

*Important dates & events...*

**73<sup>RD</sup> Birthday**  
OF  
**AVATAR MEHER BABA**

*25th February 1967*



**BIRTHDAY MESSAGE**

**“Births and Deaths are Illusory Phenomena.  
One Really dies when one is born to live as God,  
The Eternal who is Beyond both Birth and Death.”**

**— MEHER BABA —**



## **Important Dates & Events in Avatar Meher Baba's Life**

**25-2-1894 TO 25-2-1967**

### **PRE-REALIZATION PHASE OF BABA.**

**25th February 1894** — Birth of Meher Baba (then called Meherwan) in the David Sassoon Hospital, Poona.

**January 1895** — When Meherwan was only 11 months old and while he was playing in the compound of his house, a big cobra entwined itself round his body and was playing with him. Mother Shirinmai was horrified on seeing this and screamed for help, but by the time people came to the rescue, the cobra disappeared without doing any harm to Meherwan. This incident had some significance in relation to his future.

### **Early Education.**

**1899** — He was sent to the Dastur Girls' School where he learned to read and write the Gujarati language and the rudiments of arithmetic.

**1903** — He was sent to the Camp Government English School where he studied for five years.

**1908** — He was sent to St. Vincent's High School where he studied for four years.

**1911** — At the age of 17, Meherwan matriculated from St. Vincent High School, and in that same year he joined the Deccan College, Poona.

### **OLD LIFE PHASE OF BABA.**

**May 1913** — First meeting with Hazarat Babajan, His first Master at Poona. One morning in May 1913

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while he was returning home on a bicycle, he was beaconsed by a well known Sufi Perfect Master, Hazarat Babajan. When He went over to her, she embraced Him and kissed Him on the forehead. This kiss imparted a divine thrill to Meherwan, Who from that moment completely lost His gross consciousness and remained in a state of super conscious state for about 9 months.

**January 1914** — One night in January, 1914, when He made His usual visit to Hazarat Babajan, she intensely gazed at Him and pointing her finger at Him, said, "This child of mine will create a great sensation in the world and do immense good to humanity."

**November 1914** — Meherwan regained a little of his gross consciousness. His eyes ceased to be vacant and life returned to them.

**April 1915** — Meherwan met His second Spiritual Master, Sadguru Narayan Maharaj. When Meherwan was on His way to Raichur, He got out from the train at an intermediate station Kedgaon, on a sudden impulse. This resulted in His meeting Narayan Maharaj, a well-known and much revered Sadguru, having a large following.

**1915** — During the latter part of 1915, Meherwan went to Nagpur where He met His third Spiritual Master, Hazarat Tajuddin Baba, about whom Babajan used to say, "Taj is Khalifa".

**December 1915** — Meherwan met His fourth Spiritual Master, Hazarat Sai Baba of Sherdi. When Meherwan approached him, Sai Baba was in a procession and seeing

him, Meherwan prostrated Himself on the road. Sai Baba looked at Him and said 'Parvardigar' which means 'God-Almighty-Sustainer'.

**December 1915** — He contacted His fifth Spiritual Master, Sadguru Upasani Maharaj. After the meeting with Sai Baba, Meherwan was directed to go to Upasani Maharaj who was living at the time in Khandoba temple in Sherdi. As soon as Meherwan approached Upasani Maharaj, the latter threw a stone at Him which hit Him on the forehead exactly on the spot where Babajan had kissed Him. This helped to bring Him back down into gross consciousness reinstating His awareness of the world of illusion, while retaining at the same time His super conscious state.

**1916** — As Meherwan appeared gradually more normal after his contact with Sadguru Upasani Maharaj, at the behest of His mother He got Himself employed as Manager of Kau Khatau Theatrical Company. After the closure of the company, His father put Him in charge of his tea shop so as to keep Him fully occupied.

**1917** — Meherwan began helping His father for about two hours daily in a toddy shop, and thereafter he opened another shop in partnership with His friend Behramji.

