

SAI DHARMAM

SRI SATHYA SAI BABA CENTRE OF COOKSVILLE



GANESH CHATURTHI

Ganesh Chaturthi, also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi, is an auspicious Hindu festival celebrated across India and many parts of the world with great love and devotion. It is recognized as the birthday of Lord Ganesh, the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. In Hinduism, Lord Ganesh is a representation of one who removes and destroys all sorrows, difficulties, and miseries that are crossed in life. He showers peace and happiness amongst all His devotees and brings the ultimate power of intellect and self-realization. Ganesh Chaturthi falls in the month of Bhadra, usually around August/September, bringing the unity of everyone. Devotees express their devotion in large gatherings at temples and special pandals by setting up the Ganesh altar and pay their respects to Lord Ganesh. In most parts of India and

around the world, the festival is celebrated for 10 days with sweets and food. On the 10th day, water is poured on Lord Ganesh's statue, known as Ganpati Visarjan. During the prayer, devotees chant the name of Lord Ganesh, "Ganapati Bappa Morya", with love and devotion to ask the Lord to take all the sorrows and leave His devotees with His blessings. On this very auspicious day, we should commemorate and show respect to Lord Ganesh and learn from His teachings. Hence, Lord Ganesh is the master of intellect and discriminating power in man. Those who meditate and show their respects will attain the knowledge that which is pure and sacred to the mind.

Source: <https://www.sathyasai.org/calendar/ganeshch.html>

WHY IS GOOD COMPANY ESSENTIAL?

"Students! You are the children of Mother Bharath. You must cherish and foster the great culture of Bharath. Born in this motherland, you breathe her sacred air, drink her holy water and are sustained by her produce. Follow her sacred footsteps, engage yourselves in service to society in a spirit of dedication. You have to transform yourselves in accordance with our ancient culture. Only then will your humanness be vindicated. Otherwise all your education will be like cultivating a barren land.

Your own conduct accounts for how you live. There is no need to blame anyone else. Begin with the purification of your minds. Then your thoughts, your looks and your behaviour will become pure.

Today men's actions are governed by selfishness and self-interest. Even when one appears to love another, it is only out of self-interest. Self-interest is bound to exist. But there should be a limit to it. As long as they remain as students, the young people appear well-behaved. But the moment they get out of college and enter the outside world, they get polluted.

Students! Wherever you may be, remain in good company. Entertain and do good deeds. Adhere to good conduct.

Inherently all students are good. But the social environment pollutes their minds. They are spoiled by bad associations. Hence they should take good care about the company they keep. They must bear in mind three vital maxims: One, "Sarvabhuutha hithe rathah" (Rejoice in the well-being of all living creatures). Two: "Sarvajnana samayukthah" (Have comprehensive knowledge of all things). Three: "Sarvaguna Samayukthah" (Develop all qualities equally). When you develop these qualities, your life becomes exemplary.

Today the world is filled with violence and fear. The root cause of all this is selfishness. Adhere to truth. Truth is your life breath. Truth transcends the categories of time. It is changeless. It is invincible. "Sathyameva Jayathe" is our national motto. The Chinese, though different in culture from us, also adore Truth. Truth is the basis of genuine prosperity."

*-Sri Sathya Sai Baba
Divine Discourse
22nd November 1996*

Reflection Questions

1. What can we do to purify our minds?
2. How can we maintain good company when polluted by the social environment?
3. How can we practice the 3 maxims stated in the discourse?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May Swami Bless all with good health, peace, harmony and blissful life on the occasion of Ganapathi Festival on Friday Sep. 10, 2021. No festival in the sanathana tradition lacks a deep inner significance. It has been passed on from generation to generation and we need to reflect on the deep inner meaning of the rituals and of all that is associated with the festivals. No deity is as endearing and widely loved as Lord Ganesha. Bhagawan too never lost an opportunity to remind us to worship and reflect upon this 'Elephant-headed remover of all obstacles', worldly as well as spiritually. Every institution of Bhagawan, be it His schools and colleges, or hospitals and ashrams will always have a duly worshipped Ganesha idol welcoming one and all. Baba spoke about the idea behind the celebration of Ganesh festival, whose very thought fills us with energy, confidence and joy. Jnanendriyas and Karmendriyas (five organs of perception and the five organs of action) are the Ganas. The mind is the master over these ten senses. That which transcends the mind and has the ability of discrimination is the Buddhi (intellect). The ten senses, the mind and the intellect together add up to 12; these 12 entities are called Ganas. In the word Gana, Ga stands for Buddhi (intellect). Na means Vijnana (the higher knowledge or

