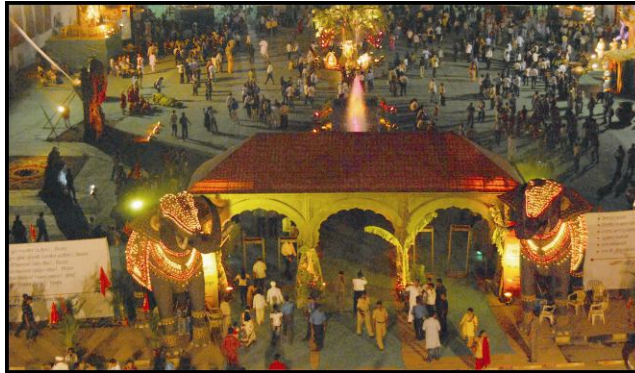


Place of Mahaparayan
Maha-recital of Shri-Sai Satcharita at Mumbai

It is fascinating to observe the growth of certain places that has an immense significance for the Sai-Devotees, today. The land on which Samadhi Mandirat Shirdi stands, was once upon a time a cactus jungle and was used as a dumping ground. Similarly the location in Mumbai where Maha Recital of Shri - Sai Satcharita was organized recently, was also created out of a dump yard. Thanks to numerous selfless and hard working Sai-Devotees.

The triangular piece of land near Canara Bank at Bandra-Kurla Complex in Mumbai was nothing but a thick jungle with marshy land when Sai Sansthan Managing Committee had visited it some years ago. The unhygienic environment filled with a foul smell was an assault on one senses and sensibilities. However in due course of time under the expert guidance of Shri Nitin Desai, a renowned art-director from Indian Film industry, the dark dungeon was transformed into a divine den .Parayandarshan and refreshment pavilions were erected. A special tent was set up for reciter's residence. Huge idols of god-goddesses were installed on the wooden platforms . Finally on 15th December the 'Parayandham' was ready to welcome all .By observing this one can not but agree with the adage that something good originates from ashes and rough stones give birth to a beautiful sculpture. Thus this place like Lendibaug in Shirdi provided bread and butter to many.



The main gate reminding one about the glory of ancient palaces of India. Two statues of elephants that almost looked real , welcomed the visitors. One could spot the line of elephant-statues right till the rear exist of parayandham. The venue with a 'Mahadwar was open to one and all, reminding one of the lines of a sai-bhajan which say, 'whether you are rich or poor the doors of Sai-darbar are open to everyone”.



A colourful water fountain at the main gate.



On the left side of the fountain are spotted the famous Trimurti of Gharapuri caves, along with a huge idol of Bholenath Shankar.



Next to the water fountain is a trunk and a lime tree. Idols of Shri Akkalkot Swami and Samarth Sainath Bhagwan Trimurti are seen on the trunk.



After crossing the lime tree one gets the darshan of Sadguru Saimaharaj relaxing in his favorite pose. Huge idols of Shri Krishna, Vitthal , Shri Saibaba, Shambhu Mahadev, Prabhu Ramchandra and staunch Ram devotee Hanuman too are present .This atmosphere gives one a feeling that all the gods and goddesses have appeared on this earth to bless all the devotees with a message of 'Abhayam' saying that "Don't be a afraid, we are always with you."



On the left hand side of the trunk (paar), one sees a huge idol of Sainath with a drum in one hand and Japmal in the other. This idol projects Saibaba in a light and jovial mood who is engrossed in a dialogue with the devotees.

The unusual combination of serene looking idols and colourful water fountain in a spiritually charged atmosphere gave one a feeling as if heavens had descended on the earth.



A spacious hall was set up on the left side of the fountain where huge idol [24 ft.] of Shri Samarth Sainath Maharaj was installed. Selected scenes from ShriSaisatCharita were displayed on both sides of the idol. A colourful and spectacular rangoli carpeted by artists from Jochandra (vasai) was simply marvelous. A palkhi with Baba's idol and paduka was placed before Sai-Murti.

