



SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING  
(Deemed to be University)

# SRISHTI

Learn to Evolve. Research to Transform. Innovate to Serve.

**SSSRIF: Building India's Most  
Distinctive Startup Hub**

**Navigating the Frontiers of Knowledge:  
SSSIHL's Centres of Excellence Map a  
Future of Innovation and Impact**

**S.A.I.cling 4 S.A.I. —  
A Centenary Tribute to  
Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**

**"End of education is character."**

**Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Founder Chancellor, SSSIHL**

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**Curated by Lit-Tatwa - Literary Club, Department of Languages and Literature and Institution's Innovation Council (IIC)**

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# **SRISHTI**

**Learn to Evolve. Research to Transform. Innovate to Serve.**



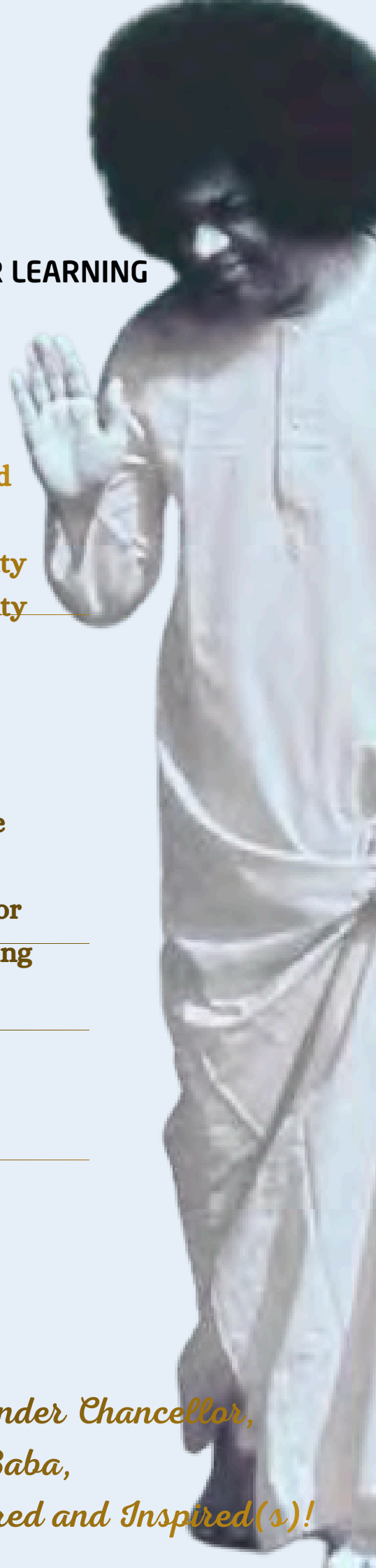
**SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING**

(Deemed to be University)

## **A MODERN GURUKULA**

- **Integral and values-based system for all-round personality development**
- **Free education for ensuring financial inclusivity**
- **Exceptional state-of-the-art facilities for quality education and advanced research**
- **Integrated residential system for holistic growth**
- **Cultural and devotional enrichment programmes for firm rooting in Indian culture and spirituality**
- **Self-reliance programmes and student clubs for fostering life skills through experiential learning**
- **NEP-based curricula in accordance with contemporary educational trends and paradigms**
- **Centres of Excellence for interdisciplinary collaboration and cutting-edge research**
- **Robust research for community engagement**
- **Sri Sathya Sai Research and Innovation Foundation for innovation with purpose, research with responsibility**

*A Humble Offering to the Revered Founder Chancellor,  
Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba,  
The One who Envisioned, Established, Steered and Inspired(s)!*

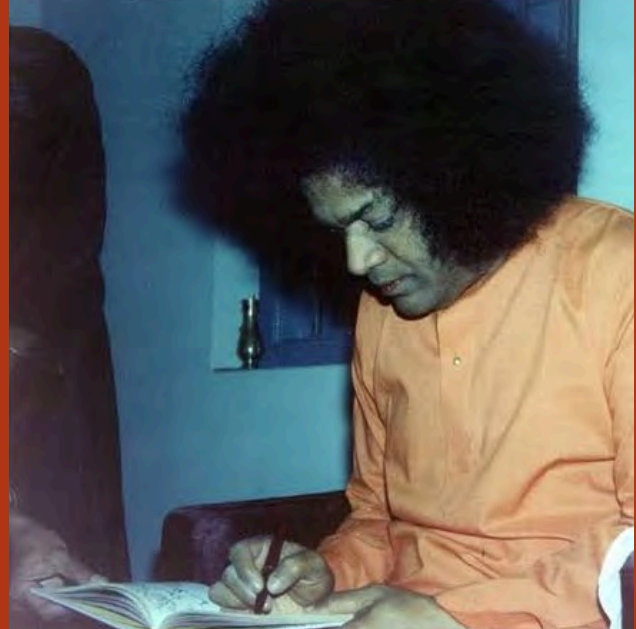




## *From the Divine Quill: Revered Founder Chancellor's Message*

*Today, the world is ruled by science and technology. Boundless time, effort, and money are spent on scientific research, but there is no corresponding benefit. In the anxiety to surpass one another, morality and human values have been set aside. Science has become all-important, while character has declined.*

*What is the reason for this state of affairs? Education without character, science without human values, commerce without ethics, and politics without truth are responsible for the erosion of virtue.*



*Present-day education develops cleverness, but not even a trace of virtue.*

*Students transform their heads into books without practising human values.*

*Education should not be confined to the acquisition of information. Education should be for life, not for a living. Mere living is not enough. Animals and birds also eat and sleep. Human life is meant for understanding the secret of life. Education must help students recognise the path of Truth and demonstrate it in day-to-day living.*

*The world does not need slogans written on walls or speeches delivered from high platforms. What it needs is people imbued with integrity. Knowledge must culminate in behaviour. Life today has become a matter of show, expenditure, and comfort.*

*Humanity's problems cannot be solved by money or science alone; they can be solved only by humanity itself.*

*Students must understand that peace cannot be obtained from external objects. Peace is within. Education should develop self-confidence, self-satisfaction, self-sacrifice, and ultimately Self-realisation. Without these, degrees and positions have no meaning.*

*We do not need information; we need transformation. This is the difference between worldly education and true education. Science looks outward, while spirituality looks inward. Both are necessary and must work together in harmony.*



*Science grants worldly happiness, while spirituality grants inner peace. Without the support of spirituality, science becomes blind. The essence of Bharatiya culture is contained in the principle: Help Ever, Hurt Never. Education must nurture love, expand the heart, and cultivate selflessness. Love lives by giving and forgiving, whereas ego lives by getting and forgetting.*

*The end of wisdom is freedom. The end of culture is perfection. The end of knowledge is love. The end of education is character. Students should not merely cultivate ideals but spread them in society. Only then will education serve its true purpose and bring peace to the individual and to the world.*

*(Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, "The End of Education Is Character", Summer Course 1991, Brindavan)*

# Message from the Hon. Vice Chancellor

At Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL), we are witnessing a quiet, yet profound transformation—one that reflects the deeper purpose of education as envisioned by our most Revered Founder Chancellor, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Increasingly, our students and faculty are no longer content with pursuing knowledge as an end in itself. A more searching and compassionate question now guides their efforts: How does this serve humanity?



This question finds resonance across the vast Sri Sathya Sai ecosystem, where education, healthcare, service, and spirituality converge seamlessly into a unified mission. Whether it is in regenerative medicine, green and sustainable technologies, computational modelling, or social innovation, our research endeavours are increasingly shaped by real-world needs—especially those of the underserved and the vulnerable.

The Sri Sathya Sai Healthcare System, encompassing the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences and allied healthcare initiatives, stands as a living testament to Bhagawan's vision of providing world-class care, completely free of cost, driven by love and compassion. It offers our researchers and innovators an unparalleled opportunity to align science with service—where cutting-edge medical research and technological innovation can directly translate into healing, dignity, and hope for countless patients.

Similarly, the worldwide Sri Sathya Sai Organisations, with their deep grassroots presence and commitment to selfless service, provide a natural bridge between innovation and society. They help ensure that ideas emerging from our laboratories and classrooms do not remain confined within academic boundaries, but reach villages, schools, hospitals, and communities—where



they can make a tangible difference. It is this integrated vision that the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) and the Sri Sathya Sai Research and Innovation Foundation (SSSRIF) seek to nurture and accelerate. Together, they are creating pathways where socially relevant ideas are mentored, supported, and guided from conception to implementation—drawing strength from the collective wisdom, infrastructure, and service ethos of the entire Sri Sathya Sai ecosystem. Bhagawan reminded us that “the scientific knowledge we acquire today must be used for the benefit of fellowmen,” and that “the hands that serve are holier than the lips that pray.” These are not merely inspirational statements; they are operational principles for us. They affirm that innovation must lead to application, that research without societal relevance is incomplete, and that knowledge attains its highest value only when it alleviates suffering and uplifts humanity.

What truly distinguishes SSSIHL and the broader Sri Sathya Sai ecosystem is not only world-class infrastructure or global collaborations, but the purity of intention that underpins every initiative. Here, success is not measured merely by patents, publications, or rankings, but by lives touched, values strengthened, and problems meaningfully solved.

To our students, researchers, faculty, and alumni, I offer this heartfelt call: let your creativity be ignited by compassion. Let your innovations respond to real needs in healthcare, education, rural development, sustainability, and social transformation. Pursue excellence with rigour, but let your work always be guided by humility, love, and a spirit of service.

When knowledge is illuminated by values, and innovation is anchored in compassion, there are truly no limits to what can be achieved. May SRISHTI continue to reflect this sacred synthesis of science, service, and spirituality, inspiring generations to place their talents in the service of humanity.

Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad  
Vice Chancellor  
Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning

## A Letter from the Editorial Team

16 January 2026

A Sacred Legacy of Love, Light, and Learning: Carrying the Torch Forward in the Centenary of the Advent of the Divine Founder-Chancellor

To our beloved readers, esteemed patrons, and the eternal Sai family united in the grace of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba!

For a century, the flame kindled by the divine wisdom of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Founder-Chancellor of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL), has illuminated minds, awakened spirits, and reshaped destinies. From the serene corridors of Prasanthi Nilayam to the global expanse – and impact – of the Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions, the mission of Sai Educare has stood as a beacon of integral human development, harmonising intellect with intuition, knowledge with nobility, and achievement with altruism.

As a tribute to the transformative education envisioned by Bhagawan, SSSIHL is launching a biannual magazine, *Srishti*, with the support of the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), the Department of Languages and Literature – English, and Lit-Tatwa, the Literary Club. We have sought and brought together an array of articles and reports that highlight the long strides taken by SSSIHL in research, innovation, and outreach activities. As *Srishti* is all poised to see the light of the day, we, the Editorial Team, would like to place on record our profound sense of gratitude to all the contributors to the magazine and the enthusiastic support offered by a team of highly talented individuals. The students, research scholars, alumni, the supporting staff, administrative officers, and members of the different faculties, departments, centres and student clubs on the Anantapur, Prasanthi Nilayam, Brindavan, and Nandigiri campuses have been active patrons of this venture, with their write-ups, articles, reports, suggestions, ideas, creative talents, and good wishes.

It is with hearts alight with devotion and souls uplifted in gratitude that the Editorial Board of *Srishti* places the magazine at the Feet of Bhagawan during the 100th year of His Avataric Advent that has demonstrated how values become vision, education becomes enlightenment, and compassion becomes a movement that has touched millions.



*Srishti*, meaning creation, is far more than a magazine. It is a living testament to the creative spirit of SSSIHL, where innovation shapes every step taken in the field of education, research, and everyday life. Each page of the magazine exemplifies the ethos of Sai's perspective in practice, wherein learning transcends textbooks, research serves society, and every student is nurtured not just to succeed in academics, but to survive and thrive in a world that throws varied challenges in every individual's way. *Srishti* avows to bring to every reader a glimpse into the Sai way of integral education that shapes individuals who become enabled to discover their diverse talents, and then equip them to gain expertise in those, be it scientific research and innovation, or artistic capabilities and creativity, or organisational skills and managerial abilities.

Published twice a year, in January and August, in sacred alignment with the rhythm of academic and spiritual seasons, *Srishti* aims to pulsate in harmony with campus life. Going forward, the magazine would strive to capture not only milestones, but mo(ve)ments as well, recording and archiving them, and informing and updating the readership as to how in the Sai Educare system, classrooms become workshops of character, laboratories become classrooms of ethical research, service projects become B-schools of leadership training, the campus becomes a temple of learning, and everyday activities become a pilgrimage of the soul.

In this issue of *Srishti*, we bring chronicles of the growth and impact of various Departments and stories from the Centres of Excellence that are veritable centres in action, fostering institutional growth. We also bring in updates of the breakthroughs in leading-edge research for community engagement undertaken by the scientific community across the four campuses of SSSIHL. *Srishti* also covers news of achievements gained, partnerships forged, and knowledge shared. One of the spotlights of this issue is on how new trails have been blazed in the arena of devising solutions and designing products – from the bench to the market. In this edition, we have also been able to include reports of some of the vibrant activities of the dynamic Student Clubs on the campuses. In addition to recording campus pulse and capturing campus buzz, we have a creative corner too, welcoming budding writers and artists.

Even as *Srishti* is poised to become a living archive of the experiences, memories, and narratives of the recipients and participants of the Sai Educare system, we, at the editorial desk, admit that we could not include all that we

had wanted to, owing to constraints of space and time. However, we plan to bring out subsequent issues in a more comprehensive form and a more accommodating format.

This issue of *Srishti* is special as it is released in the centenary year, 2026, of Bhagawan's Birthday in 1926. Hence, this edition is not ours; it is His, an offering of love at the sacred lotus feet of our Divine Teacher, the Maker of our lives, the Architect of our character, the Director of all our acts, and the Creator of all our inspirations. Through *Srishti* we strive to reflect a century of ignorance transformed into insight, of scattered souls united in service; a century of classrooms where moral fibre has been woven, of exams that have tested not memory, but virtue, and of lives that have learned not just to live, but to love unconditionally.

As you turn these pages, you may feel the warmth of that Divine Presence. To all who have walked this Path, who continue to serve, and who are just beginning — welcome to the “Srishti” of the Divine Creator.

With deepest reverence and boundless love,  
The Editorial Team,  
*Srishti*



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Education does not end in the  
classroom; it grows through  
interaction and experience.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 20,*  
20 November 1987

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## HORIZONS OF KNOWLEDGE: DEPARTMENT CHRONICLES OF GROWTH AND IMPACT



# A BEACON IN HIGHER EDUCATION: SSSIHL NURTURES INDIVIDUALS WITH CHARACTER AND KNOWLEDGE, COMPETENCE AND COMPASSION

Prof. Gowrishankar R.,  
Professor of Physics and Dean of Academic Affairs, SSSIHL

It is both an honour and a privilege to share my reflections in this edition of *Srishti*, the Institute's magazine. *Srishti* has evolved into a vibrant platform that chronicles the intellectual and cultural milestones of our academic community, and I believe that the scope of the magazine has expanded, with the current edition capturing a wider spectrum of events and achievements stemming from SSSIHL. It is against this backdrop that I attempt to give a glimpse of the happenings and progress in the academic activities of the Institute.



Higher education—both in India and globally—is at a significant inflection point. There is a clear paradigm shift towards skills, employability, research intensity, and solutions to real-world problems. Rapid scientific and technological advances are driving the need for interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary education at the university level. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, with its emphasis on flexible academic pathways and holistic education, reflects this global shift. Its introduction of a four-year

undergraduate programme marks a significant step in aligning student outcomes with international standards. For SSSIHL, these principles resonate deeply with our long-standing philosophy of Values-Based Integral Education. Our Honours programmes, offered for over three decades, have consistently prepared students for higher studies, professional competence, and societal responsibility—well before NEP 2020 envisioned such reforms. Built on the foundations of the Sri Sathya

Sai System of Values-Based Integral Education, we have always focused on providing a strong foundation at the undergraduate level, across disciplines – be it Arts, Science, Management, Commerce, Languages, or the Social Sciences. The academic year 2023 witnessed the launch of Four-Year UG Programmes across all disciplines at SSSIHL with innovative, interdisciplinary, and multidisciplinary structures in alignment with the curricular and credit framework prescribed by the UGC. This transition from the traditional 3+2 model provided an invaluable opportunity for faculty to craft holistic and specialised curricula that nurture both intellectual depth and practical

relevance. While the academic year 2025-26 saw an increased demand for admissions, it also marked the entry of the first cohort of four-year UG students into their third year. This, coupled with a clear understanding of the evolving educational dynamics and drawing upon our experience in implementing the Four-Year Undergraduate Programmes, the academic fraternity was well positioned to architect robust academic pathways for the students of SSSIHL. These pathways were expected to enable students to carve out meaningful careers, while simultaneously allowing departments and faculty to strengthen their focus on both fundamental and applied research.

The year 2025-26 also brought in policy changes that enabled easy credit transfers between in-house courses that are part of the university's academic programmes and SWAYAM/NPTEL courses to enable academic exposure and credit-gain for the students during assessments. The advancement of the supplementary examination window helped many students complete their arrears and move on to higher classes without loss of academic sessions. The meticulous efforts of the Controller of Examinations and his team for processing the results in record time and uploading the academic records of all students in their Academic Bank of Credits

deserve special mention. The Institute's Academic Council has remained proactive, meeting twice a semester, to deliberate and decide on curricular changes. This has enabled academic departments to make dynamic changes to graduate and post-graduate curriculum, ensuring that the students get the best. The SSSIHL administration and the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust have complemented these efforts in enhancing the teaching-learning ecosystem through creation of smart classrooms, sharing of expertise across campuses, increased bandwidth for internet usage, campuse-wide wi-fi, and an enriched collection of library resources. The use of custom-built



LMS is an added advantage. The birth centenary year of our Founder Chancellor, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, also witnessed numerous accolades for our students and faculty at various national and international platforms, bringing well-deserved recognition and visibility to the Institute. I extend heartfelt appreciation to our enthusiastic students, dedicated faculty, and the Heads of Departments whose timely support has been instrumental in driving these initiatives. Looking ahead, SSSIHL is poised to introduce specialised Master's programmes in focused areas of specialisation, with the objective of producing graduates who are professionally competent, research-oriented, and

socially responsible. Guided by the vision and blessings of our Founder Chancellor, we remain committed to strengthening our academic offerings in alignment with global standards—while staying firmly rooted in the values-based integral education that defines us. SSSIHL will continue to shine as a beacon of excellence in higher education, nurturing individuals who combine knowledge with character, and competence with compassion.

# **A DISCIPLE'S TRIBUTE: SRI. NISHIKANT BARODEKAR'S GLOBAL MUSICAL HOMAGE TOUR TO HONOUR USTAD SRI. ZAKIR HUSSAIN**

Sri. Nishikant Barodekar, Assistant Professor in the Department of Performing Arts, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, undertook an international Musical Homage Tour (from 14 May 2025 to 24 June 2025) in memory of his revered Guru, Ustad Sri. Zakir Hussain, whose passing in December 2024 left an indelible void in the world of music. A global icon, Ustad Sri. Zakir Hussain was celebrated for his unmatched mastery of the tabla, his invaluable contributions to Indian classical music, and his

with a grand tribute concert on 18 May 2025, held at the One North Auditorium in Buona Vista. The event featured live performances by local artists, a powerful tabla solo by Sri. Nishikant, and the screening of a short film capturing the life, art, and influence of Ustad Sri. Zakir Hussain. The concert was attended by around 350 music enthusiasts. On the same day, a Satsang and a musical offering were organised by the Singapore Sri Sathya Sai Centre, bringing together devotees in a spiritually charged atmosphere of bhajans and reflections.

extraordinary ability to connect with audiences worldwide. To honour the legacy left behind by his teacher, Sri. Nishikant embarked on a deeply personal and spiritual journey through music. The Musical Homage Tour, conducted across five countries—Singapore, the Philippines, the United States of America, Canada, and Trinidad and Tobago, over a period of six weeks from 14 May 2025 to 24 June 2025, included nine public concerts, one comprehensive tabla workshop in six sessions, and eleven Satsang meetings. The tour commenced in Singapore

In the United States, the first leg of the tour took Sri. Nishikant to Austin, Texas, where a tribute concert was held on 25 May 2025 attended by approximately 100 guests. This was followed by a significant performance in Houston, Texas, on 1 June 2025, which drew a large gathering of nearly 400 music lovers.

