

Chinese New Year

About 500 SSIO members from Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Thailand and Japan gathered in Prasanthi Nilayam on 22nd–23rd February 2018 to celebrate Chinese New Year. The theme of celebrations was "Honour Our Parents Every Day." The event was highlighted by a talk about the teachings of Confucius on filial piety and its resonance with Sathya Sai Baba's teachings to revere and respect one's parents.

Additionally, there were instrumental performances on the GuZheng, a traditional plucked string instrument and the Er Hu, a Chinese two-stringed fiddle, and a mesmerising presentation of the ancient Chinese dramatic art of mask changing. Three shorts skits, titled "The Cornerstone of Chinese Civilisation," depicted how parents should be respected and revered.

Buddha Poornima Celebrations

On 10th–11th May 2017, more than 400 Sathya Sai devotees from Nepal, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei participated in Buddha Poornima celebrations in Prasanthi Nilayam. The celebrations included Buddhist chanting, lighting of sacred lamps, speeches and devotional singing. SSE children from Nepal enacted a touching musical skit, while SSE students and youth from Lao PDR, Nepal and Thailand performed colourful cultural dances.



Christmas Celebrations

From 24th–26th December 2017, in Prasanthi Nilayam, SSIO members took part in festive Christmas celebrations under the theme, "God Is Love, God Is Light; Live in Love and Light." On Christmas Eve, an International Christmas Choir of 82 men from 26 countries and 240 women from 35 countries suffused the entire milieu with soulful Christmas carols and beautiful songs. The guest speaker, a diplomat from Colombia, shared his experiences of Sathya Sai Baba. An International Children's Choir of 50 boys and girls from 12 countries sang heart-touching songs. The celebrations wrapped up with an enthralling violin concert and a moving drama performed by SSE students from Australia.





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Sathya Sai International Leadership Programme (SSILP)

At the Third Annual Graduation Ceremony of the SSILP for Young Adults at Prasanthi Nilayam on 24th November 2017, certificates were awarded to 456 graduates from 59 countries. The programme included talks by young adults on the impact of the leadership programme, a short video by young adults and children of Thailand with a video song titled "Our Love," and a mellifluous musical offering.

Love exists for love and nothing else. It is spontaneous and imparts delight. Everything is permeated by love. Love sees with the heart and not the eyes. It listens not through the ears but by the tranquility of the heart. It speaks not with the tongue but out of compassion.

-Sathya Sai Baba, 25 December 1995