Recital hall (Parayanmandap) was set up opposite to Darshanmandap. A realistic model of Dwarkamai of Shirdi was erected where recital of ShriSaisatcharitawas carried out.

A stall to store footwear was set up on the left side of the mandap while an auditorium having the capacity of thousand spectators was spotted on the right side. Various books and picture stalls were also set up. Thus Parayan Nagar was the reflection of devotees love and gratitude towards Shri Sai.



A model of Dwarkamai displayed in Parayandham

Inaugural function of Mahaparayan

On 15th December, the ParayandhamSquare was glowing. One could witness various Bands, lazim, and flag squads making arrangements to give a grand welcome to Sai-palkhi.. A sense of mixed feelings of excitement and anxiety prevailed all around. Even the idols of God & goddesses installed in Parayamdham seemed to have come alive . As the arrival time of palki approached closer, the rhythmic beats of dhol, tasha and bands filled the air. Roads started overflowing with devotees. The fireworks gave different hues to the sky. Finally amidst the grand fanfare the palkhi arrived at Parayandham.

All the traditional arts such as Adivasi folk dance, dhol-tasha, dholkathya, and rangoli on the streets were displayed.



Palakhi Procession at the time of Parayana

Shri Jayant Sasane (Chairman of Sansthan) welcomed the Palkhi at the gate.

As the procession arrived in the grand square of the complex, melodious music and spontaneous chanting of Sai-Jap reached its peak. Executive officer and Dy. Executive officer Shri. Kishore More and Dr.Yeshwantrao Mane with Sai photo, President Shri Jayant Sasant with Sai satcharita, Sp. Executive officer Shri Prabhakar Boravke with Vina and Vedshastra, Shribalasaheb Joshi with Baba's Paduka Participated in the procession. Shri Shailesh Kute, Ashok Khambekar and Smt. Urmila Jadhav also participated along with thousands of Sai devotees in the procession.



Arrival of Shri Idol and Shri's holy book at Parayana section

Procession finally reached the recital venue. A traditional welcome was given to the President by a Suhasini (married woman). Sai-idol and Sai scripture was worshipped by Shri Jayant Sasane (Chairman) in presence of trustees. Shri Shailesh Kute, Ashok Khambekar Smt. Urmila Jadhav, Shri Uddhav Thackrey (Executive President Shiv-sena),



Shri Jayant Sasane (Chairman Sansthan) inaugurating MahaParayan ceremony.

Mrs. Rashmi Thackrey and Mrs. Shradha Jadhav (Mayor Mumbai) arrived in Parayandham immediately after puja. They worshipped the Sai idol and greeted the reciters. Also present on the stage were Anil Parab (MLA) Hitendra Thakur (Ex. MLA), Rajendra Patil (Mayor Virar-Vasai), Nitin Patil (Secretary Mumbai Pradesh Congress) and Nitin Desai (Sr. Art Director).



Shri Uddhav Thackrey (Executive President Shiv Sena) and Mrs. Shradha Jadhav (Mayor- Mumbai) greet the reciters. Also seen are trustees Shri Ashok Khambekar, Smt. Urmila Jadhav, Shri Shailesh Kute and Mrs. Rashmi Thackrey.

This was followed by recital session where 1 to 18 chapters of Sai Satcharita were recited in the morning and afternoon session. Renowned singers like Ajit Kakade, Anuradha Powdwal, Ravindra Sathe, Uttara Kelkar, Anup Jalota and Manhar Udhas entertained the spectators with Sai-bhajan in the night from 7.30 to 10.30.



Ravindra Sathe presents Bhajan- Sandhya.

The morning of 16th began with a goodwill visit of Shri Raj Thackrey (President Maharashtra Nav-Nirman Sena) and ended with recital of chapters 19 – 35 in two sessions. Night session was dominated by famous singers like Suresh Wadkar, Sadhna Sargam, Kavita Krishnamurthy, Sudesh Bhosle, Abhijit Sawant, Siddhant Bhosle, Ketan Rana, Padmja Fenani-Joglekar and Sacchidanand Appa who sang Sai Bhajans.



