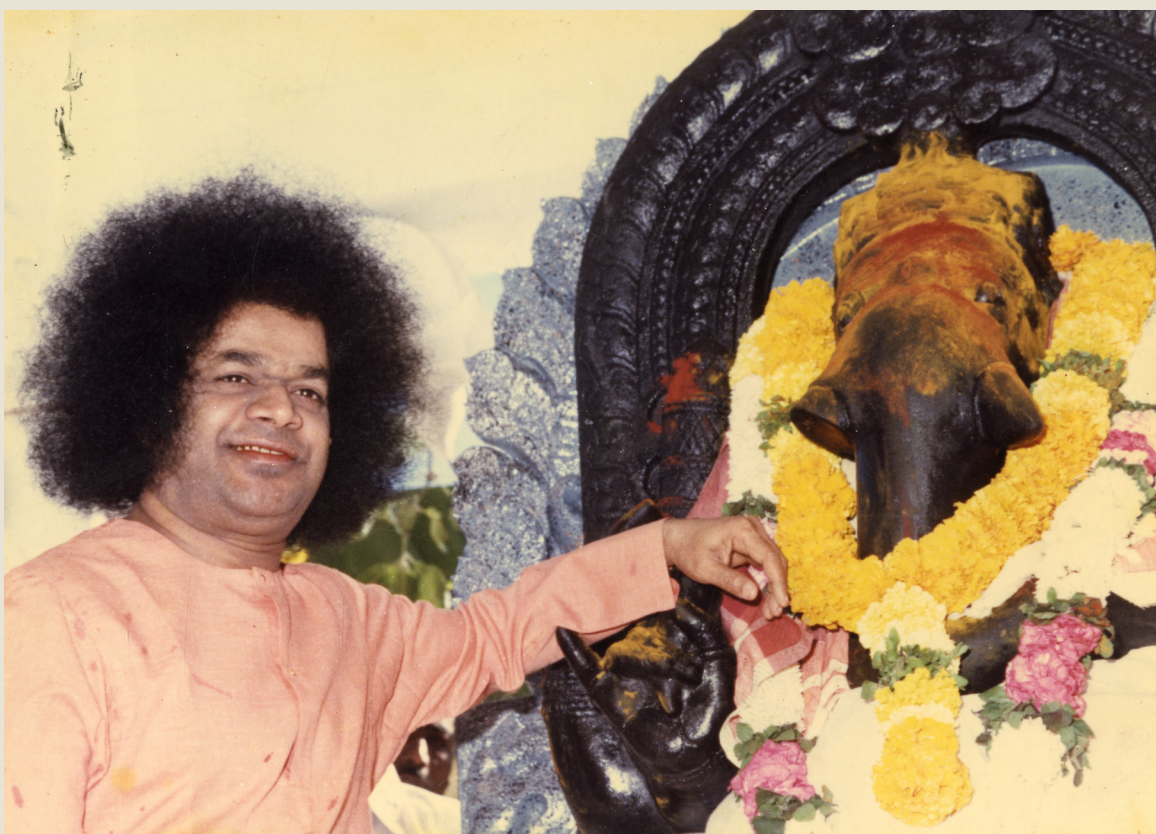
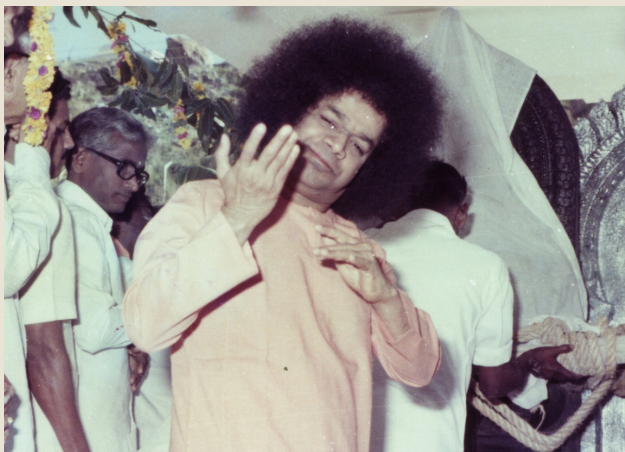
Prasanthi Nilayam Campus

Established in 1979, in Puttaparthi, the Prasanthi Nilayam campus (for men) was fortunate to evolve under the direct supervision of Bhagawan. The Anantapur and Brindavan colleges preceded Prasanthi Nilayam and together the campuses grew under the umbrella of the Deemed University established by Bhagawan in 1981.

The commencement of Post Graduate and Professional courses like MBA (1986), Mtech (1988) & the PhD Programs (1984) in this campus showcased to the world how Bhagawans vision of free education, was to unfold into a high quality academic institution where value based Educare was imparted. Setting up the college & hostel buildings, recruiting faculty of high caliber, setting up the syllabus drawing in luminaries from varied fields of education, Bhagwan did it all. He reminded the world, yet again, of His declaration on Karma Yoga given to Arjuna in the Dwapara Yuga. There is nothing in the three worlds, O Arjuna, that needs to be done by Me, nor is there anything unattained that needs to be attained; yet I engage Myself in action.

The time spent daily by the students with Bhagawan in the mandir or during His visits to the hostel and college was towards that one objective He had declared at the time of establishing the University. This Institute has not been established just to prepare you for earning degrees. The main purpose is to help you cultivate Self-knowledge and Self-confidence, so that each one of you can learn Self-sacrifice and earn Self-realisation.





Bhagawan established the college building at Prasanthi Nilayam on 1st July 1979. The Lord Ganesha, who stands for auspiciousness, new beginnings & remover of obstacles sits right across the quadrangle facing the main entrance.



Nov 1980: Bhagawan accompanied by Col. Joga Rao, architect of the building, entered the premises of the Senior Boys Hostel on the day of Inauguration.



Bhagawan inaugurated the new hostel on 19th November 1980, cutting the ribbon as the Rajamata Gulabkunverba Saheba of Nawanagar stands beside Him. The hostel named Gulabkunverba block replaced the old quarters that once housed the students. A devoted follower, the Rajamata had offered the building to Bhagawan, her kindness remembered through the portrait that greets every visitor at the hostel atrium. Her former residence now forms part of the Brindavan Campus, a quiet testament to her enduring faith.



Nov 1981: Bhagawan on the way up the hill to inaugurate the Administration block of the Institute. Bhagawan is with then Karnataka Chief Minister Sri Gundurao. Justice Y.V. Chandrachud inaugurated the administrative block. Left of image, what is today the Sai Srinivas Guest House was the General Hospital back then.



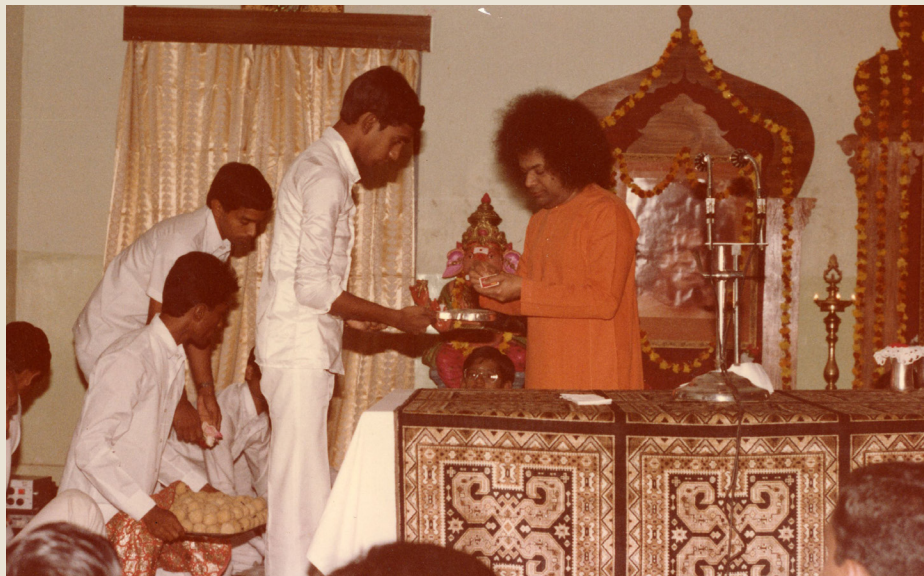
1983: Bhagawan visiting the clearing work done by the students at the site of the current hill view stadium. Hours of toil would disappear with the joy of His presence



1985: Bhagawan reviewing the construction of the central library building & inside the completed library. The central library was inaugurated on Nov 22 of 1985



1980s: Bhagawan as the Founding Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, presiding over the Academic council, in the Administrative Block of the Institute.