**July 1921**—Meherwan went to Sakori and stayed with Upasani Maharaj for six months. During this period He used to spend a number of hours with this Master when none was allowed to approach them. Usually they sat silent. Occasionally Meherwan would sing.

**December 1921 — Meherwan became fully Perfect (a Sadguru).** At the end of December, 1921, He was restored to full normal consciousness, retaining at the same time His super conscious state. Announcing this to His disciples, Upasani Maharaj said, "I have given my charge to Meherwanji. He is the holder of my key." Sometime after this, in the presence of number of people, he said, "This boy will move the world. Humanity at large will be benefited at His hands." A few days later Upasani Maharaj sent for Gustadji Hansotia, one of his leading disciples and said, "I have made Meherwanji perfect. He is the Sadguru of the Age. Now you have to leave me and stick to Him." To Behramji (Baba's friend) he said, "Your friend is God-realised: carry out every command and every desire of His." In this connection Baba has said, "Upasani Maharaj made me *know* fully what I am, just as Babajan had made me *feel* in a flash what I am."

**January 1922 — Meherwan left Sakori for His Universal Work.** After God-realization He left Sakori and began to live in a small hut specially built for Him in Poona. His followers included Parsis, Iranis, Hindus and Muslims to whom He would give discourses on spiritual themes. It was at this time that He was given the name of Meher Baba by His disciples.

**January to May 1922 — Strange occurrences took place during this period.** Many stories are told of strange occurrences during this period, revealing Meher Baba's powers of All-Knowing.

**June 1922 — First Ashram at Bombay.** In May, 1922, Meher Baba made an important journey on foot from

Poona to Bombay with 45 of His followers. Here they stayed for one year in a bungalow on the Main Road, Dadar, Bombay. It was named "Manzil-e-Meem" (House of the Master). All followers were enjoined to observe strict discipline and to carry out and obey orders without question.

**October 1922** — In the middle of October, 1922, Baba left the Manzil to visit Upasani Maharaj at Sakori. On His arrival, He was welcomed with great joy. Maharaj made his disciples pay homage to Baba. He stayed there for 18 hours and then returned to Bombay.

**May 1923** — In May, 1923, Baba selected a place for His stay, five miles from Ahmednagar, known as Arangaon, where there was a Military Camp during the First World War. The buildings were in a dilapidated condition and surrounded by refuse and thorns. The place was all cleared and made fit for habitation. This very place is now known as Meherabad.

**27th May 1923 — First Spiritual Tour.** On 27th May 1923, Baba with thirteen of His selected disciples started on an extensive tour of India and of adjoining countries, visiting on the way Agra, Mathura, Karachi via Delhi, Quetta, Ahmedabad, Surat, Nasik and back to Ahmednagar. At many places they covered the distance on foot. All this time Baba had been taking nothing but liquids.

**3rd July 1923** — On 3rd July 1923, while walking on foot from Ankleshwar, the mandali had to cross the Narbada river. Some of the party got stuck in the mud

and were much alarmed for they had difficulty in extricating themselves. Baba instructed all the members to throw the Mogul cap which each one was wearing into the river. None suffered any injury and they miraculously escaped. They covered twenty four miles and reached Navsari in the evening.

**7th May 1924** -- Baba locked Himself in the small building specially built for Him and remained in seclusion for number of days, remaining only on a liquid diet.

**31st May 1924** — On 31st May 1924, Baba left Arangaon for Bombay enroute for Quetta. Here one of His disciples became seriously ill and died in spite of the best treatment given to him. Baba knew about his death and so He had given instructions for the burial of the man, pointing out the place in the cemetery where he was to be buried before His departure. Instructions were also given to go to the cinema immediately after the burial, thereby pointing out and emphasizing to His disciples the actual illusory nature of death, taken so seriously by ordinary people.

**21st March 1925** — On 21st March 1925, the "Meher Charitable Hospital and Dispensary" was opened at Meherabad under the charge of a qualified medical officer to give free medical attendance to all, irrespective of caste or creed.

