



JAN-APR 2005
MUMBAI

YES

Youth in Eternal Seva

A Newsletter by the Sai-Youth of Mumbai

The New Year has been ushered in the wake of the largest disaster that mankind has witnessed in the recent past. The Tsunami striking, the avalanche in Poonch which claimed several lives and the earthquakes that are rocking various parts of the world every other day – give no warning signals – but leave behind them loss, destruction and tragedy. One is reminded of Baba's words, cautioning us thus : "There is no escape for anyone from the consequences of his actions. Death may come at any time, in any place, in any form. No one can tell the time or manner of anyone's death. It is pre-ordained. Cultivate the habit of remembering the Lord with every breath, then only you can remember Him with the last breath."

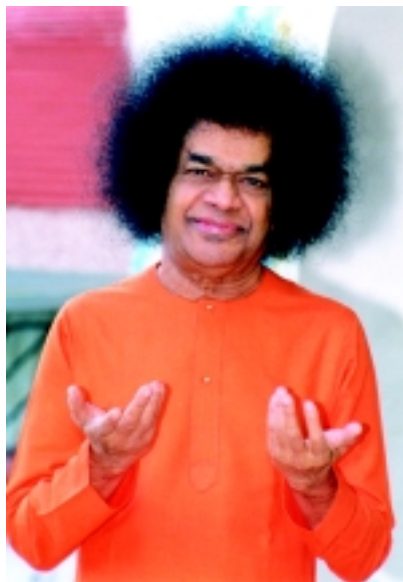
Each word uttered by Baba has such profound meaning! Baba has said, "There is no escape for anyone from the consequences of his actions." We are aware that everything is governed by the principle of 'reflection, reaction and resound.' All the five elements (ether, air, fire, water and earth) have been created by the will of the Supreme. We should use them moderately, with wisdom, reverential care and vigilant discrimination. Reckless use of any of them will only rebound on us with tremendous harm.

So, external nature has to be handled with caution. The same holds true of our inner 'nature' and our senses! How should we then handle ourselves with caution and care?

The shaasthras say that in the Kritha Age, man was able to achieve liberation through meditation, in the Thretha Age, through ritual sacrifice, in the Dwaapara Age, through worship and in this Kali Age, he can reach the goal through Naamasmarana. Thus the easiest path to reach the goal is available to us in the Kaliyug and we can purify one's senses and the mind by Naamasmarana. But alas, it is not so easy!

Baba says, "It is no mean achievement to get the Name of the Lord on one's tongue at the last moment. It needs the practice

of many years, based on a deep-seated faith. It needs a strong character, without hatred or malice; for the thought of God cannot survive in a climate of pride and greed. And how do you know which moment is the last? Yama, the God of Death does not give notice of his arrival to take hold of you.



He is like the man with the camera taking snapshots; he does not warn, 'Ready? I am clicking'. If you wish your portrait to hang on the walls of Heaven, it must be attractive; your stance, your pose, your smile must all be nice, is it not? So it is best to be ready for the click, night and day, with the name ever tripping on the tongue and the Glory always radiant in the mind. Then, whenever shot, your photo will be fine."

Baba has assured us that if we plant the seedling of Bhakthi (devotion) namely, the preliminary exercise of Naamasmarana in the mind, that will grow into a tree with the branches of virtue, service, sacrifice, love, equanimity, fortitude and courage.

Just as when we swallow food, we are not aware of how that food is transformed into energy, intelligence, emotion and health. In the same way; we are unaware of how Naamasmarana will benefit our entire being. But, we are guided thus : Just swallow this food for the spirit

(Naamasmarana), and watch how it gets transformed as virtue and the rest without your being aware of it. Develop steadiness in the recitation of the Name of God and in the worth of that Name. Then, even if the whole world says, 'Do evil', you will refuse to obey; your system itself will revolt against it. And even if the whole world asks you to desist, you will insist on doing the right. You have to cultivate four types of strength. Strength of body, intellect, wisdom and conduct. Then you become unshakable; you are on the path of spiritual victory. The mind is the mischief-maker; it jumps from doubt to doubt; it puts obstacles in the way. It weaves a net and gets entangled in it. It is ever discontented; it runs after a hundred things and away from another hundred. It is like a driver who drives the car with the master in it, wherever his fancy takes him. So take up the task of training it into an obedient servant; it is educable if only you know how to do it. Place before it things more tasty and it will hanker only for those. Once it realises the value of Naamasmarana, it will adhere to that method of getting peace and joy. So start it now. That is my Aajna (command) to you today.