Early 1980s: Bhagawan's visits to the hostel -. Bhagawan would visit the hostel at least four times a year. There would be pleasant surprises, impromptu walk-ins to visit a sick boy or inspect the hostel kitchen.



Mid 1980s: Bhagawan blessing the students in the old dining hall, a space filled with quiet devotion. The altar stood near where the dispensary stands today, its presence marking a sacred corner of daily life. Years later, in 1996, the hall expanded to what it is today.



Late 1980's : Bhagawan inspecting one of the hostel rooms, accompanied by Sri. Venkatachalam. The Chancellor of the University, ensuring the quality of the hostel experience. From the menu to the schedule, Bhagawan ensured the best for His students.



Bhagawan distributing Prasadam to visitors in the hostel dining hall. Behind Him stands the familiar Jhula, now a cherished part of the hostels memories. Sri.Venkatachalam holds the tray of sweets, while Sri Kasturi and Sri.Karunyananda and Dr.V.K.Gokak former Vice Chancellor can be seen standing. Seated against the wall, immediately on the left of the wooden frame is Mr. Antonio Craxi from Italy, whose family donated the primary school building at Prasanthi Nilayam a quiet symbol of faith that crossed oceans.



Bhagawan distributing Prasadam to the students in the hostel.

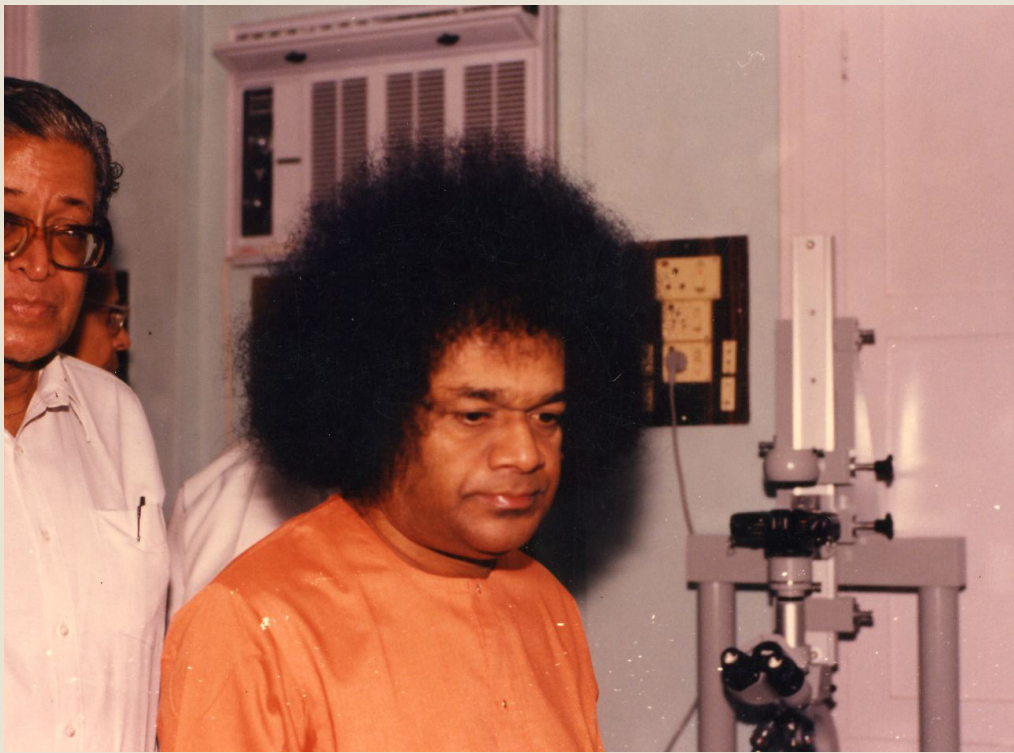




1984: Inauguration of Department of Biosciences in Prasanthi Nilayam. Named V.D. Prasad Rao block. Sri V.D. Prasad Rao was also responsible for construction of Shivam in Hyd.



Inauguration of Department of Biosciences in Prasanthi Nilayam. Bhagawan is flanked by Prof. Saraf then Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mahajan, Prof. Srinivasan and Mr Chakravarti then registrar of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning.





1984: Visit to the Department of Biosciences. In the 2nd row on the left is Sri. V.K. Narasimhan, Editor-in-Chief of Indian Express, before joining as the editor to Sanathan Sarathi in 1987. Others in the picture are UGC representatives, Prof. Somnath Saraf then Vice Chancellor and Prof. Mahajan then Head of Department- Bioscience and director PSN Campus.



1985: Bhagawan walking down the corridors of Prasanthi Nilayam campus. Bhagawan would walk up to the 3rd floor stairs briskly.



Bhagawans visit to the photonics lab in Physics dept parthi. Late Sri Umesh Sir on the Right and Sri.Hirok Changakoti looking through the lens at a hologram of a Swan.



Bhagawan in the college building corridor with Prof.Sampath on Bhagawans left and Prof.Saraf on His Right, faculty, administration staff and students line the corridor.



Bhagawan visiting the Chemistry laboratory



Shed behind stadium – current location of school hostel



1985: Bhagawans visit to Ammagundapalayam to be with boys for the first grama seva by the students in a cluster of villages. This was part of 60th Birthday celebrations of Bhagawan



1987: The iconic Shakaracharya drama, first directed by Bhagawan in 1974 was re-created in 1987. The play was performed over the years thrice by Bhagawan in Mumbai, Bangalore and Prasanthi Nilayam. The details Bhagawan would get into every play & yet on the final day of the event witness the program with all His majesty as a guest of honour is a lesson in leadership.





1990s : "I declare the convocation" open A memorable event for each graduating student of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. The day marks an important milestone in the life of the student when the Oath is administered to the student to Conduct themselves in their daily lives in thought, word, and deed in a manner that befits a member of the Institute; Support the causes of sound learning, humanity, morality, and spirituality to the best of their ability; Uphold and advance the social and all-around welfare of their countrymen and fellow human beings.

1991: 10th Convocation with Sri PV Narasimha Rao.
 1992: 11th Convocation with Sri Shankardayal Sharma
 1995: 14th Convocation with Sri Manmohan Singh



1993-95: This photograph captures one of those cherished evenings when Bhagawan joined the students for dinner. Until 1995, the hostel was shared by school and university students. Pouring water as Bhagawan washes His Hand is Mr. Janardhanan, then school warden, behind him is Dr.Siva Sankara Sai, then warden of PSN campus, with Sri.Venkatachalam and Prof. Lakshminarsimhan standing by.



1995: Though the hostel was inaugurated in 1980, it truly became the students home on Christmas Day, 1982. From then on, Christmas grew into the hostels own festival a day of joy, faith, and togetherness. Bhagawan would visit almost every year. His presence filling the corridors with light and laughter. The Jhula would be placed in the quadrangle, where celebrations took on a unique charm. A student played the role of the Priest, twelve others as cardinals, and verses from the Bible were read aloud in His Presence.



1995: Bhagawan tosses toffees to boys in hostel quadrangle. The concrete stage came up only after 1996. In the late eighties, students would carry benches from the bioscience and physics labs to build a makeshift platform, their effort turning every visit into a celebration born of devotion and ingenuity.



To the north of the quadrangle the students created a tiny garden with a pond, its waters alive with darting fish and shaded by a tamarind tree. Bhagawan inaugurated the garden, crossed the little bridge that arched over the pond. Pausing there, He fed the fishes, turning the quiet corner into a moment of gentle grace.



This serene spot was called Sai Prerana an inspiration at the center of student life. Years later, a garden by the same name blossomed near the music college, carrying the memory forward.





1996: The Second Sai Prerana Garden was inaugurated by Bhagawan on 18th Jan 1996. A dedicated group of students, helped by rotating volunteers worked on it, assisted by Swami's Beloved Elephant, Sai Geeta on one occasion, moving a heavy log from her enclosure into the Garden. On seeing the prototype in 1994, Bhagawan asked apparently in jest, whether it is a play ground or a school. His omniscience manifested later when part of the garden became a play ground and later the entire garden merged into the Mirpuri School of Music.



