



Om Namo Bhagavate Sri Ramanaya

# Saranagathi

eNewsletter from [sriramanamaharshi.org](http://sriramanamaharshi.org)

[saranagathi@sriramanamaharshi.org](mailto:saranagathi@sriramanamaharshi.org)

**Publisher**

V.S. Ramanan

**Editorial Team**

Ravi Ramanan

Prashanth Visweswaran

SARANAGATHI

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## MAIN ARTICLE

The main feature article for this issue is an extract Day By Day with Bhagavan. This recollection talks about the events and details surrounding Echammal's passing away during December 1945.

There are also some answers provided to devotees by Sri Bhagavan during this day on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1945.

## Details on Page 2 & 3

## BHAGAVAN SRI RAMANA CENTERS & SATSANGH GROUPS

This month's issue covers a report on some of Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi Centers, Satsangh Groups, their events and contacts. In this issue we are also making a request from various groups across the world to send us some details, so that we may be able to publish the details in the future issues of this eNewsletter. **For details please go to page 4.**

## SARANAGATHI

An eNewsletter from [www.sriramanamaharshi.org](http://www.sriramanamaharshi.org)

## Dear Devotees of Sri Bhagavan:

With Sri Bhagavan's Grace we are pleased to publish an eNewsletter from Sri Ramanasramam's website. The purpose is to bring together devotees of Sri Bhagavan from across HIS world.

**SARANAGATHI**, eNewsletter, is being developed to help devotees share their experiences, about Satsangh, meetings and other events that are held within various centers of Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi.

Initially we would like to begin with, by publishing this eNewsletter on a monthly basis. Based on the response and feedback provided by devotees, we may change this frequency. It is also proposed to have one feature article for each issue. The feature article would focus on popular events that happened during the years between 1879 and 1950.

Our earnest request, to all devotees, satsangh groups and centers is to share with us their events, stories and experiences. Please email them to [saranagathi@sriramanamaharshi.org](mailto:saranagathi@sriramanamaharshi.org)

## Ever Truly In Sri Bhagavan Editorial Team

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## Free Medical Camp at Sri Ramanasramam

A free medical camp was conducted in the premises of Sri Ramanasramam (Morvi Guest House) on Saturday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2007 **Details on Pages 6 & 7**



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## MAIN ARTICLE

Extract from Day by Day with Bhagavan by Sri Devaraja Mudaliar

28<sup>th</sup> December, 1945.

Morning

It seems Echammal passed away at about 2-30 a.m. and the matter was reported to Bhagavan only about 8 a.m. in the hall. The talk naturally was about Echammal and how from 1907 she persevered in offering food to Bhagavan without any break. Bhagavan also remembered three other persons who fed him when he was under the *iluppai* tree in the Big Temple. One was Dasi Rajambal who, it seems, took a vow that she would not eat before feeding Bhagavan and was feeding him for about two months until he moved away to Gurumoortham. It seems she continued to send food even to Gurumoortham for a day or two. But Bhagavan asked her to discontinue it. It seems this lady died only recently. Bhagavan mentioned also Meenakshi Ammal, a Kammala woman, and said, "She was like a *rakshasi*. She would daily go round the hill and then come and cook and bring food to me. After some time she began assuming control over everybody including Palaniswami. If others brought food, etc., she would give some to me and whatever remained she used to take away with her." (Bhagavan said, in the afternoon, "Our Nagappa's mother Ratnamma also used to bring food in those days"). Of food supplied regularly, (*Kattalai*) as Bhagavan put it, he said, "You don't know what trouble all such regular supply involves. Those who make it expect some control over you. It also creates some *aham* in them."

Everyone of them expects you to take something. One would say "I say, serve something with your own hand", and then each would serve something. The quantity would become too great. Any number of people bring any number of things, and at all times, and you must take them. Sometimes we used to mix up all things received, milk, food, porridge, etc., and drink it if the resulting mixture was a liquid. 'Swami-hood' is very difficult. You cannot realize it. I am speaking from fifty years' experience. After such experience in Gurumoortham I wanted to avoid it by not remaining in anyone place."

