



Sri Sathya Sai Samyukta Shruti Shreni

SHRUTAM ME GOPAYA



Śruta Prabodhinī: An Audio Guide
Gaṇapati Prārthanā



Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations
INDIA



॥ हरिः ॐ ॥

gaṇapati prārthanā

(गणपति प्रार्थना)

Audience for this Audio Guide	3
1. Overview	4
2. Abhyaasa	5
2.1 First round (small groups of words) –	5
2.2 Second round (larger groups of words)	6
2.3 Complete <i>Samhitā pāṭha</i> - संहिता पाठ	7
3. Quotes from Sathya Sai Literature	8
Appendix	9
Devanagari transliteration scheme	9



Audience for this Audio Guide

“The Vedic mantras can be chanted by one and all. It is Swami's wish that the Vedas be spread to every country, so that every human being, irrespective of religion, caste, nationality, etc., learns Vedas and chants them.”

- Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba
Divine Discourse on 09th August 2006

Om Sri Sai Ram!

With the Divine Blessings of Bhagawan Baba, welcome to the Sri Sathya Sai Samyukta Shruti Shreni, an offering from Sri Sathya Sai Veda Poshana, which is an important part of the Avataric Mission. You are now an important part of this Divine mission for the protection and propagation of our ancient heritage.

This document is intended for use as an audio guide for learners under the Sri Sathya Sai Samyukta Shruti Shreni. With His Divine Inspiration, this guide is a combination of text and audio content which supplements the content to be covered in the class.

Importance of listening (*shruti*) in the oral tradition of Vedas

Vedas are the very breath of God. The *Vedas* are not to be learnt like normal speech or song, but to be awakened from within. This is the reason this guide is called *Śruta Prabodhini* – ‘guide to awakening through listening’.

The *Vedas* are not in any particular language. They are composed of several fundamental sounds which reverberate in the entire cosmos. Thus, listening is key to gaining knowledge of *Veda* chanting.

The audio files for this guide can be accessed using the hyperlinks provided in the text. In order for the learning to be effective, the learner *must* listen to these audio files at least 30 times, without referring the text. Only after listening to the audio for a minimum of 30 times, the learner may start to chant along. This process helps to awaken the innate Divine knowledge of the *Vedic* hymn from within ourselves. After that, the learning process will follow naturally.

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1. Overview

The *gaṇapati prārthanā* is an invocation prayer chanted at the beginning of every Vedic activity. It is addressed, in turn, to Lord Ganapati, Goddess Saraswati and the holy teacher (Guru). Hence, it may also be referred to as *gaṇapati-sarasvatī-guru prārthanā*. Traditionally, Lord Ganapati is invoked at the beginning of any spiritual activity since He is known as *vighna hartā*, or the ‘remover of obstacles’ from our spiritual path. Secondly, the Vedic prayers symbolise all spiritual knowledge (in fact, the name *veda* itself translates as ‘that which is known’). Hence, goddess Saraswati, the goddess of all knowledge is invoked in the prayer. Finally, for the attainment of spiritual knowledge, one needs the grace of a holy teacher (Guru). The final part of the prayer offers salutations to all spiritual gurus.

Audio file for the complete hymn (please listen to this at least 30 times before the actual hymn chanting is taken up in class):

[Complete Saṁhitā pātha](#)

(please click on the link to open the audio)



2. Abhyaasa

The text of the hymn is given below in three suggested stages for learning.

2.1 First round (small groups of words) –

Audio file: [SSSSSS - EL - GP - audio 6 - learning first round.mp3](#)

- 1.1 ग॒णा॒नां॑ त्वा । ग॒ण॒प॒ति॒ग्ं॑ ह॒वाम॑हे । क॒विं॑ क॒वी॒ना॒म् । उ॒प॒म॒श्र॒व॒स्त॒म॒म् ।
gaṇānām tvā | gaṇapātiḡm havāmahe | kavim kāvīnām | upamaśravastamam |
- 1.2 ज्ये॒ष्ठ॒रा॒जं॑ ब्र॒ह्म॒णा॒म् । ब्र॒ह्म॒ण॒स्प॒त॒ आ॒ । नः॑ शृ॒ण्व॒न्नू॒ति॒भिः॑ । सी॒द॒ सा॒द॒न॒म् ॥
jyēṣṭharājam brahmanām | brahmaṇaspata ā | naḥ śṛṇvannūtibhiḥ | sīda sādānam ||
- 2.1 प्र॒ णो॑ दे॒वी । सर॑स्वती । वा॒जे॒भिः॑ । वा॒जि॒नी॒व॒ती ।
pra ṇo devī | sarāsvatī | vājēbhiḥ | vājinīvatī|
- 2.2 धी॒ना॒म॒वि॒त्री । अ॒व॒तु ॥
dhīnāmavitrī | avatu ||
- 3.1 ग॒णेशाय॑ नमः ।
gaṇeśāya namaḥ |
- 3.2 सर॑स्वत्यै नमः ।
sarāsvatyai namaḥ |
- 3.3 श्री॒गुरु॑भ्यो नमः । हरिः॑ ॐ ॥
śrīgurubhyo namaḥ | hariḥ om ||



2.2 Second round (larger groups of words)

Audio file: [SSSSSS - EL - GP - audio 7 - learning second round.mp3](#)