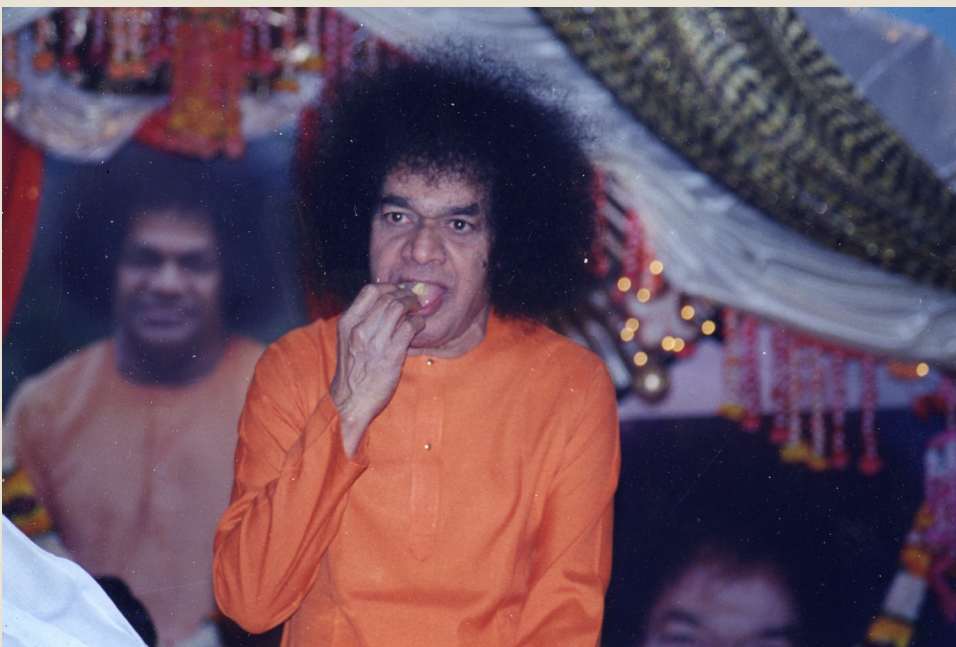
1998- 1999: This photograph captures one of Bhagawans many visits to the hostel, moments that always brought a hush of joy and devotion. Walking just behind Him on the right is Prof. Shivashankara Sai, then the hostel warden. On the other side stands Prof. Lakshminarsimhan, the former Registrar of the University, and behind him, Prof. Nanjundaiah, the Controller of Examinations.



1998 – 1999: Bhagawan stands before a painting lovingly created by one of His students, a quiet smile lighting His face. The spot where He stands is now the stage area, once filled with eager voices and humble offerings. It was around February or March the season of gratitude programs and the students can be seen requesting Bhagawan to speak. The air seems alive with devotion, as if every color of the painting echoed their prayer to hear His words.



Oct 2000: Bhagawan flags of the first annual grama seva event. Moved by the poverty of a village mother struggling to feed her child, Bhagawan called all staff members of the college & called for launching a movement that inspired generations globally to focus on village integration programs



Feb 2001: Bhagawan enjoying the hostel dinner



Bhagawan is seen leaving the hostel after dinner, the evening air filled with quiet contentment. Walking just behind Him is Prof. Giri, the former Vice Chancellor, followed by Prof. Lakshminarasimhan, the Registrar, and Dr. Shivaramakrishna, the present Principal of the Higher Secondary School. The image captures a gentle close to a night that blended reverence, simplicity, and the warmth of His presence. He declared in the discourse I am you, you are mine. Like a shadow that's always with you, I am also the indweller. Before leaving, He told the little school boys of Class VIII Do not forget whatever you experienced today



2003: Bhagawan's University starts formal education in Music. Like all projects of Bhagawan, the initial years were filled with opportunities for students as Bhagawan's attention to details inspired the students & staff to always be in pursuit of perfection. After a concert offered at His Lotus Feet, by students of the foundation course, Bhagawan Himself guided them on the correct placement of the fingers on the diaphragm of the Tabla to produce the perfect sound.



2006: Inauguration of the Humanities Building & the Multimedia Centre.

Bhagawans involvement in every aspect of His Educational institutions sanctified them for eternity. With each visit, Bhagawan granted His Proximity and opportunities that sages pine for ages. His Life being His Message, He taught His Students through practice and not just precept. Let our lives now be His Message.




Brindawan

The Brindavan Campus for men was the second college established by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Saibaba in 1969, located in Kadugodi, Whitefield, an eastern suburb of the city of Bangalore. Originally affiliated to the Bangalore university it later moved under the umbrella of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi nilayam.

The students of Brindavan campus enjoyed a special proximity to Bhagawan Baba as He would visit the campus for a few months a year, a majority of time being in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh.

Any student who has lived across Bhagawan's different campuses, will tell you that there is something mystical about Brindavan campus (Brindavanam as was called in the beginning). Be it the pleasant weather & the picturesque greenery around the campus or be it the proximity of Bhagawan's residence to the students hostel; Is it showers of knowledge during the summer courses or the warmth of Divine Love during the Trayee & Old Bungalow sessions. It was & continues to be an ethereal experience being at Brindavan.

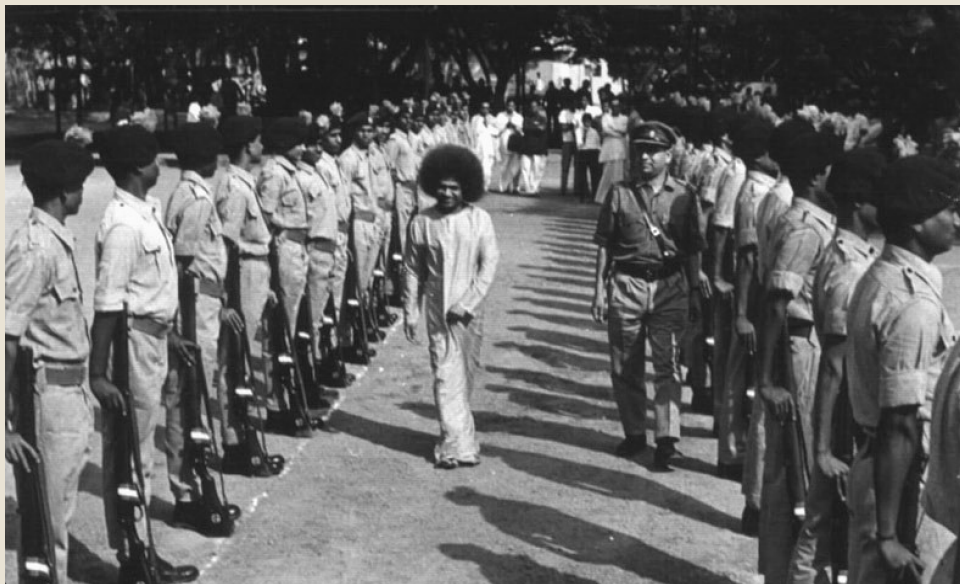








1969: College inauguration – Chief Minister of then Mysore state Virendra Patil (old college building 9th June 1969.



Prof RG Kulkarni in National Cadet Corps (NCC) uniform with Bhagawan (initially the Principal of Brindavan college). Students were given training in NCC.



Boys Hostel (left) and Brindavan college (right) where there is Kalyana Mandapam today
(Between Boys Hostel & Swamis Old Bungalow)



Students stood and took darshan in those days. They would move around to more accessible positions as Bhagawan went around..



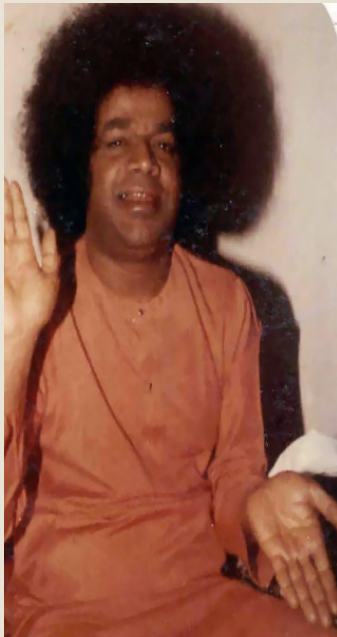
Bhagawan in His residence (Old Bungalow). Students had access to Swamis residence and could be with Swami during dining sessions or even if there was free time during college hours. The college was adjacent to Bhagawans residence



This was the interview room in Brindavan (Old Bungalow). Generally Bhagawan would come out for darshan through the interview room and all the students would be standing outside. As soon as Bhagawan saw the students, Bhagawan would open the door and would salute and gesture Good Morning. Sometimes after Darshan and before He retired, He would go through this door and do the salute.



