

## Glory of Baba reaches the American shore

Though 'Sainath Samadhi' is at Shirdi, its vibrations have spread so fast around the world that it has set a new benchmark in the history of spirituality. 'Shraddha and Saburi', the main teaching of Shri Saibaba has already enlightened millions of souls in less than hundred years.

Thousands of migrants from India, Africa, Middle East and South East Asia who have settled in the USA worship Saibaba today with complete devotion. The young generation over there is a blessed lot with the guidance from seniors. In the olden days the idol of Saibaba was worshiped only inside the houses and even 'Sai-sat-Charita' [written by Annasaheb Dabholkar] was not available in the USA. The devotees used to carry it back from India on their visit. The scenario started changing drastically since 1970 and devotion towards Saibaba reached its peak in the '80. During this period the devotees started performing the puja/arti in groups. The Indian culture that was bringing Indians together at that point of time, too became a vital platform for Sai devotees to connect.

### **Genesis**

Saibaba has already occupied hearts of various Sai – devotees in USA. This includes various devotees who have migrated way back in 1950 from India, Africa, Middle East and South East Asia. Though thousands of miles away from the homeland, these devotees have considered Saibaba as their own idol and worshiped him from bottom of heart. Today's young generation in USA is blessed with the spiritual guidance from senior and well versed Sai – devotees. Previously Sai Baba was worshiped only in houses and even 'Sai - Charitra' written by Annasaheb Dabholkar was not available in USA. The devotees used to carry Shri Sai – Charitra volume from shirdi or on their return from India to USA.

This picture started changing drastically since 1970 and devotion towards Saibaba reached its peak in the period 1980/90. During this period the devotees used to gather at a planned spot or a home and perform puja and arti jointly. During this era, the Indian culture and tradition could be prominently seen in the westernized belt of USA, especially in the areas dominated by Indian population. A spiritual atmosphere took birth and temples, cultural centres became a meeting point for all Sai – devotees. Today Sai devotees are just looking out for opportunities for a spiritual and virtuous get togethers. Number of upcoming Sai – Baba temple started mounting up. Sai – Baba's blessing has been creating miracles. The result of this miracles could be witnessed in various cities of USA in form of Sai – temples. The first two Sai temples were built in 1991 in Petersburg and Pennsylvania. In 1990, Many Sai temples were set up in USA. To name few prominent were set up in Flushing, New York, Inverness, FL, Ourora and IL. Information Technology played a vital role in glorifying Sai – Baba's miracles thru internet and website. First website on Sai – Baba 'www.saibaba.org' was formed in 1996. This helped in providing updated information such as various experiences, literature, photos and various projects undertaken by Shri Sansthan Shirdi to Sai - devotees in USA.

### **Growth in leaps and bounds since 1990**

In 1990, one witnessed an increase in the number of NRI's that led to setting up of many Sai temples. The first two Sai temples were built in 1991 in Petersburg and Pennsylvania. There was no looking back after that. More temples were built. To name a few are, Baldwin in NY (2002), Ourora in Chicago (July 2002), Dalas Texas (Nov. 2004), Inverness, FL (March 2005), Virginia and DC (Sept 2006), Minneapolis MN (Sept 2007), Los Angels, CA (Jan 2007), Atlanta, GA (March 2009), Boston (Dec 2007), Atlanta GA (March 2009), Tax (Sept 2009), MIM Detroit (2009 oct.) and Austin Tax (March 2010). Presently new Sai temples are under construction in cities like Ohio, New Jersey, San Diego and California. All these temples today are in touch with Shri Shirdi Sansthan, Shirdi and take necessary help from it. Many of them follow the same schedules as followed by the main temple in Shirdi.