**31st March 1925** — At the end of March, 1925, the Hazarat Babajan school was opened also at Meherabad to impart free primary education to the village boys and girls of all classes including untouchables.

**May 1925** — On an occasion in May, 1925, when Baba was washing 30 untouchable boys as per the daily routine, some brahmins came for Baba's darshan and

blessing. As they bowed to Him, Baba said, "I am bathing untouchable boys. It is no use having darshan unless you are prepared to do the work I do." They were greatly touched and joined Baba and others in bathing the boys, contrary to their custom.

**10th May 1925** — On 10th May, 1925, the Birthday of Upasani Maharaj was celebrated on a grand scale. Crowds of people from the surrounding villages began to pour in from 8 o'clock in the morning, and free food was supplied to them. Dramatic recitals, lectures, chants and a bhajan programme were provided. There were fireworks and an open air film show also. This day was the beginning of the darshans that became such an important element in Baba's outward work. These darshans started, as it seemed, spontaneously.

**4th June 1925** — On 4th June, 1925 Baba announced that he would soon remain silent, not speaking for a year, and asked that all should remain attached to Him during that time.

**26th June 1925** — On 26th June, 1925 Baba announced that He would not speak to visitors from 1st July but would confine His speech to the devotees, giving final instructions before becoming silent for a long period.

**8th July 1925** — On 8th July, 1925 Baba held a meeting of all the disciples when for about an hour He explained the duties of each during His approaching silence.

**9th July 1925** — On the evening of 9th July Baba delivered a lecture on the necessity of living for others and

on using one's body for the sake of others. He explained the meaning of His silence which was to be undertaken partly because of heavy spiritual working in view of the coming death of Babajan, and partly because of the disturbances, wars and disasters which were coming to the world and to India in particular.

**10th July 1925 — Baba's Silence Begins.** The great and unique Silence of Meher Baba began on the morning of 10th July, 1925 by greeting everybody by means of signs and by writing on a slate. Though it was originally meant for one year, the breaking of His Silence has been postponed from time to time and is still continued today after completing 41 years. During the first year of His Silence, Baba spent many hours daily, writing the account of His experiences during the period when He was completely absorbed in super conscious state. This book contains hitherto unknown spiritual secrets and will be published only after Baba leaves His body.

**11th October 1925 —** From 11th October, 1925 Babā began to retire at night into a very small enclosure using a large wooden table under a neem tree which had been converted into a small cupboard-like cabin. From 17th November this cabin became Baba's central seat both at night and day.

**10th November 1925 —** On the night of 10th November a dhooni (fireplace) was lighted at eleven o'clock, with due ceremony, by the mandali under Baba's instructions and a significant phenomenon was witnessed on that occasion. There was a great scarcity of rain and

serious local famine was certain. Without any previous signs, an hour or so after the fire had been lighted, it began to rain very heavily for nearly fifteen hours, reviving the dying crops, and the famine was averted.

**27th February 1926 — Death of Baba's Brother.** At about 12 noon on 27th of February 1926, Baba received a telegram from His father conveying the news of the sudden death of His eldest brother Jamshedji.

**May 1926 —** Sadguru Narayan Maharaj told one of his followers in May 1926 in reference to Meher Baba that "I and He are one. You see me while serving Him. He is a Sat Purush. He has been to me in the past."

**5th November 1926 —** From 5th November 1926 Baba instructed the Mandali, Hindus, Muslims and Harijans to take their food together, and to have no restrictions whatsoever from that date as regards cooks, and having a common kitchen.

**November 1926 —** In October, the prospect of the Meherabad colony coming to an end appeared, and in November as per Baba's command, all structure except the original premises, the post office and the mess quarters and Baba's zhopdi, were brought to the ground. The reason for doing so was explained by Baba, saying, that, "When one has to erect a big building, a temporary scaffolding is raised up, and when the building is completed the scaffolding is removed. The school, hospital, etc. were but scaffoldings for my working and when my work is finished, there is no need for the scaffolding".