Every day Bhagawan would pass through this way (behind the grill) from the bedroom to the Dining Hall. Few of the students used to be standing outside. Bhagawan would open the curtain and talk to some of the students or, He would bless from there before going to the dining room



Bhagawan was talking to some of the singers in the safe room and then Bhagawan said Sinners Singers Sinners Singers. After saying this a few times He assumed this pose. And then Bhagawan said, "Do you know the significance of this pose? In most of the temples you will find this pose. Bhagawan then went on, "You take refuge at My feet and I'll protect you." He added, "If you don't follow God's command and you fall down, if you are on the spiritual path then you move towards God



1970s (Early): Bhagawan outside the Brindavan Dining Hall (inside hostel) Whites were not yet the norm.

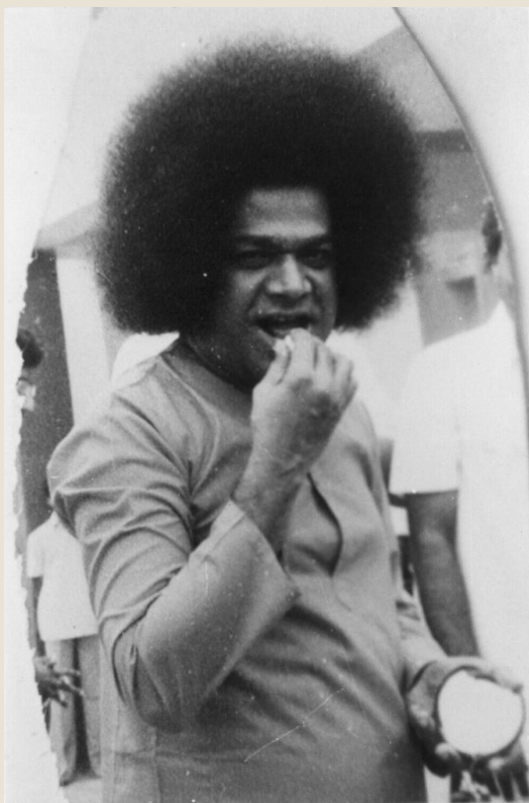




Valedictory function of the Summer Course in Indian Culture and Spirituality 1973. Location is the stage at the tank which is the current hostel, before the hostel was constructed. Bhagawan is seated with Prof Gokak.



1970s (Late): Showers in Brindavan during Darshan. Prof Narender (Swamis right, Principal), Prof Krishnamurthy (Sevadal incharge, holding umbrella) and Dr. Sundar Rao (behind in suit).



1977: Bhagawan planted a sapling in front of the library in August 1977 and after that a coconut was broken. Bhagawan took a small piece from this coconut and then put it in His mouth.



Swamis dining hall on the 1st floor of the Old Bunglow. Bhagawan has asked the students who had stayed back during vacations to have dinner with Him.



1978: Inauguration of the new building for the Brindavan college with Governor Govinda Narayan and Education minister Subayya Shetty, 1978.



1970s: Diwali in Brindavan, late 1970s. Only time Bhagawan was in Brindavan for Diwali.



Dusshera Vedam Procession in the early 1980s. Sanskrit teacher Sri M N Chandrashekar started teaching Purusha Suktam 1974. For a temple visit in Seegehalli, near Brindavan, the first chanting was done by students in 1975. Later, Sri Kamavadani started teaching Rudram to students.



Brindavan and Bhagawan adored as Sai Krishna are inseparable. A senior devotee, Loknath Mudaliar offered this Krishna idol to Bhagawan in the early 1940s and it was in the Paatha (Old) Mandir until 1950. After the current Mandir was built in Prashant Nilayam, Bhagawan moved this Krishna idol to the Bhajan hall, flanked by the Shirdi and Parthi Avatars (photo at the bottom). Bhagawan Himself painted this idol, dressed and ornamented it during festivals. Another striking feature is that Krishna does not have the common pose of crossed legs. Around 1978, this idol was moved to Brindavan. This idol is currently in the Prayer Hall at Brindavan campus.



1977: Kaustubham, Krishnas pendant given by His grandmother on the occasion of His naming ceremony. Materialized by Bhagawan in the Brindavan Hostel Dining Hall (Sep 5, 1977)



1977: Bhagawan asked for a towel and demonstrated how Krishna tied the turban when he tended cows as a cowherd during Krishnashtami in Brindavan Hostel, 1977.







1980s: Brindavan ashram had a deer enclosure facing Trayee Brindavan, Bhagawans residence. Bhagawan referred to them as four legged deer, point to the students and say two legged dears



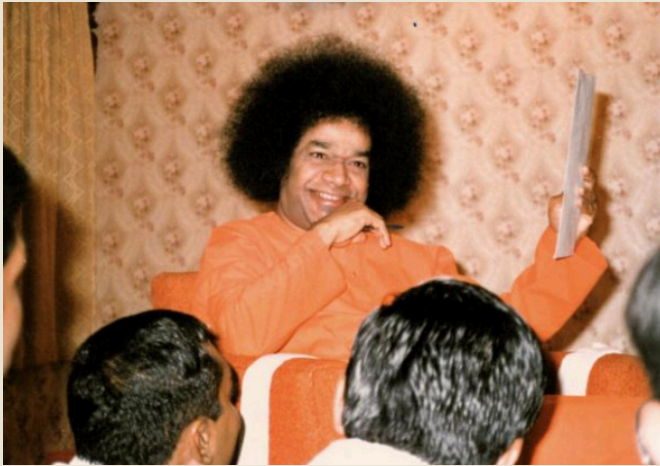
1984: Trayee Brindavan inauguration 26th Apr 1984 – flanked by Rajmata Gulab Kunvarba saheb of Nawanagar. Others in picture Sri.Ramabrahmam, Major General Mahadevan, Sri.Balaram Nichani (behind the car), Prof. P.S. Rao Dept. of Chemistry. Also seen in picture are later Brindavan campus faculty, Sri.M.G.Nandagopal, Sri.N.Sivakumar, Sri.Narahari.



1980s: Bhagawan in the Brindavan Hostel Prayer Hall.



1980s: Perusing a magazine at the Brindavan College Library.



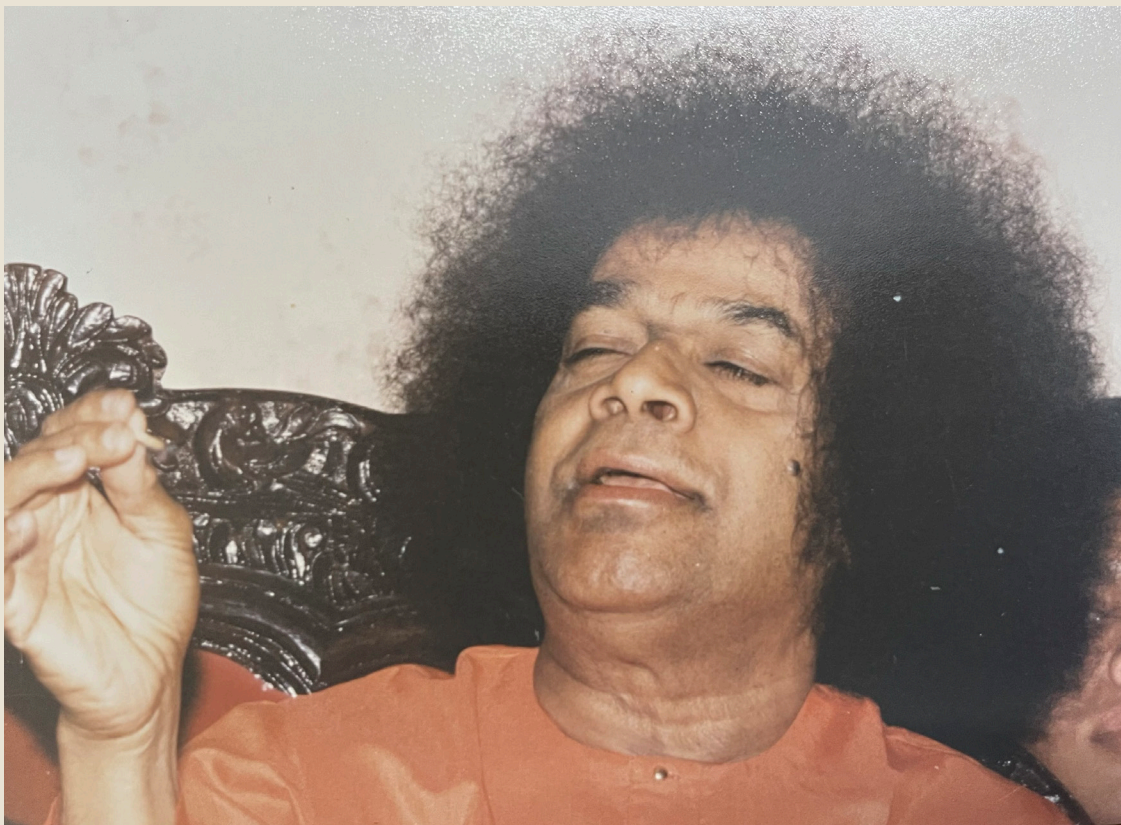
1987: The joy of a delighted parent. Bhagawan is telling each one of MBA students their GPAs of the 2nd Semester examinations. Trayee Brindavan on the eve of departure to Ooty (13th April 1987).