When we know that thieves have broken into our neighbour's house, we become extra cautious and every night, before we retire, we examine every lock and bolt in the house. When we know that death has carried away a victim from the house next door, why do we not examine ourselves, whether we are equipped to meet it when it comes? Why do we immerse ourselves in distractions like building houses, piling bank-balances, celebrating picnics, contesting elections? Let us from this moment onwards engage ourselves rather in things that will make us immortal, engage in Naamasmarana, realise the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man and serve humanity and thereby seek our own reality.

Death is an inescapable fact of life. So, be warned. While life lasts, busy yourselves in activity, cross the lake while the boat is intact. Fill the reservoir when it rains, so that in times of drought, you can feed the fields. Do intense sadhana now, when you are young and strong, so that you can be in peace and joy all your life. Many postpone spiritual exercises until old age, when they hope to retire from their professional activities. But, once you retire, every limb of yours will be too tired to work effectively.

"Take the troubles that come to you as tests and opportunities to learn non-attachment. It is the hot summer that sends you to air-conditioning.

Grief sends you to God." - Baba

YES in Mumbai

❖ A devotional talk was organised at Sai Prem on the **30th and 31st of Oct** and at Dharmakshetra ('DK') on **31st Oct** on the 'Glory of Sai Avatar, Nava Vida Bhakti & Bhajans - Union with GOD'. Sri S. Narasimhan (Hari) an ardent devotee of Bhagawan Baba, who has delivered number of such lectures in India and abroad, delivered the talk on the subject.

❖ On **7th Nov**, the youth of the Borivali samithi performed Grama Seva with the youth of the colleges under the Sri Sathya Sai Awareness Programme for Youth ("YAP").

❖ On the **13th and 14th of Nov**, a 24 hour Akhand Bhajan was conducted globally by the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation. In Mumbai, the same was conducted in the four zones : Pushpa Kunj (Churchgate), Dharmakshetra ('DK') (Andheri E), Chembur, Sai Prem (Vashi) from 6 p.m. on the 13th of Nov to 6 p.m. on the 14th of Nov.

❖ The Global Ladies' Day was celebrated in Mumbai on the **19th of Nov** with a programme commencing at 3 pm and concluding with an all – Mahila bhajan at DK from 6 pm – 7 pm.

❖ As a part of Bhagawan's 79th birthday celebrations, on **Nov 21**, a medical camp was organised from 8.30 am – 1pm. Narayan Seva and vastra daan was carried out benefiting 790 families living near DK. In the evening, a musical programme was performed by Shri Ajit Kumar Kadkade and Miss Richa Sharma, which was concluded with Aarti and prasad. On Nov 22nd, Veda chanting was carried out at DK from 6 am – 6.30 am. From 7 am to 5.30 pm, Gayatri / Sai Gayatri Chanting was carried out at DK by the active workers of all the Zones of Mumbai in batches. Special bhajans were conducted at DK from 6 pm to 8 pm which was concluded with Aarti and prasad. At Navi Mumbai, in Sai Prem, a day-long programme comprising grama seva / narayan seva in every samithi, a cultural programme by the Bal Vikas children, and a musical offering 'Sai Fusion' by Sri Parameswaran and accompanying artistes was organised.

❖ Bhagawan's 79th birthday on **Nov 23**, was celebrated with a day – long programme at DK starting with Omkar, Suprabhatam, Nagarsankeertan, Veda chanting, Sai Gayatri chanting, Sai Sahasranamavali chanting, Rath Yatra, devotional music, aarti and prasad. Bhagawan's birthday was also celebrated on a zonal basis in some zones. Zone I celebrated Bhagawan's birthday at the Homi Talyerkhan auditorium, Fort with a devotional music programme and Sai bhajans rendered by Smt. Padmaja Joglekar, noted singer from 6 pm to 8 pm.