An additional event, titled "Tabla & Beyond", was conducted on 9 June 2025 for a focused audience of scientists and doctors, introducing them to the therapeutic dimensions of rhythm and

percussion. This session saw 80 participants engaging with the healing power of music through tabla.

The tour continued to Raleigh, North Carolina, where a tabla solo followed by an interview of Sri. Nishikant were held on 16 June 2025. This was followed by a Satsang organised by the Sri Sathya Sai Center of Raleigh on 17 June 2025, with nearly 200 attendees. Both events allowed the audience to not only witness the artist's technical brilliance but also to feel the devotional core that defined the tour.

The final leg of the tour brought Sri. Nishikant to the Caribbean Islands, where a grand homage concert

Sri Nishikant's rich experience and insights into both the technical and spiritual aspects of tabla.

The Global Musical Homage Tour conducted by Sri. Nishikant Barodekar was a journey of devotion, gratitude, and cultural outreach. It served not only as a tribute to a legendary Guru, but also as a vehicle for sharing the timeless beauty of Indian classical music with diverse audiences across the globe. The tour stood as a testament to the deep bond between the Guru and the disciple, and to the power of music as a universal language of love, reverence, and transformation.

was conducted in Trinidad and Tobago on 20 June 2025. This event drew an audience of over 500 people and was one of the most impactful events of the tour.

In recognition of the excellence and cultural depth of the performance, *The Guardian* (Trinidad and Tobago) published an article on its 1 July 2025 edition titled "Tabla maestro headlines concert of Indian classical music", highlighting Sri. Nishikant's role in bringing the rich legacy of Indian classical music to the Caribbean audience.

In addition to the concert, a three-day tabla workshop was also held in Trinidad, comprising six intensive sessions. A total of 70 students participated, benefiting from



# MAPPING THE CONTOURS OF CONSCIOUSNESS IN LIFE AND LITERATURE: THE DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE ORGANISES LIT- TREAT EDITION VI

The sixth edition of Lit-Treat, the flagship event of the Department of Languages and Literature – English, was held at the Sai Hira Global Convention Centre in Prasanthi Nilayam on 15-16 September 2025. The two-day exploration of consciousness and spirituality in life and literature brought together eminent professors and erudite scholars for an audience mostly comprising faculty members, doctoral research scholars, and Master's and BA (Hons.) students of the department in a vibrant exchange of ideas, performances, and

reflections centred on the theme, "Contours of Consciousness: Mapping Life, Literature & Spirituality".

The event commenced with invocatory Vedam chanting by the students of the Anantapur Campus, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolising the dispelling of ignorance to spread the illumination of wisdom. Dr. Maitali Khanna, the Head of the Department, delivered the Welcome Address, weaving together notable ideas and lines from the works of a range of poets



including Rabindranath Tagore and poets belonging to the modernist movement in English Literature, thus establishing the contemplative tone of the conference. Prof. Rani P. L., Dean of Humanities & Social Sciences and Languages & Literature and Director of the Anantapur Campus, bridged the Western and Eastern traditions, drawing from Hermann Hesse's *Journey to the East* and the sacred śloka "na karmaṇā na prajayā..." while celebrating Adi Shankara's transformative contributions to literature and philosophy.

The Inaugural Address featured Prof. Sreekala M. Nair, Director of the International School for Sree Sankaracharya Studies at Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit and an alumna of SSSIHL, who spoke on "Language as the House of Being: A Voyage to Acharya Sankara's Literary Works that Extol Consciousness". She categorised Sankara's works into Bhāṣyas, Prakaraṇa Granthas, and hymns, illustrating how texts such as *Nirvāṇa Ṣaṭakam* and *Maneesha Panchakam* elevated human consciousness through Sanskrit as a living dialogic medium. Dr Lalitha Sarma R., an alumna of SSSIHL and a Project Research Scientist at the Cell for Indian Sciences and Technology in

doctoral research scholar from the National Sanskrit University (NSU), Tirupati and Dr. Vakicherla Pradeep Kumar, Guest Faculty at NSU, Tirupati, exploring Sanskrit Literature as both aesthetic experience and spiritual pathway. The day's highlight was "Hermeneutics of Abhinaya: Embodied Interpretation of Literature in Mohiniyattam" by Ms Vidya Pradeep, who created a living dialogue among text, body, and spirit through her extraordinary performance lecture, blending theory with expressive dance. Panel Discussion II, "The Seer, the Seen, and the Act of Seeing: Perception in Literature, Philosophy, and Spirituality", concluded the first

Sanskrit (CISTS) at IIT Bombay delivered a plenary address on "Sahityādhyayana as Sāadhanā", exploring the sacred relationship between Kavi (poet) and Kāvya (poetry), presenting literary study as a spiritual discipline.

The afternoon featured Panel Discussion I on "संस्कृतसाहित्ये आध्यात्मबोधः – Spiritual Insights in Sanskrit Literature", with Dr. Yadusree K. P., Dr. M. B. S. S. Narayana, and Dr. Mahabala Rao M. G., of the Department of Languages and Literature – Sanskrit, SSSIHL, engaging in a discussion carried out in Sanskrit with Sri. T. Sivaramakrishna, a



day, featuring Dr. Bidyut Bhusan Jena, an Assistant Professor at Christ University and Fr. Joby Jose and Ms Minu Mathew, doctoral research scholars from Christ University, Bengaluru, exploring multi-layered concepts of perception in literature, philosophy, and spirituality. The second day of Lit-Treat VI began with invocatory Vedam chanting, followed by a plenary talk by Prof. Sumita Roy, former Director of the English Language Training Centre at Osmania University, Hyderabad, on "Literary Dimensions of the Foundational Texts of the Ramakrishna-Sarada-Vivekananda Tradition". Panel Discussion III on "Spirituality across Traditions: A Study with Reference

to Select Narratives", led by Mr. G. Lakshmi Narasimham with undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Central University of Andhra Pradesh on the panel, explored the themes of love and surrender in the narratives of saints such as Akka Mahadevi, Vengamamba, St. Teresa of Ávila, and Meera Bai. Sri. R. J. Rathnakar, Managing Trustee of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, addressed the gathering with reflections on the Sri Sathya Sai Vahinis, regaling the audience with a verse from Bammera Pothana and providing an insightful chronology of the Vahinis. This set the stage for Panel Discussion IV, "Sai Kruta Vahini: Conversation on Sri Sathya Sai Vahinis", featuring Dr



A. S. Vishwanathan, Dr Amey Deshpandey, and Mr Prem Anosh from the Centre for Sri Sathya Sai Studies, Sri Sathya Sai Centre for Human Values, and Sri Sathya Sai Media Centre, respectively. They discussed the importance of studying the Vahinis and Swami's guidance on spiritual reading, concluding with a video message from Swami.

Students from the Department of English, SSSIHL Nandigiri Campus presented a musical programme, "The Muse of Hundred Suns," featuring devotional songs such as "Tanhaiya Meri", "His Name is Divine", "Aaj Phirse", and "Shimmer of Hope". Panel Discussion V, "Decoding Spirituality Through Key Texts in Sai Literature", was



moderated by Dr Siddhartha R., and featured faculty from the Department of Languages and Literature – English and Hindi, SSSIHL. Dr Kiron Bala Arora examined John Hislop's *My Baba and I*, Dr Vijayalekshmi R., reflected on Howard Murphet's *Sai Baba: Man of Miracles* and *Sai Baba: Avatar*, and Dr Akila S. Indurti explored N. Kasturi's *Loving God*, citing interesting instances from the popular book. Prof. N. Nagaraju, Vice-Chancellor of the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, delivered the Valedictory Address on the enduring relationship between literature and consciousness and science and consciousness. A cultural

performance, "From Padārtha to Paramātmā: Tracing the Footprints of Four Spiritual Seekers", presented by SSSIHL Anantapur Campus students, was a veritable cultural treat, as the song-and-drama presentation depicted the spiritual journeys of Lal Ded from Kashmir, Meera Bai from Rajasthan, Akka Mahādevi from Karnataka and Āndal from Tamil Nadu. Dr Prashant Luthra of the Department of Languages and Literature – English delivered the vote of thanks, and the conference concluded with Mangala Aarathi. Lit-Treat: Edition VI successfully demonstrated literature as an expression of the illumination of consciousness and as sādhanā, integrating

academic scholarship, devotional expression, and embodied performance. The conference showed that literature transcends textual analysis to become a living medium for spiritual awakening, whether through sacred verses, philosophical discourse, classical dance, or devotional music. The participants departed with uplifted hearts and a heightened awareness of the consciousness that pulsates in all minds, understanding literature as both a mirror of human consciousness and a lamp of spiritual wisdom.



# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: BEST LEADERSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE – THE BHARATIYA WAY

In the context of India Inc. facing a growing shortage of competent leaders across organisational levels, particularly in middle management, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning conceptualised a one-day executive development programme *BEST Leadership for Excellence – The Bharatiya Way* as a timely and relevant intervention. The programme was designed as a powerful experiential learning package to address this leadership vacuum and to prepare executives for larger leadership responsibilities in the future. The programme was aimed at executives with around

five years of professional experience who aspired to assume broader leadership roles within their organisations. Drawing from the Bharatiya Jnana Parampara and Indian Knowledge Systems, the programme sought to build leadership capabilities through the BEST framework – a distilled representation of India's rich ethos and traditions of leadership. The core objective of the programme was to enable participants to recognise and strengthen their leadership potential by grounding contemporary leadership practices in indigenous wisdom. Through this framework, participants were

guided to reflect on their inner strengths, leadership conduct, perception, and communication. Upon completion of the programme, participants were equipped to assess their real leadership potential, understand the significance of role-model leadership, appreciate how perception shapes leadership decisions, and comprehend the importance of empathetic and effective communication.

The programme was structured into four immersive sessions, each focusing on a distinct dimension of the BEST leadership framework: To Be – encouraged participants to explore their true leadership potential through the reflective exercise *KOHAM?* To Exemplify – emphasised leadership through role modelling, using the interactive game *ARTHASHASTRA*. To See – focused on sharpening perception and clarity in leadership through the activity

DRISHTI. To Tell - highlighted the critical role of communication in leadership through the exercise VACHAS. Through its experiential design and grounding in Indian knowledge traditions, the program offered a transformative learning experience, reinforcing SSSIHL's commitment to nurturing value-based, culturally-rooted leadership for contemporary organisational contexts.

# INDUSTRY SPEAKS 2025: BRIDGING CLASSROOM LEARNING WITH CORPORATE INSIGHT AT SSSIHL

The students and faculty of the Department of Management & Commerce, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) hosted *Industry Speaks*, a one-day conclave, on 14th July 2025 at the Brindavan Campus, Kadugodi, Bengaluru, bringing together thought leaders and senior professionals from across the corporate world.

Conceived as a platform to bridge the gap between industry and academia, the conclave offered students first-hand insights into emerging business trends, leadership strategies, and the evolving challenges shaping

contemporary financial and managerial ecosystems. The interactions with industry practitioners provided meaningful exposure to real-world perspectives that extended learning beyond the classroom. The conclave featured founders and senior executives from leading organisations such as Xhipment, LTIMindtree, Wells Fargo, Cognizant, TVS Credit Services, among others. The sessions explored a wide range of contemporary themes, including digital transformation, data engineering, credit risk management, HR leadership, sales intelligence, and related domains.



Through this platform, the students pursuing MBA gained valuable insights into emerging industry trends and corporate expectations, drew inspiration from the professional journeys of experienced leaders, and

developed a clearer understanding of the real impact of management skills in decision-making and leadership roles. The programme included keynote addresses, interactive panel discussions, and Question and Answer sessions spanning strategy, marketing, finance, human resources, operations, and analytics. *Industry Speaks* served as a significant step towards nurturing industry readiness, enhancing the professional outlook of future managers and aligning academic learning with practical industry realities.



# TWO-DAY HANDS-ON WORKSHOP ON ADI LTSPICE® AND POCKET LAB – A REPORT

The Department of Physics successfully conducted a two-day Hands-On Workshop on ADI LTspice® and Pocket Lab on 11th and 12th July 2025 at the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus, in collaboration with Analog Devices (ADI) as the Knowledge Partner. The workshop marked a significant initiative in strengthening practical, application-oriented learning through meaningful academia-industry collaboration. Designed to equip participants with hands-on skills in analog circuit simulation using ADI LTspice® and sensor interfacing with the ADI Pocket Lab, the workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from

across academia. A total of 74 participants, including undergraduate and postgraduate students, research scholars, and faculty members from various institutions, took part. The hands-on format and practice-driven sessions created a dynamic and engaging learning environment. Expert-led sessions by facilitators from Analog Devices formed the core strength of the programme, ensuring technical rigour and strong industry relevance. The first day was devoted to LTspice® simulation techniques, introducing participants to the fundamentals of circuit drafting, signal chain and frequency response analysis, and advanced

simulation approaches such as Monte Carlo analysis and the use of the LTPower Analyzer. These sessions laid a solid foundation for analog circuit modelling and analytical thinking.

The second day transitioned into embedded systems through the ADI Pocket Lab platform, with a focus on sensor interfacing and real-time data acquisition.

Participants explored ADC architecture, datasheet interpretation, and the practical implementation of experiments using multi-sensor boards. The sessions were thoughtfully structured to bridge theoretical concepts with hands-on skills in

analog system design and embedded hardware applications. Interactive learning was further enhanced through live demonstrations, guided experimentation, and one-to-one mentoring. The workshop served as a valuable platform connecting academic learners with contemporary industry tools and practices, reinforcing experiential learning as a core pedagogical approach at SSSIHL. Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with appreciation expressed for the depth and clarity of the technical content, the seamless coordination of the sessions, and the opportunity to



gain direct experience with industry-grade tools. Many participants noted that complex concepts were effectively demystified through clear explanations and well-designed exercises.

The workshop was successful due to the wholehearted support of expert facilitators and delegates from Analog Devices, including Mr Sivaramakrishnan S. (Director, Automotive Software Engineering), Mr Krishna Chaitanya Vishnubhatla (Senior Manager, Design Evaluation Engineer), Mr. Biswajit Mohanty (Technical Lead), Mr. Kummari Saikumar (Senior Applications Engineer), Mr. Muley Harshal (Senior Applications Engineer), Mr. Srivastav Chetan (Applications Engineer), Mr. Shaikh Wasim (Product Applications Manager), Mr. Krishna Kumar Samruth (Hardware Design Engineer), and Mr. Nambrath Vishnu (Product Application Engineer).

The two-day workshop effectively achieved its objective of providing practical exposure to analog simulation and sensor integration. It enabled participants to build competencies relevant to teaching, research, and engineering practice, reflecting the Institute's continued commitment to academic excellence through hands-on learning and industry collaboration.

# PROF. VISHWANATH PANDIT MEMORIAL LECTURE: HONOURING A LIFE OF SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE

The Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL), hosted the inaugural Prof. Vishwanath Pandit Memorial Lecture on 26th July 2025 at the Multimedia Learning Centre, Prasanthi Nilayam Campus. The event stood as a solemn and heartfelt tribute to Prof. Vishwanath Pandit (1939–2024), a distinguished Indian economist, eminent academician, and the 8th Vice-Chancellor of SSSIHL (2008–2010). Fondly remembered as the “Delhi Professor” by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Prof. Pandit was widely



*Prof. Vishwanath Pandit*



acclaimed as a pioneer of macroeconomic policy modelling in India. His academic journey was marked by exceptional rigour and global engagement. He earned his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in 1971 under Nobel Laureate Prof. Lawrence Klein, and shared professional associations with eminent economists such as Dr Manmohan Singh and Prof. Amartya Sen. Prof. Pandit's association with SSSIHL began in 1984, evolving into a lifelong commitment to the Institute's academic and institutional growth. He played a pivotal role in founding the

Department of Economics in 2001, shaping it into a vibrant centre of teaching and research. Beyond SSSIHL, his career spanned influential roles, including Consultant to the World Bank and President of the Indian Econometric Society. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the discipline, Swami Pranavananda Saraswati Award was conferred upon Prof. Pandit.

At SSSIHL, Prof. Pandit's legacy extended beyond scholarship. He provided visionary leadership during critical institutional milestones, including major accreditation processes such as NAAC, and was revered for embodying the Institute's values of wisdom, humility, devotion, and selfless service.



The memorial lecture marked the beginning of what is envisioned as a recurring annual academic event, dedicated to celebrating Prof. Pandit's enduring legacy and inspiring future generations to pursue scholarship rooted in excellence, integrity, and service.

The inaugural Prof. Vishwanath Pandit Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. S. Mahendra Dev, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), on the theme "Future of India: Growth, Inclusiveness and Sustainability". The topic resonated deeply with Prof. Pandit's lifelong scholarly commitment to inclusive and sustainable development, making it a fitting tribute to his academic legacy.

The session commenced at 10:30 a.m., with an auspicious inaugural ceremony that included Vedam chanting by students and the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by

dignitaries. The welcome address was delivered by Prof. Rani P.L., Dean, Humanities & Social Sciences and Languages & Literature, who reflected on how Prof. Pandit was an embodiment of wisdom, humility, and academic excellence. Recalling her association with him during his tenure as the eighth Vice-Chancellor of SSSIHL, she also noted the significance of the lecture coinciding with Kargil Vijay Diwas, interpreting it as a moment of divine alignment.

Setting the institutional context, Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad, Vice-Chancellor, SSSIHL, emphasised that Prof. Pandit's footprints remain visible across the campus and





affirmed that the memorial lecture series would be a prime annual academic event of the Institute. He described Prof. Pandit as a rare synthesis of scholarship, character, and spiritual depth, and highlighted his role as a pioneering mentor and institution builder. The Vice-Chancellor traced Prof. Pandit's academic journey, including his doctoral work at the University of Pennsylvania under Nobel Laureate Prof. Lawrence R. Klein, his collaborations with eminent scholars such as Dr. Manmohan Singh and Prof. Amartya Sen, and his seminal contributions to macroeconomic modelling in India.

Particular mention was made of Prof. Pandit's foundational role in establishing the Department of Economics at SSSIHL.

Prof. S. Mahendra Dev was then introduced as a distinguished economist and visionary policy leader whose academic work and values closely aligned with Prof. Pandit's vision. With a PhD from the Delhi School of Economics and post-doctoral work at Yale University, Prof. Dev has held several eminent positions, including Director and Vice-Chancellor of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (2010–2022), Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the International Food Policy Research Institute. An accomplished scholar, he has authored or edited 23 books and nearly 150 research

publications, including *Inclusive Growth in India: Agriculture, Poverty, and Human Development*, and has received prestigious honours such as the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award. Expressing his honour at delivering the first memorial lecture, Prof. Dev shared personal reflections on his association with Prof. Pandit dating back to 1978 at the Delhi School of Economics, acknowledging him as a pioneer of macroeconomic policy modelling in India and a significant mentor. Despite his inability to be present in person during the occasion due to professional commitments, his address provided a comprehensive overview of India's

economic journey, present challenges, and future prospects. He began by outlining India's historical growth trajectory, noting that the first three decades after Independence were marked by low growth rates of around 3.5 per cent, often termed the "Hindu rate of growth" owing to socialist policies and limited focus on labour-intensive manufacturing. Following the 1991 economic reforms, growth accelerated to an average of 6–6.5 per cent annually. Looking ahead, he discussed India's aspiration to become a developed nation by 2047, requiring sustained nominal growth of 11–12 per cent and real growth of 7–8 per cent, alongside a strong emphasis on employment generation, inclusivity, and climate resilience.

Prof. Dev outlined key global challenges, including geopolitical conflicts, trade policy uncertainties, rising inequalities, debt stress, and climate change. On the domestic front, he highlighted the need to avoid the "middle-income trap", increase private and foreign investment, and boost exports amid growing global protectionism. Future growth drivers, he noted, include digitisation, integration of artificial intelligence, harnessing India's young demographic profile, planned urbanisation, and women's empowerment. Strengthening state capacity, deregulation, and simplifying digital processes were identified as critical enablers.