On the way to Kodaikanal from Ooty with students in the bus



1987: Bhagawan personally serving lunch at the Karur Forest Guest House in the Mudumalai Forest enroute to Ooty from Brindavan. The entire first batch of MBA was with Him in the year 1987.



1991: After the inauguration of the Vittal Malaya Hospital on 6th June 1991, Bhagawan came back in the afternoon and inaugurated the Jhoola in the Trayee Brindavan.

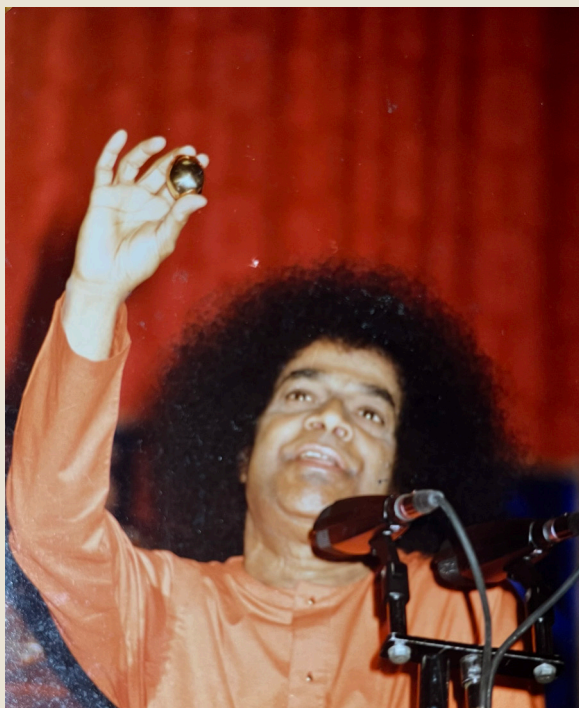


1990s: Bhagawan closely oversaw the Summer Course held in Brindavan before the start of the academic year.



1990s: Materializing the Mangala Sutra of Damayanti during the Summer Course.

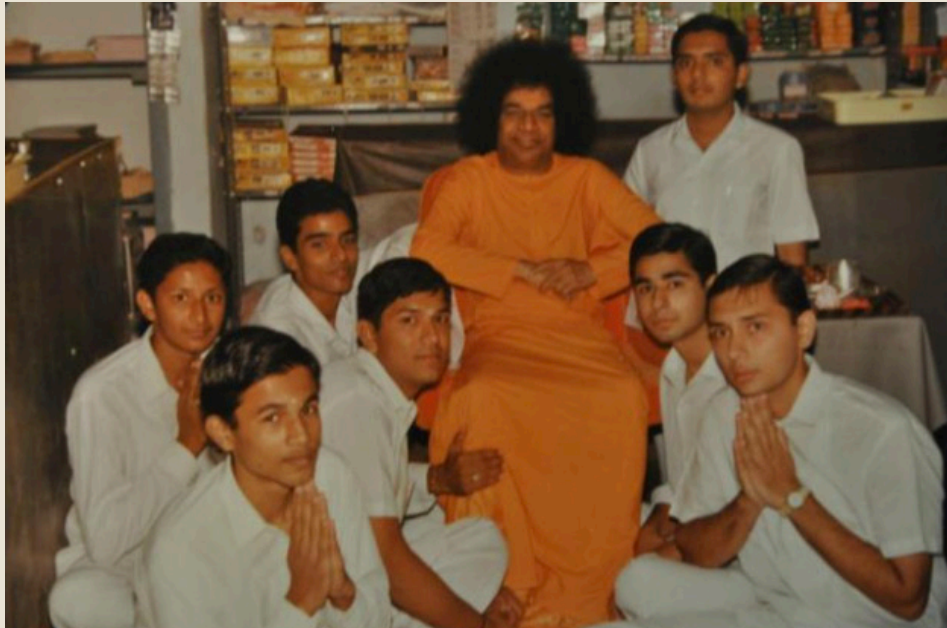




1990s: Materializing the Hridayagarbha Lingam during the Summer Course.



1990s (Early): Students flocked around Bhagawan taking Padanamaskar as Bhagawan left Brindavan for Puttaparthi.



1990s: Bhagawan visiting the Cooperative Stores. Bhagawan was particular that students should have minimum choices as the young mind should be trained in ceiling of desires.



1990s (Early): Bhagawan visits the hostel dining hall during the lunch hour in Summer Course. Hyderabad Sevadal are seen serving at the counter.



2000: Lunch session with Bhagawan and students in the Kalyana Mandapam in 2000.



2004: The first Brindavan Sports Meet drama – Bhakta Jayadeva was the first ever drama on Sports day during 2000s which is now a regular feature.





Anantapur Campus

The Sri Sathya Sai (junior) College, for women, Anantapur was inaugurated on 22nd July 1968 and the new college building was inaugurated on 8th July 1971.

While laying the foundation of the Anantapur college Bhagawan declared My Sankalpa (plan of action) is to provide the youth with an education which, while cultivating their intelligence, will also purify their impulses and emotions and equip them with the physical and mental disciplines needed for drawing upon the springs of calmness and joy that lie in their own hearts. Their higher natures will have to be fostered and encouraged to blossom, by means of study, prayer, and sadhana, contacts with the sages, saints, and spiritual heroes and heroines of their land, and to place them on the path of self-confidence, self-satisfaction, self-sacrifice, and self-knowledge.

Bhagawan's aim in starting a women's college first, in the chain of educational institutions founded by Him, was to emphasise that, if a woman is educated, the entire family benefits from her knowledge and wisdom. She plays an important role in moulding the future generations of the family into responsible citizens.

This college was the first step as part of the larger vision of Bhagawan for values-based integral education at Under graduate and Post graduate levels, aiming to foster inner transformation in students through a holistic approach that integrates ethics and values into every aspect of learning.



July 1968: Inauguration of the first Sri Sathya Sai College, Anantapur. The education minister of the state of Andhra Pradesh Sri T V Raghavlu was the guest who spoke before Bhagawan's discourse. (Source: Sathya Sai with Students Blog)





July 1971: Inauguration of the new college building. Sri VV Giri, President of India is seated to the left of Bhagawan along with Mrs VV Giri. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Sri Brahmananda Reddy is to the right of Swami. On the extreme left of the picture is Sri PV Narasimha Rao. Prof V K Gokak is seen delivering the welcome address.



Presidential Address in the Divine Presence. Swami highlighted during his discourse that the day chosen was significant as it was a Guruvaar (Thursday) on a Guru Purnima



1973-74 : Drama on Shabari which Swami would often recall



1975: Anantpur Band performing in Poornachandra



1975: UGC seminar program at Anantapur. Band girls played music to escort Swami



1975: Drama entitled Sambhavami Yuge Yuge staged in the Divine presence



Sambhavami Yuge Yugey Drama in 1975



1974-75: Play Sambhavami Yuge Yuge. Swami directed one of the girls to play the role of Kaka Dikshit, the Shirdi Sai devotee. The young boys are children of faculty members. In the final scene on Sathya Sai Avataar, two women and three children spoke about Swamis Avatar and concluded by saying 'Let us go and have His darshan'. Just then, Swami walked up onto stage, spoke briefly, accepted the aarti and left. He was actually a character in the play!