❖ A sadhana camp was organised for all study circle leaders on **5th Dec** at DK from 2 pm to 6 pm.

❖ The 5th 'Sri Sathya Sai Festival of Music, Dance and Drama', organised for the children of the schools participating in the Sri Sathya Sai Education in Human Values programme was held at DK on the **11th and 12th of Dec**. Spanning two wonderful value – filled days, the festival had been organised by the resource persons in the Institute of the Sri Sathya Sai Education. Over 34 schools across the city of Mumbai had participated in the event. The main purpose of the entire programme is to reinforce the Godward journey of man and to urge our future citizens to tread on a life of Human Values. This theme was radiating in every event of the day. In The Fancy Dress, the character had to be from mythology, a saint, or a patriot. This served to remind both students and teachers of the *Dharmic* lessons entailed in each of their stories. One saw a Tukaram dancing to the name of the Lord, Gandhi urging the audience on to a life of peace and sacrifice, a Krishna reinstating man's faith in God, a Mother Teresa, personifying the message: 'Service to Man is Service to God!' The Folk Dances had to depict a festival from any part of India. The hall reverberated with the rhythm of the Dandia, the energy of the Bhangra, the devotion of the Kainukathalli, and instantly one was transported to the tea gardens of Assam, the huts of Kerela, the garden valleys of Orissa. The Group Songs were a medley of patriotism, self-respect and love, pronouncing the greatness of Bharat, urging man to embrace peace, calling on God to bless one and all with love, forbearance and happiness. The value – based projects and magazines were stunning examples of the beauty that can be created when creativity

synergises with Human Values. Meticulously spun, these repertoires of stories, drawings and articles spoke in few words, the essence of thousands of scriptures man has created and learnt since the dawn of human life. The beauty of the event was that students and teachers, sat together in the true spirit of 'Om Sahana Vavatu...' to understand, analyse and apply Human Values into such delightful presentations, that made one introspect and learn.

❖ The Results of the Final Round of the Essay, Elocution and Poster competitions conducted in over 50 colleges under the Sri Sathya Sai Awareness Programme for the Youth (YAP) were declared on **Dec 18** at DK. The programme



commenced with the recitation of prayer songs by the youth wing of Mumbai and the District President – Shri Nimish Pandia's message to the students. Thereafter, the students who attended the day-long programme also participated in



Narayan Seva (a programme through which lunch was served to over 1500 needy and under-privileged members of our society residing in slums, old age homes, convalescent homes, adoption homes and those working at construction sites in and around Andheri). The joy on the faces of the students on conclusion of the activity was testimony of the immense satisfaction derived by them at having translated into practice, the thoughts echoed and words penned in the course of their participation in the competitions. Several students expressed a desire to participate in such service activities on an on-going basis. After lunch, the students were treated to

e-spiritual games. The computerised spiritual games which were projected on a large screen, tested the knowledge and memory of the students. The group spirit was largely evident as each of the four teams (Sathya, Dharma Shanti and Prema) competed to win the maximum points and prizes. All in all, it was an extremely entertaining session and means of providing additional knowledge on Indian culture, heritage and spiritualism. After the light session post lunch, it was time for the much awaited prize distribution session. The students held their breaths and waited with heavy anticipation, as the prizes were being announced – hopeful to win the beautiful trophies! The Chief Guests for the day - Smt. Aruna Irani – noted film personality and direc-



tor of television serials, Shri Samir Bhatia - Country Head – Corporate Banking, HDFC Bank and faculty member of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning and Trustee of the Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Maharashtra, and Smt. Neela Bhatia – Manager West, India of the Middlesex University – presented the trophies and the prizes to the winners of the inter-collegiate competitions in which thousands of students had participated.

Thereafter, a presentation titled 'The Life and message of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba' and 'Prashanthi Nilayam' which showcased Bhagawan's countless gifts and blessings to mankind, was made to the students. The programme concluded with the singing of the national anthem.