Afternoon

Santhamma came and reported to Bhagavan that Echamma passed away peacefully and people did not even know when exactly life departed and that though she was unconscious for nearly two days, when she had a little consciousness at one time during these two days, the one question she asked was, "Has food been sent to Bhagavan?" (Later I learnt from Nagamma that this was not quite correct. It seems that somebody, to test whether Echamma's mind was clear and not wandering, asked the question "Has food been sent to Bhagavan today?" and Echammal at once showed recognition). Her body was cremated. I thereupon asked Bhagavan, "It is said in the case of such people they should not be cremated, but buried". Bhagavan replied, "It seems she herself had mentioned that her body should be cremated and that her bones alone should be taken and buried in her village."



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## MAIN ARTICLE

I also asked Bhagavan what he meant by his statement last night that "she would often remain with closed eyes". He explained, "She practiced concentrating on the head centre and would be in a trance- like state for even two or three days with breath fully controlled. I told her it was only *laya* and one should not be satisfied with it, but must get out of it and beyond it."

One Mr. Joshi, introduced by our Chaganlal Yogi, put the following questions and Bhagavan gave the following answers:

**Question :** When I think 'Who am I?', the answer comes 'I am not this mortal body but I am *chaitanya*, *atma*, or *paramatma*.' And suddenly another question arises — 'Why has *atma* come into *maya*?' or in other words 'Why has God created this world?'

**Answer:** To enquire 'Who am I?' really means trying to find out the source of the ego or the 'I' thought. You are not to think of other thoughts, such as 'I am not this body, etc.' Seeking the source of 'I' serves as a means of getting rid of all other thoughts. We should not give scope to other thoughts, such as you mention, but must keep the attention fixed on finding out the source of the 'I' thought, by asking (as each thought arises) to whom the thought arises and if the answer is 'I get the thought' by asking further who is this 'I' and whence its source?

**Question :** Is *atma* a subject of *sakshatkara*?

**Answer:** The *atma* is as it is. It is *sakshat* always. There are not two *atmas*, one to know and one to be known. To know it is to be it. It is not a state where one is conscious of anything else. It is consciousness itself.

**Question :** I do not understand the meaning of "*brahma satyam jagat mithya* (Brahman is real, the world is unreal)". Does this world have real existence or not? Does the *jnani* not see the world or does he see it in a different form?

**Answer:** Let the world bother about its reality or falsehood. Find out first about your own reality. Then all things will become clear. What do you care how the *jnani* sees the world? You realize yourself and then you will understand. The *jnani* sees that the world of names and forms does not limit the Self, and that the Self is beyond them.

**Question :** "I do not know how to worship. So kindly show me the way to worship."

**Answer:** Is there a 'worshipper' and a 'worshipped'? Find out the 'I', the worshipper; that is the best way. Always the seer must be traced.



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## BHAGAVAN SRI RAMANA MAHARSHI CENTERS & SATSANGH

Sri Ramanasramam is devoted to the sole purpose of maintaining and preserving Sri Ramana Maharshi's teachings and spreading it through HIS ashram. Over the years there have been devotees who have started centers around the world to help in spreading His teachings. These centers are run by sincere devotees for conducting satsanghs and celebrating His Jayanti, Aradhana, Advent Day, and other similar events of great significance. Today, satsangh groups spread across various countries worldwide including United States, Canada, Europe, Asia & Australia.

This section will be a regular feature of **SARANAGATHI** eNewsletter. We will post events and reports from Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi Centers and Satsangh Groups from across HIS world. Provided below is a list of available Centers and Satsangh Groups.

Please send an email to [saranagathi@sriramanamaharshi.org](mailto:saranagathi@sriramanamaharshi.org) to have your information included.

### INDIA (+91)

Sri Ramanasramam, Tiruvannamalai, Tamilnadu	04175-237200
Sri Ramana Kendra – Mylapore, Chennai, Tamilnadu	044-24611397
Sri Sundara Mandiram – Tiruchuzhi, Tamilnadu	04566–282217
Sri Ramana Mandiram – Madurai, Tamilnadu	0452-2346102
Sri Ramana Satsang – Desur, Tamilnadu	
Sri Ramana Kendram – Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh	040-27424092
Sri Ramana Kendra – New Delhi	011-24626997
RMCL – Bangalore, Karnataka	080-23369633