November 1975. It marked the first occasion for the Anantapur brass band. Once the skin of the drum tore. Swami asked the girls 'What are you going to do now? How will you play?' The disappointed girls had no answer to His question. Swami smiled and instructed someone to immediately get it repaired from Bangalore and have it available in time the next day.



1979: Swami interacts with staff after completing His darshans.



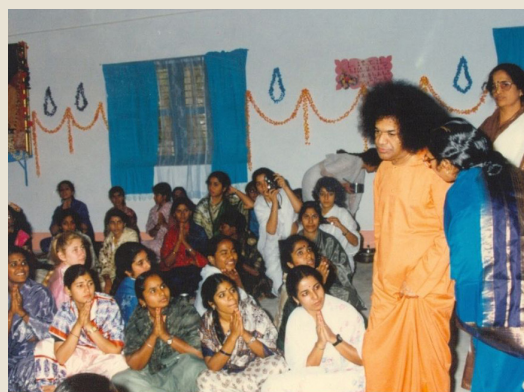
1979: Summer Course Group Picture with Bhagawan



1980s: Group Photo with the Food Committee of the hostel



1981: First Academic Council meeting of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. The seed sown in 1968 with the first college at Anantapur transforms into a deemed University



1982: Divine visit to the Anantapur campus. He declares in the Bhagawad Vahini that more than Dharma Sansthapana, the purpose of the avatar is to interact with the devoted & give them opportunities to be in His presence



Attention to details & expressing gratitude to all was a key attribute of Bhagawan which all managers and leaders can emulate. He not just established educational institutions. He would regularly visit the kitchen to inspect the quality & hygiene. He was very particular that the gratitude is expressed to the workers in the hostels & colleges



1985: Swami gave interviews in Prasanthi Nilayam to the outgoing batches. Seen in the interview room are students from streams of English, Philosophy and Political Science groups



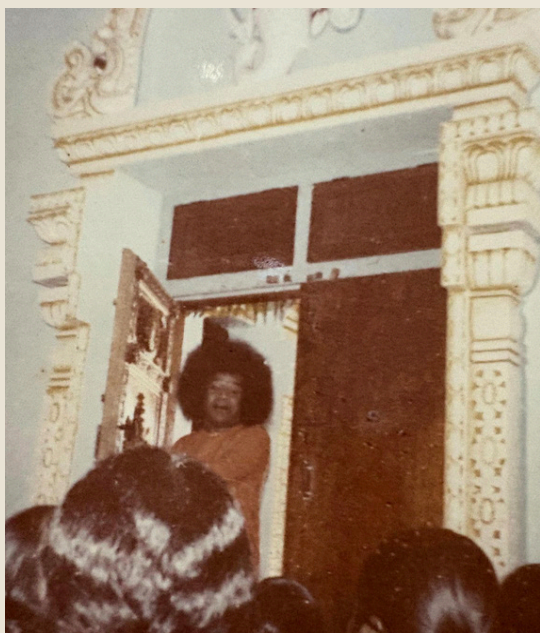
1986:88 As divine providence would have it, for two years there was a B.Ed Program for sisters in the Brindavan Campus. Given the serene settings of the Brindavan ashram, sisters got many opportunities to have Bhagawans direct guidance & grace. Couple of images from those years with the fortunate batch





1993 & 1996: Summer Courses
at Brindavan





1990s: It was customary for the outgoing batch to get the final graduating blessings from Bhagawan. He would speak to the students giving them guidance on how to face challenges in life that lie ahead. Students would do various personal Sadhana, group prayer sessions & service activities to please Bhagawan before this memorable day.





1996: Jan I Sports Meet



1998: Ladies day performance by the Anantapur Brass Band. The year 2025 marks 50 years of this band which first performed on the 50th Birthday in Nov 1975



2003: Sports meet offering to Bhagawan

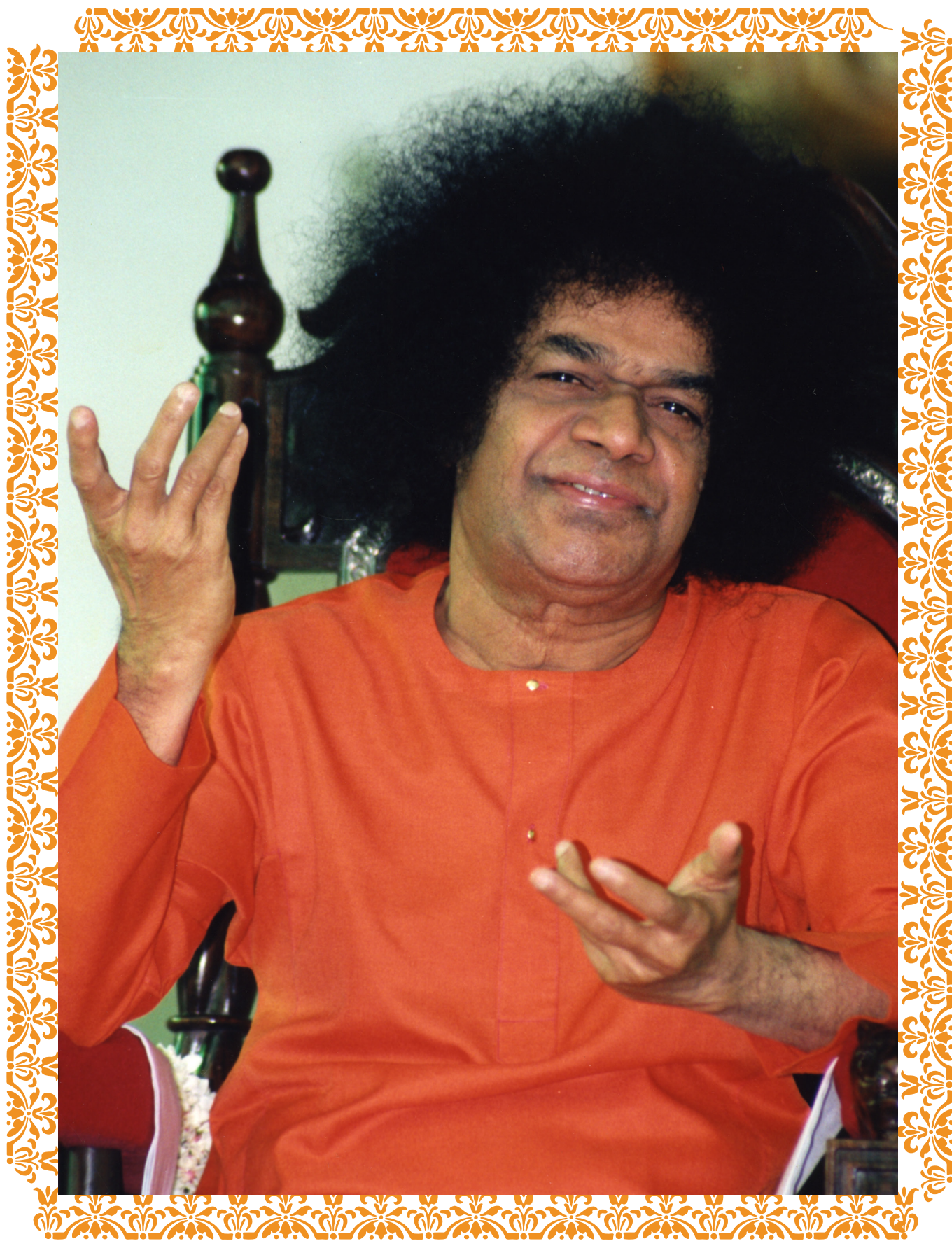


2009: Jan II Sports meet – Swami with the Anantapur Brass band



2010: Bhagawans blessings for the Anantapur sisters.

In His 2002 Sankranti Discourse, while praising the efforts and performance of the sisters during the sports meet Bhagawan remarked It is twelve years since I visited Anantapur, yet they are working with steadfastness and devotion with the conviction that Swami is always with them. Their devotion and sincerity will certainly yield rich rewards. There is a result for every action, but one has to wait for the appropriate time.






Higher Secondary School

The Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School in Puttaparthi was inspired and initiated by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, who is regarded as its life, soul, motivation, and ultimate goal. The school was formally established on June 15, 1981, under His direct guidance and loving care, with the mission of molding young minds and fostering character development alongside academic excellence. It is a fully residential English-medium school for boys and girls, affiliated with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), offering education from Class I to XII. The school has two wings: the Primary wing has classes 1 to 7 for boys and 1 to 12 for girls. And a separate wing for boys, classes 8 to 12. Both wings are independent buildings with separate hostels and infrastructure. The institution functions as a vital educational limb of the Sri Sathya Sai System of Educare, and is guided by the educational philosophy that "education should be for eternal living, not for mere survival.

