

## Entertainment

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### Extolling Shirdi Sai as Anna Baba



**Baba Paamaalai — Anna Baba — audiocassette — Vol.1 — Tamil  
— Lyrics-Sai Subramanian — Music-B. Harikrishna — Digital  
Stereo — MRP Rs.45**

ANNA BABA Temple on the Poonamallee By Pass Road in Chennai (Ph: 26496473; 26496363) is another haven for devotees of Shirdi Sai Baba. The temple, raised by Kumar Baba two years ago, predominantly concentrates on annadhanam (poor feeding), which the Baba of Shirdi

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always emphasised on. Hence the deity at this temple is known by the name of Anna Baba.

The recently released cassette, "Baba Paamaalai," extols the greatness of Anna Baba. With lyrics by Sai Subramaniam set to music by B. Harikrishna, the songs have been sung by S. P. Balasubramaniam, S. Janaki, B. Vasantha, B. Harikrishna and B. Ravi Raam. More than the music, it is the religious spirit of the songs that makes an impact. The soft tunes soulfully rendered are a contrast to the percussion based, fast paced, sonorous strains of bhakti you come across this season. S. P. Balasubramanyam's opening number ("Saiyin Nakshatra Maalai") and the chorus "Aum Sai Sri Sai Jaya Jaya Sai," formatted in bhajan style, set the right mood for the pensive songs that follow. As always SPB's enunciation is flawless, his tone, melodic and expressions, natural. The chorus in the other songs too, including "Maatrinaayae," (S. Janaki), rings in your ears. Those listening to S. Janaki after quite a while would observe the slight fatigue in the voice. Vasantha's is a vibrant rendition. Harikrishna has composed and sung "Shirdi Vaasanae." The almost melancholic refrain is soothing on the ear, but is a trifle lengthy for a devotional piece. Be it Ravi Raam's "Sonna Solpadi" or Harikrishna's "Madham Maatrum," one cannot afford to miss Sai Subramanian's poignant lines. Very relevantly, the lyricist touches upon many significant events in Shirdi Baba's life.

MALATHI RANGARAJAN

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