Shri Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil (Minister for Agriculture) taking darshan. Also seen are Shri Ashok Khambekar (trustee) and Dr. Yashwantrao Mane (Deputy Ex. Officer Sansthan)

Third day of Mahaparayan was marked with the visits of various dignitaries. Shri Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil (Minister for Agriculture), Manohar Joshi (Ex. President Loksabha) Sanjay Raut (MP) Jackie Shroff (Actor), Jayesh Reddy, Nitin Sardesai (MLA) and Narendra Verma (President Mumbai Pradesh Rashtrawadi-Congress) paid a goodwill visit and offered prayers between 7.30pm to 10.30 pm. Shri Narayan Rane (Minister for Industries) inaugurated a play named 'Shirdi ke Sai Baba' produced by Asvari Tidke of Sanskar Multi Services, Nagpur which was attended by many.

Last Day : Sunday 18-12-2011 Shri Swarupanand Sarswati of (Sharanam Vishaka Pattanam Tedulki Pith Shankaracharya), Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde (Central Minister for Energy), Bhai Jagtap (MLA-Andheri) offered prayers



Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde (Minister for Energy) taking Padukadarshan. Also seen are Shri Jayant Sasane (Sansthan Chairman) and Shri Ashok Khambekar (Trustee)

The distinctive feature of the last day was a grand 'Shobhyatra' .Thousands of Sai-devotees, various bands, dhol-tasha and Lazim squads participated. The atmosphere was filled with the strains of music and chanting .

Mahaparayan Ceremony ended with melodious kirtan by Pandit Mandar Vyas of Dombivali, Mumbai, followed by exciting Dahi-handi. Sansthan had made arrangements for Mahaprasad Bhandar between 12 - 4pm for all visitors.

Shri Jayant Sasant (Chairman) honoured all the dignitaries who were present and also gave a vote of thanks on behalf of Sansthan. He also gave a vote of thanks to Shri Kishore More (Ex. Officer) Dr.Yashwantrao Mane (Dy. Executive.) Shri Prabhakar Boravake (Sp. Executive officer) Shri N. K. Kulkarni (Establishment Chief), Shri Prakash Kshirsagar (Sr. Clerk), Shri Sai-palkhi Nivara and all staff members of Sai-sansthan for making this Maha-parayan ceremony a grand success.

Shri Jayant Sasane (Chairman) also thanked and appreciated the efforts taken by Sai devotees from Shirdi, Nimgaon Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan, Vasai- Virar and various Padyatra mandals.

Rajendra Yashawantrao Kote

*** Highlights of Mahaparayan ceremony ***

- * Around six thousand reciters participated while thousands of devotees availed darshanof Sai idol and paduka.
- * Free bus service was organized for reciters residing in Shirdi and its outskirts.
- * Excellent arrangement of Tea, Snacks, lunch and dinner was made.
- * 1,23,200 packets of Prasad were distributed by Sansthan.
- * Free distribution of shri Saisatcharita and photograph of Baba was also carried out.
- * Spacious tents were provided for reciters. Separate arrangements for female reciters were made at Ramji Hall (Kurla), PWD guest house (Bandra) Bandra-Catholic Hall and Kalptaru (Ghatkopar).
- * Participation by personalities who have had a close association with Sainath (Shyoma, Appa Kulkarni, Annasaheb Dobholkar, Gavonkar Pradhan).
- * Various Political leaders and film actors offered prayers.
- * Valuable co-operation by BEST.
- * Adequate arrangement for footwear.
- * Sansthan publication and books stall and a special stall for donors.
- * Publicity dept. was efficiently handled by various media channels.
- * Mobile dispensary, ambulance, fire-brigade services were available.
- * A team of staff members from Sansthan offered valuable services round the clock.