Dev reflected on the achievements and limitations of the Green Revolution, emphasising current priorities such as water management, soil health, crop diversification, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, and climate resilience. He drew attention to persistent challenges in zero hunger, including child stunting, widespread anaemia among women, and limited access to healthy diets, advocating a multisectoral food systems approach. While poverty levels have declined significantly, he noted that regional income disparities persist, even as gaps in health and education outcomes narrow. Employment emerged as a central concern, with high unemployment among educated

youth, low female labour force participation, and the dominance of the informal sector. Structural transformation from agriculture to manufacturing and services was identified as essential, particularly given manufacturing's relatively low share in India's GDP. Prof. Dev also highlighted the role of social protection programmes such as the Public Distribution System, MGNREGA, and nutrition schemes in reducing poverty and consumption inequality.

Addressing sustainability, he underscored the urgency of climate action and advocated an "evergreen revolution" grounded in agroecology, reduced pesticide use, and renewable energy. He drew attention to global and domestic

carbon emission inequalities and promoted the concept of “lifestyle for environment” as a collective responsibility. Governance reforms, fiscal federalism, and greater decentralisation of power and resources to local bodies were emphasised as long-term priorities.

A vibrant Question and answer session followed, with students engaging Prof. Dev on issues ranging from rising household consumption debt and the role of startups to red tape, growth projections, and economic shocks. He noted that while global uncertainties can dampen growth, India’s macroeconomic and political stability provides resilience, even as preparedness for future challenges remains essential.



The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. G. Raghavender Raju, Dean of Student Welfare and Head, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, who recalled Prof. Pandit’s deep association with the Institute since the 1970s and his tenure as Vice-Chancellor from 2008. Gratitude was expressed to Prof. Mahendra Dev and Mrs. Krishna Pandit for instituting the memorial lecture series, and all members of the SSSIHL community who contributed to the event’s success. The session ended with Mangala Aarathi offered by the family members of Prof. Vishwanath Pandit.

The inaugural Prof. Vishwanath Pandit Memorial Lecture thus stood as a meaningful tribute to an eminent scholar, while offering

timely and insightful reflections on India’s economic future—reinforcing the Institute’s commitment to academic excellence and societal engagement.





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Excellence can be achieved only  
when knowledge is pursued with  
dedication, discipline, and a sense of  
higher purpose.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks*, Vol. 18,  
20 November 1985

## CENTRES IN ACTION: FOSTERING INSTITUTIONAL GROWTH



# NAVIGATING THE FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE: SSSIHL'S CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE MAP A FUTURE OF INNOVATION AND IMPACT

As the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) commemorates the Centenary Celebrations of its revered Founder Chancellor, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Institute's commitment to socially relevant, ethical, and transformative science burns brighter than ever. At the heart of this mission are the Centres of Excellence—dynamic hubs where interdisciplinary collaboration, cutting-edge research, and visionary education converge to address the most pressing challenges of our time.

This year, we spotlight three such centres that are making waves nationally and internationally:

the Centre for Sri Sathya Sai Studies (CSSSS), the Centre for Excellence in Mathematical Biology (CEMB), and the Centre of Excellence in Actuarial Data Science (CADS). While CSSSS provides an ideal platform for exploring, preserving, and disseminating the profound teachings and philosophy of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, CEMB deciphers the complex language of life and disease, and CADS aims to demonstrate how integrating AI, Machine Learning, High-Performance Computing, Blockchain, and Cloud technologies makes actuarial work more precise, more scalable, and more valuable.

## Centre for Sri Sathya Sai Studies—At the Confluence of Values and Learning

Dr U. Suma, Associate Professor, Dept. of Management and Commerce

The Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) is a remarkable embodiment of the visionary ideals of its Revered Founder Chancellor, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. More than an institution of academic excellence, SSSIHL offers a holistic educational experience dedicated to the all-round development of its students. Rooted in the philosophy of Educare—the process of drawing out innate human values—it nurtures character and consciousness within a modern-day gurukula environment.

Research at SSSIHL is uniquely oriented towards societal well-being, transcending conventional academic pursuits. Guided by ethical and value-based principles, the research culture fosters innovation with compassion, aiming to serve humanity at large. This values-driven academic ambience provides an ideal platform for exploring, preserving, and disseminating the profound teachings and philosophy of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba.

To further this mission, the Centre for Sri Sathya Sai Studies has been established—dedicated to scholarly inquiry and the global promotion of Sai’s universal message of love, truth, and service.

In a prophetic discourse delivered at the Prasanthi Nilayam campus of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning on 24th February 2005, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba articulated a far-reaching vision for the institution and its civilisational role. Declaring that “this University will propagate the Ātma Tattwa that contains the antarbhāva of the entire world,” He drew a profound distinction between conventional education and its deeper essence.

What is commonly termed education, He observed, is merely the outer sheath; at its core lies Educare—the unfolding of inherent wisdom and values. Bhagawan affirmed that this vision of Educare would manifest at this very institution in the near future. He further foresaw the gathering of mahā-pravīṇās—individuals of exceptional skill and experience—mahā-nyāyavādīs, champions of justice and truth, mahā-panḍits, eminent scholars, and mahā-vidwāns, distinguished academicians and educationists, who would collectively contribute to the nurturing and fulfilment of this sacred educational mission.

The Centre for Sri Sathya Sai Studies came into existence in October 2024 to study and disseminate the philosophy and teachings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. It mainly aims at conducting rigorous scholarly research on the teachings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and their influence on individuals and society. These comprehensive studies also will measure the impact of Bhagawan's ongoing projects in educare, socio-care, and medi-care, providing evidence-based insights for both programmes improvement and replication.

The Centre will eventually develop and implement innovative educational programmes,

workshops and seminars covering various aspects of Sri Sathya Sai’s teachings, spirituality, and models derived from research. These impactful outreach initiatives will inform both the general public and scholars interested in deepening their understanding of Sri Sathya Sai philosophy.

The Centre will build a strong network of organisations, institutions, and individuals worldwide who share an interest in Sri Sathya Sai’s teachings, in order to facilitate collaboration, knowledge exchange, and joint projects with partners to amplify the reach and impact of Sri Sathya Sai’s message. Closer home, it will work with SSSCHV, SSSBPT, SSSMC, Vidya Vahini, SSSIHMS, SSSGH and

other Institutions under the SSSCT umbrella.

The Centre also will disseminate the knowledge gained through ethical leadership programmes such as Management Development Programmes (MDPs) for industry leaders and Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) to encourage the integration of values into teaching and pedagogy across various academic disciplines.

We also believe the Centre will assist in identifying and preserving the best practices of SSSIHL in terms of its unique culture, ensuring that the institution remains a true temple of learning. In its relatively brief period of

existence, the Centre has initiated a diverse portfolio of research and knowledge-building activities aligned with its broader academic and societal mandate. These initiatives collectively aim to articulate foundational educational principles, advance scholarship in higher education and human values, and strengthen institutional memory and relevance.

A key thrust of the Centre's work lies in revisiting and articulating the educational vision of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, with a focus on consolidating guiding principles for students, teachers, and parents. This effort is expected to culminate in the Centre's first formal publication.

Another major stream of work engages with contemporary questions of quality in higher education, examining the concept through theoretical, empirical, and systems-based lenses. This includes structured reviews of global literature and collaborative scholarly inquiry into evolving models of higher education.

The Centre is also pursuing foundational research on universal human values, drawing from Sri Sathya Sai literature and exploring innovative methodological approaches, including the use of digital and analytical tools, to systematically identify and present these values in a rigorous academic framework.

In addition, the Centre supports domain-specific and exploratory research initiatives in emerging and high-impact areas where human values intersect with modern socio-economic contexts. These studies seek to demonstrate the relevance and applicability of value-based frameworks in contemporary organisational and developmental settings.

Complementing these scholarly efforts are projects focused on institutional strengthening and continuity. These include initiatives for the digital documentation and preservation of institutional assets, as well as reflective studies aimed at reviewing and reimagining educational and

awareness-oriented programmes to ensure their continued relevance and effectiveness in a changing world.

### **Research, Outreach, and Collaborative Engagements**

The Centre's mandate extends beyond conceptual scholarship to include empirical research, large-scale outreach, and sustained institutional collaborations, reflecting an integrated approach to values-based education, academic inquiry, and societal engagement.

A major research initiative undertaken by the Department of Economics examines the impact of the values-based educational model of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute

of Higher Learning (SSSIHL). This study seeks to assess whether students of SSSIHL experience enduring positive transformation by comparing alumni outcomes with those of comparable cohorts educated elsewhere, alongside an analysis of students' academic and integral performance during their years of study. Preliminary findings indicate a consistent and positive relationship between participation in integral educational components and academic achievement, lending empirical support to the Institute's philosophy of integral education. This work has been presented at national and international academic platforms, including the *International Conference on Bhāratīya Thought for Modern Times* hosted at SSSIHL, which elicited encouraging



scholarly engagement. In parallel, the Centre has played a pivotal role in organising and supporting outreach programmes and academic events of significant scale and visibility. Among these was the Summer Course in Indian Culture and Human Values, organised by the Centre for Sri Sathya Sai Studies (CSSSS), SSSIHL, in association with the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations (SSSSO), under the aegis of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust (SSSCT).

Conducted during the Birth Centenary Year of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the programme brought together thousands of participants, including students, youth, educators, administrators, and professionals, and reaffirmed



the contemporary relevance of universal human values—Truth, Right Conduct, Peace, Love, and Non-violence—through discourses, panels, cultural presentations, and reflective sessions.

The Centre also conceptualised and authored the *Prasanthi Declaration on Universal Human Values*, unveiled on the auspicious occasion of Gurupoornima. The Declaration, released in the august presence of dignitaries from the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, and SSSIHL, marked a collective commitment to values-led individual and societal transformation. The initiative underscored the Centre's role in translating values-based thought into shared ethical frameworks. national resonance.



Furthering its academic engagement, the Centre organised the *International Conference on Bhāratīya Thought for Modern Times*, an interdisciplinary forum that explored the relevance of Indic knowledge systems — spanning philosophy, ecology, health sciences, ethics, and classical sciences — in addressing contemporary global challenges. The conference fostered dialogue between tradition and modernity, positioning Bhāratīya thought as a dynamic and living knowledge system rather than a static inheritance. The coordinator and co-coordinators of the event were Dr G. Raghavendra Raju and Dr N. Uday Kiran.

The Centre's activities are strengthened through formal collaborations and institutional partnerships. A key collaboration is the Memorandum of Understanding between Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) and the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations (SSSSO), signed at Prasanthi Nilayam. Rooted in a shared vision of holistic education inspired by the teachings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the partnership provides a framework for joint initiatives in education, research, leadership development, community service, and socially relevant impact studies. Areas of collaboration include joint certificate programmes, faculty and

management development initiatives, data and research support, and student internships and entrepreneurship training. Subsequent meetings between academic and organisational representatives have focused on aligning programmes with institutional academic standards to enable their joint offering. Recently, the *Sri Sathya Sai Leadership Through Self-Transformation*, induction programme of the 2026 batch and valedictory session of the 2025 batch was held in Prasanthi Nilayam on the 3rd and 4th of January 2026. At the international level, the Centre benefits from ongoing academic collaboration between SSSIHL and the University of Johannesburg (UJ), particularly

through engagement between the Department of Management and Commerce, SSSIHL, and the Johannesburg Business School (JBS). This collaboration has facilitated joint research initiatives and scholarly exchange, contributing to the Centre's growing international academic footprint. Together, these research initiatives, outreach programmes, and collaborations illustrate the Centre's evolving role as a hub for values-based scholarship and engagement—integrating rigorous research, lived practice, and institutional partnerships in service of holistic education and societal transformation. Taken together, the Centre for Sri

Sathya Sai Studies reflects an evolving institutional space where values-based philosophy is engaged with scholarly rigour, contemporary relevance, and collaborative purpose. Through its research initiatives, the Centre seeks to empirically examine the transformative potential of integral education; through its outreach and academic events, it creates platforms for dialogue, reflection, and collective reaffirmation of universal human values; and through its partnerships, it translates shared ideals into sustained academic and societal engagement. Rather than positioning values as abstract ideals or inherited traditions, the Centre's work demonstrates how

they can be systematically studied, meaningfully practised, and institutionally embedded within modern higher education. In doing so, the Centre contributes to bridging the enduring wisdom of Bhāratīya thought with the demands and challenges of contemporary society.

As the Centre continues to grow, its focus remains on deepening scholarship, strengthening collaborations, and nurturing reflective educational practices that place human values at the heart of learning. In this sense, the Centre stands not merely as an academic unit, but as a quiet yet purposeful presence within the larger temple of learning—committed to the pursuit of knowledge that informs, transforms, and uplifts.

### **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BHĀRĀTIYA THOUGHT FOR MODERN TIMES**

The International Conference on Bhāratīya Thought for Modern Times was successfully held from October 6th to 8th October 2025, at the multimedia learning centre, Prasanthi Nilayam. Organised by the Centre for Sri Sathya Sai Studies (CSSSS) under the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL), the event convened scholars, educators, practitioners, and professionals from diverse fields to explore the relevance of ancient Indian knowledge systems in addressing contemporary global challenges.

### **Thematic Focus and Highlights**

The conference revolved around five interlinked thematic tracks, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue on how Bhāratīya thought offers holistic, sustainable, and ethical solutions to modern issues:

1. **Pathways to Holistic Wellness:** Discussions centred on Ayurveda and Yoga as integrative models for individual and community wellness, emphasising mind-body-spirit harmony.
2. **Dharmic Frameworks for Contemporary Society:** Experts deliberated on Dharma's role in guiding ethical governance, AI policy, and social structures rooted in duty and interdependence.
3. **Ecological Wisdom:** Sessions explored Vedic and indigenous ecological philosophies, highlighting sustainable practices and reverence for nature to combat environmental crises.
4. **Indian Aesthetics and Design:** The conference showcased the transformative potential of rasa, sacred geometry, and symbolism in modern art, architecture, and design.
5. **Scientific Inquiry in Ancient Bhāratīya Thought:** Scholars examined India's early contributions to fields such as mathematics, astronomy, and logic, drawing parallels with modern STEM innovations.



## Participants and Impact

The event attracted a diverse audience, including faculty, researchers, and professionals from the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) domain, as well as policymakers and practitioners in health, education, and design. Through keynote addresses, panel discussions, paper presentations, and interactive workshops, attendees engaged in rigorous exchanges on reimagining Bhāratīya wisdom for contemporary contexts.

The conference underscored the urgent need to bridge tradition and modernity, positioning

Bhāratīya thought not as static heritage but as a living, adaptive framework for addressing global challenges. Organisers emphasised the event's role in advancing a global dialogue on India's civilisational wisdom, aligning with SSSIHL's and CSSSS's mission to promote values-based education and interdisciplinary research.

The conference stands as a testament to the transformative potential of Bhāratīya thought in shaping a holistic and sustainable world—a vision encapsulated in the event's motto: "Reimagining Ancient Wisdom for a Changing World".



## Centre for Excellence in Mathematical Biology (CEMB): Modelling a Healthier Tomorrow

Dr. Krishna Kiran Vamsi Dasu, Associate Professor, Dept. of Mathematics & Computer Science

During the Academic Year 2024–25, the Centre for Excellence in Mathematical Biology (CEMB) solidified its reputation as a national leader in infectious disease modeling, AI/ML, and bioinformatics. Aligned with the Centenary Celebrations, CEMB's mandate was clear: advance research, build national capacity, and foster outreach with a profound sense of ethical responsibility.



## Milestones of Impact:

Empowering Educators Nationwide: CEMB, in collaboration with ISMMACS and multiple SSSIHL departments, hosted a major online Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on Advances in Mathematical Modeling Techniques, AI/ML and Bioinformatics (12th–19th April 2025). The programme provided intensive training in advanced topics such as Optimal Control Theory, Bifurcation Theory, and Network Modeling, significantly upskilling faculty from across India.

**Demystifying Science for the Next Generation:** Through its Popular Science Talk Series 2024 (June–

January), CEMB introduced complex topics in Mathematical Ecology, Epidemiology, and AI in Healthcare for early-career researchers and postgraduate students. This monthly series fostered foundational understanding and inspired mathematical innovation with direct societal relevance.

**Pioneering Gender Inclusivity in STEM:** In a landmark initiative, CEMB organised the National Winter School for Women in AI/ML and Computational Biology (2–7th December 2024). This in-person, six-day programme provided expert-led lectures and hands-on training in Python programming, Deep Learning, and Bioinformatics, empowering a new generation of women researchers to lead in advanced STEM fields.

**SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING**  
(Deemed to be University)

In collaboration with  
**Indian Society for Mathematical Modeling and Computer Simulation (ISMMACS)**

As part of Sri Sathya Sai Centenary Celebrations

Presents  
**Faculty Development Programme (FDP)**  
on  
**ADVANCES IN MATHEMATICAL MODELING TECHNIQUES, AI/ML & BIOINFORMATICS**

Date: 12-19 April 2025

An initiative of Centre For Excellence in Mathematical Biology (CEMB)  
[sssihl.edu.in/cemb](http://sssihl.edu.in/cemb)

**TOPICS COVERED**

- Machine Learning
- Optimal Control Theory
- Parameter Estimation
- Network Modeling
- Stochastic Modeling
- Bifurcation Theory
- Bio-Informatics
- Nutritional Science

**EVENT INFORMATION**

- Mode: Online
- 12-19 April 2025
- Lectures & Hands-On Sessions
- Who can apply: Faculty | Researchers | Masters Students | Industry Professionals

**FEE DETAILS**

- Registration Fee: 1000 + GST, i.e., 18%
- Bank Account Details:
- Account Name: Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning
- Bank Name & Branch: Canara Bank, Puttaparthi
- Account Number: 2551101005980
- IFSC: CNBR002551

**CLICK HERE FOR REGISTRATION**  
ON OR BEFORE 10 APRIL 2025

**CONTACT US** +91 7901286254 [cemb@sssihl.edu.in](mailto:cemb@sssihl.edu.in)



## Building Expertise Over Nine Months:

The Centre's comprehensive Online Certificate Programme on Infectious Disease Modeling (March–November 2024) saw participants engage with nine modules delivered by experts from premier institutions such as IISc Bangalore and various IITs. With a strong emphasis on ethical research and scientific communication, the programme equipped scholars to apply modeling techniques responsibly in real-world public health scenarios.

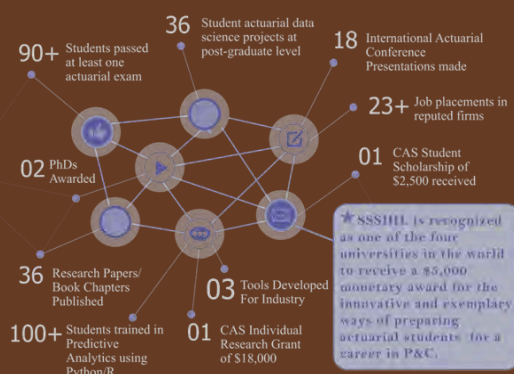


## Faculty on the National Stage:

The impact of CEMB's work is reflected in the growing recognition of its faculty. Invitations to speak at prestigious national conferences, including the *International Conference on Applicable Analysis* (ICAAA-2025) and the *National Workshop on Modeling of Infectious Disease Dynamics* (NWMIDD-2025), underscore the Centre's influential role in shaping the future of mathematical biology in India.



# CAS University Recognition Program Gold Level



## Centre of Excellence in Actuarial Data Science at SSSIHL - How Voluntary Expertise and AI Integration Built India's First Gold-Rated Actuarial Programme

Prof. Pallav Kumar Baruah, Dean of Innovation and Entrepreneurship & President, IIC

We are living through the most exciting period in actuarial history. For the first time, actuaries have tools that match the complexity of the risks we are trying to measure. AI processes patterns in billions of claims. High-performance computing runs scenarios that were impossible five years ago. Blockchain enables insurance products we could not build before. Cloud

infrastructure puts enterprise-grade analytics in every actuary's hands.