❖ The new year was commenced with a Vishwa Shanti Yagna (Homam) followed by Narayan Seva at DK on 2nd Jan.

❖ The 3rd Dharmakshetra public lecture on "Source and Reward of Human Values" was delivered by Lt. Gen. Dr. M. L. Chibber, Director of Sri Sathya Sai International Centre and School for Human Values, New Delhi on 2nd Jan from 4.15 p.m. onwards.



❖ Bhagawan Baba has declared that the primary mission of this Avatar is two - fold: bhaktarakshana and veda-poshana. The second stage is now manifestly evident. Since 17th Oct 2003, Swami has been encouraging Veda chanting during darshan. Since the establishment of Prashanthi Vidwan Mahasabha in 1962 Swami has been exhorting all devotees to learn and chant Veda mantras. All those who have heard the students and elders chant Veda in the Divine presence have experienced great joy and peace of mind.

The message of Veda is nothing but the message of the Creator. Bhagawan Baba has enjoined all to learn at least a few Vedic mantras and chant them every day so as to charge our environment with divine Vibrations. The benefits by way of timely rains, bumper crops, etc. are for all to see and experience. Besides developing all aspects of the human personality, Vedic chanting helps us understand the true purpose of Life. A Sadhana camp entitled "Vedas-The Breath of God" was conducted at Sai Prem, Vashi on 26th Dec. Shri Maunish Vyas, an ardent devotee of Bhagawan Baba and a Veda teacher, delivered a talk. Besides dwelling upon

the relevance of Veda in the 21st Century, he also demonstrated on how to chant the mantras and derive the maximum benefit.

❖ The Youth of Mumbai collected and distributed blankets, bed-sheets and mattresses to the old, poor and needy members of society living on the roads of Mumbai under Project Winter Sun in Jan. The Bandra-Khar-Santacruz Samithi managed to collect 150 blankets / bedsheets and 50 plastic mattresses. The Youth Boys distributed the entire lot of blankets and bedsheets in 3 different shifts starting at 11pm & ending up by 3am, covering the Mumbai city limits from Dadar to Andheri. The boys received not only satisfaction and happiness by doing this activity but they were fortunate enough to get the blessings from the old, poor and the needy people. The youth of Fort samithi distributed the same with the help of the elders in areas within the samithi. The youth of Tardeo - worli samithi distributed some bedsheets in Shirdi!

❖ A Devotees meet was held on 9th Jan from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. at DK to discuss at length the sequence of events planned for the 80th Birthday celebrations.

❖ Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organization, Mumbai / Navi Mumbai - Maharashtra and Goa, organised a Medical Conference entitled "The 4th dimension in Medicare. Knowledge, Technology, Money?" at Sai Prem on 23rd Jan from 9 am to 1 pm followed by Sai Prasadam (lunch). Dr. D.Y. Patil was the chief guest for the conference, Dr. Sundaresan represented the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences - Whitefield and shared the experiences from the Temple of Healing. The other eminent speakers in the conference were Dr. Keki Mistry, Dr. Snehalata Deshmukh (Ex. Vice Chancellor of Mumbai University), Dr. Rajiv Mathur and Shri. Nimish Pandia. The delegates of the conference were fortunate to receive Bhagawan's darshan at Prashanthi Nilayam in March. They also visited the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences at Prashanthi Nilayam and Whitefield.

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❖ **29th Jan** witnessed the 1st programme of the 18 projects and celebrations offered with love and humility by the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations of Maharashtra and Goa on the auspicious occasion of the 80th year of the advent of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The programme entitled 'Sri Sathya Sai Namasmaran – The Spiritual Renaissance' was presented by Pandit Shivkumar Sharma – noted Santoor Maestro and ardent devotee of Bhagawan.



N a m a v a l i bhajans were rendered by B e g u m P a r v e e n S u l t a n a, S m t. P a d m a j a P h e n a n y Joglekar, Begum Parveen Sultana, Smt. Kavita Krishnamurti, Sushri. Sadhana Sargam, Sushri. Richa Sharma, Shri Suresh Wadkar and Shri Anup Jalota. The programme was held at the Andheri Sports Complex from 6.30 pm onwards.



