

Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust

Concept note for the reorganisation of Sri Sathya Sai Centres in the world and formation of SRI SATHYA SAI GLOBALCOUNCIL

PREAMBLE

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba founded and established a service organisation for the benefit of humanity. The message that Baba came to deliver is universal and is based on five cardinal human values, namely Sathya, Dharma, Shanti, Prema and Ahimsa. Though Baba travelled only once outside India in the year 1969 to East Africa, His teachings came to be known in different parts of the world. Baba used many forms of communication with his devotees and followers. Those who came to have His darshan in India were blessed with direct contact at a personal level, at a community level and through public darshan interaction and discourses delivered by Baba. Millions of Baba's followers benefitted by this process in their personal lives.

Baba's important teaching was that God is all pervasive and resides in the human heart. To rediscover Him it is necessary to engage in selfless service. Among the many paths towards God well recognised in Sanathana Dharma the path of karma which includes the path of service has been emphasised by Bhagawan. To engage in such service activities one needs to organise oneself and for this purpose Baba set up the seva organisation both at the Indian and international level.

Baba played a pivotal role in the functioning of these organisations by laying down clear guidelines, the programmes, the rituals and the manner in which devotees should come together in Sai centres or samitis. The activities of the Sai centres and samitis were clearly enunciated with emphasis on morals and ethics.

Participation of women and children was encouraged with special programmes in order to bring about cohesion and uniformity. Geographical divisions based on countries and regions formed the administrative hierarchy with national presidents and service, spiritual, mahila and bal Vikas Coordinators.

Before the Mahasamadhi of Baba on 24-4-2011, the seva organisations were nurtured and guided by Baba personally. He interacted directly with the President of the All India Seva Organisation and State Presidents in various states of India and with regard to International Organisation with the Chairman and several country heads and guided them in all their activities and blessed their endeavours. The main aim of the seva organisations was to inculcate in the devotees a desire to serve as an essential element for spiritual advancement. Service to mankind was elevated to the level of a kind of penance or sadhana. Such service was the bedrock of the Sai organisation.

Post the Mahasamadhi, the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust which had been set up by Baba in 1972, took over the mantle of the responsibility of continuing all activities inspired by Him including the upkeep and running of the Prasanthi Nilayam ashram at Puttaparthi in Ananthpur district Andhra Pradesh State in India. The Samadhi of Baba is also in Prasanthi nilayam where devotees continue to visit to pay homage, to pray and to receive his blessings.

The Sai organisations are connected to Prasanthi Nilayam. The Divine guidance which was available in person up to 2011 has to be sought now from the omnipresent spirit of Baba at Prasanthi Nilayam.

In the nine years after the Mahasamadhi, the Sai organisation has continued to keep the spirit of seva in India. By continuing to carry on the activities in the path shown by Baba, the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust has been playing a central role

and is providing guidance to the National and International Organisations. Baba's mission is truly global. In today's world, the values enshrined in Baba's teachings are more relevant.

In order to formalise and to provide a firm foundation for continued achievement of the ideals and goals of Sri Sathya Sai consequent to the recognition of Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust by the United Nations by conferring Special Consultative Status, a closer connection of Baba's service organization in different parts of the world to Prasanthi Nilayam and Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust has become necessary.

Towards this end,

I. The Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust (SSSCT) has decided to constitute the Sri Sathya Sai Global Council (SSSGC) with its headquarters at Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi, which will work under the aegis of SSSCT.

II. OBJECTS:

The objects of SSSGC are:

1. To oversee, guide, coordinate and direct the global mission of Sri Sathya Sai Baba worldwide.
2. To provide access and facilitate the visits and exchanges of devotees from all over the world to Prasanthi Nilayam.
3. To assist in the coordination and harmonisation of the activities of the SSSCT and the Sai centres all over the world and to provide guidance to Sri Sathya Sai devotees and directions to Sri Sathya Sai centres all around the world.

4. To oversee and guide the functioning of all Sri Sathya Sai Trusts in India and abroad which are established by or with the blessings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba and under the authority of SSSCT in order to ensure their integrity, accountability and transparency of operations particularly the strict observance of all the tenets and teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba in all their activities.
5. To accredit, permit and oversee the functioning of Sri Sathya Sai centres and the use of the holy name and form of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Sarva Dharma symbol and the Baba's image in pictorial, digital and other modern means in the activities and mission.

