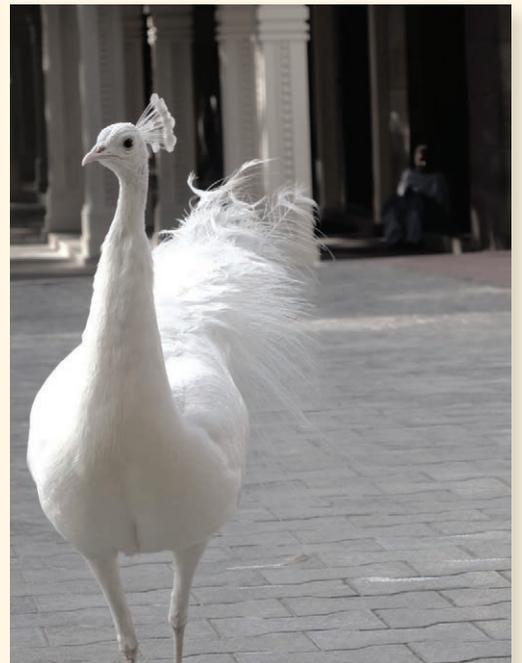
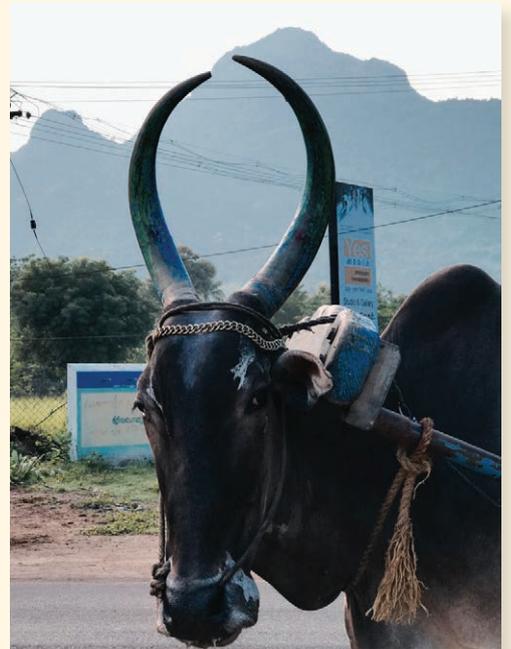


# Saranagati



SARANAGATI  
SRI RAMANASRAMAM

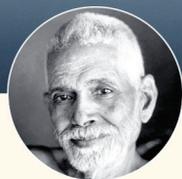
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Dr. Carlos Lopez



## Saranagati



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IN THIS  
ISSUE

Dear Devotees,

In the month of May, we celebrated Bhagavan's 69th Aradhana on the 2nd and Mother's Mahapuja on the 28th May.

In this issue, we take a look at the stories of two devotees who made thier way to Bhagavan and were deeply impacted. See the accounts of Y. N. Athavale (p. 3) and H. R. Chadha (p. 5).

For videos, photos and further news of events, go to <http://www.sriramanamaharshi.org> or write to us at [saranagathi@sriramanamaharshi.org](mailto:saranagathi@sriramanamaharshi.org)

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

6th June (Thurs) Punarvasu

16th June (Sun) Full Moon

3rd July (Weds) Punarvasu

13th July (Sat) Cow Lakshmi Day

16th July (Tues) Guru Purnima

31st July (Weds) Punarvasu

14th August (Weds) Full Moon

27th August (Tues) Punarvasu

1st September (Sun) Bhagavan's Advent Day

13th September (Fri) Full Moon

23rd September (Mon) Punarvasu

29th September (Sun) Navaratri Festival commences





## How I Came to Bhagavan: Y. N. Athavale

*[Y. N. (alias Bhaurao) Athavale was one of the few Maharashtrian devotees of Sri Ramana. He used to sing Marathi bhajans before Sri Ramana in the hall.]*

Even before I had darshan of Bhagavan, I was brought up in a religious and spiritual atmosphere at home. From 1939 to 1942, I suffered from sciatica due to over exertion in my engineering work, and became very weak. I used to pray that I should have darshan of a great mahatma like the swami worshipped by my grandfather, and whose grace had done a lot of good to our family.