❖ **26th Feb** witnessed the inauguration of the School Building Extension of the Sri Sathya Sai Prathamik and Madhyamik Vidya Mandir at DK at 4 p.m. The school building which is being constructed through the donation of the Rotary Club of Bombay Seacoast was inaugurated at the hands of District Governor Rtn. Rahul Timbadia.

❖ The States of Maharashtra and Goa were blessed with the opportunity of performing Prashanthi Seva from the **1st to the 15th of Mar.**

❖ On the **8th Mar**, Shivarathri was observed with Akhand Bhajan globally by the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation from 6 p.m. on the 8th of Mar to 6 a.m. on the 9th of Mar. In Mumbai, the same was conducted in the four zones : Pushpa Kunj (Churchgate), Dharmakshetra ('DK') (Andheri E), General Education School (Chembur), Sai Prem (Vashi)

❖ Good Friday was observed with bhajans by the Fort Samithi on the **25th of Mar.**

Forthcoming Events

❖ Water is the lifeline for human life. Whilst most people in urban areas take clean and pure drinking water for granted, there are many villages in the country, where availability of drinking water is a luxury. The cluster of villages at the foothills of Matheran is one such place. These villages have abundant rainfall, but due to poor conservation techniques, they face severe shortage of water post monsoon. The villagers are compelled to trek almost 3-4 kms to fetch water daily. The Youth Wing of Mumbai have, inspired by the monumental humanitarian work of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba undertaken the Water Project for the adivasi villages located at the foothills of Matheran (at Burujwadi near Karjat). The water project was commenced last year and is now completed. This project will cater to 7 villages and will provide water to more than 1200 villagers. A bund is built which will conserve the water and will supplement the well which acts as the permanent source of water throughout the year. A submersible water pump of 15hp is installed which will pump the water to the height of 120 mts on the hillock. HDPE pipeline measuring approximately 5 kms is laid which will carry the water to the water storage tank built on the hillock, which has the capacity to store 90,000 liters. There are 14 water distribution outlets, which will provide cool pure water to the villagers at their doorsteps. This project has been funded at a cost of Rs. 18 lacs by the HDFC Bank Ltd. With the blessings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the inauguration of the water project shall be performed on **Apr 18** – on the auspicious festival of Sri Rama Navami. Shri Samir Bhatia (Country Head – Corporate Banking, HDFC Bank and faculty member of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning and Trustee of the Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publications Trust, Maharashtra) shall be inaugurating the Sri Sathya Sai Water Project. A Grama Seva has been organised at Burujwadi / Pokharwadi wherein over 200 youth of Mumbai and the employees of HDFC Bank shall be present. Bhajans, Nagarsankeertan, medical camp for the villagers, spiritual value games for the children and narayan seva shall also be performed.

❖ The Youth study circle topic for the month of Apr is 'Holidays should be Holy Days'.

❖ The youth bhajan on the **3rd of Apr** shall be organised by the Bandra and Vashi samithi.



❖ Gudi Padwa / Ugadi and Sri Rama Navami shall be celebrated



in Mumbai with bhajans at DK from 6 pm – 7 pm on the **9th of Apr** by the Worli samithi and on the **18th of Apr** by the Walkeshwar samithi respectively.



❖ Mahavir Jayanthi / Idd-E-Milad shall be celebrated in Mumbai on the **22nd of Apr** with bhajans at DK from 6 pm – 7 pm by the Shivaji Park samithi.

❖ The students of the colleges of Mumbai participating in the Sri Sathya Sai Awareness Programme for the Youth will be invited to participate in the Seva activities of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation during their Summer Holidays in the months of **April and May.**

Rise from bed in the Brahma muhurtham (4.30 - 5.15am) recite the AUM, even if you have no group around you, repeat the Suprabhatham, sit for sometime immersed in meditation, go through the yoga exercises, the obeisance to Sun God; sing bhajans when the hour reminds you that bhajan has started at Prashanthi Nilayam. Then, you will be carrying the sacred atmosphere of Prashanthi Nilayam with you. – **Baba (22.2.1968)**