wisdom). Ganapathi is the Lord of intellect and higher knowledge. Intellect and the higher knowledge present within each human being. There is an inner meaning in worshipping Ganapathi for ten days. The idea is that each day should be dedicated to acquiring control over one of the Indriyas (sense organs) gently with positive efforts. Then only we can achieve the control of these ten senses in these ten days. Vedas explain that Ganapathi is all powerful and all-pervading. Special foods that please Lord Ganesh are offered made out of, entirely by using steam. Combining rice flour with Jaggery and til (sesame) seeds, balls are prepared which are cooked in steam. In Ayurveda this is accorded a high place for its curative properties. The jaggery in the dish is a remedy for various ailments of the human body like bile and phlegm. The til seeds serve to purify the arteries. It also helps to improve vision. Bhagawan has said, Realize and act on the basis that the living Divinity is within you, Ganapathi represents the ideal person who is guided by intelligence and wisdom. Engage yourself in acts which will please the Divine - such as moderation in speech and giving up ill-will and hatred. You should not hate any being in this creation.

BHAJAN

Jaya Sri Ganesha Vighna Nasha Gajanana
Vidya Buddhi Sarva Siddhi Suranjana
[Jaya Sri ...]
Jaya Heramba Sri Jagadamba Nandana
Eka Dantha Dayavantha Shubhanana
Mangala Dayaka Sri Vinayaka Vandana

Meaning:

Glory to the Lord of Ganaas, Ganesha, the destroyer of obstacles, who has the head of an elephant, who confers scholarship, intelligence and power. Glory to the son of Universal Mother (Parvathi). Glory to the one who is single tusked, compassionate and who bestows auspiciousness. I bow to Thee who is the highest.

Audio: <https://sairhythms.sathyasai.org/song/jaya-sri-ganesha-vighna-nasha>

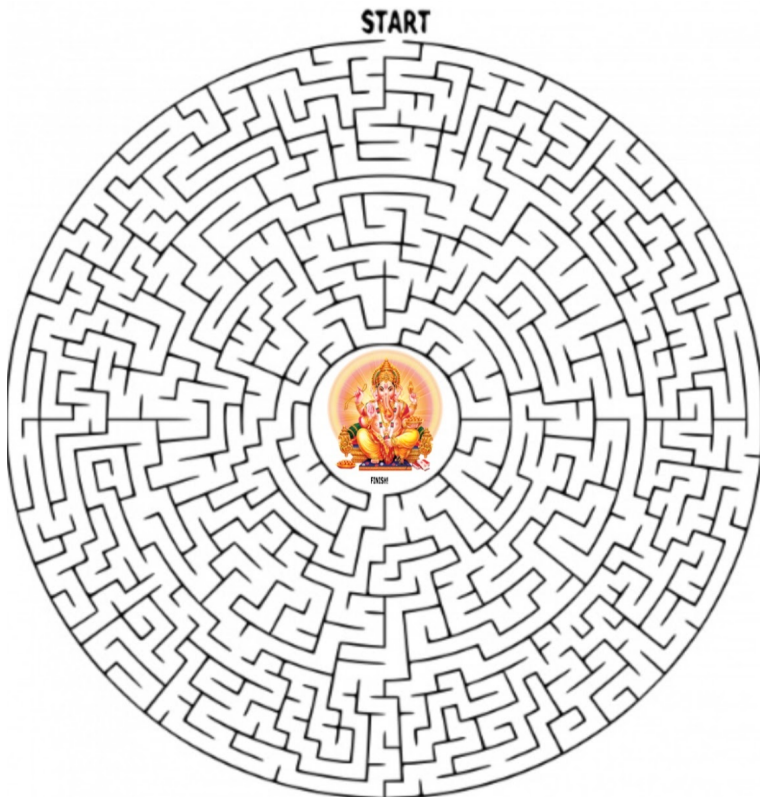
MEMORIES



SSE Registration- September 2016

5 years ago this month, SSE registration for the upcoming school year began!

GAME



Find your way through the maze with the help of Lord Ganesh!



Good company is important, it helps to cultivate good qualities.

— Sathya Sai Baba —