In February 1942, when I was in a state of utter depression, I had a wonderfully vivid vision-like dream at dawn. I saw in a mountain cave, a great mahatma and throngs of people going up the mountain to listen to

him. I was one of them. I waited and asked the people around me, "How is it that the lecture has not started yet? Where is the Saint?" Near me sat an old man who raised his hand and said, "Silence is the Master's speech and his disciples have no doubts left." I asked, "Where is the Master?" He replied, "He is sitting near you." Searching near me, I found a slender young man wearing a white codpiece, with a smile on his face. I bowed to him and asked his name. Pointing a finger to his heart he said in Marathi, "This is known as Ramana Maharshi." Having said this he smiled in a charming manner and instantly I woke up in delight. I took it to be the answer to my repeated prayers and felt happy.

I had not heard much about Ramana Maharshi's greatness, as his name was not then (in 1942) well-known in Maharashtra. For about ten or twelve days I was longing to get some information about him. All of a sudden, one day a gentleman of my acquaintance told me that during his pilgrimage to Rameswaram he went to Tiruvannamalai and had a blissful darshan of Ramana Maharshi. He advised me to go. I reached Sri Ramanasramam at 6 a.m. I saw Bhagavan coming towards us. My joy knew no bounds. As I prostrated before him, he asked, "Have you come from Poona? You seem to be quite exhausted." I was wonderstruck to hear this.

In the afternoon, when I sat before him in the hall, he enquired about my health. I replied that I had been suffering terribly from sciatica for three years, had no sleep, no desire for food and was growing from bad to worse in spite of the treatment by the best doctors. He graciously said, "You can stay here in peace. Your disease is not incurable."

He quoted a verse from the Gita (II.14): *O son of Kunti, the contacts between the senses and their objects, which give rise to the feelings of heat and cold, pleasure and pain, etc., are transitory and fleeting. O Arjuna, endure them.*

This pacified me. I felt extremely relieved. In three or four months I was completely cured of the disease. Thereafter, I used to see him three or four times a year up to 1950 and came in close contact with him. He rejuvenated me physically and spiritually and brought me eternally into the fold of his benign Grace, to describe which I have no words.





On receiving a telegram, I went to the Ashram on the day of his mahasamadhi. My emotions and feelings were checked somehow during the day he left the body. But next day, at night, I began to weep bitterly feeling very uneasy that I shall never henceforth see Bhagavan in an embodied form and enjoy the bliss of his presence. All of a sudden in the dead of night, footsteps were heard and lo!

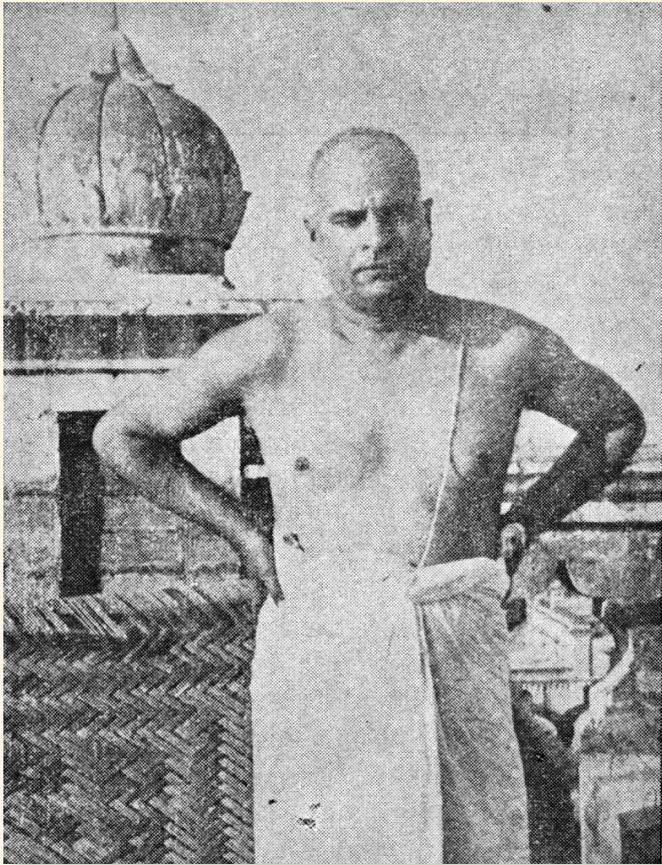
There came Bhagavan with a lantern in his hand! He straightaway approached me, and said in a soft, gentle, loving voice, “Why do you weep? Did I not tell you that I am here?” I controlled myself and bowed down to him. By the time I raised my head, he had disappeared, leaving me in utter surprise and desolation. My thousand pranams to Ramana Bhagavan. —