Swami later declared in his 60th Birthday Divine Discourse in 23d Nov 1985 In order to fill the college with properly trained boys, I willed the Higher Secondary School

On a gentler note, Swami's Higher Secondary School sits between the playful vatsalya bhava Swami has towards His Primary school students and the guide He is to the Institute boys. Its where a lot of firsts happened, and then became commonplace Christmas Carol singing, Blessing of exam hall tickets, Science and Photography exhibition, Teachers Sports Meet, to name a few. These, among many other mesmerizing stories make the School a special place.





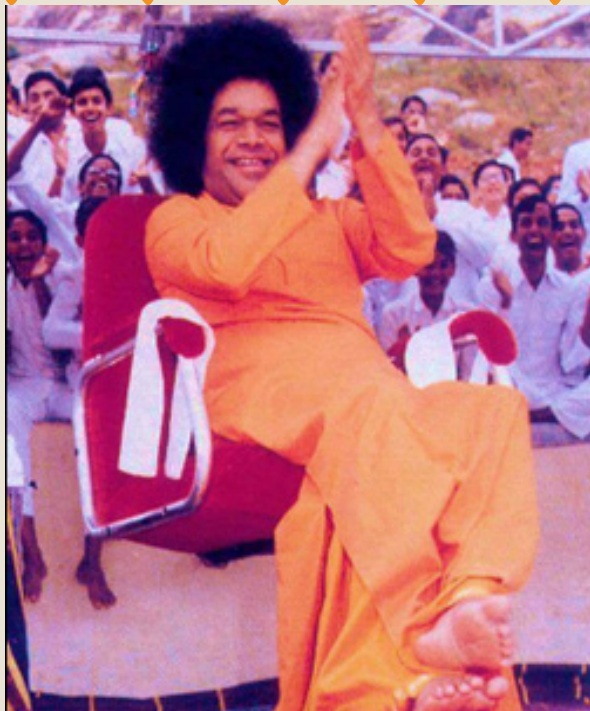
School Prize Distribution Ceremony



Each year, after the Sports Meet, Swami would come to personally give certificates and prizes to students.

On one occasion, as Swami entered the auditorium and walked towards the stage, students kneeling reverentially on both sides of the walkway, offered rose petals at His Lotus Feet as He walked. Swami was deeply touched! During His discourse, He lovingly remarked, No one has ever welcomed Me, throwing rose petals in this manner. I am pleased with the way you have welcomed me.

Once, the backdrop had a globe. Swami noticed that this globe was slowly rotating. When He asked how it was moving, the boys showed him a small table fan, discreetly placed at an angle. Swami smiled and remarked humorously, I thought that fan was meant for me! His gentle humour filled the hall with joy.



The First Teachers Sports Meet 1985



As they would every year, once, the teaching staff took a beautiful handmade card to seek Swami's blessings to commence schoolhouse events. Swami blessed, and gently asked, Sports activities are not only meant for students. Why can't teachers have a Sports Meet? Teachers replied, Swami, if You permit, we shall organise sports events even for teachers.

Swami immediately agreed and said, After morning bhajans, I will come at 10 o'clock. You may organise the Teachers Sports Meet.

In those days, Shanti Vedika hadn't yet come up. Swami graciously sat in a temporary shed, surrounded by students, clapping, encouraging, and blessing the winners with padnamaskar. He watched events like running race, three-legged race, lemon-and-spoon race, musical chairs, and breaking the pot.



Swami, throwing a dart! He, of course, hit the centre every time! Smiling, Swami said, "You see, Swami is always perfect."



Swami inspecting a solar powered water heater in the lawns outside the Higher Secondary School building.



Swami visiting a classroom to see pictures on display.

Every year, students and staff enthusiastically organised a Science and Photography Exhibition, and invited Swami to inaugurate it. With immense love and grace, Swami would come to the school campus, cut the ribbon, and inaugurate the exhibition. He would then move from one classroom to another, patiently observing each exhibit.

In one of the rooms, a student had displayed a burglar alarm model. When Swami came to the boy, he explained that the alarm beeps if an object is removed. Then demonstrated the same. He then humbly invited Swami to try it. When Swami lifted the object, there was no sound. The student grew anxious, and re-checked all electrical connections. Tested it again. The alarm worked. His confidence restored, he asked Swami to try once again. Yet again, there was complete silence. The boy stood confused, wondering what had gone wrong with his model. Swami then looked at the boy with infinite love and said with a gentle smile, I am not that kind of thief. I am a Chitta Chora. I do not steal things; I steal hearts. The entire room burst into smiles as Swami blessed the student!



Junior boys hostel inauguration



Swami inaugurated the junior boys hostel
in July 1995.

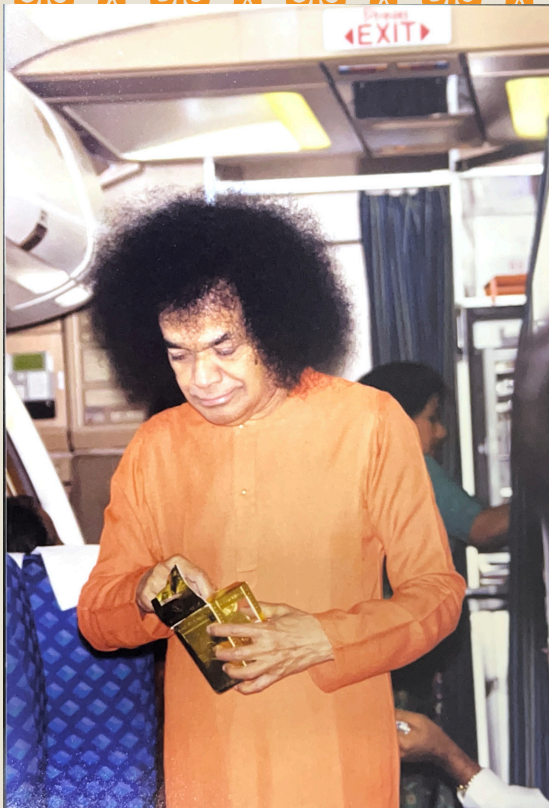




Swamis visit to the Junior Boys Hostel – 2002.



These pictures are from 26th February 2002, where Swami spoke to the boys at His Junior Boys Hostels dining hall. The students of the Higher Secondary School had offered a Gratitude Program at the Mandir on the previous day (25th February). They appealed to Swami to visit the hostel. To their pleasant surprise, Swami said, Tomorrow, 9/9:30, Ill come. In anticipation and preparation, no one at the hostel slept that night! Swami visited, and blessed everyone! .



During a chartered flight from Bangalore to Madurai, after everyone had settled, Swami got up and distributed gold coin chocolates.





Swami derived a lot of joy from Dramas presented by His boys in 2006.



For collecting prasadam for distribution boys would go inside the interview room. This blissful picture was clicked during one such time around 1993!





Sri Sathya Sai Primary School

Ooty and Prasanthi Nilayam

Listening to mythological tales of Markendaya & Prahalada, one may feel that it's utopian to believe that tiny tots can be God loving and disciplined at a tender age. Swami however showed us that love for God can be instilled irrespective of the students age. The primary school children joyfully interacting with Swami created a heavenly spectacle. The little boys and girls entering the mandir in the divine presence with folded hands in disciplined lines, children jumping to catch the chocolates He threw, His patting the cheek of a little one or individual conversations with them these are sights to behold for the sages praying for ages for the avatar to bless mankind with His divine leelas.

Swami's expression would exude great pride when the Primary School kids performed in His presence – be it at sports & cultural meet or chanting vedam in the mandir. It still is a divine mystery how Swami would, and continues to attract Love, reverence and devotion of tiny tots. The teaching staff's unwavering dedication, instilling devotion in those tender hearts, exemplifies true yeoman service.

The next few pages capture the divine bond of love between the Lord & His little children which will be worth emulating for ages to come. For this bond has taught that God is not an abstract concept that needs to be kept on a pedestal for occasional contemplation. God can be Loved, a little child can consider Him as his or her best friend and offer all joys and sorrows to the Praana Sakha Bhagawan





Ooty School

On 9th February 1978, the Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar, Nandanavanam, Ootacamund, was inaugurated as the first Primary School started by Bhagawan Baba. Bhagawan had sent Dr S Bhagavantham for the inauguration. Bhagawan is seen in the porch of the building during an event. Above the porch on the first floor was Bhagawans residence.