The question is simple: How do we use these tools to do better work?

CADS was founded on this question. As a Centre of Excellence in Actuarial Data Science at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL), our mission is to demonstrate how integrating AI, Machine Learning, High-Performance Computing, Blockchain, and Cloud technologies makes actuarial work more precise, more scalable, and more valuable.



### **Building AI-Ready Actuaries:**

When machines amplify human expertise, everyone wins. Consider fraud detection: an actuary reviewing 1,000 claims manually might spot 10 suspicious patterns. An ML model trained by that same actuary can flag anomalies across 10 million claims in seconds, then highlight the most critical ones for expert review. The actuary's expertise scales from thousands to millions. High-Performance Computing transforms the economics of risk modeling. What used to take weeks now takes hours. Instead of running 10 scenarios and hoping they cover the range, actuaries can run 100,000 and actually map the full distribution of outcomes.

Better models mean better decisions for insurers, regulators, and policyholders.

Blockchain brings a different kind of value: transparency and speed. Smart contracts execute automatically when conditions are met. Parametric crop insurance pays farmers immediately when rainfall drops below a threshold. No claims process, no disputes, no delays. The technology removes friction from an industry built on trust, but slowed by verification.

The integration of these technologies expands what is possible.

### **Solving problems that did not exist five years ago:**

CADS research focuses on emerging risks that will shape the future of insurance: pricing frameworks for digital assets in virtual environments, analytics for electric vehicle loss patterns, cyber risk modeling that integrates real-time threat intelligence, climate risk quantification using advanced data sources, and fraud detection using machine learning. We're also exploring blockchain applications in insurance, IFRS 17 implementation challenges, specialised product development for cancer and crop insurance, enterprise risk management systems, and Solvency II capital modeling approaches.

This research agenda reflects where we believe the profession needs to build capabilities. We're training students to work on these problems, developing methodologies that did not exist before, and collaborating with industry partners to understand what solutions will actually be useful. The goal is not just publishing papers—it is ensuring actuaries have the knowledge and tools to handle risks that are emerging right now.

### **The results speak for themselves :**

SSSIHL's commitment to actuarial science dates back to 2017, when the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science (DMACS)



launched the actuarial programme as a specialisation as a part of MSc in Mathematics programme. Between 2017 and 2023, under DMACS, the programme achieved significant milestones: published over 30 research papers, awarded two PhDs in Actuarial Science, secured competitive research grants from CAS and SOA, achieved Gold-level recognition from the Casualty Actuarial Society (the only Indian university to achieve this), and earned Advanced Curriculum status from the Society of Actuaries, again exclusive in India. Building on this foundation, the Centre of Excellence in Actuarial Data Science (CADS) was formally established on 26th January 2024, to accelerate the integration of AI,

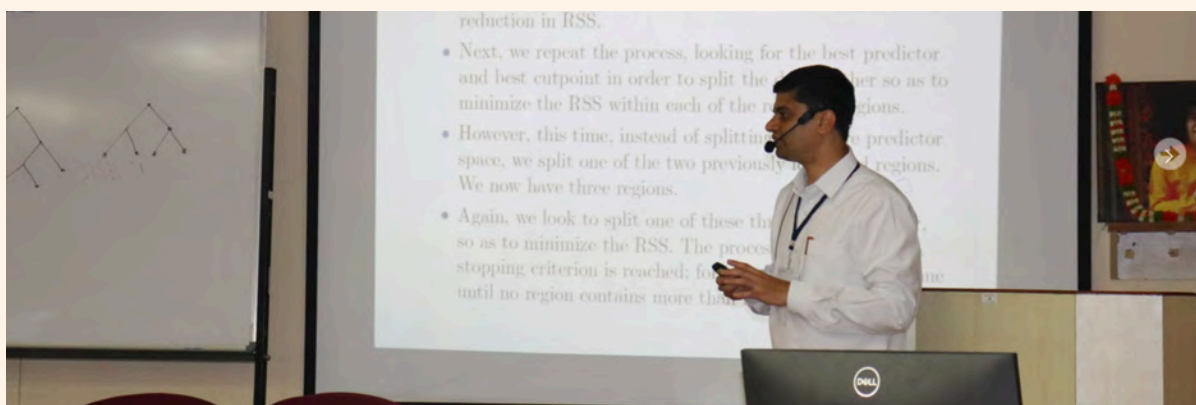
Machine Learning, and emerging technologies into actuarial education and research. Since its establishment, CADS has continued the same activities with renewed vigour. More publications have been added and SSSIHL students have frequently won National and International contests in Innovation and Case Competitions. Winning consultancy projects has further enhanced CADS's reputation.

Our faculty and students continue presenting at international conferences—the *Global Conference of Actuaries*, the *Insurance Data Science Conference* in Zurich and London, in CAS meetings and in ASTIN colloquia.



Since 2017, SSSIHL has published 50 + research papers in international journals on topics in Actuarial Science, completed 40+ industry-sponsored projects, and trained 100+ professionals in predictive analytics.

SSSIHL students trained by CADS consistently excel in professional actuarial exams and secure positions at leading global firms. They succeed because they combine actuarial rigour with technical capability—they can evaluate a loss triangle and build a neural network.



### **Alumni service powers everything we do:**

CADS runs on a model that is unconventional but powerful: practising actuaries from industry volunteer their expertise. These are SSSIHL alumni—people building pricing models for reinsurers, leading catastrophe modeling teams, running analytics departments—who return to teach and mentor.

Why does this work? Faculty gain access to cutting-edge research, fresh perspectives from talented students, and intellectual challenges beyond their corporate roles. Students learn from practitioners who know which techniques actually work in production, not just in papers. The

Institute delivers a world-class curriculum with quality instruction and training without the constraints of traditional hiring. This voluntary service model has thrived for over a decade because the value exchange is genuine for everyone involved.

It also embodies something deeper: the principle of Seva—selfless service. Alumni give back to their alma mater, invest in the next generation's success, and advance knowledge not for compensation but because education and innovation matter. This spirit transforms CADS from an academic center into a community united by shared purpose.

### **Building systems for tomorrow's risk landscape:**

Very soon, autonomous vehicles will reshape auto insurance. Wearable devices enable individualised health coverage. Climate change demands new approaches to property risk. Blockchain makes decentralised insurance possible. Genomics and precision medicine will redefine the health insurance landscape. We are expanding research into smart contract protocols that execute automatically, real-time pricing engines that update with live data streams, AI - powered underwriting systems that improve accuracy while reducing bias, and parametric products that pay instantly when trigger events occur.

The goal is practical: to train actuaries who can build these systems, conduct research that makes them possible, and deploy solutions that create value. We are preparing professionals who understand traditional actuarial methods and modern AI techniques equally well—people who ground their work in sound mathematics and implement it in production code.

### **This is bigger than one centre:**

Every generation of actuaries faces its defining challenge. Our predecessors built life tables, pension systems, and catastrophe models. Ours is different: making a 300-year-old profession relevant in a world where algorithms learn, contracts execute themselves,

and risks evolve faster than textbooks can update.

Ten years from now, when autonomous vehicles have eliminated traditional auto insurance, when climate models drive property coverage, when smart contracts settle claims instantly—the actuaries who shaped that future will trace their skills back to places that taught them to think beyond tables. CADS is building that foundation: where statistical rigour meets computational power, where service powers innovation, where the question isn't whether to embrace change but how to lead it.



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Genuine education develops the  
spirit of inquiry, humility, and  
dedication to excellence.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks*, Vol. 18,  
20 November 1985

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**LEADING-EDGE RESEARCH FOR  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:  
UPDATES AND  
BREAKTHROUGHS**



# FROM INQUIRY TO IMPACT: RESEARCH AT SSSIHL

## Research with Purpose

Guided by the vision of the Revered Founder Chancellor, research at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) is deeply rooted in the conviction that knowledge must ultimately serve society. Every research topic and initiative at the Institute is therefore chosen with care, ensuring that scholarly inquiry leads to translational outcomes and purpose-driven research that addresses real-world challenges. Over the past few years,

this philosophy has translated into remarkable research growth, with more than 100 doctoral research scholars and faculty members actively engaged in PhD programmes, supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure made possible through the continued patronage of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust. An investment of over ₹50 crores During the last five academic years has enabled the creation of world-class laboratories and shared facilities such as the Central Research Instruments Facility (CRIF) and the Central Research Laboratory (CRL), fostering innovation, collaboration, and discovery.

SSSIHL's research ecosystem has catalysed high-impact, application-

oriented work, resulting in patents, affordable innovations, and externally funded projects and initiatives supported by agencies such as DST, DBT, ICMR and CSR, and the Tata Foundation Trust.

Notable among these is the successful clinical validation of SAI-GC, an indigenously developed, portable, and cost-effective gamma camera for small-organ and non-invasive cancer imaging.

Research at SSSIHL is organised around clearly defined thrust areas that cut across disciplinary boundaries, with faculty and students working collaboratively in the interconnected domains of Health, Environment, and Energy. From Disease Biology, Regenerative Medicine, and Point-of-Care Diagnostics to Water Security, Sustainable Food Systems, and Clean Energy Technologies, the Institute's research addresses pressing societal needs with a strong focus on affordability, sustainability, and rural relevance. Collectively, these efforts reflect SSSIHL's enduring commitment to

advancing knowledge that uplifts communities, particularly the underserved, while nurturing a vibrant culture of innovation, collaboration, and service.

**DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS:**  
**The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science**

undertakes interdisciplinary research spanning pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Computational Science, Artificial Intelligence, and Data Analytics, with strong relevance to healthcare, engineering, security, education, and social systems. Major areas of research include Chemical Graph Theory, where topological indices combined with QSAR and QSPR

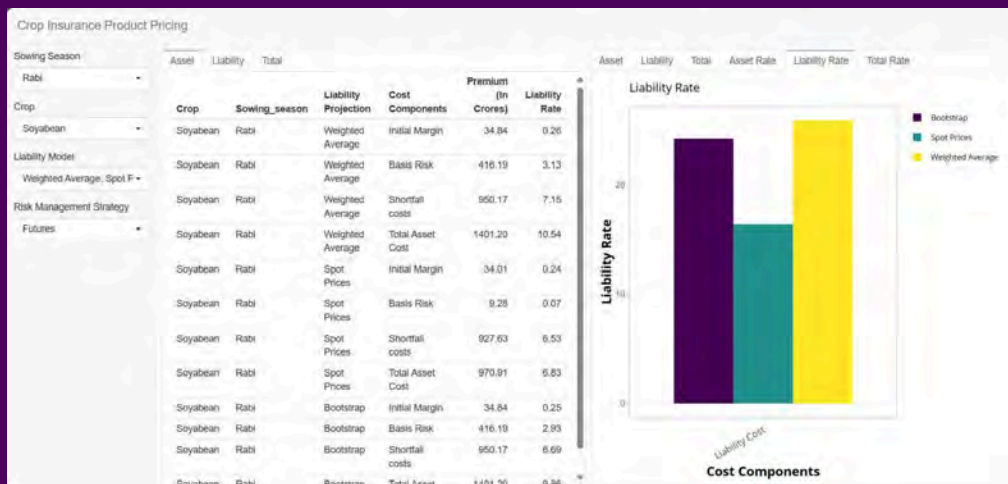
analysis are employed to predict physicochemical, biological, and pharmaceutical properties of chemical compounds, particularly phytochemicals, enabling cost-effective drug design, antiviral research, composite drug development, and drug delivery systems. In Fractal Geometry, Fractal Interpolation, and Approximation Theory, the department develops advanced tools for modelling irregular data with applications in boundary value problems, image compression, scattered data interpolation, biology, finance, and complex dynamical systems. Research in Fluid Flow, Heat, and Mass Transfer focuses on boundary layer theory, thermal management, and energy-

efficient systems for industrial, biomedical, and environmental applications. The department also contributes to Algebra, Number Theory, and Generating Functions, using commutative algebra, Umbral calculus, hypergeometric functions, and computer algebra systems with applications in coding theory and information security. In Analysis and Partial Differential Equations, microlocal analysis is applied to pseudodifferential and hyperbolic operators with singular or degenerate coefficients to study loss of regularity and propagation of singularities.

Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Deep Learning form a significant thrust area, covering medical diagnostics, drug and dosage

recommendation, patient-specific 3D cardiac modelling, tuberculosis outcome prediction, cancer metastasis analysis, and public health analytics.

Additional research areas include Computer Vision and Image Processing, Privacy-Preserving Machine Learning, Cryptography and Blockchain-based Security, Infectious Disease Modelling, Computational Graph Theory, Actuarial Science and Social Security Data Mining, High-Performance and Decentralised Computing, and AI-enabled Hybrid Educational Systems, collectively



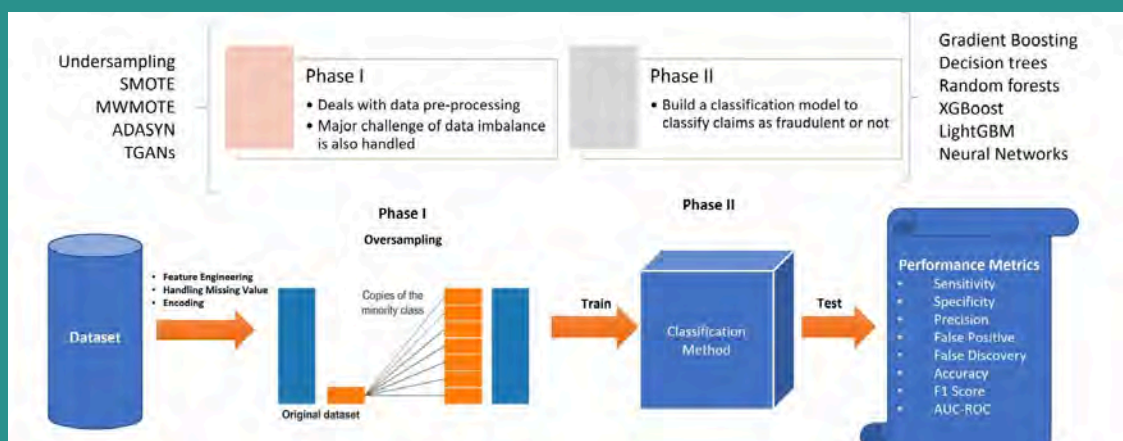
advancing theoretical knowledge while delivering impactful, technology-driven solutions for societal and industrial challenges.

### The Department of Physics

pursues cutting-edge research across photonics, Nuclear Spectroscopy and Medical Imaging, Functional Materials Science, Energy Materials, Nanotechnology, and Computational Biophysics, with strong interdisciplinary and societal relevance. In photonics, major thrust areas include the development of novel mode-locked

sources in the noise-like pulse regime for applications in spectroscopy, biosensing, optical coherence tomography (OCT), imaging, and optical communications, alongside fundamental studies of nonlinear pulse dynamics. Research in lab-on-a-chip and optofluidic biosensors employs femtosecond laser fibre laser micromachining

to fabricate integrated waveguides and microfluidic channels, enabling compact, low-cost, and highly sensitive biomedical sensing platforms.





The department has developed low-cost spectral-domain OCT systems for in-vivo biomedical diagnostics and vibration sensing, complemented by advanced signal processing techniques.

In nonlinear optics and material characterisation, femtosecond Z-scan and degenerate four-wave mixing facilities are used to study ultrafast optical responses, while SERS-based biosensing enables sensitive molecular detection using novel substrates and paper microfluidic platforms. Research in Nuclear Physics includes precision Nuclear Spectroscopy, neutron



reaction cross-section measurements, and the design of collimators and compact multimodal gamma cameras for advanced medical imaging, integrated with fluorescence and optical imaging. The department also actively collaborates on deep learning applications in radiological imaging.

The **Department of Chemistry** undertakes multidisciplinary research spanning medicinal Chemistry, Atmospheric and Environmental Chemistry, Materials Chemistry, Polymer Science, Nanoscience, Computational Chemistry, and Analytical Chemistry, with strong relevance to healthcare, sustainability, and advanced technologies.

In functional materials science, research focuses on gas-sensing nanoheterostructures, hydrogels, bioactive and radiation-shielding glasses, lead-free piezoelectric ceramics, solid-state electrolytes for Li/Na-ion batteries, nanomaterials for water remediation, and magnetic nanocomposites for EMI shielding and energy applications. Complementing experimental work, Computational Biophysics employs molecular dynamics simulations to study nanopore-based single-molecule detection and sequencing, contributing to advances in biomedical diagnostics and personalised medicine.

A major thrust area is Anti-Cancer Drug Discovery, focusing on the synthesis and biological evaluation of small molecules containing pharmacophores such as quinazolines, pyrazolopyrimidines, and pyrimidinyl-thiazoles as kinase inhibitors, alongside studies

on selectivity and mechanisms of action. In natural product and synthetic Medicinal Chemistry, derivatives of bioactive compounds such as andrographolide and arjunolic acid are designed and evaluated for anticancer, antiviral, cardioprotective, and other therapeutic activities, supported by mechanistic and in silico investigations.

Research in Atmospheric Chemistry addresses air pollution through studies on aerosols, VOCs, POPs, reactive oxygen species in particulate matter, microplastics analysis, and the development of advanced analytical techniques using LC-MS and MP-AES.

Significant work is carried out in water treatment and environmental remediation, including the synthesis of eco-friendly, pH-independent PVA-based metal hydrogel adsorbents and graphene oxide-polymer hybrid hydrogels for the removal of fluoride, heavy metals, oils, and organic contaminants.

The Department also focuses on Advanced Functional Materials, including computational and experimental design of TADF

molecules for OLED applications, non-toxic polymer nanocomposites for biomedical devices, and ceria-based PVC systems.

Research in Nanotechnology and Sensing includes plasmonic polymer nanofibers, quantum dot assemblies for environmental monitoring, food safety, anti-counterfeiting, and bioimaging. Sustainable Materials research extends to biopolymers for greenhouse gas adsorption and waste-derived fluorescent carbon nanodots with antimicrobial, antioxidant, anticancer, imaging, and sensing applications, collectively contributing to green chemistry, healthcare innovation, and environmental sustainability.



The **Department of Biosciences** conducts interdisciplinary research across Antimicrobial Resistance, Disease Biology, Fungal Biotechnology, Environmental Biosciences, Metabolomics, Protein Science, and Computational Biology, with strong clinical, environmental, and societal relevance.

A major thrust area is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), focusing on understanding the acquisition and dissemination of resistance determinants in clinically relevant pathogens. This effort is supported by whole-genome sequencing, AI/ML-based prediction models, biostatistics, and the development of rapid point-of-care diagnostics, aided by a state-of-the-art AMR biorepository and cell culture facilities.

Research in Disease Biology addresses protein aggregation disorders, such as Huntington's disease, ALS, and Alzheimer's disease, through integrated metabolomics, imaging, yeast models, and multi-omic analyses.

This approach identifies deregulated metabolic pathways and potential therapeutic interventions, including vitamins, metabolites, and natural compounds.

Infectious and metabolic diseases such as dengue, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes-associated vascular complications are studied using integrated clinical, metabolomic, and in vitro approaches to identify molecular signatures, risk factors, and predictive biomarkers, including

retrospective clinical studies on PTCA outcomes.

The department also emphasises research on fungi in health and environment, exploring bioactive metabolites from endophytic fungi using LC-MS-based metabolomics, molecular networking, in silico docking, and cytotoxicity studies, alongside fungal applications in wastewater bioremediation, dye degradation, and organic micropollutant removal. Research in wastewater analysis, treatment, and energy recovery focuses on low-cost, sustainable solutions using plant-based coagulants for water reuse. In protein structure and function, in vitro and in silico methods are employed to study protein

dynamics, moonlighting functions of hemocyanins, enzyme-based biosensor development, and computer-aided drug discovery targeting infectious and non-infectious diseases. Collectively, these research activities integrate experimental biology, computational modelling, and clinical collaboration to advance healthcare innovation, environmental sustainability, and translational bioscience.

Research in **Food and Nutritional Sciences** is centred on developing evidence-based, sustainable, and translational nutrition solutions addressing public health, clinical nutrition, food safety, and



functional food innovation.