The glory of Saibaba further spread through ' Sai-darbars' [an initiative taken by Shri Gopalarao from Andhra – Pradesh] organized in homes and temples and also through various projects that were undertaken by Sai devotees. Another devotee named Shri Visyamji who visited USA often too helped in broadening the horizons of devotees through his explanations on teachings of Baba. Technology too played a vital role in spreading the glory far and wide, thru internet. The first website named 'www.saibaba.org' was formed in 1996 that provided vital information and pictures to Sai devotees around the world. 'Shirdi che Saibaba', a website from Chicago too provides valuable information to

various Sai devotees regarding cultural programs, projects under taken, etc. Shri Sai sat-Charita, Shirdi – a Diary by Shri Khaparde and many other books are also now easily available on the internet. Shirdi Sansthan has also introduced online darshan thru Tata Sky for Sai devotees in USA. Shri Sai nathuni sarath babuji, another sai devotee has also played an important role in spreading Baba's glory, leading to increase in the number of devotees. Presently meetings and get together of Sai devotees are organized on regular basis in Austin, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Connecticut, Dallas, Detroit, New York, DE, Huston, Minneapolis, Los Angelis, Siral, San Diego, Carry and Morrisville Ne, New Jersey Area, orange country CA and chattley VA, Mount Shasta and CA. Sai devotees here gather on weekends, sing bhajans, artis and exchange views and experiences.

### **Touching young hearts**

Sai Baba never discriminated between religions and castes. 'Sab ka malik ek' is what He preached. Thus this philosophy that is universal and not sectarian has appealed the young generation over there where one comes across a mix of Christians, Muslims and even Jews as Baba's devotees. Mr. Arthad, born in western USA who wrote the first book on Sai Baba's life style by the name 'The Incredible Sai Baba' in the year 1957, was an American. This book is popular among Sai devotees, even today.

### **'SaiUtsav'- A festival gaining momentum in America**

Sai Utsav' started getting celebrated every year in different parts of USA. Its main contribution was in the form of valuable guidance by Shri Chandrabhanu Satpathi, a reted. IPS Officer and a staunch Sai devotee, [he had also inaugurated the Sai temple at Hampshire Chicago in Aug – 2004] whose visit to Sai – Utsav 2000 led to an immense growth in terms of more Sai devotees and Sai temples. 'Sai Utsav 2000', a spectacular festival was organized with the help of a website. Huge crowd thronged from all over. The three day festival was marked with Baba's arti, bhajans and discourses. Renowned singers like Anup Jalota, Manhar Udhas etc. too participated for the first time in the festival.

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## Before Century

Many events in Sai history are almost 100 years old. Seniors and veterans have narrated certain events which are really astonishing. We are giving herewith some events which are available with dates.

- 15th march 1912 : Dadasaheb Khaparde returns to Amaravati.
- April 1912 : Balaram Dhurandar blessed with first Sai – Darshan.

### **Miraculous protection for Dadasaheb Khaparde :**

In the year 1908, Lokmanya Tilak was arrested under pretext of Sedition and was imprisoned for six years. Dadasaheb, being a staunch supporter of Lokmanya Tilak had straight way approached the English authorities and had filed an appeal against the Mumbai High court challenging its decision. He consistently fought the case for two years but in vain. He finally returned to India on 5th Nov 1910. In due course of time the govt. came very strongly on the Anti National Movement. As a result ,Bipinchandra Pal was arrested on 7th Oct 1911 and was pulled in court of law for sedition. Dadasaheb was also blacklisted as he had helped Tilak and was on the verge of getting arrested.

Baba, who knew everything provided a miraculous protection to Dadasaheb in the form of inner voice. Two months had passed and Dadasaheb was busy in political developments. Suddenly his inner voice urged him to visit Shirdi. He arrived in Shirdi on 6th of Dec and seven days later, he requested Baba for permission through Madhavrao Deshpande for returning to Amravati. Baba told him that he would take the decision next day. Madhavrao reopened the topic on 16th to which baba replied that 'he should leave either tomorrow or after one month.' Thus Dadasaheb on many occasions requested baba for permission to return to Amravati, but baba did not give it by being evasive. In the meantime a conspiracy against Dadasaheb was being hatched for his arrest. On 2nd Jan, 1912 Dadasaheb's son and Gopalrao Dorle arrived in Shirdi with the intention of taking Dadasaheb to Amravati. When they approached Sai Baba for permission, Baba replied 'he has two homes; one at Amravati and the other at Shirdi; He may stay anywhere he likes.'

The reply given had a deep hidden meaning as baba was trying to save him from the seriousness of the disaster which was to hit Dadasaheb in near future. Aware of all the happenings he sent a message to Dadasaheb to extend his stay in Shirdi for two months. Dadasaheb continued to stay in Shirdi as he was confident that whatever baba did was for his betterment only. So after this Dadasaheb never approached baba for permission to return to Amaravati. Finally on 15th march 1912 baba granted permission and Khaparde returned to Amaravati after spending 100 days in Shirdi.