- 1.1 गणानां॑ त्वा॑ गण॒पति॑गं॒ ह॒वामहे॑ । क॒विं क॒वीना॑मु॒पम॑श्रवस्तमम् ।
gaṇānām tvā gaṇapātiḡm havāmahe | kavim kavīnāmupamaśrāvastamam |
- 1.2 ज्येष्ठ॑राजं॒ ब्रह्म॑णां॒ ब्रह्म॑णस्पत॒ आ । नः॑ शृ॒ण्वन्नू॒तिभि॑स्सीद॒ साद॑नम् ।
jyeṣṭharājam brahmāṇām brahmaṇaspata ā | naḥ śṛṇvannūtibhissīda sādānam |
- 2.1 प्र॒ णो॑ दे॒वी सर॑स्वती । वा॒जेभि॑र्वा॒जिनी॑वती । धी॒नाम॑वि॒त्र्यव॑तु ॥
pra ṇo devī sarāsvatī | vājebhirvājīnīvatī | dhīnāmavitryavatū ||
- 3.1 ग॒णेशाय॑ नमः । सर॑स्वत्यै॒ नमः॑ । श्री॒गुरु॑भ्यो नमः । हरिः॑ ॐ ॥
gaṇeśāya namaḥ | sarasvatyai namaḥ | śrīgurubhyo namaḥ | hariḥ om ||



2.3 Complete *Samhitā pāṭha*- संहिता पाठ

Audio file: [SSSSSS - EL - GP - audio 8 - learning final round samhita.mp3](#)

- 1.1 ग॒णानां॑ त्वा ग॒णप॑तिं ह॒वामहे॑ क॒विं क॑वीनामु॒पमश्र॑वस्तमम् ।
gaṇānām tvā gaṇapātiṁ havāmahe kavim kavināmupamaśravastamam /
- 1.2 ज्येष्ठ॑राजं ब्रह्म॑णां ब्रह्म॑णस्पत आ नः शृ॒ण्वन्नू॑तिभिस्सीद सा॒दनम् ॥
jyēṣṭharājam brahmaṇām brahmaṇaspata ā naḥ śṛṇvannūtibhissīda sādānam //
- 2.1 प्र णो॑ दे॒वी सर॑स्वती वाजे॑भिर्वा॒जिनी॑वती । धी॒नामवि॑त्र्यवतु ॥
pra ṇo devī sarāsvatī vājebhirvājīnīvatī | dhīnāmavitryavatu //
- 3.1 ग॒णेशाय॑ नमः । सर॑स्वत्यै नमः । श्रीगुरु॑भ्यो नमः । हरिः॑ ॐ ॥
gaṇeśāya namaḥ | sarasvatyai namaḥ | śrīgurubhyo namaḥ | hariḥ om //



3. Quotes from Sathya Sai Literature

A Few excerpts the discourses of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba relevant in the context are given below:

“Vinaayaka or Ganesha or Ganapathi or Vighneshwara – all indicate the elephant-God, who is popular among young and old, and who is worshipped as the very first deity, before regularly beginning any ceremony or samskaar, any yaaga or yajna, any vow or fast or pilgrimage. He is the Lord of the Ganas or Divine Forces, inside and outside the human body; He is the Lord, who masters and overwhelms vighna (obstacle), however imminent or eminent. This is the natural effect of the fact that Ganapathi is the God of Intelligence, Vidhya or Buddhi (learning or intellect).”

– Sathya Sai Speaks Vol. 11, Discourse No. 32

“For all the manthras, the primary manthra, which enshrines the attributeless, Omniself, is the Omkaara. The Omkaara embodies in the form of sound the Supreme Brahman. For this sound, the presiding deity is Saraswathi.”

– Sathya Sai Speaks Vol. 17, Discourse No. 25

“True happiness can come only from Indriya nigraham (control of the senses) and from Atmanandam (the bliss of the Spirit). The first requisite is for students to develop sense control. The Goddess of Knowledge, Saraswati, confers her blessings only on the student who practises self-control.”

– Sathya Sai Speaks Vol. 24, Discourse No. 27

“What is a guru? The guru is that through which your mind gets fixed on God. If you consider the Supreme Self as the guru and do spiritual exercises with unshakable love, the Lord Himself will appear before you and give you a mantra just as a guru. Or, He may so bless you that as a result of your spiritual exercises, you may meet a true teacher.”

– Sri Sathya Sai Sandeha Nivarini, Chapter 1



Appendix

Devanagari transliteration scheme

स्वराः	अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ	ऋ	ॠ	ऌ	ॡ	ए	ऐ	ओ	औ	अं	अः
vowels	<i>a</i>	<i>ā</i>	<i>ī</i>	<i>ī</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>ū</i>	<i>r̥</i>	<i>r̄</i>	<i>l̥</i>	<i>l̄</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>ai</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>au</i>	<i>am</i>	<i>aḥ</i>

व्यञ्जनानि	कण्ठ्य		तालव्य		मूर्धन्य		दन्त्य		ओष्ठ्य	
consonants	gutturals		palatals		cerebrals		dentals		labials	
	क	<i>ka</i>	च	<i>ca</i>	ट	<i>ṭa</i>	त	<i>ta</i>	प	<i>pa</i>
	ख	<i>kha</i>	छ	<i>cha</i>	ठ	<i>ṭha</i>	थ	<i>tha</i>	फ	<i>pha</i>
	ग	<i>ga</i>	ज	<i>ja</i>	ड	<i>ḍa</i>	द	<i>da</i>	ब	<i>ba</i>
	घ	<i>gha</i>	झ	<i>jha</i>	ढ	<i>ḍha</i>	ध	<i>dha</i>	भ	<i>bha</i>
nasals	ङ	<i>ṅa</i>	ञ	<i>ña</i>	ण	<i>ṇa</i>	न	<i>na</i>	म	<i>ma</i>
semivowels			य	<i>ya</i>	र	<i>ra</i>	ल	<i>la</i>	व	<i>va</i>
sibilants	ह	<i>ha</i>	श	<i>śa</i>	ष	<i>ṣa</i>	स	<i>sa</i>		
					ळ	<i>ḷa</i>				