A major thrust area is novel functional food and nutraceutical approaches for disease mitigation, employing food metabolomics and bioactive screening to develop functional foods for managing metabolic diseases such as diabetes and for improving gut health, including onion-based functional food

mixes, molecular gastronomic products, heritage rice-based formulations, and gut-friendly Ayurvedic multi-therapeutic beverages with anti-inflammatory and antiviral potential. Addressing micronutrient malnutrition, particularly iron and zinc deficiencies, research includes micronutrient fingerprinting of Indian heritage rice varieties, fortification strategies, and the development of protein- and mineral-enriched pigmented rice-based confectionery products.

Another significant focus lies in public health nutrition and nutritional epidemiology, exploring microbiome-based therapeutics to enhance iron bioavailability and modulate iron metabolism through integrated in vitro and in vivo studies, advancing strategies to combat iron deficiency anaemia. Clinical Nutrition research emphasises the development of Nutrition Care Plans (NCPs) in hospital settings, including malnutrition risk screening tools, low-cost nutrient-dense feeds, and patient education materials to ensure continuity of care and prevent complications such as refeeding syndrome.

Community outreach and Nutrition Education initiatives focus on improving dietary practices among adolescents and underserved populations through culturally relevant interventions promoting balanced breakfasts and healthy snacking. Sustainable Food System research includes the development of gluten-free millet-based meal boxes, plant-based milk analogues from oat, corn, and millets, and the valorisation of vegetable peels as sources of functional polysaccharides for value-added foods.

Research in **Management and Commerce** is anchored in the domains of Sustainable Consumption and Organisational Behaviour, addressing contemporary challenges faced by industries, consumers, and leadership in a rapidly evolving socio-economic landscape. A major thrust area is sustainable consumption, with a strong emphasis on conducting rigorous systematic literature reviews (SLRs) that synthesise extant research across industries such as sustainable fashion, luxury goods, durable consumer products, and plant-based meat substitutes. These reviews employ established methodological frameworks, including PRISMA and SPAR-4-SLR, and analytical lenses such as the ADO, TCCM, hybrid, and theory-based review frameworks, enabling the identification of conceptual gaps, methodological

trends, and future research agendas that offer valuable insights for academia, industry practitioners, and policymakers.

Complementing this work, empirical research explores spirituality as an attitudinal determinant of green consumer behaviour, positioning it alongside other cognitive and affective factors influencing sustainable purchase intentions.

Using quantitative research methods and structural equation modelling, this line of inquiry examines the direction and strength of relationships between spirituality and pro-environmental consumption, contributing a novel worldview to sustainability literature while offering actionable implications for marketing strategy, responsible business practices, and policy formulation.

In the area of organisational behaviour, research focuses on vulnerability in leadership, adopting an ambivalent conceptualisation of vulnerability to examine how top management in corporate India expresses and manages vulnerability across industries. By analysing leadership disclosure, motivations, and contextual influences,

the study investigates its impact on outcomes such as organisational citizenship behaviour and perceived leader effectiveness. The findings aim to inform leadership development programmes and organisational interventions, thereby advancing theory and practice in leadership studies within the Indian corporate context.

Research in the **Humanities and Social Sciences** primarily focuses on financial and macroeconomic modelling for evidence-based policy analysis, addressing both domestic and international economic challenges, with particular emphasis on emerging economies and the Indian context. A core thrust area is macroeconometric modelling of the Indian economy, encompassing theoretical and empirical issues related to model construction, validation, forecasting, and policy simulation to support sustained economic growth, equitable income distribution, and macroeconomic stability. Research explores critical macroeconomic aggregates such as the external sector, monetary policy transmission, and sectoral interlinkages, alongside micro-macro linkages, including studies on the impact of adult death on household consumption, expenditure, and income in India using nationally representative longitudinal data. In financial economics, research examines the role of the financial sector as an engine of growth while critically assessing the phenomenon of financialisation and identifying threshold levels beyond which financial expansion may suppress real-sector growth, particularly in emerging economies grappling with poverty and inequality. Complementing this, studies on regional inequality in financial

inclusion analyse the North-South divide in the penetration of Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), investigate structural and institutional factors influencing regional disparities, evaluate the role of Joint Liability Groups (JLGs), and propose policy measures to strengthen financial inclusion in underserved regions of North India.

In agricultural economics, research addresses crop revenue protection for Indian farmers through predictive analytics and actuarial data science frameworks that integrate volume and price risks, contributing to improved revenue estimation, risk management, and livelihood security in a sector employing nearly half of India's workforce.

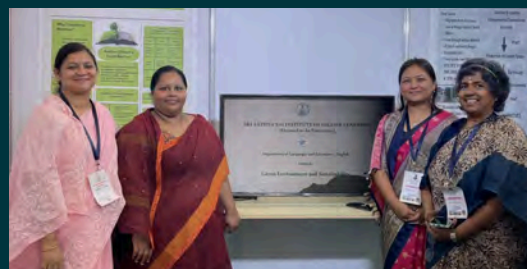
The department also undertakes health economics research, including comprehensive evaluations of the Sri Sathya Sai healthcare mission, assessing hospital functioning, reduction of out-of-pocket expenditure, beneficiary satisfaction, and the promotion of preventive healthcare among vulnerable rural populations, thereby informing inclusive and sustainable health policy design.



Research in the **Department of Languages and Literature - English** is interdisciplinary in scope, integrating Philosophy, Linguistics, Cultural Studies, Environmental Humanities, Trauma Studies, and Cognitive Sciences to examine literature as a site of ethical, social, and cultural meaning-making. A significant area of inquiry involves Indian philosophical readings of Western literature, exemplified by studies on Iris Murdoch that employ Indian philosophical and theological frameworks alongside archival research to explore morality, ethics, power, identity, and cross-cultural reception, foregrounding the convergence of Eastern and Western thought. Comparative poetics research bridges Sanskrit and English literary traditions

by applying classical Sanskrit theories, such as Dhvani to English poetry, reaffirming India's indigenous critical heritage. Studies on the Neo-Vedantic concept of the Self in Romantic poetry, particularly of Wordsworth, challenge Enlightenment notions of a fragmented self and propose a spiritually unified self as a response to contemporary existential fragmentation. The research in Applied Linguistics and ELT focusses on developing an eclectic framework and scale for workplace communicative competence in India, addressing evolving communicative needs.

Ecocritical and climate-focused research examines climate crisis narratives, notably in the fiction of Amitav Ghosh, to analyse reader responses and promote environmental consciousness among younger generations. Cognitive Poetics Studies, such as those on A. K. Ramanujan, combine literary analysis with cognitive science to deepen reader engagement with Indian cultural contexts. Research on trauma, memory, and displacement explores Kashmir literature and Palestinian testimonies to understand collective, intergenerational, and exilic trauma.



Indigenous Ecocritical Studies investigate space, place, and species in narratives centred on the River Teesta, conceptualising it as an ecocultural lifelace. Ongoing research also addresses social narratology in Indian English poetry and material engagement theory in Indian picturebooks,

examining narrative form, multimodality, and identity formation, thereby contributing to culturally rooted, socially responsive literary scholarship.



At SSSIHL, research is undertaken with the firm belief that knowledge attains its highest purpose when it serves humanity.

demonstrates how rigorous scholarship, ethical responsibility, and societal commitment converge to create meaningful change. By fostering a culture where curiosity meets compassion and innovation is guided by service, SSSIHL exemplifies purpose-driven research that transforms knowledge into lasting benefits for the underserved and for society as a whole.

Anchored in the Revered Founder Chancellor's vision, every inquiry, whether fundamental, translational or interdisciplinary, addresses real-world challenges, generates tangible societal impact and is committed to uplift communities. From affordable healthcare innovations and sustainable food systems, AI-driven solutions and environmental remediation to culturally grounded humanities research, the Institute





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Knowledge must be shared,  
discussed, and refined for the  
benefit of all.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 23,*  
22 November 1990

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ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE  
THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS



# Advancing Research and Innovation in Education And Healthcare: Rutgers University and Sri Sathya Sai Institutions Forge Strategic Partnerships

In a significant step towards strengthening global, academic and research partnerships, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL), Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi, entered into an Abbreviated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, United States of America. This MoU was exchanged in the presence of the Honourable Governor of New Jersey, Philip D. Murphy, during the Governor-led mission to India on 22nd September 2025 in Bengaluru.

The collaboration reflects a shared vision of fostering innovation, advancing health sciences, and creating opportunities for students and researchers through international cooperation.

Potential fields of collaboration identified under the MoU include Cardiovascular Medicine, Cardiovascular Surgery, Medical Imaging, Artificial Intelligence, Digital Health, Tissue Engineering, Biobanking, and other emerging areas of translational science.

The partnership between Rutgers University and the Sri Sathya Sai Institutions mark a milestone in fostering global cooperation in health sciences and education.



They are expected to:

- Expand opportunities for student and researcher mobility
- Create platforms for knowledge sharing and innovation
- Strengthen global networks in medical and technological research
- Contribute to transformative advancements in healthcare delivery and translational research

The MoU was exchanged between Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad, Vice-Chancellor, SSSIHL, and Dr Francine Conway, Chancellor of Rutgers, New Brunswick.

The MoUs between Rutgers University, SSSIHL, and SSSIHMS reaffirm a shared commitment to advancing education, healthcare, and innovation through global partnerships.

These agreements provide a strong foundation for collaborative initiatives that will benefit students, researchers, and society at large, aligning with the mission of Sri Sathya Sai Institutions to integrate academic excellence with societal impact.



The Abbreviated MoU between SSSIHL and Rutgers University records the intent of both institutions to explore future academic cooperation and research collaborations. The areas of potential partnership include:

- Education and Training: Facilitating exchange of undergraduate and graduate students, researchers, and faculty.
- Joint Research and Publications: Encouraging collaborative research projects and scholarly output
- Academic Events: Organising meetings, symposiums and workshops to foster dialogue and innovation
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Promoting cross-border collaborations in technology transfer, translational science, and digital health

# SSSIHL Partners with Motherson Techno Tools Ltd to Strengthen Research and Industry–Academia Engagement

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) signed a Collaboration Agreement with Motherson Techno Tools Ltd (MTTL), India, on 09 December 2025 at Prasanthi Nilayam, marking the beginning of a structured long-term partnership focused on advancing academic excellence, applied research, and meaningful industry–academia engagement.

The agreement was formally exchanged between Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad, Vice-Chancellor, SSSIHL and Mr Rajiv Malhotra, Chief Operating Officer, MTTL. The officials present during the signing of the agreement included Dr Srikanth Khanna, Registrar, SSSIHL; Prof. Pallav Kumar Baruah, Dean, Innovation & Entrepreneurship; Dr Sripada Lakshminath, Head, Department of Chemistry; Dr Naga Sai Visweswar K., Assistant Professor, Chemistry; Mr Chintha Jagadeesh, Research Scholar; Dr Vishal Khetan, Project Head and SPOC, General Manager - Development, Motherson DeltaCarb Hardmetal, SA; and Mr Desh Raj Singh from the Production Division, Motherson.

The partnership aims to create a dynamic framework for joint research, industrial training, technology development, and student–faculty development initiatives. It seeks to foster joint research in chemistry, materials science and related disciplines,



while enhancing student exposure to real-world industrial environments. The collaboration also supports industry-relevant PhD research, facilitates access to advanced research infrastructure such as the Central Research Instruments Facility (CRIF), promotes technology development, innovation, and potential commercialisation, and strengthens recruitment pathways for graduates.

Under the key areas of collaboration, students will gain hands-on industrial exposure through internships, industry-guided research projects, and mentorship from MTTL experts, while receiving academic supervision from SSSIHL faculty. Both institutions will jointly undertake research in chemistry, materials science, and advanced coatings, leveraging shared expertise and infrastructure, including access to SSSIHL's Central Research Instruments



Facility (CRIF). The partnership further supports industry-sponsored PhD fellowships, facilitates access to select research facilities and biorepositories, and encourages technology development and potential commercialisation. In addition, MTTL will actively consider SSSIHL graduates for suitable career opportunities.

The collaboration between SSSIHL and MTTL underscores a shared commitment to fostering innovation, strengthening industry-relevant research, and preparing students for impactful scientific careers. It reflects SSSIHL's vision of integrating values-based education with cutting-edge research, alongside MTTL's focus on nurturing skilled talent and advancing technology-driven growth.

# SSSIHL Signs MoU with BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd to Strengthen Academic-Industry Collaboration

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (BRPL) on 13th December 2025, marking the beginning of a long-term academic-industry collaboration aimed at enhancing student learning, industry exposure, and professional development.

The MoU was formally exchanged between Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad, Vice-Chancellor, SSSIHL, and Mr Prasad Patki, Group CHRO BSES Delhi. The event was attended by Dr Srikanth Khanna, Registrar, SSSIHL; Dr Sayee Manohar K., Associate Professor, Department of Management & Commerce and Director, Brindavan Campus; Dr G. Padmavathy, Head, Department of Management & Commerce; Prof. N. Sivakumar, Dean, Department of Management & Commerce; Dr U. Suma Rao, Associate Professor, Department of Management & Commerce and Chairperson, Centre for Sri Sathya Sai Studies; Sri. S. R. Sai Praveen Manchiraju, Assistant Training and Placement Officer, SSSIHL; Ms Anagha Manoj, Management Trainee, Learning and Development, HR Department, BSES Rajdhani Power Limited; and Ms Noopur Gaur, Management Trainee, Talent Acquisition, HR Department, BSES Rajdhani Power Limited.

Key areas of cooperation under the MoU include student internships, campus placements, guest lectures by industry professionals, integration of real-world case studies into the curriculum, technical



training, leadership and management skill development, executive education, and joint initiatives in corporate social responsibility. The partnership also envisions collaboration in emerging areas of the energy sector, including smart grids, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), digital automation, renewable energy integration, and cybersecurity. These initiatives will provide students with exposure to future-ready technologies and contemporary industry practices. Opportunities for industry and factory visits, along with the shared use of infrastructure and facilities, will further strengthen experiential learning and knowledge exchange.

This collaboration, among the first industry MoUs of the Department of Management and Commerce, reflects SSSIHL's continued commitment to fostering meaningful industry partnerships that bridge academic learning with real-world application, while supporting holistic education grounded in professional excellence and societal responsibility.

# SSSIHL Partners with AQ MATiCS for Quantum–AI Research and Innovation

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) entered into a five-year Collaboration Agreement with AQ MATiCS Inc. on 27 December 2025, marking an important step towards jointly advancing research, innovation, and capacity building at the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing.

The agreement was formally exchanged between Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad, Vice-Chancellor, SSSIHL, and Mr Venkat Muramalla, Director, Partner Enablement, AQ MATiCS. The event was attended by Dr Srikanth Khanna, Registrar, SSSIHL; Prof. Pallav Baruah, Dean, Innovation & Entrepreneurship; Dr R. Raghunatha Sarma, Director, Prasanthi Nilayam Campus; Dr K. Vijay Sai, Head, Department of Physics; Dr N. Uday Kiran, Head, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science; Dr Kurmarao Tyada, Assistant Professor; and Dr V. N. Ravi Kishore Vutukuri, Assistant Professor, from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, along with Mr Azhar Hussain, Lead, Innovation and Delivery, AQ MATiCS.

The partnership focuses on strategic research collaboration in Quantum Computing, Artificial Intelligence, advanced algorithms, and emerging technologies, with the aim of strengthening the Quantum–AI ecosystem and addressing real-world challenges across domains such as healthcare, cybersecurity, sustainability, logistics, and digital assets.



Both institutions will also collaborate on the joint development of platforms and solutions, including advanced platforms, software applications, and demonstrable solutions. While AQ MATiCS will contribute industry expertise and resources, SSSIHL will engage its faculty, researchers, and students through structured research, advisory roles, and internship programmes.

The collaboration further enables the creation of jointly owned patents and intellectual property with equal ownership, while ensuring that SSSIHL retains unrestricted rights to use such intellectual property for its academic, teaching, training, and research purposes.

All activities under the agreement will be executed through mutually agreed Statements of Work (SOWs), categorised into product research-based SOWs, covering Quantum–AI research, algorithms, simulators, and security and safety frameworks, and application development-based SOWs, including AI-driven applications, analytics solutions, chatbots, and use-case-specific systems.



Each SOW will clearly define objectives, timelines, budgets, governance, and responsibilities. Subject to approval, AQ MATiCS will support the establishment of specialised advanced laboratories at SSSIHL, including AQ MATiCS QuantumRAiSE Labs for Quantum AI and Decentralised AI, AQ MATiCS Talent Labs for student clubs and startup initiatives, and AQ MATiCS iCollab for industry and international university collaborations. All such laboratories will remain under SSSIHL's ownership and academic oversight.

In addition, AQ MATiCS will support curriculum enrichment through elective courses in emerging technologies and provide internship and training opportunities for SSSIHL students at both SSSIHL and AQ MATiCS facilities.

This collaboration reinforces SSSIHL's commitment to values-based education combined with cutting-edge research, fostering innovation that is ethical and impactful, aligned with societal needs.

# SSSIHL Signs MoU with Tata Institute of Fundamental Research Hyderabad (TIFRH) to Strengthen Research, Joint Academic Initiatives & Student Exchange

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research Hyderabad (TIFRH) on 21st November 2025, marking the beginning of a robust collaboration aimed at advancing research excellence, academic innovation, and interdisciplinary learning.

The MoU was formally signed and exchanged by Dr Srikanth Khanna, Registrar, SSSIHL, and Prof. M. Krishnamurthy, Centre Director, TIFRH. The ceremony, held at the SSSIHL Administrative Office, was attended by Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad, Vice-Chancellor, SSSIHL, and Prof. Gowrishankar R., Dean of Academic Affairs, SSSIHL.

The collaboration outlines several key areas of engagement. Student exchange forms an important component, with provisions for short-term research projects for SSSIHL undergraduate and postgraduate students at TIFRH ranging from one to twelve months, and for TIFRH PhD scholars at SSSIHL for periods of one to six months. The MoU also facilitates joint research through collaborative initiatives between faculty members of both institutes, supported through internal or external funding.



In addition, the partnership enables joint Ph. pathways by offering opportunities for co-supervised doctoral students, including TIFRH-trained Junior Research Fellows registering for PhD programmes at SSSIHL. The agreement further explores the possibility of launching joint Master's programmes, including specialised MSc or MTech. programmes in areas such as photonics, optics, lasers, and spectroscopy. The collaboration reflects the shared commitment of both institutions to advancing high-quality research and nurturing the next generation of scientists. Together, SSSIHL and TIFRH aim to build a long-term partnership that enriches learning, innovation, and societal impact.

# SSSIHL and VTU Forge Strategic Partnership to Enhance Student Opportunities and Research Excellence

On 25th September 2025, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL), Prasanthi Nilayam, and Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belagavi, Karnataka, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen academic collaboration and research initiatives. The MoU was exchanged between Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad, Vice-Chancellor, SSSIHL, and Prof. Vidyashankar S., Vice-Chancellor, VTU, in the presence of senior officials from both institutions.

As part of the occasion, the VTU delegation also visited the Central Research Instruments Facility (CRIF) at SSSIHL, where senior faculty members provided an overview of the state-of-the-art facilities and showcased ongoing research projects. The visit offered valuable insights into the research ecosystem at SSSIHL and underscored the scope for collaborative academic engagement.

The MoU aims to strengthen academic cooperation and research collaboration between the two universities in areas of science, technology, and interdisciplinary studies. Key areas of collaboration identified under the agreement include student exchange through short-term project opportunities ranging from one to twelve months for students of both SSSIHL and VTU, as well as specialised courses with provision for credit transfer of approved courses across the two institutions.



The partnership also envisages joint research through collaborative projects supported by internal or external funding. In addition, students may pursue joint PhD programmes with supervisors from both institutions, with VTU's Junior Research Fellows eligible to register for PhD programmes at SSSIHL under joint supervision. The MoU further proposes the initiation of joint Master's programs, including MS and MTech degrees, in mutually identified areas of interest. To facilitate effective implementation, a Joint Committee will be formed to work out detailed modalities, including scope, roles, responsibilities, intellectual property rights, finances, and other conditions, while ensuring flexibility to adapt and expand the collaboration.