## Events in Sri Ramanasramam: Sri Bhagavan’s 69th Aradhana



Sri Bhagavan’s 69th Aradhana began in the early morning hours of 2nd May. Devotees filled the Hall at 5.30 am for Tamil Parayana as purohiths gathered in the Mother’s Shrine for Mahanyasa mantra. Abhishekam followed at 8.30am and final arati at 10.30am when the Hall brimmed with fervour. Some 2,000 guests joined for Bhagavan’s prasadam served in repeated batches in the pandal and dining hall while poor feeding took place in the Korangu Thottam compound. That evening the New Granathalaya auditorium hosted Ramana music by Dr. Ambika Kameshwar. On the following day, 3rd May, RMCL hosted the annual Ramana Pada Pancha Ratnam, with selected verses of Siva Prakasham Pillai set to the ghana ragas of Thyagaraja and arranged by Smt. Sulochana Natarajan. —





## How I Came to Bhagavan:

H. R. Chadha\*

*[The author became our first subscriber in peculiar circumstances. When The Mountain Path was still a project and we had not publicly announced our plans, he had a dream in which Sri Bhagavan appeared to him with some magazine. Taking this to mean that there was an Ashram magazine he wrote to the Ashram President asking to be enrolled as a subscriber. This was confirmation that Sri Bhagavan's hand was guiding The Mountain Path. Sri Chadha is an active member of Ramana Kendra, Calcutta.]*

**M**y father was running a sport-goods concern with several branches in North-West India

\* Article taken from *Mountain Path*, July 1975 issue.

such as Sialkot, Rawalpindi, etc. (now in Pakistan) and some branches in Uttar Pradesh. He was a hard worker. My mother was very pious and when I was hardly six months old a sannyasi who came for bhiksha told her that I would be a very rich man in due course.

I left Sialkot college in 1919 and the parting advice of my principal was : “ You are the son of a businessman. So remember, if a customer comes to you for a coat and if you do not sell him a pair of trousers as well, you are no salesman”.

After father's demise in 1928 I had to take an active part in business and go on several tours. Though married and blessed with children all of them died between 1923 and 1939. The last child foretold his death and particularly after his death, I was very much struck with grief. Some years passed on in such a sorrowful mood.

It was the year 1943. In my search for peace, I surrendered myself to Sri Swami Sivananda of Rishikesh. I requested his permission to stay in his ashram for the rest of my life but he would not give it. He said: “You will have to go back; you are destined to earn lakhs of Rupees and spend them”.

But I persisted in my entreaties saying that I had suffered enough in the world and that I had no other alternative than to renounce. Just then there was a telegram asking me to go over to Lahore immediately. Swamiji also perused the telegram and remarked with a hearty laugh: “You did not obey me. But you will obey this paper.”

I went to Lahore and reaching Madras eventually, opened a canteen there. This did fetch me lakhs of rupees.

Meanwhile Swami Sivananda also wrote to me advising me that I should visit Sri Ramana Maharshi. Learning of Maharshi's greatness from Paul Brunton's

### Announcements: Ashram YouTube Channel

Sri Ramanasramam has its own YouTube channel and is regularly posting videos of events. Please visit the channel at:  
<<https://www.youtube.com/c/sriramanasramam>>





book, *Search in Secret India*, and my neighbour also, I decided to go to Tiruvannamalai. I went straight to Sri Bhagavan in the Hall which was just full. I was rewarded by his graceful smile and it looked as though he was waiting for me ! It was a delicate moment since there was no room for sitting and to keep standing also looked odd. Maharshi looked at me and without speaking anything outwardly conveyed this to me:” “The driver and guard of a train are far apart. But they move at the same speed and are connected throughout. You can sit in that corner and you will be connected with the guard.” I obeyed this command and I felt his Grace vividly.

One morning I went up to the Maharshi with a doubt in my mind but said nothing. I was curious about the state of the soul after death. He had a book brought out

from his shelf by Sri Sivananda, one of his attendants. On opening the book I found that my doubt was cleared by the contents of that (page). I do not exactly remember the title of the book. I repeated my visit; it was an elevating experience beyond description.