Taken in early 1980s, this is on the day of inauguration of the Sri Sathya Sai Primary School at Prasanthi Nilayam



Serving food to children in the Primary School during the early 1980s. An image that captures His Love for children & His legacy of service





Swami with Primary School students in early 1980s. In the early years this area was the School assembly hall. Many times children would assemble here and wait for Him by singing Bhajans when Swami would go for a ride, especially on Sundays. On many occasions, Swami would turn His car into the Primary School and bless the children instilling in them the belief that Prayer is a direct call to God.



Mrs. A.K. Verma seen at the Lectern leading the prayers was the first Principal of Ooty School Mrs Verma was affectionately addressed as "Mother" by the Students, Teachers and Parents of the Students. This is the second playground of Ooty School. Sometimes the morning School assembly was held here, weather permitting. Roy Aunty is on the harmonium and many teachers can also be seen in this photograph. The pink building seen in this photograph is the new dining hall and dormitory that Swami inaugurated in 1981 as the Schools strength grew.



Around 1983-84, Swami got a Ganesha Temple inaugurated in the Second playground of the School. It was in this playground in 1978 that Swami took Individual polaroid photographs with each and every Student of the School, both boys and girl students. This is a treasure for generations to come for these lucky Students and their families.



Due to the cold weather, Ooty school had dining tables. Swami is seen here serving food to the Students. Helping Bhagawan in this service, is the School Principal, Ms AK Verma. Mother as she was affectionately addressed, had fought for Indias struggle for Independence. She had lived at Mahatma Gandhis Wardha ashram and had travelled the World before dedicating herself to Bhagawans mission.



Across all His education institutions, one can see the deep involvement of Swami in every minute aspect of planning and execution. This is an image of the inauguration of an elephant slide in 1981 in the Primary School at Prasanthi Nilayam. Among Children, He was a Child.



When among children, I am a child As Swami climbed up the famous elephant slide, the children got excited that Swami may actually slide down! This slide was inaugurated on the boys side.

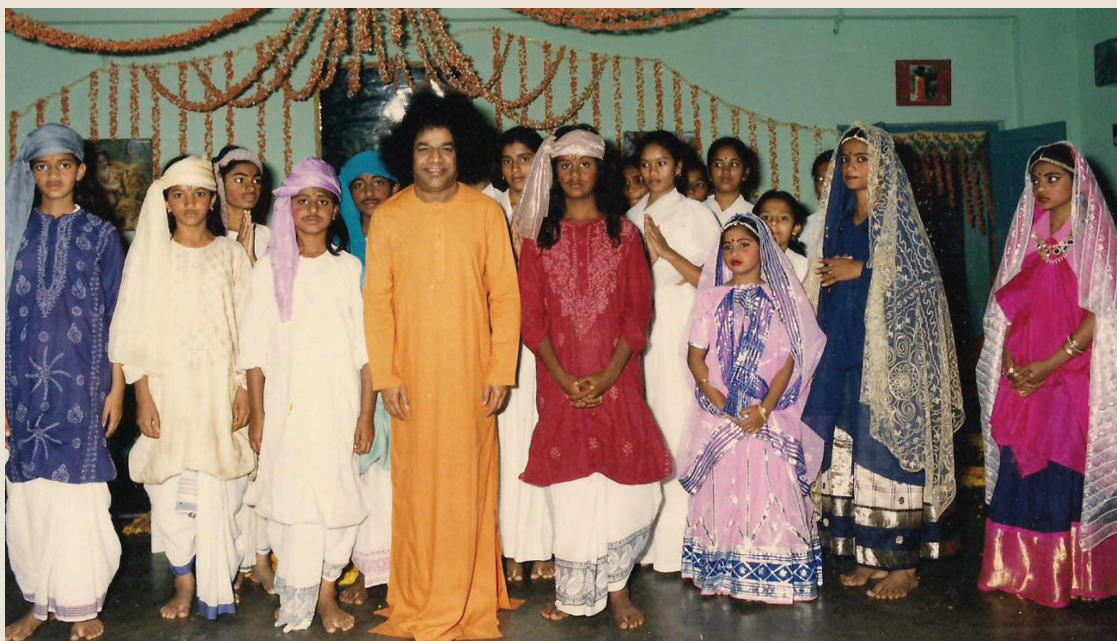


1981: With students at the slide in the Primary School at Prasanthi Nilayam. Swami inaugurated this slide on the girls side and actually walked down the entire slide.



Always have gratitude to those who serve. He taught by example throughout His life to always acknowledge and appreciate working staff who toil for our well being – with the working force involved in 1981

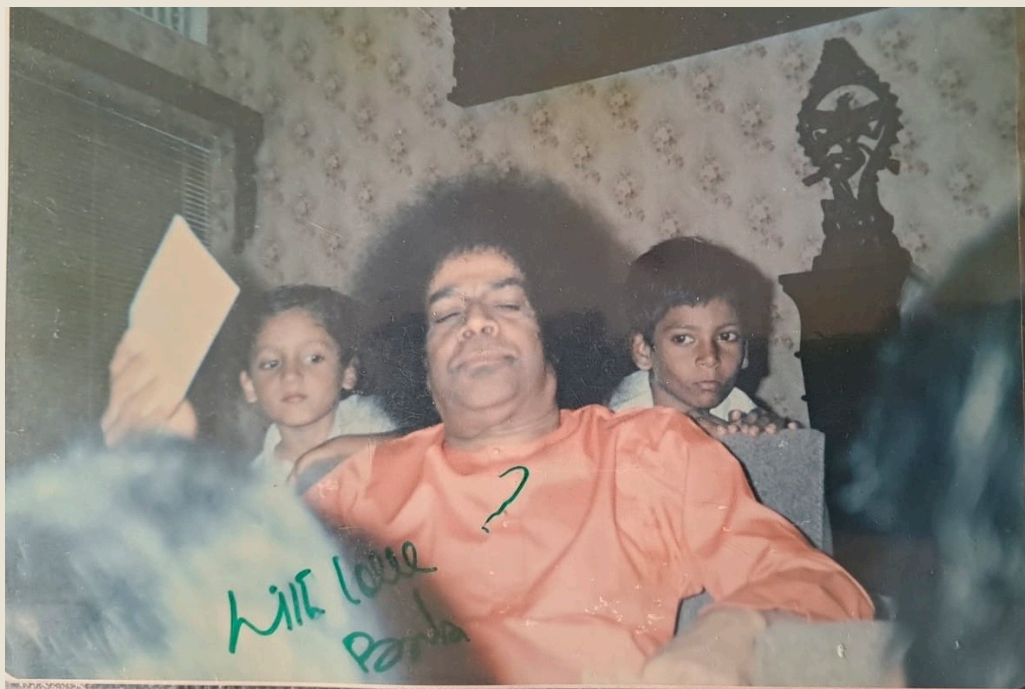




Students would organize cultural events in the hostel for Swami during his visit to the Primary School. The above image is of a dance drama titled Radha Krishna



Students eagerly waited for the annual Prize distribution ceremony at School. Those days Swami would personally distribute the prizes to the winners with His divine hands.





Pics from 1980s : Such was Swamis bonding with the little ones of the Primary School that the tiny tots would rush to Brindavan during their vacations for having Swamis Darshan, Sparshan and Sambhashan.



Drama by Primary School boys in the 1990s.



1993: Drama in the divine presence by the students of the Primary School





1992: Sports Programs of Primary school always added colour and joy to the Jan II event. A young girl student giving a card to Swami during the 1992 Sports meet.





1998: Primary School had its own band. One by the boys and another by the girls.



Ladies day dance program in the 1990s at Sai Kulwant Hall. The Primary School girl students would lead the vedam chanting and dance recitals.



2000s: Bhagawan with the Primary School boys in the Sai Kulwant hall.

A decorative border in orange color, featuring a repeating floral and scrollwork pattern, frames the entire page content.

Oh Lord! Take my love, and let it flow in fullness of devotion to Thee.

Oh Lord! Take my hands, and let them work incessantly for Thee.

Oh Lord! Take my soul, and let it be merged in One with Thee.

Oh Lord! Take my mind and thoughts, and let them be in tune with Thee.

Oh Lord! Take my everything, and let me be an instrument to work



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