Highlights of this fascinating ceremony



1. Shri Narayan Rane (Minister for industries) at the inaugural function of play 'Sub ka Malik Ek'. Shri Jayant Sasane (Chairman) and Shri Shailesh Kute (Trustee), also on the stage.



2. Kavita Krishnamurthy sings in Bhajan Sandhya.



3. Shri Mandar Vyas presents Kirtan (Kala)



4. Shri Jayant Sasane (Chairman) and trustees Shri Shailesh Kute and Shri Ashok Khambekar on the last day of the Parayan.



5. Parayandham overflowing with reciters.

Highlights of this fascinating ceremony



1. A scene from the play 'Shirdi ke Saibaba'.



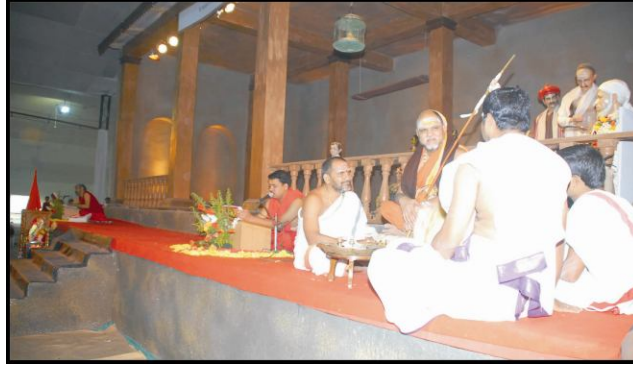
2. 24 ft Sai baba statue created by Shri. Nitin Desai



3. Shri Suresh Wable (trustee) worships Sai-idol and padukas.



4. Shri Pandurang Abhang observing Sai Shrushti



5. Shankaracharya Shri Swaroopanand Saraswati of SharanamVishakapattanam Pith.



6. Shri Vikas Maharaj Gaikwad-Keertan



7. ManharUdhas engrossed in Bhajansandhya.



8. Renowned singer Padmja Fenani-Joglekar sings in Bhajan- sandhya.

The Spiritual Gathering of Devotees Devotee's reactions to Mahaparayan in Mumbai

- **Sai Darshan Experience**

I first visited shirdi in 1964. In those days, shirdi was not as crowded as today. I could virtually experience baba's existence after taking paduka darshan. As on date, I keep on coming to shirdi every year.

Shri Ramesh Ramji Renose - Devotee
Goregaon, Mumbai

- **A feeling of giving something**

After reaching here, I have got so absorbed that I have not even called up my home. The food served is so delicious that I have not touched the stuff I carried from home. You don't have to shell out a single penny from your pocket here but a thought comes to mind that we owe something towards Baba. I attend palkhi religiously on two Thursdays every month. I love baba as he does not discriminate among rich and poor.

ShriParajiPawar, Devotee
Vari-Shingve, Ahmednagar)

- **Here at MahaParayana I got a feeling of having come to Shirdi**

I am happy to see such wonderful arrangements. Especially the recital arrangements were very good. I along with my family visit Shirdi four to five times a year out of pure faith. I have experienced Baba's miracle which you can see only in films. Baba's Udi and tirtha had brought my son to senses, who was in coma for 30 days. I remain indebted to Baba for this kindness.

Mrs. Shaila Chakor Mogre
(Devotee- Borivali, Mumbai)

- **Shirdi is Ultimate**

Baba was god in true sense. He played a vital role of uniting people of different religions under one banner of humanity. Baba has warned that world peace will prevail only if discrimination is put to a total stop.

Shri Arunkumar Thakur,
Devotee- Allahabad

- **The atmosphere created at the venue of Mahaparayana can be described only as heaven**

I am glad to be here. Previously I was an atheist (nastik) and had no faith in God. But when my friend Shri Amarlal Makhija took me to Shirdi, in 1968, my life changed. In those days, darshan could be taken only from chouthra. I was overwhelmed when while climbing Samadhi stairs, I felt the divine vibrations. I am grateful for Baba called me to his feet. Today also I visit Shirdi as and when Baba calls me.

