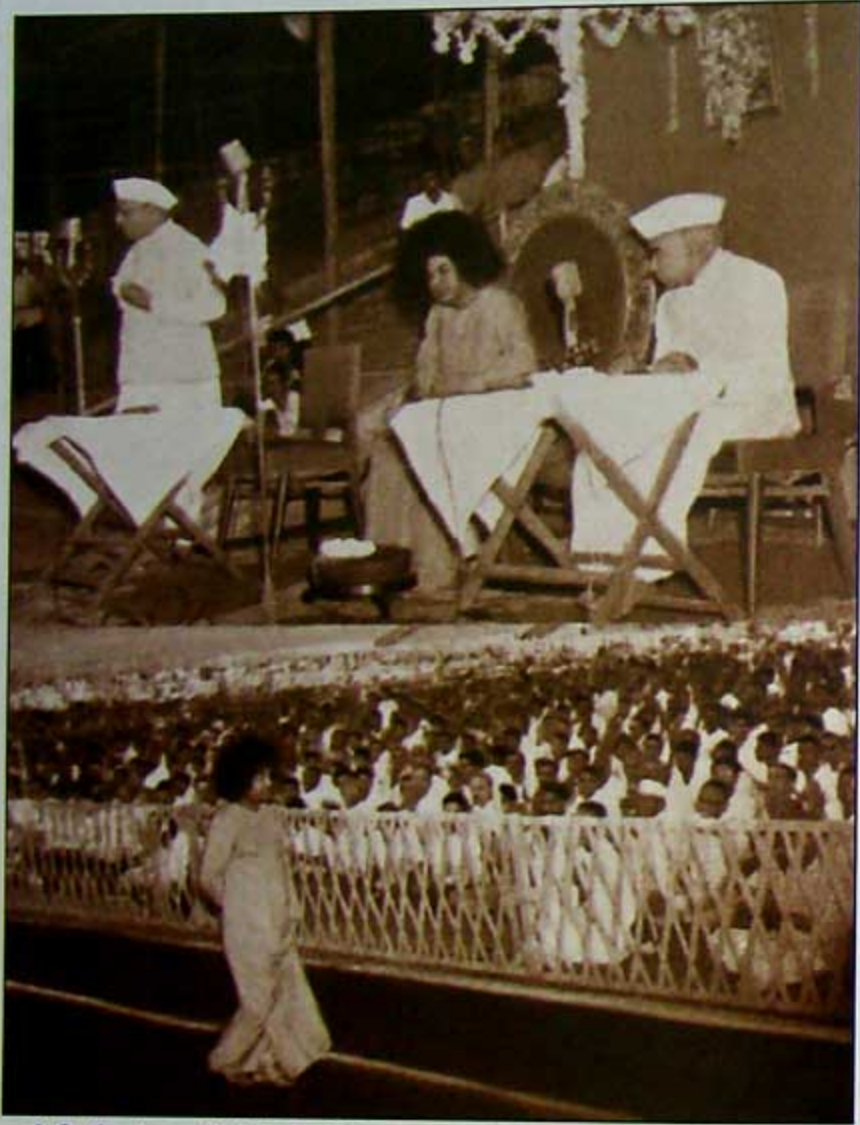


Mahasabha was launched in Shanmukhanand hall at Sion. The year 1966 is a landmark in the history of Sathya Sai movement. On Makar Sankranti, 14 January, the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi was formed with 10 branches (Units) in the city of Mumbai. The first meeting of the Samithi was held at the residence of late Sri Arvind Wagle under the chairmanship of Sri Indulal Shah; since then to date, bhajans are regularly conducted at Sri Wagle's residence.



2. On the stage with Late Dr. B. Ramakrishna Rao Former Governor of UP (top) Bhagawan Baba at the V. P. Stadium delighting the huge crowd of devotees, (below)

Soon after, in April 1966, the Samithi officially organized a visit of Swami to Mumbai. The Divine Mother Eswaramma, along with some chosen devotees, accompanied him. This was a landmark occasion. During this visit Swami stayed at Gwalior Palace. A largely attended public meeting was held in Vallabhabhai Patel Stadium in Worli. Swami's Discourse was simultaneously translated by the-

Expand into Universal Love; unshaken equanimity and ever-active virtue.

then Governor of U.P., late Sri Ramakrishna Rao. The first Samithi bhajan also started at Sweet Home Hall in Shivaji Park on the 1st Sunday every month from 10.00 to 11.30 am, which became a meeting place for all devotees in Mumbai.

The next visit of Bhagawan Baba to Mumbai was during the Holy festival in 1967. He stayed at Sri Indulal's residence in Khar. During this period, He visited various sites to establish a Centre for activities of the Samithi, as well as finalizing the location for His Abode in Mumbai. The search ended with approval of Dharmakshetra in Andheri East.

On His next visit, Swami stayed at Modi Bungalow near Mohan Studios in Andheri East. During this visit on the auspicious day of 3rd November 1967, He laid the Foundation stone of Dharmakshetra. Swami also announced that Dharmakshetra would be inaugurated on 12th May 1968. Dharmakshetra was a vast piece of uneven land on a hillock. Sathya



Bhagawan nearer Home in Andheri East at the Modi Bungalow distributing Vibhuti to the devotees (March 1967)

Deep, the Abode of Bhagawan Baba, was the first building taken for construction.

Sathya Deep, along with Shivam in Hyderabad and Sunderam in Chennai, form the trinity of important Sai Centres in India; Sathya Deep was the first among them. It is an architectural marvel, a heritage building of unique style in lotus form. It can be observed on Mumbai skyline, as displayed at Nehru Planetarium. The building has 18 pillars, 16 petals and 1008 openings on the ground floor. The lotus is surrounded by water. Swami visited the site during the construction also.

On the red-letter day, 12 May 1968, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba consecrated the Sathya Deep building. During the fury of construction activities, none could grasp the Divine Sankalpa of Sathya Deep. On the day of inauguration, Swami casually mentioned that the construction has taken 108 days; this was later verified by Sri Indulal Shah. This day, 12 May has since then being celebrated each year as Dharmakshetra Day.

Man's primary duty is to uphold the human values of truth, righteousness, peace and love.