**2nd January 1927** — On 2nd January 1927 Baba gave up writing in addition to speaking and started to use an alphabet board instead, for communication purpose.

**1st May 1927** — Meher Ashram was opened on temporary premises at Arangaon. There was a procession headed by Baba, with various village bands playing their favourite tunes. A prayer was recited and tea and sweets were served.

**17th July 1927** — A Persian section of the Hazrat Babajan school was opened with fourteen boys from Persia, in which spiritual teaching was given. Baba took personal interest in the school and joined the boys at play and often took meals with them.

**Summer 1928** — During the summer of 1928, Rustom K. Irani ( brother of Adi K. Irani ) was sent to England to get Western boys for the school. Though this mission failed, the outcome of this visit was the arrival in India in June of three Englishmen who had come into contact with Rustom. They remained under Baba's instructions until 2nd January 1929.

**1st January 1929** — The first number of **Meher Message** appeared on this date. This journal contained extracts from Baba's writings, the Editor's diary and other contributions.

**April 1929** — In April 1929, Baba with His Mandali went to Panchgani ( a hill town ) on the Western Ghats mountain range where He retired into a cave 15 feet deep. This place was known as The Tiger Valley, being a

haunt of tigers and leopards. Baba remained in this cave for a fortnight taking only water and weak tea. No one was allowed to be near Him during this time.

**10th July 1929** — On 10th July 1929 Baba left on another tour, visiting Nasik, Khalghat, Gwalior, Agra, Delhi, Lahore, Srinagar, Harvan and Dhulia. At Harvan a few miles from Srinagar, Baba retired into a small hut specially erected with just sufficient space for a man to lie down. There He lived only on water which was passed to Him through a small window, without anybody seeing Him. From Kashmir, Baba and the Mandali returned to Meherabad by car without taking shelter under any roof except under trees or by the side of a river.

**1921 to 1930** — The above period of 10 years, beginning from 1921 to 1930, was utilized for awakening people to the unity of spiritual knowledge and love for God, and for giving training of moral discipline, love of God, spiritual understanding and selflessness of service to His various devotees belonging to different religions. For this work Meher Baba travelled throughout India, including Pakistan and Kashmir, Ceylon, Persia and many other places, to give mass darshan and individual interviews.

**1st September 1931 — First Vist to the West.** On 1st September 1931, Meher Baba with three of His Indian disciples, sailed for the first time for England by the S. S. Rajputana. He visited Constantinople, Milan and Genoa.  
**Meeting with Mahatma Gandhi** — As per the advice of Shri Jamshed Mehta, Mayor of Karachi, Mahatma Gandhi,

who was proceeding by the same steamer on his way to the Indian Round Table Conference, requested for an interview with Meher Baba and met Him in His cabin three times. Among several other things, Mahatma Gandhi said, " I feel within me that You are something great; it is time for You to speak and let the world hear ".

**1931 to 1939** — During this period Meher Baba visited in quick succession the different countries in the West ten times and made two World tours in 1932 and 1934/35. These tours were undertaken not by way of pleasure trips; the main object of His visits to all the important places throughout the world was to contact masses and individuals in order to sow seeds of love in the hearts of all mankind, so that they may seek the Highest Truth and tread the path of salvation and glory which is their heritage.

**1939 to 1949—Masts Tours.** During the period 1939 to 1949, an important part of Meher Baba's work, which has no parallel in spiritual history, was His silent contact with Masts (spiritually advanced souls having only partial or no normal consciousness) and the poor. These masts (spiritually intoxicated) were ministered to by Baba, Who fed, bathed and clothed them with His own hands. His object in doing so was to help these God Intoxicated people to higher consciousness, so that they may be more effective as His vehicles in creating higher consciousness in others. Baba pours tremendous concentration and unstinted love and tenderness into His handling of these men, and they respond to Him with the spontaneous adoration

of little children. Meher Baba undertook numerous difficulties and hardships to meet them wherever they were stationed, travelling in 3rd class railway compartments, by cars, by buses, by bullock carts, by tongas and often walking in extreme heat, cold and rain.