### **Balaram Dhurandhar :**

#### **A puff cures asthma.**

April 1912 : - Dhurandhar brothers who lived in Santacruz village in Mumbai were religious and straight forward. They were a happy family with simple loving. Balaram was an advocate with a good command over English and was also considered an authority on philosophy. Pure thoughts, sharp grasping power and good presentation skills were the prominent features of his personality. He had full faith on Vitthal (Pandhari) and had mastered Dnyaneshwari.

His first darshan of Baba was a coincidence. It so happened that Balaram's elder brother Babuji visited Shirdi and felt elevated with Baba's divine vibrations. So he asked Balaram also to visit Shirdi. Sai Baba was sitting in Dwarkamai and chatting with Mhalasapati at the time when Balaram left for shirdi. In the middle of daily chores Baba spontaneously told Mhalasapati to wait and watch for the people from his darbar to arrive. As Dhurandar brothers arrived in Dwarkamai, Baba laughed and said 'Look! as I told you, my people from Darbar have arrived.' The Dhurandhar brothers touched baba's feet. Baba blessed them and said, 'we know each other from past association ' leaving them stunned and dazed. Later having touched baba's feet, Balaram started massaging them. suddenly Baba who was smoking a chillum offered it to Balaram. Balaram who had never smoked chillum before, did it treating it as baba's Prasad. Soon a miracle happened. The asthma which had harassed him for six years suddenly disappeared after taking a puff from chillum. But to everybody's shock, baba suddenly got a fit of cough so bad that his

body succumbed to it leaving this world. Who but the Father would love and care for His children the way Baba did!!!. When one surrenders to Baba he takes care of a devotee like a mother .

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### Experience Speaks

“ The medical reports showing 99% blockage for my sister deterred the doctors from undertaking a by-pass operation. However, we were optimistic and pressurized doctors for the operation. On the D-day the operation lasted for more than nine hours . Finally when doctor stepped out of the operation theatre he said “This is nothing less than a miracle. Thank the power that has seen this through making me an instrument”. After 3 days when my sister regained her strength, she said that after anesthesia she had become blank and then she saw Baba standing in the gate of a huge fort. Baba told her not to worry as He was with her. she didn't remember anything after that. Her life is Baba's gift .”

Mrs. Meeta Bhat  
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### Baba's words

Whenever you will remember me, you will breathe a sigh of relief. Listen to my stories, miracles and experiences from other people. Convey your experiences to others. Think deeply and remember me, the devotion will automatically emerge and disasters will get destroyed. I am always at the service of those who have full faith in me. Nobody can achieve me without devotion. Listen to my stories with full faith that will bring you closer to me. Devotee will be in a position to study his own soul. Observe all this with full faith and devotion to enjoy a spirited, vigorous and restful life.

Shri saicharita chapter no.02 (Para 81 – 86)

### Shirdi News

#### **Shri Sai Baba Hospital organizes a Medical Camp in Shirdi**

Shri Sai baba hospital (Managed by Shri Sai Baba Sansthan Trust) and Ratnanidhi charitable Trust, Mumbai jointly organized a free medical camp for handicapped, deaf and dumb patients. Free medicines and equipment were distributed on this occasion. Around 1344 patients were benefited from this camp. Hearings aids, capillaries, artificial legs (Known as Jaipur foot), crutches, three wheeler cycle, wheelchair and knee/neck caps were distributed free by Dr. Eknath Gondkar and Shri Ashok Khambekar (Trustees). Patients from Ahmednagar, Amravati, Nanded, Buldhana, Aurangabad, Jalana and Nashik availed this facility. Dr. Eknath Gondkar and shri Ashok Khambekar Trustee were honored by Ratnanitdhi Charitable Trust members. Shrikishor More (Executive Officer) and Dr. Nanasahab Mhaske (Medical Director) were present on this occasion.