Ashok Hiranandani- Devotee,
Mulund- Mumbai

- **Gandhtila on foreheads**

This is the first parayan attended by me. It has left a deep impression on my mind. My devotion for Baba has doubled. I have read many religious books but Sai Satcharita has a distinct edge. The arrangements here are simply excellent. However I wish that the reciters applied 'Gandhtila' on their foreheads.

Shri Haribhau Namdev Kale,
Devotee Nategaon- Ahmednagar

- **I get teary eyed when I try to express.**

I have read 1 to 53 chapter of Sai Satcharita at home but experienced such a parayan for the first time. It was a nice experience. I have walked down to Shirdi many times. Whenever I step out on road for Shirdi,

I get a feeling that the road is made of soft sponge or a spring has been fixed on the road. This is all beyond imagination. What else can I express about Baba? I get teary eyed when I try to express.

Shri Vijay Krishna Kate, Devotee
Jogeshwari, Mumbai

- **Parayan is journey**

I have read Sai Satcharita but experienced parayan for the first time. The experience has been very rewarding. Sai-Devotion has been hereditary in our home. In fact Saibaba himself presented his photo to my great grandfather Keshavrao Ramchandra Pradhan.

Shri Yogesh Gajanan Pradhan, Devotee
Ukal, Bhivpuri Road, Karjat- Dist-Raigad

- **Baba Should have been with us today**

I am impressed by Sai Baba. After reading the Stories and Pothi. I feel either I should have been physically present in those days or Baba should have been with us today.

Shri Jayprakash Patil - Devotee
Mumbai

- **Saibaba is our guru**

This Mahaparayan has made me forget myself completely. Sai Satcharita was written by my grandfather Shri Hemadpant. At the age of 12 my mother had said : Saibaba is our guru and don't ever leave his feet." My father had seen Sai Baba and was lucky that his thread ceremony at age of 8 was performed on baba's laps by Hemadpant. I am really proud of my grandfather. He was a staunch follower of Dynoba-Tukoba. I have also written pieces that have been published in Sai-leela. I sincerely thank the organizer for arranging such grand function.

Mrs. Anjali Pradhan, Dabholkar,
Devotee- granddaughter- Sai-charitrakar- Hemadpant.

- **It at par with Bhagwat**

I got exposed to Sai Satcharita for the first time and found it at par with Bhagwat. A depressed person emerges out with a new energy after this experience. I was transported to different world when I watched the play based on baba. I strongly believe that you remember baba and he is there to help you.

Shri Vinod Ratilal Rawal - Devotee
Airoli, New Mumbai

- **Fully charged with new energy**

I consider myself and all the participants here to be fortunate for being a part of this parayana. Today I am going home, fully charged with new energy, forgetting the past.

Shri Sadashiv G. Malvankar- Devotee,
Andheri, Mumbai

- **An Ultimate Experience**

The Mahaparayan can be only defined as an ultimate experience. I have been visiting Shirdi since 1976. Baba has saved me from many accidents. I take all my important decisions only at Shirdi. I feel whatever I am today is only by baba's grace.

(Shri Ramnath Sonavne, Devotee, Commissioner Kalyan- dombivali, Nagar Palika)

- **Baba was entering into a dialogue**

I am basically from Nagpur. I religiously read Sai Satcharita at home, but I liked this joint recital as you understand the meaning quickly. It was like school teacher explaining the subject in detail. I felt as if baba was entering into a dialogue with me thru this recital.

Shri Ratnakar Gongapurkar - Devotee,
Kalyan

- **Emotional Relation with Shirdi**

For the first time, I am exposed to Sai Satcharita. The atmosphere here is so pleasant and spiritual that I do not think of anything else. 12 years back my husband passed away at Shirdi. While leaving for Shirdi, he had told me that he is not sure of returning. Hence I remember my husband on my every trip to Shirdi.