### **NEW LIFE PHASE OF BABA**

**1949 to 1952—The New Life of Helplessness and Hopelessness.** Meher Baba entered into the New Life Phase from 16th October 1949 after finishing all the existing arrangements and disposing of movable and immovable properties and making provision for dependent families. Only 20 companions of Baba who agreed to fulfil all His conditions including implicit obedience, were allowed to accompany Him, during His travels in this phase of His life. Baba pointed out to them beforehand that this period would require them to face all kinds of untold difficulties and hardships that might include starvation, going without sleep and complete helplessness and hopelessness. About this New Life Phase, Baba said, "My old life places Me on the altar of Absolute Godhood and Divine Perfection. My New Life makes Me take the stand of a humble servant of God and His people. In my New Life, Perfect Divinity is replaced, by Perfect Humility. In My New Life, I am the Seeker, the Lover and the Friend. Both these aspects—Perfect Divinity and Perfect Humility — have been by God's will, and both are everlastingly linked with God's eternal life." Baba allowed nearly ten companions to drop out as they could not stand the strain of long journeys on foot, sleepless nights, begging for food and strict discipline and implicit obedience.

**16th October 1950** — Baba's 'Sermon'. Just a few hours before Baba entered into 'New Life' from 'Old Life'. He distributed with His own hands copies of His 'Sermon' to all who were present on 16th October 1950 at Mahableshtar.

**October 1951 to February 1952 — Another Phase of 'Manonash' (annihilation of the mind).** After completing His work in the New Life phase, Baba entered into another phase of "Manonash" and started on His travels accompanied by only four of His devotees. This period was for the consummation of all the desires, cravings and longings of the mind by the fire of Divine Love, resulting in the manifestation of the infinite, indestructible, indivisible and eternal Self. " 'Manonash' brings about the glorious state in which plurality goes and unity comes, ignorance goes and knowledge comes, binding goes and freedom comes." Baba was satisfied with the result of His working in this phase of life for four months, as He said, He regained the Knowledge, Strength and Greatness that He had in the Old Life, and retained the ignorance, weakness and humility of the New Life in the absorption of the Old Life and the emergence of the Free Life.

**16th February to 10th July 1952** — From 'Manonash' phase emerged the " 'Complicated' Free Life " in which bindings were to dominate freedom. This continued till 10th July 1952.

**21st May 1952 — Motor Accident in America.** On this date Baba with four lady disciples was proceeding in a car for Meher Mount, Ojai, California. In Oklahoma as they

came over the crest of a small hill, their car met with an accident. All were thrown out of the car and suffered serious injuries. Baba's head was bleeding and His arm and leg fractured. Baba had said many years before that He would shed His blood on American soil. They were taken to a town hospital where they were kept for treatment for 13 days.

**10th July to 15th November 1952** — This Period initiated the '**Full Free Life**' in which freedom would dominate bindings.

**15th November 1952** — From this date started '**The Fiery Free Life**' in which both "freedom and bindings would be merged into the Divine Life."

**September 1953** — While at Dehradun, the Fiery Free Life reached its culmination and on the 7th of September, Baba made one of His most important declarations, "The Highest of the High." This discourse sums up in explicit language His significance as God-Man. It is the equivalent of what is said in the Upanishads: 'Brahman is all, Atman is Brahman. Atman, the Self... I am Atman, the Spirit himself .....

**January 1954** — Baba paid a visit to Andhra Pradesh, visiting a number of places and giving darshan and prasad to thousands of people in Guntur, Vijaywada, Masulipatam, Eluru, etc. At Rajamundry, a special meeting of all Baba workers in Andhra State was held and here Baba gave a message on "What Baba means by Real Work." In a nutshell, Baba said, "What I want from all My lovers is real, unadulterated love, and from My genuine workers I expect real work done."