#### **Eye Camp**

The Hospital along with Shri Prakash Gangwani [a sai-devotee] also organized an eye camp. Around 768 patients were benefited from this camp. A team of expert doctors from Mumbai examined the patients. Around 667 patients were distributed numbered spectacles free [courtesy: Prakash Gangwani] 101 patients were operated free by Dr. Sunil Sontakke, Dr. Sachin Unde and Dr. Indrajit Kaur Ahuja of Shri Sainath Hospital (Shirdi).

Shri Prakash Gangwani and his colleagues were honored by Dr. Mhaske (Medical Director, Shri Saibaba Hospital). Shri Kishor More (Trustee) was also present on this occasion.



Dr. Eknath Gondkar, shri Ashok Khambekar (Trustees) and Shri Kishore More (Executive Officer) distributed the equipment free of cost to handicapped, dumb and deaf patients during a medical camp.



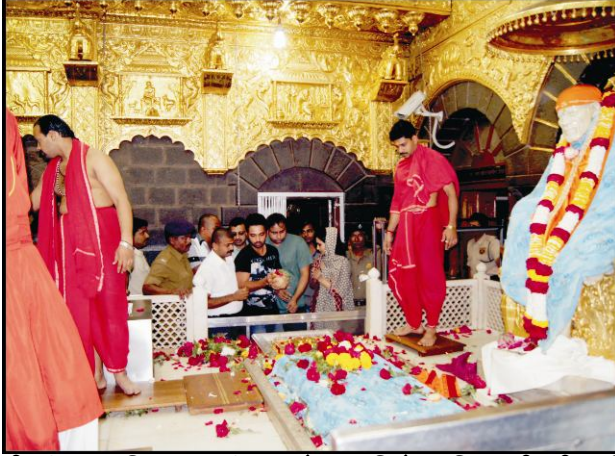
श्री की समाधि का दर्शन करते हुए केंद्रीय लघु उद्योग मंत्री श्री वीरभद्र सिंह के साथ श्री अशोक खांबेकर.



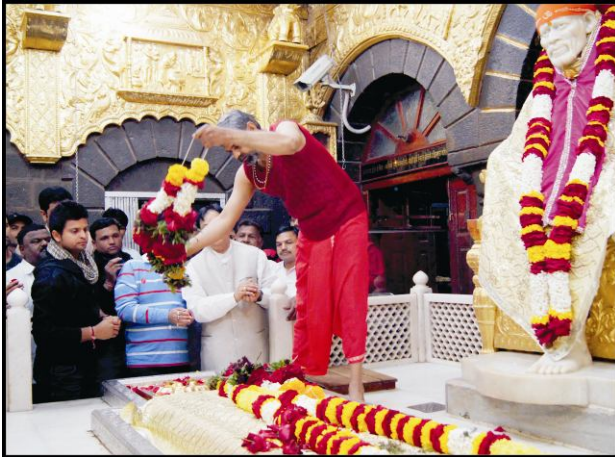
श्री की समाधि का दर्शन करते हुए सांसद एवं फिल्म अभिनेता श्री शत्रुघ्न सिन्हा के साथ विश्वस्त श्री अशोक खांबेकर.



श्री की समाधि का दर्शन करते हुए श्रीलंका सरकार के संरक्षण मंत्रालय के मुख्य सचिव श्री गोटाबाया राजपक्ष के साथ विश्वस्त श्री अशोक खांबेकर.



श्री की समाधि का दर्शन करते हुए क्रिकेट खिलाडी श्री अजिंक्य रहाणे.



श्री की समाधि का दर्शन करते हुए क्रिकेट खिलाडी सुरेश रेना के साथ विश्वस्त श्री कृष्णचंद्र पांडेय.



श्री की समाधि का दर्शन करते हुए केंद्रीय पर्यटक मंत्री श्री सुबोधकांत सहाय के साथ विश्वस्त श्री अशोक खांबेकर.





Shri Ashok Khambekar Trustee honours Textile Minister (Central), Shri Veerbhadra Singh and his wife



Smt.Kokilaben Ambani takes Samadhi Darshan.



Shri Akshay Khanna taking Samadhi Darshan.



Smt. Usha Chavan (Actress) taking Samadhi Darshan.



Shri Shatrughna Sinha (MP and Actor) honoured by Shri Ashok Khambekar (Trustee).



Shri Ashok Khambekar (Trustee) honours Shri Subhodhkant Sahay.