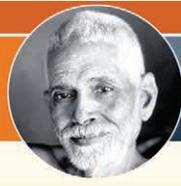
One day I was commanded by Sri Bhagavan inwardly to leave the Ashram immediately. I did so and returned to my headquarters to find that the army chief was on a surprise visit to our camp. My absence would have landed me in a difficult situation! I have now the opportunity to talk of His glory and hear other devotees at the Ramana Kendra, Calcutta. There cannot be a greater solace and blessing at this stage of my life. Maharshi has blessed me in so many ways that I cannot be sufficiently grateful to him ; nor can I describe his greatness adequately. —

## Events in Sri Ramanasramam: Mahapuja



**M**ahapuja festivities began in the early morning hours of the 28th May with flower decorations in the Mother's Shrine and New Hall and the sounds of Mahanasya Japa. Abhishekam began around 9 a.m. and was followed by arati and songs from Susilamma and other lady devotees. —





## Your Best Shot: Open Door



The topography of Sri Ramana Maharshi's presence on the physical plane, as defined by every brick and stone laid within his lifetime, represents a sanctified mandala that exists in multiple dimensions beyond the obvious four that we are accustomed to in our daily lives. The architecture of Sri Ramanasramam finds its living stream in the flow of his devotees as they wander barefoot within its premises, which offer sanctuary, strength and inspiration to face anew the challenges of a mundane world that is all too familiar and seemingly inescapable.

This view is through the southern doorway of the New Hall, looking directly upon Bhagavan and the polished granite couch that he occupied briefly during 1949-50, a view that would have immediately struck the fortunate devotees that came for his darshan at the time. The threshold of this doorway is also the spot where Sri Bhagavan's body was placed for the final rites on April 15, 1950, a scene visually documented by the great French photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson.

Seventy years have elapsed since the Matrubhuteswara Mahasannidhanam was consecrated on March 17, 1949. Seven

decades of abundant grace and presence. When this door is opened on crowded festival days, it serves as a timely reminder that His inner door is always open. — *Dev Gogoi*

## Sri Ramana Sannidhi Murai: Desika Padigam §4

முற்பல பேரை முகங்களை நெரித்தும்  
மூக்கொடு கரங்களை அரிந்தும்  
பற்களை உடைத்தும் தலைகளைத் தறித்தும்  
பறித்து நல் கண்களை அந்தோ  
பற்பல விதமாப் பல படப் புரிந்த  
பழவினை ஒழித்திடப் பரிந்தோ  
சிற்பர யோகம் செறிந்து நிற்கின்றாய்  
தேசிக ரமண மா தேவே.

In days of yore, You crushed the faces of many gods  
And snapped their noses and cut their hands  
And broke their teeth and bruised their heads.  
You performed various such acts of valor, glory  
and mercy.  
Will you not also rid me of the fruits of my karmas?  
O Guru Ramana, Siva, you have done the Yoga  
of Chitparam and stand here before me tenderly,  
as if repenting! —





## Obituary: Ramani Subramanian



Ramani Subramanian (72), wife of V.S.Mani, Administrator of Sri Ramanasramam was Absorbed in Bhagavan Ramana on May 13.

Ramani's mother accompanying her father, had the rare good fortune of having Bhagavan's darsan. Years later, her daughter Ramani was blessed to marry into that family. At the age of 22, Ramani married V.S.Mani.

At Bombay, where V.S.Mani was an engineer, the couple played hosts to several Ashram inmates and family members and made a regular annual pilgrimage to Arunachalam.

When Mr. Mani took voluntary retirement in 1985 to help his father, T.N. Venkataraman in running the growing Ashram, Ramani took devoted care of her widowed father-in-law and provided constant support to her husband. A fond mother, she had to reconcile herself to her two children being sent to the distant Rishi Valley school for a sound education. Innumerable devotees, visitors, friends and relatives would visit Mangala Nivas, the President's residence and they found in her a most welcoming, genial hostess. Fluent in Tamil, Telugu, Hindi, Bengali and English she would chat and make visitors feel at home.

Ramani was liked by Old Ashramites like Kunju Swami, Ramaswamy Pillai and others and she had a strong bond with Kanakammal who deepened her understanding of the unique teachings of Bhagavan.

Ramani, along with V.S.Mani, took great care of her ageing parents who moved to Tiruvannamalai and settled in Mangala Nivas where they shed their bodies.

In January of this year, Ramani had the satisfaction of celebrating the 50th year of her marriage and in February the Sathabishekam (80th Birthday) of her husband amidst family members, devotees and friends.

Ever patient and silent in suffering, Ramani passed through the trials of failing health with exemplary courage. When she was Absorbed in Ramana on May 13, she earned her freedom. A large number of admirers were present at her final journey.