### **9th February 1954, — Declaration of Avatarhood.**

Just after midnight of 9th February 1954, Meher Baba dictated on His alphabet board the words "AVATAR MEHER BABA KI JAI," indicating for the first time His unique status, not simply of Sadguru, but as the Avatar of the Age. This declaration was made from a small mud hut just outside the village of Mahewa in Hamirpur District, U. P.; the place of that hut and the surrounding hillside are now known as Meher Asthana.

### **12th, 29th & 30th September 1954—Sahas Meetings.**

During the Sahas meeting on 12th September Baba washed the feet of seven poor men and gave them Rs. 51/- each as gift, saying, "As each one of you is in one way or another an incarnation of God, I feel happy to bow down to you and to lay at your feet this Dev Dakshina (a gift offered to God)." A message "Baba's Call" was also read out which said, "Age after Age, amidst the clamour of disruptions, wars, fears and chaos rings the Avatar's call, 'Come all unto Me'." During the Sahas Meetings of selected devotees of Meher Baba (males only) from India, Pakistan and West, which was held at Meherabad, Ahmednagar, on 29th and 30th September, Baba's Final Declaration was read out.

**7th October 1954** — From this date Baba gave up the use of the Alphabet Board and communicated by signs and gestures.

**7th November to 3rd December 1955**— There was another Sahas Programme at Meherabad during this period for Gujarati, Telugu, Hindi and Marathi groups of Baba lovers. Each group stayed for five days. Satisfactory arrangements for their boarding and lodging were provided. During one of the discourses, Baba said, "There is one

thing greater than love; it is obedience. There is one thing greater than obedience; it is surrender. None has surrendered to Me as he ought to. You may surrender wealth, life, body and all, but not your mind. When mind is surrendered, what else is there ? There is Baba."

**2nd December 1956 — Baba met with second car accident.** On Sunday, 2nd December 1956, when Baba with Eruch and others was returning from Poona to Satara, the car suddenly got out of control, clashed against a stone culvert at the side of the road, turned over and landed in a gully. All were thrown out and seriously injured. Besides head, face and tongue injury, Baba's right hip joint bone was also fractured. The opinion of expert bone-setters and surgeons was, that, with this kind of injury, one would not be able to walk, but Baba is walking notwithstanding experts' opinion.

**28th April 1957 : Baba gave Darshan at St. Meera's School, Poona** — As per promise given to beloved Dada T. L. Vaswani, Baba gave darshan to children of St. Meera's School, Poona, in the presence of Sadhu Vaswani. Thousands of people from Poona and other places took advantage of Baba's Darshan.

**22nd December 1957 — Darshan Programme in Bombay.** A unique Darshan Programme was held at Sunderbai Hall, Marine Lines, Bombay from 8 a.m. to 12 noon on this date. Thousands of Baba's devotees, and admirers had His Darshan to their hearts' content. The hall and the stage were beautifully decorated with flowers.

**22nd December 1957 — Qawalli Programme.** To entertain Baba after the morning Darshan Programme at Sunderbai Hall, Qawalli programme was held at Hasman Hall, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Bombay from 3 to 5 p. m. About 250 intimate Baba lovers were invited.

**15th February to 28th February 1958** — Another Sahavas programme for a batch of Hindi and Marathi group of Baba lovers from 15th to 20th February and for a batch of Telugu and Gujarati group of Baba lovers from 21st to 26th February, was held at Meherabad, to give opportunity to them to have Baba's Darshan and to have closer contact with Him as if they were of one family.

**19th May to 30th May 1958 — Sahavas Programme at New York.** A Sahavas Programme with His American and Western disciples was held at Myrtle Beach Centre on 19th May 1958 when many of His devotees from United States, England, France, Switzerland and Israel attended. During the period Baba gave discourses on Love, Obedience, Split ego, Action and Inaction, The Inexorable 'Must', Omnipresence, Foreknowledge, Real Birth and Real Death, Planes of Consciousness in the Next Incarnation, etc., etc. 'These' He said, "Are mere words although they are good. What I want is your Love and obedience, one hundred per cent."