The MoU marks a significant step towards advancing academic exchange, joint research, and collaborative degree programmes, opening new avenues for students and faculty of SSSIHL and VTU to engage in impactful knowledge creation and dissemination.



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Education grows and deepens  
through discussion, reflection, and  
the exchange of ideas.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 18,*  
20 November 1985

ADVANCING THE VISION:  
COMPELLING STORIES  
OF ACHIEVEMENT



# Dr B. E. Pradeep Wins Gold Medal in Artificial Intelligence at the 38th International Exhibition of Inventions, Belgrade

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) proudly announces that Dr Bulagonda Eswarappa Pradeep, Associate Professor, has been awarded the 'Gold Medal in Artificial Intelligence' at the 38th International Exhibition of Inventions as part of the Invention Week 2025. The event was held at the Museum of Science and Technology, Belgrade, and organised by the Belgrade Association of Inventors from 29th September to 2nd October 2025.



Dr Pradeep received this prestigious international recognition for his innovative work titled AMRx® – Culture-Free, AI/ML-Based Prediction Tool for Urinary Tract Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance. The tool leverages advanced artificial intelligence and machine learning algorithms to rapidly and accurately predict infections and resistance patterns, representing a significant stride towards AI-driven healthcare solutions. This year's Invention Week brought together innovators from 14 countries, showcasing more than 60 pioneering inventions and design projects across the domains of science, engineering, and technology. India's innovators made the nation proud by securing an impressive five (5) Gold Medals and one (1) Bronze Medal for their ground-breaking contributions and technological excellence. Dr Pradeep's achievement stands as a testament to India's growing leadership in innovation and technology and aligns with the national vision of fostering an Ātmanirbhar Bharat and building a Viksit Bharat through indigenous research and innovation. SSSIHL congratulates Dr B. E. Pradeep on this remarkable international recognition, which brings pride to the institution and the nation.

# AMRx® of SSSIHL Honoured with Bronze at BRICS–ASEAN Tech Innovation Event 2025

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) has been awarded the Bronze Medal in the AI & Digital Healthcare category at the 2025 Belt & Road and BRICS Competition of Skills Development and Technology Innovation, part of the ASEAN International Competition.



附件2 2025 一带一路暨金砖国家技能发展与技术创新大赛——东盟国际赛获奖名单

人工智能（含先进制造、数字医疗）

项目序号	项目名称	单位名称	国籍	参赛项目获奖等级
I-2025BR004-ASEAN-006	AIDAS	Taylor's University / Nottingham University	马来西亚	一等奖（金牌）
I-2025BR001-ASEAN-001	Research and Application of Proximity Warning Devices for Mobile Crane Booms Near Power Lines	本溪钢铁（集团）设备工程有限责任公司	中国	一等奖（金牌）
I-2025BR002-ASEAN-001	Adaptive AR Radiotherapy Assisted positioning system	厦门大学附属第一医院	中国	二等奖（银牌）
I-2025BR004-ASEAN-005	Peckakood AI-Powered Intelligent Pet Feeding System	Hin Hua High School	马来西亚	二等奖（银牌）
I-2025BR001-ASEAN-005	Design of an integrated vehicle for firebreak isolation belts	燕京理工学院	中国	二等奖（银牌）
I-2025BR002-ASEAN-002	AMRx®: AI/ML driven clinical decision support for rapid diagnosis of Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) management	Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning	印度	三等奖（铜牌）

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The winning innovation, AMRx® — AI/ML Clinical Decision Support for UTI & AMR (Application ID: I-2025BR002-ASEAN-002), is an advanced artificial intelligence and machine learning-based clinical decision support system that assists in the early detection and management of Urinary Tract Infections (UTI) and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). This impactful solution demonstrates SSSIHL's commitment to leveraging technology for societal well-being and improving healthcare outcomes.

The BRICS–ASEAN International Competition 2025 is organised in alignment with the Kazan Declaration adopted at the 16th BRICS Summit and promotes global collaboration in education, training, skills development, science, technology, and innovation. The event is jointly hosted by the BRICS Business Council, the Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas), the Indonesian National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), the Malaysian Ministry of Education, and the Malaysian Industry and Government High-Tech Alliance.

SSSIHL's recognition at this prestigious international platform reflects its growing contributions to futuristic healthcare technologies and reinforces its mission of integrating academic excellence with social impact.



# SSSIHL Teams Emerge as Global Winners at the CAS Global Case Study Creation Challenge 2025

Teams from the SSSIHL Centre of Excellence for Actuarial Data Science (CADS), comprising faculty members (all SSSIHL alumni) and a research scholar, emerged among the global winners across all three prize categories—First, Second, and Third—at the CAS Global Case Study Creation Challenge in General Insurance Actuarial Science, organised by the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS), USA.



This international-level competition, organised by CAS for the first time, invited educators, industry professionals, and innovators from around the globe to create dynamic, real-world case studies aimed at enhancing actuarial science education. The competition saw exceptional global participation, with submissions spanning diverse topics including product warranty, pet insurance, and predictive analytics. Among these, the case studies from Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) stood out for their innovation, clarity, and practical relevance, earning high praise from the judging panel for their contribution to advancing actuarial education and aligning academic learning with real-world practice.

## Winning Teams from SSSIHL CADS

### First Prize (USD 2,500)

*Case Study Title:* The Hidden Fabric – Weaving Data, Risk, and Market into Smart Extended Warranty Protection

*Team:* Sri. Satya Sai Sri Charan Wootla (Visiting Faculty, SSSIHL), Sri Satya Sai Mudigonda (Professor of Practice, SSSIHL), Sri. Phani Krishna Kandala (Visiting Faculty, SSSIHL), and Sri. Arunachala Sivateja M. (CEO, Tech Actuarial Partner)

### Second Prize (USD 1,000)

*Case Study Title:* Pet Project – Pricing Pet Insurance for Dogs in the Indian Market

*Team:* Sri. Mahadev Suresh (Lead) (Visiting Faculty, SSSIHL), Sri. Phani Krishna Kandala (Visiting Faculty, SSSIHL), Sri. Satya Sai Mudigonda (Professor of Practice, SSSIHL), and Sri. Arunachala Sivateja M. (CEO, Tech Actuarial Partner)

### Third Prize (USD 500)

*Case Study Title:* Ring, Lost, Replace — Designing and Implementing Pricing Models for Phone Replacement Insurance

*Team:* Sri. Aakash Sahu (Lead) (Visiting Faculty, SSSIHL), Sri. Phani Krishna Kandala (Visiting Faculty, SSSIHL), Sri. Satya Sai Mudigonda (Professor of Practice, SSSIHL), and Sri. Omkar Reddy K. (MBA, CADS Research, SSSIHL)

### **About the CAS Global Case Study Creation Challenge**

Organised by the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS), this challenge encourages academic–industry collaboration to create teaching case studies in general insurance, property and casualty, and predictive analytics. Winning entries become part of the CAS Academic Central, a global educational repository, and are recognised through Actuarial Review, CAS social media, and international CAS events.

### **A Testament to the Values-Based Integral Education at SSSIHL**

This remarkable achievement by SSSIHL CADS exemplifies the Institute’s commitment to Values-Based Integral Education—where academic rigour is harmoniously blended with real-world relevance and human values. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation, the SSSIHL actuarial education team continues to shape competent, ethical, and service-oriented professionals poised to contribute meaningfully to society.

# SSSIHL Student Excels at the 6th National Level Teaching Skill Competition

**Ms Darpan Sharma (I B.Ed.), from the Department of Education, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL), Anantapur Campus, secured Third Place at the 6th National Level Teaching Skill Competition, organised by the Department of B.Sc. B.Ed. Programme, Centre of Education, Indian Institute of Teacher Education (IITE), Gandhinagar, on 27th September 2025.**



The competition began with a Preliminary Round conducted online earlier in September 2025, where participants showcased their teaching skills through video submissions. From the numerous entries received from across the country, 19 participants were shortlisted for the Final Round, held offline at the IITE campus in Gandhinagar. Among these finalists were two B.Ed. students from SSSIHL—Ms Aastha Priya (II B.Ed.) and Ms Darpan Sharma (I B.Ed.)—who represented the Institute at this prestigious national event.

In the final round, participants were assigned a micro-teaching skill on the spot by the judging panel, different from the one presented in the preliminary round. This tested their adaptability, creativity, and pedagogical expertise. The panel of judges comprised eminent academicians from the Central University of Karnataka, University of Kashmir, and Central University of Rajasthan, ensuring a rigorous and discerning evaluation.

Ms Darpan Sharma's achievement at this national platform reflects her dedication, innovative teaching approach, and professional competence. It also exemplifies the Department of Education's commitment to fostering pedagogical excellence, in alignment with the Institute's vision of Values-Based Integral Education, nurturing educators who combine skill with ethics and holistic development.



# Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning Shines in Climate Stories 2025 at NIT Jamshedpur

Rushita Shankar Vedula, a student from SSSIHL Anantapur Campus, secured the Second Position, winning a cash award of Rs. 10,000. Her story highlighted the wisdom of grandparents and their relevance to today's climate challenges. It follows a young girl reflecting on lessons about nature, respect for ecosystems, and sustainable living. A pivotal moment depicts the death of a bird due to sudden weather changes, symbolising the fragility of ecosystems under climate stress. The story concludes with a message emphasising awareness, responsibility, and action for a sustainable future.



Students from Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Anantapur campus, participated in the national-level presentation competition titled *Climate Stories – Voices for a Sustainable Future – 2025*, organised by NIT Jamshedpur to commemorate the International Day of Clean Air. The event invited students from schools, colleges, universities, and PhD programmes across India to share compelling narratives about climate change. The competition aimed to transform scientific facts into emotional stories that inspire awareness and proactive action toward sustainability, with a panel of climate experts serving as judges.

Six students from the institute submitted a video synopsis and a written abstract, addressing various themes related to climate change and sustainability. Entries were submitted in both English and Hindi, allowing the narratives to reach a broader audience while showcasing the ability of students to communicate effectively in both languages. The participants were: Rhythm Katholia II BA (Hons) Economics, U. Dhanusri II BCom (Hons.), Rushita Shankar Vedula II BS (Hons) Biosciences, Lohitha Prabhakaran II BS (Hons) Computer Science, Amulya Thota (III BSc Food and Nutritional Sciences), and Gourika Sharma (III BCom).

The competition was conducted in two stages: the first round involved submission of a video synopsis and a short write-up explaining the intended story, while the final round required participants to present their complete stories to a distinguished jury. Out of 150 entries, eight students were shortlisted for the final round held on 7th September 2025.

# A Proud Milestone: SSSIHL to Establish an IKS Research Centre under (MoE), Government of India

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) has been selected by the Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) Division, Ministry of Education, Government of India, to establish an IKS Research Center—a recognition that marks a proud milestone for the Institute. Notably, this centre is one among the only five institutions approved across India in this round of proposals.

The proposed Centre will focus on Historical and Civilizational Sciences, Contemporary Social and Cultural Sciences, and Political, Economic and Strategic Sciences, drawing inspiration from Sanskrit literary traditions and other sources of Indian knowledge.

Funded by the Ministry of Education and supported by the University, the IKS Centres are envisioned to promote interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, education, and dissemination of Indian Knowledge Systems. This initiative aligns closely with the vision of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), fostering scholarship that integrates India's rich intellectual traditions with contemporary academic frameworks.

The Sanskrit faculty at the Department of Languages and Literature, who spearheaded the proposal, look forward to collaborating with various departments across SSSIHL to foster indigenous traditions, knowledge, and research.

The Institute humbly acknowledges this milestone as a blessing from Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, especially in His Centenary Year—a fitting tribute to His vision and values. Together, the University aspires to make the IKS Research Centre at SSSIHL a vibrant hub of learning, innovation, and cultural enrichment, contributing meaningfully to both academia and society.



# Team AvinyaVed of SSSIHL Recognised for Best Innovation Stall at IIC 2025



At the IIC Regional Meet 2025, held on 25th November at Gokaraju Rangaraju Institute of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad, Team AvinyaVed from the Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL), earned the Certificate of Appreciation for Best Innovation Stall Exhibitor. The team, represented by Ms Mounika Pandey and Prof. N. Srividya, showcased an innovative tomato–aloe–based spiced wellness beverage designed to support gut health, reflecting the Institute’s emphasis on values-based innovation with societal impact.

Organised by the Ministry of Education’s Innovation Cell in collaboration with AICTE, the regional meet brought together some of the brightest young innovators from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Out of 340 participating teams, only 40 were shortlisted for prototype demonstrations, with Team AvinyaVed emerging among the standout innovators. Their stall earned appreciation for originality, excellence in innovation, and meaningful contribution.

This recognition highlights the creativity, dedication, and commitment of the students and Faculty of SSSIHL to research that serves society. By combining scientific innovation with practical application, the team demonstrated the Institute’s focus on nurturing solutions that are both impactful and aligned with societal needs.



# Celebrating Musical Brilliance: Honouring the Musicians of SSSIHL

Sri. Nishikant Barodekar was conferred the ‘Saints in Song’ Award for his solo tabla recital at the music programme organised by the Sumadhur Hansadhwani Trust, held at the Sri Sathya Sai Centre, New Delhi, in September 2025. The occasion marked a celebration of music rooted in devotion and tradition, with the award recognising the programme’s artistic and spiritual significance.



In another moment of recognition in the field of music, Sri. Raghavendra K. Badasheshi received an award for his contribution to the field of music from Swar Madhuri Sangeet Vidyalaya, Kalaburagi (Karnataka), in March 2025. Together, these honours reflect sustained dedication and contribution to the rich legacy of Indian music by the faculty of SSSIHL.



# ECOTHRON'25 – A Journey of Excellence

Students from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL), participated in ECOTHRON'25, organised by GIFFEN (Eco-Fin Society), Madras School of Economics, gaining an enriching exposure to academic competition, collaboration, and strategic thinking. Held over two days on 13–14 September, the event provided a vibrant platform for testing knowledge and skills across diverse formats, while fostering teamwork, leadership, and learning.



SSSIHL students competed in multiple events, including Model United Nations (UNCTAD & AIPPM) and Breaking Bid, and emerged with accolades across categories, reflecting their preparedness and holistic development.

## **In the UNCTAD (MUN) segment**

- Best Delegate was awarded to Aryan Shrestha Bhattacharya I BS (Hons) Biosciences and Biotechnology, representing India.
- High Commendation was secured by Shashank Ganeshkannan II BA (Hons) Economics, representing France.
- Special Mention went to Shravan Sai III BA Economics, representing Germany.
- In the AIPPM (MUN) category,
- Best Delegate from NDA was conferred on Arghadeep Bharadwaj I BA (Hons) Economics, representing Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry of India.
- Verbal Mention was awarded to Ishan Sabharwal I BS (Hons) in Finance, Economics & Data Analytics, representing Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

## **In Breaking Bid**

Second Place was secured by Kiranadhitya II BA (Hons) Economics and Sai Anirudh M. I BS (Hons) in Finance, Economics & Data Analytics.

Participation in ECOTHRON'25 strengthened skills in debate, diplomacy, and quick decision-making, while offering valuable insights into the intersection of economic principles, international relations, and policy discussions. The experience also reinforced the importance of collaborative problem-solving under pressure, highlighting the discipline, leadership, and holistic growth nurtured at SSSIHL.



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Progress is possible only when  
individuals and institutions work  
together in a spirit of harmony.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 21,*  
19 November 1988

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# BLAZING NEW TRAILS: FROM BENCH TO MARKET



# From Spark to Scale: How SSSIHL Is Forging Innovation That Serves

Prof. Pallav Kumar Baruah, Dean of Innovation and Entrepreneurship & President, IIC

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) has long nurtured a distinctive kind of graduate—one who doesn't wait to be told what needs doing. This is not by chance, but by design.

For decades, the university has operated what it calls “self-reliance departments”, where every student takes responsibility for an essential facet of campus or hostel life. A first-year may manage the library; a senior, the mess operations. On the surface, these tasks seem ordinary. Yet their transformative effect is profound. Students learn initiative without instruction, discipline without supervision, and the quiet humility of service. Gradually, they stop seeing themselves as passive recipients of

education—and begin to see themselves as its stewards, contributors, and builders.

Now, this foundational principle is scaling in transformative ways. The same self-reliance that teaches a student to manage a dormitory wing is now driving a comprehensive innovation ecosystem—one that moves research from university labs into real-world enterprises solving real human problems. This is the story of how ownership becomes entrepreneurship, and how a university rooted in service is creating innovation pathways that never lose sight of their purpose.



## **When Research Stays in the Lab, It Becomes an Expensive Futility**

Bhagawan's words ring with timeless clarity:

"The scientific knowledge we acquire today must be used for the benefit of fellowmen. Unless the results of research are applied in practice, it will be an expensive futility."

For years, SSSIHL produced exceptional research—faculty published, students excelled. Yet, something remained unfulfilled: the journey from discovery to deployment. Brilliant ideas earned applause in journals and at conferences, but too often never reached those who needed them most.

The realisation was uncomfortable, but vital. If SSSIHL was to truly embody its mission of service, it needed more than talent—it needed infrastructure. Structures to translate knowledge into tangible solutions. A bridge between insight and impact.

This led to the establishment of the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), a structural commitment to embed innovation into the university's DNA. The mandate was clear: move beyond isolated efforts. Build mechanisms for problem discovery, feasibility assessment, intellectual property awareness—and most crucially, shift mindsets from research for publication to research for application.

And so, the transformation began. Faculty began asking, "Who will benefit?" Students started viewing their

work through the lens of impact. But inspiration alone is not enough.

## **Ideas Need Structure—Not Just Encouragement**

Enter Sparklab—a response designed not just to ignite ideas, but to shape them. These cohort-based, milestone-driven programmes take raw concepts and add rigor: transforming insights into problem-solution narratives, grounding innovation in market validation, and teaching the fundamentals of pitching, business modeling, and user-centric design.

Sparklab evolved rapidly—offering general cohorts, fast-track paths, and theme-specific bootcamps open to students, faculty, alumni, and even external innovators. The promise was never a guaranteed startup. It was preparedness. Participants left not just with ideas, but with the understanding of what building something real demands.

Sparklab became the university's innovation pipeline—nurturing ideas until they were ready for the next stage. But as volume and ambition grew, a new gap emerged. Ideation worked. Validation worked. Execution at scale did not.

Turning a concept into a company requires far more than passion. It demands resources, governance, regulatory expertise, and access to funding—capabilities beyond the reach of a university innovation council.

A council can inspire. An institution can execute.

### **In 2025: The Birth of SSSRIF—An Engine for Innovation**

That vision materialised in 2025 with the launch of the **Sri Sathya Sai Research and Innovation Foundation (SSSRIF)**—a Section 8 company with full functional autonomy, a dedicated governing board, and deep alignment with SSSIHL’s values and social mission.

SSSRIF was designed as a complete build-protect-fund-launch engine:

- **Build:** Company formation, proof-of-concept validation, prototyping.
- **Protect:** IP strategy, regulatory compliance, ethical oversight.
- **Fund:** Access to grants, CSR partnerships, angel networks, and venture capital.
- **Launch:** Market pilots, strategic alliances, and scale enablement.

Within months, dozens of startups entered incubation. Research ready for commercialisation found its path forward. A dynamic mentor-investor network—drawn from alumni and industry leaders—began to take shape. Specialised bootcamps launched in healthcare, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, clean tech, fintech, and deep science. Bio-incubation initiatives leveraged the university’s advanced labs and clinical partnerships.

The ecosystem was functioning. Ideas were progressing. Early successes began to emerge. And yet, one challenge remained the most daunting.

### **Scaling: The Hardest Frontier**

Ideation works. Incubation works. Early acceleration works. But scaling—especially for deep-tech, biotech, or manufacturing-linked ventures—remains brutally difficult.

Startups that survive early stages often stall not due to lack of merit, but due to missing infrastructure: pilot manufacturing units, supply chain access, skilled workforce at scale, and—above all—patient capital that understands long-horizon innovation. This realisation brought SSSIHL back to its first principle: If every good idea deserves a chance at impact, the ecosystem cannot stop at incubation. It must go further.

