## Gayatri Mantra - A Universal Prayer - Meaning & Significance

***Om Bhur Bhuvaḥ Swaḥ
Tat-savitur Vareñyaṃ
Bhargo Devasya Dheemahi
Dhiyo Yonaḥ Prachodayāt***

General meaning: We meditate on that most adored Supreme Lord, the creator, whose effulgence (divine light) illumines all realms (physical, mental and spiritual). May this divine light illumine our intellect.

Word meaning: Om: The primeval sound; Bhur: the physical body/physical realm; Bhuvah: the life force/the mental realm Suvah: the soul/spiritual realm; Tat:  That (God); Savitur: the Sun, Creator (source of all life); Vareñyam: adore; Bhargo: effulgence (divine light); Devasya: supreme Lord; Dhīmahi: meditate; Dhiyo: the intellect; Yo: May this light; Nah: our; Prachodayāt: illumine/inspire.

It is believed that chanting of Gayatri Mantra cleanes our body, mind and soul and generates a positive energy in us and when the this is chanted by multitudes of people the vibration can resonate in our atmosphere. With this firm belief, the Sri Sathya Sai Organisation, Sikkim joined in the global Akhanda Gayatri chanting for 24 hours beginning on 13th June, 2020 at 8:00 pm and culminated at 8:30 pm on the 14th June 2020. For the last 30 minutes from 8 pm onwards devotees from across the state joined in from their homes at the same time and chanted in unison across the state and added further to the positive vibrations.

This initiative was initiated by the International Sathya Sai Organisation and devotees from 188 countries and every state of India joined in these prayers from their homes. Keeping in mind the norm of social distancing, devotees chanted the Gayatri mantra from their homes alongside their family members.

In Sikkim, with the intention of intensifying our prayers for the wellbeing of all in the state, the state Organisation vowed to chant prayers across the state for 24 hours and this was achieved by segregating time slots for each mandali ( a village unit of the Organisation) and Samithi ( a cluster of few village units). Sikkim has a total of 160 mandalis and 37 Samithis across the state and devotees of each mandali and samithi continuously chanted the Gayatri Mantra during the time allotted to them. In this manner, the chanting of Gayatri Mantra resonated in more than 25000 households in the state.

The purpose of this chanting was to alleviate the challenges being faced by humanity across the world in form of this pandemic and to pray for those who have departed and seeking better health for those who are battling with illness and seeking strength for all the front line staffs who have been at the forefront as we battle against this disease.

The Organisation has also been supporting in the state's efforts against the pandemic and had contributed a sum of 1,51,000/- on 3rd June 2020.