

BHAGAWAN SRI SATHYA SAI BABA 80th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE



MAHARASHTRA & GOA

Co-ordinators:

Shri. Ramesh D. Sawant
State President
Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations
Maharashtra & Goa

Shri. Ramesh M. Thakkar
Convener
Sri Sathya Sai Trust
Maharashtra

Mrs. Shailaja Jayant Patil

DHARMAKSHETRA - UNFOLDING THE DIVINE MISSION

Dharmakshetra is a gift of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba to the entire humanity, and in particular to the citizens of Mumbai. It is a witness to His infinite Love and compassion, serving as a Lighthouse to spread His Message of Love in Action.

Sathya Deep, the Abode of Bhagawan Baba during His physical presence in Mumbai, is already vibrant with Divine Love. In this 80th Year of the Advent of Sai Avatar, the Sri Sathya Sai Trust (Maharashtra) and the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation (Maharashtra & Goa), took up as a major project-the development of Dharmakshetra as a Tirthkshetra, a Pilgrimage Centre, by enriching the ambience and activities, which would have a long term deep impact on the lives of man for several eons of time.

This Commemorative Souvenir on the growth and development of DHARMAKSHETRA as a TIRTHKSHETRA is being published on the joyful occasion of the 80th Birthday of Lord Sai, and is placed at His Lotus Feet on behalf of all devotees of Maharashtra & Goa.

Ramesh M. Thakkar
Trust Convener

Ramesh D. Sawant
State President

23 November 2005

2. DIVINE SANKALPA Sri Indulal H Shah

DHARMAKSHETRA is the spiritual lighthouse established by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Mumbai and it stands as a miracle of Baba's Divine Sankalpa. It signifies the mystical human journey from "I to We" and from "We to He" under His Supreme Divine Guidance. A journey from "Without to Within", from "Untruth to Truth", from "Kuruksheetra - the Battlefield of Sensual Pleasures to Dharmakshetra - The Realm of Righteousness". Dharmakshetra symbolizes the core message of Bhagawan to Mankind, i.e. to embark upon Dharma.

It was sometime during Swami's stay at our residence during His visit to Mumbai in 1967 that the divine sankalpa of having an abode of sacred action for the teeming devotees of the great city of Bombay (now Mumbai) took shape. After visiting many sites in the month of March, Baba selected a site where there were only hillocks; there was not even an approach road.

As per the Divine Plan Bhagawan laid the foundation stone for Dharmakshetra on Diwali day on 3rd November 1967 and declared that the building would be ready in 6 months by May 1968, well in time for the First World Conference of the Sathya Sai Organisation to be held in Mumbai. We were all a bit surprised at the declaration of the completion of the Building when even the Building Plan had not even been thought of. But Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai, the personification of the Highest "TRUTH" can never fail as "Truth will always Triumph". As our Loving Swami willed, the construction work started as late as 26th January 1968, but lo and behold, the beautiful lotus-shaped edifice was ready on time and it was inaugurated by Bhagawan on 12th May as had been declared by Him. That morning, Bhagawan asked me a very unexpected question, which almost put me in a fix. He asked me "How many days did this construction take"? I was taken aback since I had only been maintaining the details of the material that had gone into the construction work of the building. So roughly calculating the number of days I replied "Swami, it has taken about three months, about 80 days". Swami said "No, no" with a twinkle in His eyes, "It has taken 108 days! You can check up with your contractor." The contractor was sent for and was asked to refer to his record books. The records revealed exactly 108 days.