### NORTH AMERICA Sri Ramana Maharshi Satsangh Groups (+1)

San Francisco, CA	510-656-2752
Los Angeles, CA	310-473-9441
East Lyme, CT	860-691-1862
Washington, DC	301-528-5526
Atlanta, GA	678-546-0378
F. Lauderdale, FL	954-755-4758
Goshen, IN	574-875-6298
Arunachala Ashrama, New York	718-560-3196
Arunachala Ashrama, Canada	902-665-2090
Ann Arbor, MI	734-623-7199
Dublin, OH	614-664-1534
Ottawa, ON	713-733-8250
Toronto, ON	905-849-6005
Nashville, TN	To be Updated

We will periodically update this list and also share stories and experiences about HOW each Group or Center meet to get absorbed in Sri Bhagavan Ramana's Grace. In due course we will include in [sriramanamaharshi.org](http://sriramanamaharshi.org) transliterated and audio versions of important songs, chants and prayers.



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## RECENT HAPPENINGS

### Sri Ramana eLibrary – 2008 Calendar and Special Days

New additions to the eLibrary include the electronic version of Sri Ramanasramam's 2008 calendar with special dates and events. Please visit [http://www.sriramanamaharshi.org/2008\\_calender.html](http://www.sriramanamaharshi.org/2008_calender.html) to be able to view the calendar and also download a pdf version of the calendar.

In addition to the calendar, special days in 2008, have been included for the benefit of devotees. Please visit [http://www.sriramanamaharshi.org/special\\_days\\_2008.html](http://www.sriramanamaharshi.org/special_days_2008.html) to know about the special days in 2008.

We will constantly keep you updated about the progress with regards to the eLibrary initiative.

### Deepam Celebrations 2007 at Sri Ramanasramam – A Photo Gallery

The Deepam celebrations at Sri Ramanasramam were performed on Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2007. Please visit [http://sriramanamaharshi.org/deepam/picture\\_deepam.html](http://sriramanamaharshi.org/deepam/picture_deepam.html) to see photographs taken during this celebration at Sri Ramanasramam.

### Deepam Celebrations at Nova Scotia – A Report by Sri Dennis Hartel

With Bhagavan's grace this year on Kartigai Deepam day we lit a deepam on top of the Arunachala Ashrama mountain here in Nova Scotia. In route we lit deepams at Skanda Ashram and Virupaksha Cave. Earlier in the morning, exactly corresponding to 6 pm your time we chanted Aksharamanamalai and lit a deepam in front of Bhagavan and Arunachala within the Arunachala Ramana Mandiram. All day we were immersed in the grace of Arunachala Ramana, our sole refuge and support.

Similarly, we have reports that devotees from across HIS world celebrated Deepam with their Satsangh groups and families.

### Advent Celebrations at California – Report from Smt. Sunita Parsuraman & Sh. Badri Gopalan

The Advent function was held in Milpitas Jain temple on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2007. It began with a melodious chanting of Aksharamanamaalai. Brahmachari Prabodh Chaitanyaji, resident acharya of Chinmaya Mission, San Jose then gave a short talk on Bhagavan and his teachings.

The talk was followed by Bhajan's on Bhagavan, and then chanting of selected portions of the Veda, and concluded with Aarti. There was a sumptuous lunch for all devotees at the end of the Aarti.



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## Free Medical Camp at Sri Ramanasramam – Photo Gallery

Dear Devotees :

A free medical camp was conducted in the premises of Sri Ramanasramam (Morvi Guest House) on Saturday, the 3rd November 2007 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The camp was conducted under the aegis of Sri Ramanasramam by Sri Ramachandra Medical College & Hospital, Porur, Chennai.

A team of 14 technicians & 12 physicians comprising of dentists, cardiologist, neurologist, nephrologists and orthopaedicians. More than 1000 patients were examined by the visiting team. The team also came with x-ray, Ultra Sound, Echo Cardiogram and ECG machines. Free medicines were distributed to the patients. The remaining drugs were generously donated to Ashram free dispensary by the hospital.

The Ashram gratefully acknowledges the services of Sri Ramachandra Medical Center and its Vice Chancellor Sri Venkatachalam.

Praying for Sri Bhagavan's Blessings,

President,  
Sri Ramanasramam, Tiruvannamalai.





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Free Medical Camp at Sri Ramanasramam – Photo Gallery (Continued)