(Smt. Ilaben Navinbhai Patel- Devotee, Surat)

- **Virtually visualize a scene while reading charita**

I liked this creation here. You can virtually visualize a scene before your eyes while reading charita.

Shri Indrabhan Ganuji Devkar- Devotee,
Kolhar Bhagwati, Ahmednagar

- **Because of Baba I did many job**

I regularly do parayan at home. I even participate in joint parayan. I work for MTNL and hence could not allot my full time for this noble work. But I made it a point to come and read a little every day. My important jobs are smoothly done only because of baba's grace.

(Shri Vijay Shroff- Devotee, Kalyan)

- **Parayan will help devotees to come together**

Baba has brought devotees closer to him thru this parayana. Understanding baba is beyond our reach, but hopefully this parayan will help us to a certain extent. I have participated in every parayan after Shravan month. We have been arranging padyatra - dindi from Karad to Shirdi; since 2000.

Shri Udaysing Desai- Devotee, Karad

- **Thanks to Organizers**

I am really grateful to the organizers for arranging such a ceremony in Mumbai. This was the first time such grand ceremony took place in Mumbai and hope this trend continues in future also. As a padyatri I observe that the arrangements here were absolutely flawless.

Shri Mahesh Jadhav, Rohit Yadav- Devotee,
Govandi, Mumbai

Shirdi News

Shirdi Festival

All the Sai-devotees gathered in Shirdi on 31st dec. with one motive of surrendering all the happenings of the past year onto the Sai feet and beginning the new year with baba's blessing.

Datta Jayanti till New Year was dominated by arrival of numerous padyatris with Sai-palkhi in Shirdi , keeping the tradition alive.

Huge and spacious tents with adequate arrangements were set up to accommodate lakhs of devotees visiting Shirdi during these occasions. Anticipating the increasing inflow of the devotees additional tents occupying 61000 sq ft. area. were set up at Sai Nagar maidan, new Bhakti-nivas parking lot and Sai Prasad Bhakti nivas, Car parking ground. Similarly Sansthan education complex buildings were also allotted for accommodation. The lunch (Prasad) arrangement was made at car parking slot next to new Bhakta-nivasthan. Samadhi mandir and surroundings were attractively decorated by colorful flowers, sponsored by Shri Rajas Jain a Sai devotee from Pune. Samadhi mandir was kept open on 31st Dec. for full night for devotees to take darshan. This year 200 quintal laddus were prepared for Prasad and the sale of laddus continued for full night on 31st dec.

The New Year evening began with bhajan sandhya at Sai Nagar ground. Shri Harish Gala from Mumbai began the program at 7.30 followed by Shri Paras Jain and Pravin Mahamuni from shirdi, Shri Sacchidanand Appa from Mumbai and Sharda-sangit Vidyalaya Kopargaon.. All the artists were honoured by trustees Shri. Dr. Eknath Gondkar, Shri Ashok Khambekar, Shri Suresh Wable and Shri Krishnachandra Pandey.

District Level Quiz Contest



Hon'ble Trustee Shri Ashok Khambekar with his wife Mrs. Minal Khambekar, E.O Shri Kishor More, D.E.O, Shri Yashwatrao Mane, Shri Sabale (A.O) and Principal Shri Vikas Shivgaje with winners of District Level Quiz Contest.

A state level questionnaire competition was organized on 19th Jan 2012 at Shri Saibaba junior college. This program was inaugurated by sansthan trustee Shri Suresh Wable and it was followed by prize distribution.

On this occasion Shri Kishore More (Executive Officer) said "students should participate in this program with a motive of all round development." He further said that such programs were arranged by him 22 years back with the motive of creating interest in General Knowledge.

In the presidential speech Shri Khambekar said, "Students should concentrate more on reading various books than simply watching television and films". He also declared that a similar state level questionnaire competition will be organized next year.