### **An Integrated Operating System: Spark to Scale**

What’s needed is an end-to-end innovation ecosystem—one that guides an idea from spark to scale, from conception through startup formation to globally impactful enterprise. Traditional institutions respond by building “Innovation Parks.” But Prasanthi Nilayam is unlike India’s urban startup hubs. Its rural setting presents unique challenges—yet also rare opportunities.

The answer lies in integration.

An ecosystem that interweaves:

- University education and research,
- Innovation in sister institutions under the Central Trust (healthcare, education),
- IIC-led ideation and Sparklab programmes,



- SSSRIF’s incubation and acceleration,
- And critically, industrial-scale infrastructure for pilot manufacturing, logistics, and workforce development.

This is the *graduation problem* solved: helping startups evolve into scalable enterprises that create jobs, attract serious investment, and deliver measurable societal impact. This is not just about creating more startups.

It is about building **the capacity to scale the ones that matter**.

It is about ensuring deep-tech and biotech ventures—those with long development cycles—do not perish in the valley between prototype and production.

It’s about building pathways where innovation serves humanity—without losing its soul.

### **Co-Creation, Not Just Participation**

Such an ecosystem thrives only when stakeholders move from observers to builders.

- **Alumni** become market bridges, pilot sponsors, investors, and even board members—not just mentors.
- **Industry partners** bring real-world problems, validation pathways, and scale opportunities.
- **Researchers and students** think in terms of translation from day one—**purpose before perfection**.
- **Investors** commit patient capital aligned with impact, not just exits.

This is the invitation extended by Bhagawan’s timeless mission:

“Service to humanity is service to God.” Every innovation journey—from spark to scale—deserves attention.

But what it needs now is commitment—from everyone who believes good ideas deserve more than applause.

They deserve action.

They deserve pathways.

They deserve impact.

And at SSSIHL, that journey has only just begun.

# The Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) – Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning

The Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) at the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) stands as a dynamic catalyst for change, seamlessly integrating value-based education with cutting-edge innovation and entrepreneurship. Guided by the timeless vision of “Ātmano mokṣhārtham jagat hitāya cha” – For one's own liberation and for the welfare of the world – the IIC has cultivated a vibrant innovation ecosystem where academic excellence converges with societal impact.

This report highlights the transformative initiatives undertaken by the SSSIHL-IIC, including ideation challenges, hackathons, workshops, and startup incubation programmes that empower students to become socially conscious innovators and future-ready entrepreneurs.

## **SPARKLAB: Igniting the Entrepreneurial Spirit**

At the heart of the IIC's efforts lies SPARKLAB, the flagship Startup Incubation and Training Programme designed to nurture aspiring changemakers through a rigorous, eight-week immersive journey. SPARKLAB 1.0 and 2.0 have equipped cohorts of students with practical

tools, mentorship, and experiential learning to transform ideas into scalable, impact-driven ventures. Participants engage in a curated series of expert-led workshops delivered by seasoned industry leaders and academic pioneers. Key sessions include:

- ‘Lean Canvas Strategy’ by Dangeti Srinivasa Rao – equipping innovators with a structured approach to business modeling.
- ‘Crafting a High-Impact Minimal Viable Product (MVP)’ by Sai Prakash – guiding teams in building prototypes that solve real-world problems efficiently.
- ‘Designing and Defining Value Propositions’ by Dr L. Ganesh Kumar – sharpening the ability to articulate unique solutions with market relevance.

Additional workshops have deepened participants' understanding of entrepreneurial fundamentals such as:

- Problem Validation and Customer Discovery
- Market Research Methodologies
- Go-to-Market (GTM) Strategies

To strengthen technical capacity, SPARKLAB also includes training on Low-Code and Open-Source Platforms like Frappe and ERPNext, enabling students to build scalable digital

solutions with minimal technical overhead. Further, modules on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) help startups track growth, iterate effectively, and ensure long-term sustainability.

### **Empowering Women in Innovation: S<sup>3</sup> Initiative**

Recognising the need to foster gender-inclusive entrepreneurship, the IIC launched **S<sup>3</sup>: She Thinks, She Innovates, She Leads**—a specialised programme dedicated to nurturing female innovators. S<sup>3</sup> provides women students with tailored mentorship, skill-building workshops, and networking opportunities to overcome barriers and lead entrepreneurial ventures with confidence and impact.

### **A Culture of Innovation**

Beyond training, the SSSIHL-IIC promotes a culture of continuous innovation through regular ideation challenges, hackathons, and innovation fairs that encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and creative problem-solving. These platforms not only stimulate entrepreneurial thinking but also align innovations with national priorities and community needs.

### **Megathon: A National Innovation Drive**

Innovation drives at SSSIHL are further amplified by national-level challenges, most notably Megathon. Launched nationwide, Megathon is a massive innovation challenge that invites young minds across India to solve real-world

problems in Healthcare, Environment, and Energy.

The drive follows a structured six-phase roadmap: from initial ideation and regional hackathons to national consolidation and eventual incubation at the Sri Sathya Sai Research and Innovation Foundation (SSSRIF). With a goal to engage over 5,000 innovators, Megathon represents a significant movement to align technological advancement with national priorities.

### **Cultivating Applied Innovation: Student-Led Hackathons and Ideation Challenges at SSSIHL**

The culture of Hackathons and Ideation Challenges is deeply embedded in the student experience. Beyond the large-scale Megathon, student-led clubs organise localised technical events. SSSIHL-CODEX, the coding club, hosts 'Night of 100 Bugs,' a rigorous debugging competition, alongside AI and Machine Learning workshops. These events challenge students to apply their programming skills to solve complex logic problems. Other clubs like CHIPS & BYTES and the ALCHEMIST CLUB focus on hardware and chemical innovations, respectively, while the ARTHASHASTREE'S CLUB and PARYAVARAN CLUB drive ideation in social sciences and environmental sustainability. These challenges ensure that innovation is not just a theoretical concept but a practical, competitive exercise.

### **Bridging Academia and Industry: A Synopsis of Leadership and Startup Talks**



Start-up Talks and Leadership Sessions form a vital link to the industry. The Annual Startup Day celebrations, held every January, bring together luminaries from various fields. The 2024 and 2025 editions featured keynote addresses from figures such as Dr. V. Narayanan (Chairman, ISRO), Dr. R. Venkataramanan (CEO, Karkinos Healthcare), and Naveen Lakkur (Chief Innovation Coach). These leaders share insights on navigating the 'Valley of Death' in startup funding, the importance of 'Ethics in Technology,' and the role of universities in promoting entrepreneurship. The 'Innovation with a Purpose' podcast



series further extends these talks, featuring mentors and alumni who discuss how value-centered innovation can address global challenges.

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### **Student-Led Innovation as the Driving Force of SSSIHL-IIC's Success: Cultivating a Dynamic Ecosystem Through Curriculum Integration and Strategic Support**

Student Participation is the driving force behind the IIC's success. Current statistics show over 331 active student participants in IIC-led activities, with more than 1,500 students enrolled across various campuses. This participation is evident in the 'Student Led Innovations' showcase, which highlights projects ranging from health-tech diagnostics to sustainable agri-tech solutions. The SPARKLAB 2.0 immersion programme alone saw

16 selected teams pitching their ideas to expert panels, securing funding commitments and mentorship. By integrating innovation into the curriculum and providing platforms like the IPR Cell for patent filing, SSSIHL-IIC ensures that student ideas are protected and nurtured.

### **A Two-Arm Approach to Fostering Student Ventures**

Centrally, a symbiotic connection exists between the IIC (Institution's Innovation Council) and SSSRIF, where the IIC serves as the 'discovery and pre-incubation' arm that nurtures student ideation through programmes such as SPARKLAB and the SRiSHTI megathon, while SSSRIF acts as the 'incubation and acceleration' arm that matures these vetted ideas into legally registered, market-ready ventures.

### **SSSRIF's Mid-2025 Breakthroughs: Incubating Innovators, Partnering with Leaders, and Fueling Societal Transformation**

The Sri Sathya Sai Research and Innovation Foundation (SSSRIF) has reached several pivotal milestones, including the formal incubation of startups such as Saimeethya Foods, Shroom Technologies, and Ghar Ghar Gurukul in mid-2025, alongside a prestigious visit from the Chairman of ISRO and the signing of strategic MoUs with industry leaders such as Thermo Fisher Scientific, Virchow Biotech, and Promea Therapeutics.



This collaborative funnel ensures that the innovative sparks generated by students at the IIC are provided with professional infrastructure, funding, and industry linkages at SSSRIF necessary to achieve large-scale societal impact.

### **Innovation Anchored in Service: The SSSIHL-IIC Model**

In conclusion, the SSSIHL-IIC has created a holistic environment where innovation is anchored in service. Through its comprehensive workshops, the SPARKLAB, the nationwide Megathons and the collaborative efforts of its student clubs, IIC continues to nurture a generation of 'conscious entrepreneurs'. By blending technical excellence with human values, SSSIHL-IIC stands as a beacon for how educational institutions can lead India's transformation through purposeful innovation.



# SSSRIF: Building India's Most Distinctive Startup Hub

Mr Pavan Kumar T. L, Chief Executive Officer (CEO),  
Sri Sathya Sai Research and Innovation Foundation (SSSRIF)

## **How a Tier-3 Town in Andhra Pradesh Is Proving That Innovation Doesn't Need a Metro Zip Code**

Nestled in the quiet hills of Puttaparthi – a serene township of just 40,000 people in rural Andhra Pradesh, a quiet revolution is unfolding. Far from the neon-lit startup hubs of Bengaluru and Hyderabad, far from the venture capital circuits and tech parks, something profound is taking root. The **Sri Sathya Sai Research and Innovation Foundation (SSSRIF)**, the official innovation and incubation arm of the **Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL)**, is building a thriving entrepreneurship ecosystem in a place that, by conventional logic, “should not” be able to support one.

There are no subway stations buzzing with founder meetups. No chain cafes for pitch sessions over cappuccinos. No angel investors just a tweet away. Instead, there is purpose, Intention, Values, and a growing network of innovators proving that true innovation isn't confined by geography – it's fueled by mindset.

## **The Tier-3 Advantage: Innovation Born of Necessity**

Puttaparthi sits over 120 kilometers

from Bengaluru, disconnected from the urban sprawl that dominates India's startup imagination. To many, that distance spells isolation. To SSSRIF, it is a strategic advantage. Here, ecosystems do not emerge by accident. You cannot rely on serendipitous meetups or second-degree connections. Every mentorship, every partnership, every investor meeting must be deliberately cultivated.

That intentionality is now SSSRIF's superpower.

Under the leadership of CEO Pavan Kumar, the foundation has become a relentless connector – forging high-impact relationships with industry leaders, global institutions, and innovation champions across India and beyond. Regular visits to Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Chennai, and Bengaluru aren't just trips – they're ecosystem-building missions.

The result? A growing list of high-profile visitors to Puttaparthi: the Chairman of ISRO, senior officials from JICA, global executives from Thermo Fisher Scientific and AstraZeneca, fintech pioneers, and seasoned entrepreneurs. Each arrival is not just a visit – it's a node added to a network being built from the ground up.

## Infrastructure Where Others See Barriers

In a town where industrial parks are absent and talent pipelines seem scarce, SSSRIF has quietly constructed what once seemed impossible:

- **Over 20,000 square feet** of dedicated incubation space
- **₹50+ crores** worth of advanced equipment and research infrastructure
- Specialised labs for biotech, food science, sustainable materials, and digital innovation
- Dedicated guest housing for visiting founders, mentors, and experts

Most striking? The **Gokul Sai Magan guesthouse**, purpose-built to welcome ecosystem partners into the heart of Puttaparthi. When you are building from the margins, you cannot wait for the world to come to you – you have to *invite* it in.

And recognising that distance still matters, SSSRIF is establishing a strategic presence in **Whitefield, Bengaluru** – not as an escape from Puttaparthi, but as a **bridge**. Startups incubate in the calm, values-driven environment of rural Andhra, then scale with seamless access to investors, markets, and industry networks in India's startup capital.

## A Different Kind of Incubator: Where Values Shape Innovation

Walk into SSSRIF, and you will see the tools of a modern innovation hub: sleek workspaces, prototyping labs, agile workstations. But stay a while, and

you will notice something different. Every startup evaluated here is assessed not only on market potential or technical viability, but on value alignment – rooted in the timeless teachings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba:

- Sathya (Truth)
- Dharma (Righteousness)
- Shanti (Peace)
- Prema (Love)
- Ahimsa (Non-Violence)

These are not just philosophical ideals – they are selection criteria, mentorship frameworks, and success metrics. SSSRIF's mission – "Innovation with Purpose, Research with Responsibility" – is not a slogan. It is a filter. Can this venture solve real problems? Will it uplift underserved communities? Can it scale without compromising ethics? If the answer to any of these is "no", the foundation walks away – no matter how promising the returns. And in an era defined by burnout, "growth at all costs", and ethical compromises, this values-first model is becoming a competitive advantage. Founders are increasingly seeking spaces where ambition and integrity coexist. SSSRIF has built one.

## From Lab Bench to Real-World Impact

**Since its inception, SSSRIF has:**

- Incubated 30+ startups
- Trained 500+ entrepreneurs
- Partnered with institutions across India and abroad
- Bridged the gap between academic research and scalable social impact

Its portfolio tells a story of inclusive innovation:

- **Padmakriti Innovations** – revolutionising nutrition and food tech
- **Mantrana Healthcare Technology** – building affordable diagnostic tools for rural India
- **Sai Gayatri Foods** – modernising traditional cuisine with food safety and scalability
- **Ghar Ghar Gurukul** – reimagining prenatal and early childhood development
- **Nimmalakunta Leather Puppet Artisans** – preserving a 2,300-year-old shadow puppetry tradition

Yes – preserving ancient art forms is innovation too. Because at SSSRIF, impact isn't measured only in revenue, but in cultural continuity and community dignity. Even global professional services are taking notice. Oasis Accountants, a UK-based firm, chose Puttaparthi as its India expansion hub – not for cost savings alone, but for alignment with an ecosystem where doing business well means doing good.



### **Beyond Campus Walls: Open, Inclusive, Grounded**

Though anchored in SSSIHL, SSSRIF is not an academic silo. It actively welcomes students, faculty, professionals, and

grassroots innovators from across the country – if their mission aligns with its values.

Its focus areas reflect a deep commitment to societal transformation:

- Clean, decentralised energy
- Nutrition and food science
- Sustainable packaging and materials
- Rural and community-scale technology
- Affordable healthcare and diagnostics
- Value-based digital platforms

These are not “trendy” sectors. They are mission-critical domains – addressing the urgent needs of villages, cities, and ecosystems across India.

Through strategic MoUs with institutions such as Visvesvaraya Technological University (VRIF), BESTIU, and others, SSSRIF is creating pathways for knowledge exchange, resource sharing, and national collaboration.

### **Building a Different Ecosystem – By Design**

SSSRIF isn't trying to be Bengaluru. It doesn't want to be Hyderabad. It's creating something **entirely new**: a retreat-like innovation sanctuary where founders can think deeply, work meaningfully, and grow without distraction.

As one of SSSRIF's recent LinkedIn posts wisely observed:

*“The best partnerships aren't always signed in meetings. They're celebrated over a good game of cricket.”*





That was the spirit of the Sri Sathya Sai Unity Cup – a cricket tournament that brought together industry leaders, investors, and founders. In a tier-3 town, community isn't a programme – it's a way of life.

The foundation is now expanding its footprint across SSSIHL's multi-campus network:

- Anantapur Campus: A hub for women-led entrepreneurship, leveraging available land for sustainable ventures
- Brindavan Campus (near Bengaluru): A strategic hybrid node – close enough for industry engagement, far enough for focus and reflection

Under Pavan Kumar's leadership – supported by a passionate ELT team and a global network of alumni volunteers – SSSRIF is redefining what remote incubation can be.

It's not about overcoming limitations. It's about reimagining the possibilities of place.

### **A New Blueprint for Indian Innovation: SSSRIF isn't just building startups.**

It is building a new model of innovation – one where values drive ventures, purpose powers progress, and rural India becomes a frontier of the future.

In a country where the next big thing is often assumed to be coming from a Bengaluru coworking space or a Delhi-NCR pitch deck, SSSRIF stands as quiet but powerful proof:

The most transformative ideas do not need a metro address.

They need courage, clarity, and a community that believes.

And sometimes, that community is found not in the noise of the city – but in the stillness of Puttaparthi.

### **Programmes That Build, Not Just Fund: How SSSRIF is Creating a Purpose-Driven Innovation Ecosystem from the Ground Up**

The Sri Sathya Sai Research and Innovation Foundation (SSSRIF) operates on a simple but powerful premise: true innovation is nurtured, not just financed. Located in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh, the foundation is proving that a world-class startup ecosystem can be built far from the metro hubs, grounded in values and focused on creating tangible impact.

### **Beyond the Balance Sheet: A Hands-On Approach to Growth**

SSSRIF's support system goes far beyond capital. The foundation offers a comprehensive suite of programmes designed to guide ventures from idea to scale:

**SparkLab Cohorts:** These intensive programmes immerse participants in hands-on problem-solving, using structured design thinking and rapid prototyping. The recent SparkLab 2.0 valedictory event was a testament to their success, with students, faculty,

and innovators presenting solutions born from focused collaboration.

- **Expert Mentorship:** Ventures are connected with seasoned domain experts who provide guidance forged by real-world experience. Recent sessions have featured professionals from diverse fields, including actuarial science, the food industry, healthcare, and traditional artisan crafts.
- **Research Commercialisation:** SSSRIF helps faculty and student researchers bridge the gap between academic journals and real-world application. The foundation supports field pilots, intellectual property (IP) creation, and market deployment. A prime example is the Sri Sathya Sai Biobank & Research Hub, an initiative positioning Andhra Pradesh on the global research map through the systematic study of biological samples.
- **Business Accelerator Programme (BAP):** For growth-stage companies ready to scale, the BAP provides targeted support. Recent associates include 99italics (insurtech), Sai Ganga Panakeia (integrative healthcare), and other ventures in fintech and technology services.

### **Tangible Triumphs: From Academic Papers to Global Recognition**

The impact of this hands-on approach is undeniable. Dr Bulagonda Eswarappa Pradeep, SSSRIF Director, recently won gold at an international

competition for his groundbreaking work in antimicrobial resistance detection. Incubatees are also gaining national and international acclaim: WonderLend Hubs was featured in the CB Insights FinTech 100 League Table, and Oasis Accountants won the ACCA India Excellence in Finance Transformation Award 2025. Perhaps the most powerful validation came when the Chairman of ISRO, during a campus visit, stopped specifically to hear the story of Saimeethya Foods, an SSSRIF incubatee. The moment underscored a core belief: that startups from values-first ecosystems can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with ventures from anywhere.



### **The "Tier-3 Thesis": Redefining India's Innovation Map**

SSSRIF's work is built on a bold "Tier-3 Thesis". The foundation faces the inherent challenges of building an ecosystem from scratch in a tier-3 location—every connection is deliberate, every resource is optimised, and every success is amplified to inspire the next wave of innovators.

But these challenges are also its greatest strength. In an era where "move fast and break things" has shown its limits, SSSRIF offers an alternative: build with intention, grow with values, and create ventures that serve communities. This

philosophy is not just an internal mantra; it echoes in the foundation's public communications. Its LinkedIn feed consistently documents real progress—new incubatees, industry mentorships, and heritage crafts finding new markets—rather than chasing funding hype.

The foundation is proving that innovation ecosystems do not require tier-1 infrastructure; they require committed leadership, clear values, and systematic execution. Tier-3 towns can compete not by becoming cheap replicas of Bangalore, but by offering something Bangalore cannot: the space to think deeply, freedom from fleeting trends, and a profound alignment with purpose.

### **Join the Movement**

As India's startup ecosystem matures and decentralises, SSSRIF's model becomes increasingly vital. It offers a blueprint for founders who want to solve real problems without compromising their principles, and for investors seeking ventures that balance impact with returns.