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THE YES TEAM

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WILL - ALWAYS

When the Tsunami rocked the world, we all suddenly realized in horror, how fragile life is. While most of us battled fear with open eyes for several nights, we didn't even dare to imagine what the victims must have gone through. Yet, many of them survived. They fought in the face of the deadliest disaster anyone could face. What is it that made people live through this terrifyingly horrible time? What gave them the strength to win against this fierce adversary? We call it will power. A power from within a miracle worker, required in every field, every decision of life. But then where does this magic come from? Lets find its address. We give below a list of all the possible things you could draw strength from, You decide which source is the most potent. Just answer the questions below for each of the source.

| Source | Description | How to develop | Questions |
|-----------------|--|--|---|
| <u>Family</u> | You are strong because you think of your family. | By developing love for near and dear ones | ✓ Can this source last forever? Is there nothing that can take it away? |
| <u>Yourself</u> | You and your desires are the only motivating factor for you | Self-confidence and hard work | ✓ Does this source make you a better person in any way? ✓ Does this source aggravate or relieve your sense of burden? |
| <u>Rewards</u> | You are strong because you foresee the benefit you will derive through your will power | Ambition, practicality, discipline | ✓ Can this source permanently rid you of fear? Does it encourage you to relax, so that you can put in your best? |
| <u>God</u> | You are strong because you know there is a reason for whatever is happening and you are ready to learn and heal yourself out of it | Prayers, Meditation, Faith in God, determination without the craving for reward. | ✓ Can you trust this source to create a little miracle? ✓ Can this source provide motivation for every task, however big or small? |
| <u>Life</u> | You believe that for better or worse, life must be faced for whatever it brings | Faith in the concept of life | ✓ Does this source draw from within you or does it provide a purely external stimulus? Is it tangible? |

Chinna Katha

Bhadrachalam is a remotely situated village in the telengana area of Andhra Pradesh. The temple at Bhadrachalam is said to have been built at the spot where Sri Rama crossed the river godavari on his expedition to lanka.

It was built in 17th century by one Gopanna who was the Thasildar, during the reign of King Abdul Hasan Thane Shah of golconda. Gopanna was a very ardent devotee of Sri Rama. Engrossed in his deep devotion he built a temple for Sri Rama misappropriating Rs 6 lakhs from the revenue collections. When the king came to know of this he was arrested and imprisoned in a small dungeon in the fort of golconda. Having languished in prison for a long time, gopanna felt greatly dejected and decided to put an end to his life. Sri Rama appeared to him in his dream and told him that the money taken for building the temple had been repaid to the king showing him the receipt for the

amount. The next morning the king visited gopanna to tell him of his mysterious story of the unknown person who had come to him and paid the amount. When the latter narrated to him how Sri Rama had appeared in his dream and showed him the receipt, the King was deeply moved and set him free immediately. The king also made arrangements for monetary contribution to be made to the temple every year for its management. This was continued for 25 years by along line of Muslim rulers who succeeded him. Gopanna came to be known as Ramdas after he attained spiritual enlightenment. Thousands of pilgrims from all over India congregate every year at Bhadrachalam during the Sri Ramnavami celebrations which lasts for about a fortnight.

I know how systematic you are all in eating and drinking. You take pretty good care of the body. I do not condemn it. I only want that you should take equally good care of the needs of the Atma also. Take a dose of Dhyana (meditation) and Japa (silent repetition of holy names) as the morning breakfast; puja and Archana (ritual worship) as Lunch at noon; some Sath-sangha (holy company) or Sathchinthana (thinking of holy thoughts) or Sath-grantha paraayana (reading of holy books) or Naama likhitha (writing of holy names) as afternoon tea and snacks; an hour of bhajan (devotional singing) as Dinner; and a small ten-minute manana (reflection) as the cup of milk before going to bed. That dietary is enough to keep your inner being happy and healthy. That is my advice to you today. – Baba (16.5.1964)



First Hand...

The morning started with a cool and pleasant wind with a hint of a hard sunshine to come as summer had set in. The volunteers packed in 2 cars; one of them being the Black Scorpio started off at a brisk pace to the site.