**2nd June to 7th June 1958 — Baba Visited Australia.** Leaving Myrtle Beach Centre on 30th May 1958 Baba with His Mandali reached Meher Baba Centre in Australia at Woombye, Queen's Road. Many Devotees and lovers from Victoria, New South Wales and Queen's Land attended

the Sahvas. Programme included Baba's darshan, devotional music, spiritual discourses, group and individual interviews.

**10th July 1958 — Universal Message.** During one of the Sahavas programmes and immediately after the Prayer of Repentance was said, "The Universal Message" dictated by Baba, was read out. The usual translations and discourses on 'God Alone Is,' then followed.

**13th March 1959 —** As per the request of the authorities concerned, Baba visited St. Joseph's High School and Industrial Home for the Blind in Bombay. He blessed the students and the inmates.

**2nd April 1959—**When Baba was staying in Guruprasad, Poona, in the summer of 1959, the Indian Test players including Nari Contractor and Polly Umrigar met Baba for His blessings before their departure for England.

**25th February 1962—Opening of new "Meher Hall" of Bombay Centre.** In a newly constructed building on Lamington Road, a hall was purchased for carrying out activities in the cause of Avatar Meher Baba. The inauguration ceremony of this Hall ( named 'Meher Hall' ) was performed on Baba's 68th Birthday on 25-2-1962 by H. H. Maharani Shantadevi Gaekwar of Baroda.

**1st November 1962 — Eastern and Western Devotees Sahavas Programme.** Baba invited His Eastern and Western devotees at Guruprasad Poona, for a Sahvas programme of four days. One Hundred and forty devotees from Europe, America, Australia and New Zealand

and about 4000 devotees from all over India and Pakistan had come. Baba gave them discourses on various spiritual subjects. The Universal Message of 1958 was read out. On this occasion, in reply to the Maharashtra Times Representative's query as regards the war situation with China and its outcome, Baba said, "As I am the Ancient One and as I am in India, in the final outcome India will be victorious."

**28th February 1963 — Installation of Baba's large size bronze statue at Kovvur.** The Late Shri Koduri Krishna Rao of Kovvur (Andhra Pradesh) a great lover and devotee of Meher Baba installed a large size bronze Statue of Baba in a specially built house named 'Mehersthan.' The opening ceremony of 'Mehersthan' was performed by another great devotee of Baba H. H. Maharani Shantadevi Gaekwar of Baroda on 28th February, 1963, in the presence of thousands of Baba lovers from all over India. It has now become a place of pilgrimage not only for Baba lovers, but all other seekers of Truth, irrespective of cast and creed.

**1st May 1964 — Opening of Poona Centre Hall.** A new building was erected with a fairly huge hall for Centre's meetings. The formal opening ceremony of this new hall was performed by Meher Baba on 1st May, 1964, in the presence of a large gathering.

**8th May 1964 — Booth in New York World Fair.** Meher Baba's "Universal Message" Booth, was maintained in the New York World Fair by His American devotees. It was beautifully decorated and well managed by His American devotees. Here Baba's "Universal Message" and other brochures were freely distributed and books on and by Baba were sold. This helped thousands of people to know that the Avatar was in their midst.

**10th November 1965** — A young American student (R.D.) came to India specially to meet Avatar Meher Baba. He reached Meherazad, Ahmednagar, on 10th Nov 1965, and stayed there for four days. He was happy to meet the master. While leaving, Baba gave him a message and a mission to go back to the U. S. A, spread His love among others, particularly among the young and persuade them to desist from taking LSD and other drugs, for, they are harmful physically, mentally and spiritually. Thereafter there were many enquiries from America, regarding drugs and the replies given by Meher Baba are printed in a leaflet called "The Spiritual views on Psychedelics".

**25th February 1967** : Celebrations of 5th Anniversary of Bombay Centre's 'Meher Hall' and 73rd Birthday Anniversary of Avatar Meher Baba, were planned to commence on 25-2-67 at 5 A. M. sharp, that being the time of Avatar's birth on 25-2-1894.

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