III. MEMBERSHIP:

The members of the SSSGC shall be the following:

1. Presidents of all the National Sai organisation in every country
2. Three of the Trustees of SSSCT to be nominated by the Board of Trustees of SSSCT from time to time.
3. All India President of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations.
4. Chairman of Sri Sathya Sai International Organisation.
5. Five other long standing devotees of Sri Sathya Sai Baba to be nominated by SSSCT.

IV. CHAIRMAN:

SSSCT will nominate the Chairman of SSSGC.

V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

There shall be an executive committee comprising the following:

1. The national presidents of UK, USA, South Africa, Australia and Japan.
2. The three Trustees nominated by SSSCT.
3. Chairman, Sri Sathya Sai International Organisation.
4. All India President of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations
5. Five senior functionaries of the Sri Sathya Sai International Organisation to be nominated by Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust.
6. Managing Trustee, SSSCT will be a permanent invitee to the Executive Committee meetings.
7. The Chairman of the SSSGC shall be the Chairman of the executive committee also.

VI. MEETINGS and FUNCTIONING

1. The SSSGC shall meet not less than twice a year in the months of July and November each year. The meeting shall be held at Prasanthi Nilayam and members can also attend through video conference if unable to attend in person.
2. All decisions shall be unanimous and if consensus is not reached it shall be decided on majority of three-fourths of those present.
3. At the meeting held in November each year, the plan of action for the following calendar year shall be presented and approved. At the meeting to be held in July each year a report of activities of the preceding calendar year shall be presented and approved.
4. The executive committee shall meet every quarter starting from January each year. The plan of activities and the report shall be approved by the

executive committee and then presented to the SSSGC. Members can also attend through Video Conference if unable to attend in person.

5. The executive committee shall appoint a Convener and he will carry out the Official / Administrative work of the SSSGC at Prasanthi Nilayam.
6. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the laying down of standard protocols, procedures, principles and tenets to be observed by all Sai Centers in accordance with the teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba.
7. The executive committee shall have the authority to appoint observers for all or any of the Sai centers to ensure due compliance with the directives of the executive committee.
8. The executive committee shall be vested with the authority to appoint, remove, extend the tenure of, reappoint the national presidents of each of the countries which has Sai Centers in its territory. The procedure for such appointments etc shall be on the basis of the recommendation of an Appointments Committee to be constituted by the Executive Committee from time to time.
9. The Executive Committee is also empowered to take decisions based on circulation of proposals in between its meetings if need arises. Such decisions by circulation shall either be unanimous or decided on majority of three-fourths all the members of the executive committee.
10. The Executive Committee shall appoint the Chairman, Sri Sathya Sai International Organisation and All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations. It has the powers to appoint, extend the tenure of, remove reappoint the Chairman, Sri Sathya Sai International Organisation and All India President, Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations.
11. The Executive Committee shall be the nodal agency for interface between national and international Sai organisations.

12.No remuneration or reimbursement of travel and other costs will be payable to any of the members of SSSGC and its committees for discharging their duties as such members and they shall do so in honorary capacity.

VII. SSSGC Office:

1. There shall be an office for the SSSGC and its executive committee at Prasanthi Nilayam which shall be handled by the Convener appointed by the executive committee who shall hold office at the pleasure of the executive committee.
2. The office shall be staffed appropriately and all facilities and amenities shall be provided by SSSCT.
3. The Convener shall, on the instructions of the Chairman convene meetings of SSSGC, executive and other committees and maintain proper records of all meetings of the SSSGC, its Executive committee , Appointments Committee and any other Committees.
4. All correspondence and communications with Sai centers and members of SSSGC and its committees shall be documented and archived by the Convener.

ROLE AND POWERS OF SSSCT

1. The SSSGC and all its committees shall be guided and be bound by any directions, guidance, orders and instructions given by SSSCT from time to time and the same shall be expeditiously implemented.
2. The SSSGC shall function under the overall superintendence of SSSCT.
3. All funds required for the functioning of the SSSGC office shall be met and borne by SSSCT.