22 colleges participated in this competition. The junior college Sansthan bagged the 1st prize while Padmashri Vikhe Patil College Loni bagged the second, followed by Dadapati Ravle college pathardi on third. Shri Samarth Vidyamandir Prashala (Savedi) and Savitribai Phule college (Rahuri) were honoured with consolation prizes. This function was attended by Dr.Yashwantrao Mane (Dy. Mayor

Kopargaon). Prof. Shri Vikas Shivgaje compered the programe. Shri Sable (Admn. Office) thanked all for participation.

Professors and staff members of Saibaba Junior College took special efforts to make this competition a grand success.



साईं दर्शन करते हुए केंद्रीय भारी उद्योग एवं सार्वजनिक उपक्रम मंत्री माननीय प्रफुल्ल पटेल के साथ उपाध्यक्ष श्री शंकरराव कोल्हे एवं विश्वस्त श्री अशोक खांबेकर.



नूतन वर्ष के शुभ अवसर पर सपत्नी पाद्यपूजा करते हुए राज्य के कृषि मंत्री श्री राधाकृष्ण विखे पाटील के साथ अध्यक्ष श्री जयंत ससाणे.



श्री साईंबाबा की पाद्यपूजा करते हुए राज्य के वनमंत्री श्री पतंगराव कदम के साथ महाराष्ट्र प्रदेश महिला कांग्रेस की अध्यक्षा श्रीमती कमल व्यवहारे.



सपत्नी साई दर्शन करते हुए मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री श्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान.



केंद्रीय विज्ञान एवं तंत्रज्ञान मंत्री श्री विलासराव देशमुख सपत्नी श्री साई की पाद्य पूजा करते हुए. उनके साथ हैं अध्यक्ष श्री जयंत ससाणे, विश्वस्त श्री अशोक खांबेकर एवं जि.प.अध्यक्षा श्रीमती शालिनीताई विखे पाटील.



श्री के दर्शन करते हुए केंद्रीय संसदीय कामकाज राज्यमंत्री श्री राजीव शुक्ला के साथ अध्यक्ष श्री जयंत ससाणे.



Shri Prafull Patel (Central Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Undertakings honoured by Shri Shankarrao Kolhe (Dy.President) along with (Trustees) Shri. Ashok Khambekar and K.C. Pandey.



Punjab Governor Shri Shivraj Patil Chakurkar takes Samadhi Darshan. Also seen is Shri Ashok Khambekar (Trustee)



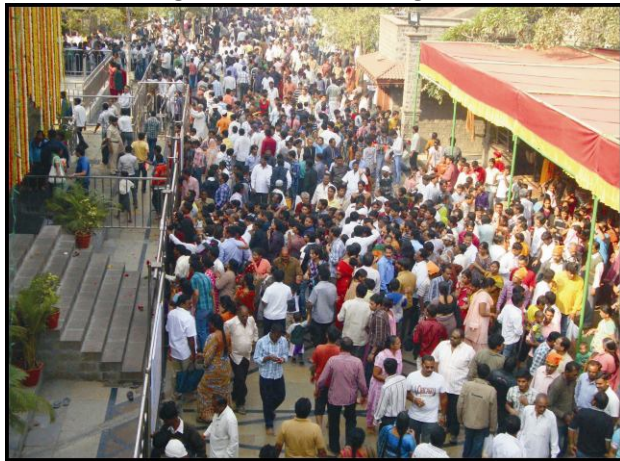
Konkani version of Shri. Sai-Sat Charita (translated from Marathi) being inaugurated by Shri. Jayant Sasane (President). Also seen are Trustees Smt. Urmila Jadhav, Shri Krishnachandra Pandey, Shri Suresh Wable, Shri Ashok Khambekar, Shri Shailesh Kute and Dr. Eknath Gondkar.



Shri Jayant Sasane (President) shares views with Journalists.



Shri Suresh Wable (Trustee) and other dignitaries at the Inaugural function at Vadodra.



A huge crowd of Sai devotees on the occasion of New year.