



SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Deemed to be University)

Brindavan Campus

Inauguration of New Green Initiatives at the Brindavan Campus

5 October 2026 | In partnership with United Way Bengaluru

1. Introduction

The Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) inaugurated a new set of Green Initiatives at its Brindavan Campus on 5 October 2026, in partnership with United Way Bengaluru. The ceremony was held at the site of the erstwhile Botanical Garden, near the Institute, a place long associated with nature that now becomes the home of the Institute's renewed environmental efforts. Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of SSSIHL, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The initiatives comprise the construction of 130 recharge wells to restore groundwater and the commencement of a Miyawaki forest. Together, they reflect the Institute's commitment to water conservation, the expansion of green cover and the cultivation of a sustainable way of life within the campus community.

2. Proceedings of the Programme

The programme opened with Bhajans and Vedam, which set a serene and devotional tone for the occasion. The formal proceedings began at approximately 9:45 AM with an introductory address by Dr. C. S. Chandrahaas.

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor then laid the foundation stone for the projects. The ceremonial breaking of the coconut was accompanied by the chanting of the Bhu Suktam and the Sai Gayatri, lending the inauguration a traditional and spiritual character in keeping with the ethos of the Institute.

3. The Initiatives Inaugurated

- **Recharge Wells:** A total of 130 recharge wells will be constructed to restore groundwater. Each well, about 12 feet deep and 4 feet wide, can return up to 1,28,000 litres of rainwater to the groundwater table every year.



- **Miyawaki Forest:** The commencement of a Miyawaki forest was also marked at the ceremony. Developed by the Japanese botanist Dr. Akira Miyawaki, this method plants a dense mix of native species to create a compact, biodiverse forest, adding to the green cover of the campus.

4. Partnership and Community Participation

Both initiatives are being taken up in partnership with United Way Bengaluru, which has already implemented 96 percolation wells at the Sri Sathya Sai Hospital premises. United Way Bengaluru will take responsibility for safety during execution and will provide two years of care and maintenance after implementation.

The initiatives will also draw on the skills and participation of communities beyond the campus:

- **Bavi community of Bengaluru:** will help in digging the wells.
- **Warli painters of Maharashtra:** will adorn all 130 wells with traditional Warli paintings, turning each well into a work of art.
- **United Way Bengaluru:** its team will visit the campus to create awareness on sustainability-related initiatives.

5. Introductory Address by Dr. C. S. Chandrahaas

In his introductory address, Dr. Chandrahaas spoke on the significance of the recharge wells. He noted that each well can return up to 1,28,000 litres of water to the ground annually, and that the benefits of this restoration would not remain confined to the campus but would also reach the residents of the surrounding areas.

He described the initiative as a true manifestation of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, the ancient principle that regards the whole world as one family. In this view, an effort undertaken within the Institute for the benefit of its neighbours is an expression of a larger ideal of shared responsibility towards all.

6. Address by the Chief Guest

Revered Vice-Chancellor, Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad, spoke on the importance of going green, reconnecting with our roots and taking pride in them. He emphasised that environmental conservation can begin with small individual actions, particularly through saving power and using resources responsibly.



Drawing on his experience of visiting an observatory in the Himalayan region in his previous role, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor spoke of the effects of pollution that are visible even in the Himalayan ranges. He also referred to the changing climate of cities such as Bengaluru, recalling that fans were barely required there in earlier times.

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor encouraged the community to adopt practical measures in daily life:

- Walking short distances instead of using vehicles whenever possible.
- Switching off lights and fans when they are not in use.
- Avoiding wasteful consumption and expenditure.

He cautioned that unnecessary consumption can arise from greed and ultimately harms both individuals and the environment. A central message of his address was that every individual can contribute towards environmental conservation in his or her own way. The aim, he suggested, is to feel less guilty at the end of each day, to leave the Earth a better place for future generations, and to make the campus a greener place in which to live.

7. Reflections on the Brindavan Campus

The revered Vice-Chancellor also shared personal recollections of his student days at the Brindavan Campus and of his experiences with Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Recalling the trees that he and his fellow students had planted during those years, he expressed immense happiness at seeing how tall and mature they have grown.

These reflections highlighted the continuity between the environmental efforts of earlier generations and the initiatives being inaugurated today, and reminded those present that the care given to a tree or a campus yields its fruit over many years.

8. Conclusion

The inauguration marked not merely the beginning of new environmental projects, but a broader commitment to water conservation, increased green cover, mindful consumption, community welfare and sustainable living, rooted in the values and spiritual ethos of the Brindavan Campus. Undertaken with United Way Bengaluru and with the participation of the Bavi community and the Warli painters, it is a shared effort for the good of the wider community. The programme concluded with Mangala Arathi offered to Bhagawan, bringing the proceedings to a devotional close.