MH04 BW 810 - The Black Scorpio was baptized by fire, literally as a few months earlier while returning from the village after the ceremony of laying the



Burujwadi Village

foundation stone the Scorpio carrying the youth somersaulted thrice and then skidded in a topsy-turvy position 500 yards away. After banging into another car in the front, the Black Scorpio's slide on the hot tarmac came to a halt. Apart from minor injuries, few broken ribs and collar bones, the life and limb of each occupant remained intact. While the vehicle took nearly 2 months to get into shape, the occupants were out of the causality ward in less than 2 weeks.

Now, most of the essential work had been completed. The water level in the well had risen considerably by nearly 5 feet. The same level was evident on the river as children were splashing down from the nearby rocky ledges and having a good time. The primary agenda for this visit was to test the upflow of water into the storage tank and the downflow to the villages. As one saw the unpainted cement dais where the VIPs were expected to formally inaugurate the project, one could not but help recollect that below the cemented flooring there was a huge sacrifice. Some accident or the other marked the entire project right from day 1. The toppling of the Black Scorpio, fracture of a volunteer and the serious



Work in progress on the bund

leg injury of one of the villagers. Valku, one of the most enthusiastic vil-

lagers volunteered to man the big cement grinder as the regular worker was absent. As he did not know anything about the machine, due a loose grip the sharp edge of the turning handle tore the flesh around his tibia from knee down. The gash was deep and blood was freely flowing. Valku,

being used to hard labor, was apparently impervious to the wound and went on working until someone noticed the sticky reddish spread near the machine. It was only then that Valku noticed the dark spreading stain on his trouser. Immediately, he sat

down and folded up his trouser leg and everyone rushed to inspect the wound. It was a harsh wound. - even as Valku's leg continued to bleed - one villager poured raw petrol over the leg and tried to wash out the caked blood. Then another boy heaped a handful red chilli powder over the wound. Valku bit his teeth and with a stoic face bore the searing pain. Then a woman dumped a handful of turmeric powder over the chilli powder and put a crude tourniquet with a torn dirty cloth. All the while Valku's pain got worse maybe because of the chilli powder and he started losing his composure. He was writhing in pain and started to profusely sweat. After giving him a few minutes to adjust to the temporary treatment some of the volunteers helped him to slowly move to the waiting vehicle and took him to the nearby hospital for a decent treatment.

Nothing is guaranteed once you step out of the threshold of the comforts of your home. Returns are not guaranteed, not

only for mutual funds, but also in Heavens. If you want to serve be ready for the tripping once a while.

This seemed nature's way of testing the mettle of the serious volunteers. And true to their name, the volunteers emerged unscathed in spirit. As the water gushed out of the tap the fantastic smile of the villagers was a sight which was unbelievable. What was taken for granted by all of us in the city was more precious than gold was, to these tribals on these desolate hills in the deep interiors of Karjat. For the villagers it was magic indeed. An old woman, Kamlubai, her skin shrunk and wrinkled with layers of smooth folds and cracks with a big tumor on her abdomen showed her teeth in a full smile and took a handful of water and sprinkled over her head. We were informed that she was over 95. She was talking to her neighbour and remarked that in all her life she had never seen the 'silver magic' (water) on her land and now here this was 'deva krupa' meaning God's grace. Even the Sun who normally was relentless especially towards noon did not mind the sudden invasion of a few cumulus and the entire atmosphere took a very pleasantly cool turn. It



Recipients of the water - Children of Burujwadi

seemed like the Heavens were watching and liked what they saw. Looking back, the Black Scorpio seemed to have its owner's heart instead of an inanimate engine. The selfless service the Black Scorpio had done in this entire project could thus be termed as more than that of any of us humans could have done. It was not an ordinary car. It was Pushpak, the divine chariot of the Gods.

As the pure silver life giving liquid started flowing with full force, an old bespectacled villager went into his home and came out with a plateful of lusciously red juicy sliced water melons. With total solemnity and a sense of utter reverence the simple villagers offered the fruit as a thanksgiving. This was our reward!! - written by Ram, from HDFC Bank who visited Burujwadi alongwith the Sai volunteers.