

## PRASANTHI EVENTS

### **Sathya Sai World Youth Festival (SSWYF)**

A momentous Sathya Sai World Youth Festival (SSWYF) celebration took place in Prasanthi Nilayam from 12th to 14th July 2017. About 3,000 delegates from more than 70 countries celebrated the joy of being a Sathya Sai Youth and reflected on the festival theme: Love Is the Source, Love Is the Path and Love Is the Goal. More than 320 volunteers worked tirelessly over a six-month period to make the festival a memorable and inspiring event. The event started with a colourful procession of youth delegates bearings flags of their countries.

The SSWYF programme included uplifting talks, video excerpts of Sathya Sai Baba's discourses, live musical performances including a symphony orchestra, workshops, sharing of personal experiences by the youth, dramas, and short skits. A charming theme song, "Celebrate Love...Celebrate Life," was specially composed for the festival.

The SSIO hosted an exhibition featuring various presentations, including "Puttaparthi's Got Talent"; musical performances by Mexican girls' choir, Indian percussionists, a Balinese performance, a Mexican boys' choir; and an entertaining game called Bhajan Antakshari.

Youth from UAE, Nepal, Mauritius, Indonesia, Fiji and several states of India including Rajasthan, Manipur, Gujarat and Punjab staged a spectacular dance programme and thrilled the audience with their performance.

At the break of dawn on the second and third days, delegates took part in invigorating physical training activities, including yoga, qigong, tai chi, volleyball, basketball, football, and a hike to the Hanuman statue at the summit of the hill overlooking the Hillview Stadium.

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The youth took part in workshops on various topics. They enacted an exhilarating drama and presented a grand musical extravaganza, Symphony for Sai, showcasing a blend of both Indian and Western music performed by more than 65 youth. Resolutions of the Sathya Sai World Youth Festival, comprising a blueprint for future actions by the youth, were presented on the final day of the SSWYF.

#### **Chinese New Year**

On 3rd and 4th February 2017, about 400 Sathya Sai devotees from China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand celebrated Chinese New Year in Prasanthi Nilayam. The programme included uplifting and melodious Buddhist chantings; a harmonica performance; and a medley of Chinese New Year songs and bhajans.







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#### **Buddha Poornima Celebrations**

On 21st and 22nd May 2016, about 300 SSIO members from Nepal, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Brunei participated in Buddha Poornima celebrations in Prasanthi Nilayam. The celebrations included Buddhist chantings, speeches, and devotional singing. SSE children and youth from Nepal performed vibrant and colourful cultural dances.

#### **Christmas Celebrations**

From 24th to 27th December 2016, SSIO members took part in Christmas celebrations at Prasanthi Nilayam. The celebrations included an international Christmas choir with participants from more than 35 countries; a western classical musical recital; a recorded Christmas discourse by Bhagawan; a Bethlehem Procession signifying the birth of Jesus; and an international children's choir of 67 children from 19 countries.

