



# SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Deemed to be University)

## Press Release

15 January 2026

Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh, India

### Prize Distribution Ceremony of Sri Sathya Sai Educational Institutions Annual Sports & Cultural Meet 2026

The Prize Distribution Ceremony of the Annual Sports and Cultural Meet 2026 for the Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions—a celebration of the excellent performances in sports, cultural and fine arts events during the academic year 2015/26 by students—was held on 15 January 2026, on the auspicious occasion of Makarasankranti, at Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam, Andhra Pradesh.

The programme commenced at 8:15 a.m. with a grand procession comprising the Institute brass band, a *veda* chanting group of students, senior members of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) and a flag-bearing squad.

The Master of Ceremonies, Ms. Beesetti Lohita, Doctoral Research Scholar, Dept. of Food & Nutritional Sciences, SSSIHL, in her introduction, remarked that the festival of Makarasankranti teaches us that after a period of intense effort, there must also be peace, joy and gratitude.

The first talk of the event was delivered by Dr. Chandrahaas C S, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Management & Commerce, SSSIHL. He likened the harvest Makarasankranti to the year-long effort students put into sports, cultural and fine arts events during the academic year 2025/26. He said the key lessons the Annual Sports & Cultural Meet teaches students are Self-Confidence, Self-Satisfaction (achieved by the singular goal of pleasing Bhagawan Baba), Self-Sacrifice (by giving up their physical comforts) and Self-Realization (the individual ego subsumed in group identity). The core of this, he concluded, is the faith students have in Him.

Next up was a series of brief talks by students. They recalled the behind-the-scenes challenges, motivations, prayers and miracles that inspired them to come together in unity and surrender to participate in the Annual Sports & Cultural Meet, shaping them into instruments of peace and righteousness. Speakers included Mohan Sai S (XII Std.) and K Sai Dikshita (XI Std.) of Sri Sathya Sai Higher Secondary School (SSSHSS), N Janavi from Smt. Eswaramma High School, and four students from SSSIHL – Akshra H, II B.Com. (Hons.) from Anantapur Campus, Ritick Raj Gupta, II M.Sc. in Data Science & Computing from Nandigiri Campus, Pulkit Khare, II M.B.A. from Brindavan Campus, and Kinthada Sai Sampath Kumar, B.S. (Hons./Hons. with Research) in Mathematics from Prasanthi Nilayam Campus.

Following the talks, the Founder Chancellor's Cups—symbolizing the grand effort put in by each institution—were presented by Sri K Chakravarthi, IAS (Retd.), Hon'ble Chancellor, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. The respective captains and vice-captains of each Sai educational institution and campus received them.

Sri R J Rathnakar, Managing Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust and Prof. B Raghavendra Prasad, Vice-Chancellor, SSSIHL, then presented trophies to the House and Individual champions of SSSHSS and each SSSIHL campus, respectively, under various sports, cultural and fine arts categories.

Every year, a student from each SSSIHL campus receives the Sri Sathya Sai All Rounder Gold Medal. Founded by Bhagawan Baba Himself, this esteemed award honours consistent exemplary conduct, discipline, devotion, outstanding academic performance, and involvement in activities such as sports, dramatics, Self-Reliance, and spiritual work. It truly exemplifies excellence in Sri Sathya Sai Values-based Integral Education.

Presented by Prof. B Raghavendra Prasad, Vice-Chancellor, SSSIHL, this year's awardees were:

- Gouri Nandana S, II M.Sc. in Biosciences, Anantapur Campus
- Dhanireddy Nanda Vardhan Reddy, II M.Sc. in Data Science and Computing, Nandigiri Campus
- Yeddula Sai Tharun Kumar Reddy, II M.B.A., Brindavan Campus

- B Saisudharshan, II M.A. in Economics, Prasanthi Nilayam Campus

Prof. Gowrishankar R, Dean of Academic Affairs at SSSIHL, then announced the Founder Chancellor Best Teacher Award for Excellence in Teaching, Research & Values-based Integral Education at SSSIHL. The award recognises the significant role teachers play in Sai educational institutions, shaping and guiding students not only academically but also moulding them into women and men of character.

Dr. Pradeep B E, Associate Professor, Dept. of Biosciences, received the award for academic year 2025/26 from Prof. B Raghavendra Prasad, Vice-Chancellor, SSSIHL.

Next, the Physical Directors and Sports, Cultural, and Fine Arts Coordinators of each Sri Sathya Sai educational institution took namaskar of Bhagawan Baba and submitted the prize lists for the current academic year to Him.

This was followed by the Divine benediction of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. His discourse focused on the existence of Divinity in totality and beyond all boundaries. He explained the true nature of the five elements and their interconnectedness with all life on Earth. He asked students to recognise this all-pervasive power (of Divinity) within themselves and not to look for it externally. He said it is the true source of protection. He said that every act of God is for the benefit of all.

He appreciated the efforts students make during the Sports & Cultural events to please Him, but reiterated that the only thing that makes Him happy is that all of us are happy. The only way this can happen is to be full of love and joy, to serve others, and to become ideal examples by following the spiritual path.

Following a few pieces by the Institute brass band, *prasadam* distribution and *bhajans*, the event concluded at 11 a.m.

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#### NOTES FOR EDITORS

*Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL), a Deemed to be University in Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh, India, is one of the few institutions in the world offering values-based education to students at the University level, ever since its inception in 1981. Ethics and morals form the undercurrent of every subject taught at the institute, providing its students with a holistic framework of interpersonal development combined with academic excellence. With a merit-based, open admissions policy, SSSIHL welcomes students from all backgrounds—irrespective of income, religion, or region—and provides quality education free of charge.*

*SSSIHL has four campuses across Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, attracting students from all over India and offering a range of programmes at the undergraduate, postgraduate, professional, and research levels.*

*SSSIHL also provides a strong research environment, with exceptional academic practices that have led to the growth of national and international collaborations. The Central Research Instruments Facility (CRIF), based at the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus is one of the few facilities in the country that houses advanced Characterisation / Analytical Tools to carry out Translational Research in various areas of Science and Technology.*

*For further information, visit: [sssihl.edu.in](http://sssihl.edu.in).*

*Media contact: [media@sssihl.edu.in](mailto:media@sssihl.edu.in). Tel: +91 8555 287239*