GREENING SRI SATHYA SAI BABA’S 85TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS - USA

"From birth to death, from dawn till night, man pursues fleeting pleasures by the exploitation, the despoiling, the desecration of Nature, ignoring the truth that it is the property of God the Creator, and any injury caused to it is a sacrilege, which merits dire punishment." - Sathya Sai Speaks, vol. 18

Sairam Dear Sai Brothers and Sisters,

Most of us living in the west do not recognize the immanence of the Divine in Nature and maintain a very impersonal relationship with the natural world. We claim ownership on Nature’s resources and misuse it to a great extent. This is causing effects such as global warming, deforestation, extinction of species, and unprecedented depletion of Natural resources.

Swami emphatically admonishes man for disturbing Nature's balance and underscores the importance of protecting it - "the world is losing its ecological balance as man out of utter selfishness, is robbing mother Earth of her resources like coal, petroleum, iron, etc. As a result, we are seeing natural calamities. Human life will find fulfillment only when ecological balance is maintained". Swami says that "All men, all living beings, are cells in the body of God. Their origin, continued existence, and progress are all in God, by God, for God. The individual is a unit in this unity. When one is ill, all suffer. When one is happy, all are partners of that happiness." - Quotes of Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in Tread Softly by Tina K. Schweickert. Hence it is our duty to conserve Nature's resources for posterity.

With Divine grace, few members of the Sai family (including adults, youth and SSE group 4) whose lives and/or careers revolve around expressing this love for nature in tangible ways – have been inspired with the noble goal of making the 85th Birthday Celebrations of Swami completely green.
While going green here refers to eliminating the use of products which cause damage to Mother Nature such as paper, plastic and Styrofoam, it is not merely an external exercise.

Bhagawan says "Paropakaaraardham Idam Shareeram"
Literal Meaning - Purpose of the human body is to serve others;
Deeper meaning - Perform only those actions which take one Inward.

It is the conviction of this team that these small acts of expressing our love for Mother Nature have their purpose in achieving exactly this deeper meaning for life.

We therefore call out to all inspired individuals in the nation, whose hearts resonate with this idea, to work together in utilizing the resources that our beloved Bhagawan has provided and make it a reality.

**Steps ahead:**

1. **Update call with National Leadership (before Oct 20th)**
   a. Need a call with all Regional Youth Representatives, Advisors, and Service Coordinators.
   b. Purpose is to identify Local Green Champions for each Sai center/group.

2. **Call with Local Green Champions (before Nov 5th)**
   a. Purpose
   i. Discuss game plan for making all local celebrations Green.
   ii. Implementing 85 Green Living Tips

"All beings in the world of the living are aspects of My Eternal Self."

Jai Sai Ram

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