Located at the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning in Puttaparthi, SSSRIF welcomes applications from innovators, researchers, and entrepreneurs who share its mission of innovation with purpose. For anyone who believes India's next great chapter will be written in its smaller towns and communities, SSSRIF stands as living proof that it is already happening—one purpose-built venture at a time.



# From Research to Real Life: Padmakriti Innovations, a StartUp from SSSIHL

Innovation at SSSIHL seamlessly blends academic rigour with societal relevance. One such endeavour is Padmakriti Innovations Pvt. Ltd., a research-driven startup that has taken shape from decades of research within the academic environment of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) and is incubated at the Sri Sathya Sai Research and Innovation Foundation (SSSRIF).

Padmakriti Innovations operates through its consumer-facing brand, 9 to 6 Foods, inspired by the natural rhythm of life from sunrise to sunset. This concept rooted in traditional wisdom and supported by modern nutrition science guides the brand's focus on mindful consumption, sustained energy, and holistic well-being. The brand's message, "It's Time for Wellness," emphasises preventive health through everyday food choices. It focuses on using natural ingredients with a penchant for clean labeling.

The startup's products originated from rigorous research conducted at the Nutrition Biology Lab, under the supervision of Prof. N. Srividya, Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences, SSSIHL. This strong academic foundation ensures that the products are research-led rather than



trend-driven.

The journey started with the team winning the Tomato Grand Challenge in 2024 for tomato-aloe based ready-to-serve wellness beverages and securing a grant for taking the proof of concept to higher TRL. The transition towards commercialisation through 9 to 6 Foods marks an important step in extending the benefits of institutional research beyond the laboratory and into everyday lives.

At the core of the startup lies its guiding framework:

S.A.I. – Science, Application, and Innovation.

Science ensures that all products are grounded in evidence-based research and nutritional validation.

Application focuses on translating laboratory research into practical, convenient, and scalable food solutions. Innovation reflects the responsible use of modern food technologies to make nutrition both effective and accessible.



Two more product concepts developed by team AvinyaVed submitted through the IIC, have been selected for the 3rd phase of Yukti Innovation Challenge and AICTE Productisation Fellowship, that would be taken up by our startup for commercialisation.

Inspired by the teachings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Padmakriti Innovations views food as a form of service—nourishing the body, mind, and spirit. This initiative is offered as a humble contribution on the occasion of the Centenary Celebrations, reflecting a commitment to value-based innovation.



Founded by Prof. N. Srividya and Ms Mounika Pandey, Padmakriti Innovations continues to grow with a focus on conscious innovation, service-oriented entrepreneurship, and nutritional well-being.

# Visit of Mr Matsumoto Katsuo, Vice-President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL), Prasanthi Nilayam Campus, hosted Mr. Matsumoto Katsuo, Vice-President, JICA, on 9th December 2025. He was accompanied by:

- Mr Vipul Mishra, Senior Development Specialist, JICA
- Mr Shogo Suzuki, JICA Representative

The visit sought to familiarise the delegation with the Sri Sathya Sai Values-based Integral Education Model and provide them with an opportunity to experience the campus environment and interact with members of the academic community. It also served as a valuable occasion for the SSSIHL fraternity to gain a deeper understanding of the mandate of JICA and the significance of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) initiatives in India, thereby broadening their exposure to global development frameworks.

The event was attended by Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad, Vice-Chancellor; Dr Srikanth Khanna, Registrar; Dr R. Raghunatha Sarma, Director, Prasanthi Nilayam Campus, Mr Pavan Kumar,



CEO, SSSRIF, Deans, and senior faculty members, along with the student and research scholar community.

## **Integral Education at SSSIHL**

Dr Suma Rao, Associate Professor, Dept of Management & Commerce, and Chairperson, Centre for Sri Sathya Sai Studies, presented the vision and framework of Sri Sathya Sai Values-based Integral Education. She emphasised character development, value-based learning, and the



harmonious integration of the head, heart, and hands, highlighting SSSIHL's commitment to offering completely free education to all students as a core expression of its mission of selfless service.

### **Research & Innovation at SSSIHL**

Prof. Pallav Kumar Baruah, Dean, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, highlighted the university's research ecosystem, state-of-the-art facilities, interdisciplinary research culture, and meaningful societal impact.



### **Visit to the Central Research Instruments Facility (CRIF)**

The delegation visited CRIF for an overview of:

- Advanced instrumentation and analytical capabilities
- Ongoing research activities across sciences and engineering
- SSSIHL's commitment to high-impact, socially relevant research

The guests expressed appreciation for the cutting-edge infrastructure and the institute's emphasis on integrating values with scientific excellence.

### **Keynote Address by Mr Matsumoto Katsuo**

Mr Matsumoto delivered a thought-provoking address on "Introduction to Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to India by Japan International Cooperation Agency", covering:

- Japan's global development philosophy
- JICA's long-standing partnership with India
- Key ODA-supported sectors such as sustainability, infrastructure, education, and health

The session concluded with an engaging interaction between the speaker and the audience, followed by a vote of thanks acknowledging the delegation's valuable insights and contributions.



### **Key Outcomes of the Visit**

- Strengthened understanding of JICA's developmental priorities
- Valuable exposure for students and faculty to global development frameworks
- Reinforcement of SSSIHL's commitment to values-driven education and research for social good.

# AI/GenAI, Cloud-Native Bootcamp & Art of Possible AI

Bootcamps not just provide the participants with theoretical insights and its applications, but also guide them towards responsible, ethical and socially impactful innovation. Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) organised one such bootcamp titled AI/GenAI & Cloud-Native Bootcamp on the 14th and 21st of September 2025 at the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus. It enabled over 135 unique, socially-impactful AI-driven project ideas across multiple domains, ensuring that participants could envision how advanced AI tools could be used in alignment with human values, ethics, and practical applications.

The bootcamp was an intensive, hands-on programme designed for faculty, research scholars, and students, serious about innovation, conducted over two Sundays, totaling 15+ hours of engagement. The sessions were expertly led by a team of distinguished professionals from SAP:

- Mr Sundaresan Krishnamurthy (Chief Development Architect, AI/GenAI)
- Mr Rajeev Gollapudi (Chief Product Manager)
- Ms Abirami Sundaresan (Product Expert)

The presence of experienced trainers from industry further ensured that the sessions combined academic rigour with real-world practical orientation.



The curriculum was structured to provide a holistic understanding from foundational ethics to advanced technical implementation. From the sessions, the following learning outcomes were achieved:

## Foundation and Ideation

- **AI Ethics and Responsibility:**  
Artificial Intelligence has a dual-use nature. Just like a knife can be used by a surgeon to save lives or by a criminal to harm others, AI too can be deployed for either beneficial or harmful purposes. This analogy highlighted the urgent need for responsibility in AI development and deployment. The discussion covered how AI systems can replicate almost everything, which makes them powerful but also risky. For instance, while replicating beneficial outputs such as research summaries or diagnostic suggestions may aid humanity, the same creativity could be misused for

harmful objectives like designing dangerous weapons. Participants were guided to think critically about issues such as personal data privacy, data protection, and the necessity for individuals to exercise caution about where and how their personal data is shared. Concrete examples such as avoiding sharing sensitive documents like Aadhaar copies online were discussed in detail.

#### • **AI Development & Quality**

**Assurance:** Not all problems should be solved using AI. Sometimes, a manual solution is more efficient, economical, and manageable. Participants were shown how AI models GPT are powerful but prone to mistakes. Hence, it is not enough to generate quick answers; instead, focus should be placed on generating useful, reliable, and accurate answers. Techniques such as allowing AI systems to use additional resources (like research papers), empowering AI to state when it cannot solve a problem, or validating outputs through multiple models were discussed. The role of fairness, bias removal, explainability, accountability, and transparency was emphasised as fundamental to any AI deployment, especially in critical sectors.

#### • **AI Tools and Customisation:**

Participants were given demonstrations of several AI tools including Custom GPTs, Prompt Engineering strategies, AI Coding Agents such as Claude, and Perplexity Pro for research, and Google Notebook for lecture processing. Each tool

was explained in terms of how it could be adapted for academic, research, and industrial use cases. The trainers highlighted the importance of prompt clarity, tool selection, and domain adaptation when customising AI systems.

**Practical AI Applications and Ideation:** Teams, during the sessions, worked on potential AI-driven projects. Ideas were presented across domains such as healthcare (Health apps with smartwatch integration), cybersecurity (fraud and deepfake detection), economics and finance (personal task managers for financial planning), e-commerce (detection of fake reviews), agriculture (disease detection and organic remedies), cultural knowledge systems (Virtual Guru app disseminating ancient wisdom), and women empowerment (ecosystems for capital and skill access). The ideation session not only sparked creativity but also grounded participants in socially responsible innovation.

**WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN**

This is a hands-on, thought-provoking bootcamp designed for faculty, research scholars, and students who want to explore practical use cases of AI and Cloud Native technologies in their research, teaching, and daily work.

- ✓ Submit a real-world problem
- ✓ Learn from live demos: custom GPT, coding agents, and deployment tools
- ✓ Work in teams, build early solutions, and return with refined ideas
- ✓ Learn ethical, responsible AI usage for academia
- ✓ Get personal guidance from experienced industry professionals

**TRAINERS**

**Sundaresan Krishnamurthy**  
Chief Development, AI/ML/AI Agent Integration  
Lead AI, SAP Cloud ALM, Ecosystem Leader

**Rajeev Gollapudi**  
Chief Product Manager, SAP Product Management

**Abirami Sundaresan**  
Product Expert, SAP Product Development

Registration Now. Limited Seats available.  
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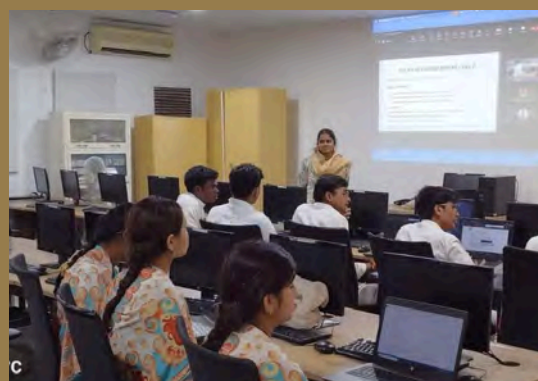
#### Deep Dive and Project Refinement

- AI Philosophy and Goals: The philosophy of AI, framed under the



theme, 'Art of Possible AI' positioned AI not as a replacement for human intelligence but as a collaborator that enhances human capabilities. Participants were encouraged to see AI as a partner for handling repetitive tasks, while humans should continue to focus on creativity, wisdom, and decision-making.

- **Core Technical Concepts:** The participants were introduced to several advanced concepts. Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) was explained as a method for grounding AI outputs with domain-specific content, thereby reducing hallucinations and increasing trustworthiness. Model Benchmarking was highlighted as a necessary practice to compare AI performance across models. Participants also revisited Prompt Engineering in detail, learning how careful definition of roles, contexts, objectives, and output formats can drastically improve AI performance.
- **Project Development & Validation:** A significant focus was placed on practical execution. Teams were guided on:
  - **Scoping:** Narrowing broad ideas into a minimal, viable Proof of Concept (PoC).
  - **Capability Framework:** Defining specific outcomes, data needs, and success metrics.
  - **Security:** Addressing data privacy through techniques such as in-app processing to avoid data collection.
- **Project Examples:** Several refined project examples across multiple sectors were also proposed. In

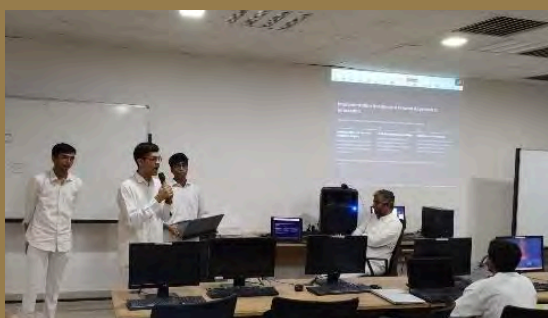


finance, AI-powered managers were proposed for personalised expense tracking and investment guidance. In cybersecurity, solutions were designed for scam detection and fraud prevention. In healthcare, smartwatch-based applications for real-time monitoring were discussed, while agriculture-focused models emphasised organic practices and ancient wisdom. The Virtual Guru app was further refined to provide cultural knowledge in a modern context, while women empowerment projects envisioned ecosystems of

training, capital, and mentorship.

### Key Outcomes and Impact

- **High-Quality Ideation:** The generation of 135+ ideas is a testament to the bootcamp's success in stimulating creative and applied thinking.
- **Socially Responsible Innovation:** A remarkable aspect of the ideas generated was their inherent focus on positive social impact, aligning with the institute's core values. Projects spanned critical areas such as:
  - **Healthcare:** Remote patient monitoring and support.
  - **Agriculture:** Organic disease detection and remedy.
  - **Cybersecurity:** Fraud and deepfake detection for the elderly.
  - **Women Empowerment:** Ecosystem for skill and capital access.
  - **Knowledge Systems:** Disseminating ancient wisdom through modern technology.
- **Bridging Academia and Industry:** The presence of SAP experts provided invaluable industry perspective, grounding academic learning in real-world commercial and ethical practices.



### Conclusion and Next Steps

The bootcamp successfully ignited a spark of innovation and provided participants with the initial toolkit to bring their ideas to life. The energy and quality of discourse over the two days were exceptional.

The logical next step, as indicated in the bootcamp, is to initiate a follow-up programme to help the most promising teams translate their ideas into functional prototypes or Minimum Viable Products (MVPs). We, the IIC would consider this as a key priority to capitalise on the momentum generated.

# MoU between MediQlogix LLC, SSSIHL, SSSRIF, and SSSIHMS-PG

On 4th September 2025, a significant step towards advancing healthcare research and innovation was taken when the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL), along with its innovation arm, the Sri Sathya Sai Research and Innovation Foundation (SSSRIF), entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with MediQlogix LLC, USA, and the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences, Prasanthi Gram (SSSIHMS-PG).

This MoU establishes a collaborative framework to advance healthcare research, innovation and technology development. The key focus areas of the collaboration include AI/ML-powered digital health systems, advanced diagnostics, clinical imaging, medical data transcription and analysis, predictive healthcare solutions, and cost-effectiveness studies. The partnership also provides unique opportunities for students, researchers, and clinicians to work alongside industry experts on real-world healthcare challenges, fostering impactful solutions for society.

The agreement was signed by Dr Srikanth Khanna, Registrar, SSSIHL; Mr T. L. Pavan Kumar, CEO, SSSRIF; Dr Gurumurthy, Director, SSSIHMS-PG; Dr Anil Kumar Mulpur, Joint Director, SSSIHMS-PG; and Mr Deepak Adoni, Founder and CEO, MediQlogix LLC.

The MoU was formally exchanged between Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad, Vice-Chancellor, SSSIHL; Mr Deepak Adoni, Founder and CEO, MediQlogix LLC; Dr Gurumurthy, Director, SSSIHMS-PG; and Mr T. L. Pavan Kumar, CEO, SSSRIF, in the presence of Dr Srikanth Khanna, Dr Anil Kumar Mulpur, and senior faculty members. By combining MediQlogix's expertise in healthcare technology with the academic and clinical strengths of SSSIHL, SSSRIF, and SSSIHMS-PG, this partnership seeks to redefine healthcare delivery and training, while upholding the highest standards of data privacy and ethics.



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Education finds fulfilment when  
knowledge, culture, and service  
move together in harmony.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks*, Vol. 21,  
19 November 1988

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**STUDENT CLUBS IN FOCUS:  
WHERE PASSION, LEARNING  
AND VALUES CONVERGE**



At Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL), across all Campuses, student life thrives not just in classrooms, but through a vibrant spectrum of student clubs and initiatives that foster creativity, leadership, environmental responsibility and spiritual growth. From environmental stewardship to music, dance and literature, students are actively shaping a campus culture that blends knowledge, values and service.

### **The Paryavaran Initiative: Where Nature Meets Values**

Functioning under the Green Cell of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL), the Paryavaran Club is a student-led initiative committed to environmental

stewardship and sustainable living. Anchored in the guiding principle “Nisargah Mitram Jivanasya”—Nature is the true friend of life, the club seeks to nurture ecological awareness and collective responsibility.

The club’s journey began on Independence Day, 15th August 2025, with a plantation drive across the campus and hostels, symbolising gratitude to Mother Nature.



Extending its green mission beyond campus, a Village Outreach Programme was organised at Yenumallapalli on 17th August 2025, fostering community engagement through sapling plantation. In alignment with the theme “Ayurveda for People & Planet”, the *Paryavaran* Club, in collaboration with the Alchemist Club, observed the 10th Ayurveda Day on 23rd September 2025 by organising a medicinal plantation drive on campus. Approximately twenty medicinal plants, including Tulsi, Bryophyllum, and other traditional species, were planted to raise awareness about Ayurveda’s holistic approach to health and its intrinsic connection with nature. The initiative emphasised the role

of medicinal plants in promoting natural healing while preserving biodiversity. The joint participation of members from both clubs symbolised unity in purpose and a shared commitment toward a greener and healthier future.

### **Wands, Words, and Wonders: A Book Club Session on Fantasy Literature**

The Book Club of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Anantapur Campus, began the academic year 2025–2026 with a session titled “*Fantasy – Wands, Words, and Wonders*” on 25th July 2025 at the Campus Library. The event brought together faculty

members and students to celebrate the imaginative richness and lasting relevance of fantasy literature.

The session opened with remarks by Ms Bhairi Sai Vallika, I Year MBA student, who reflected on the power of storytelling to evoke wonder and introspection.

Dr U. Suma Rao, Associate Professor, Department of Management and Commerce, spoke on *Other Worlds*, an anthology edited by Hema Macherla, and offered insights into contemporary reading practices, stressing the importance of nurturing imagination in a fast-paced digital age.

The discussion was further enriched by Ms Meghana Srinivas

Mandalappu, Research Scholar, Department of Languages and Literature, who explored archetypes in fantasy narratives through Carl Jung's concept of the collective unconscious.

Student presentations added depth to the session. Ms Uttara Ramaswamy, a student of II Year BA (Hons) English, spoke on the philosophical and spiritual, leaving participants inspired to read and reflect more deeply. across dimensions of *The Lord of the Rings*, Ms Sai Saraswathi M., student of II Year BS (Chemistry), examined the enduring appeal of the "Chosen One" trope. A lively Harry Potter–Narnia crossover quiz conducted by Ms Sirigireddy Veda Varshini and Ms Varshini Shree, both II BCom(Hons) students engaged the audience.

The session was a celebration of the power of imagination and the importance of reading.



### **Saaz-e-Dil: Blending Melody, Discipline, and Devotion**

Saaz-e-Dil, the cultural domain club of the Department, began functioning in July 2025 as a student-led initiative guided by a faculty mentor. The club provides a vibrant platform for nurturing musical talent while promoting cultural awareness.

The club regularly organises musical programmes during campus prayer sessions and on special occasions such as Independence Day, Republic Day, hostel events, and other Institute functions. These performances across diverse musical genres offer students valuable opportunities to showcase their skills and gain confidence before live audiences.







The primary objective of Saaz-e-Dil is to encourage creativity, discipline, and collaborative learning through sustained performance opportunities. Student participation in both performance and organisation enhances leadership, teamwork, and stage confidence.



Students have reported improved musical skills, increased self-confidence, and greater creative engagement. Notably, students and teachers associated with Saaz-e-Dil have rendered six musical programmes in the Divine Presence at Sai Kulwant Hall, Prasanthi Nilayam, since July 2024.

## The Alchemist Club: Fostering Curiosity and Scientific Excellence

Established in August 2024 under the Department of Chemistry at SSSIHL, the Alchemist Club is a student-led initiative dedicated to nurturing scientific curiosity, promoting awareness about chemistry, and encouraging interdisciplinary learning. The club engages students through guest lectures, hands-on experiments, discussions, exhibitions, and awareness programmes, making chemistry accessible, interactive, and relevant.

The club organised an industrial and research exposure visit to Hyderabad, visiting Aragen, ARCI, DRILS, IICT, TIFR-H, and T-Hub, providing insights into pharmaceuticals and nanomaterials.

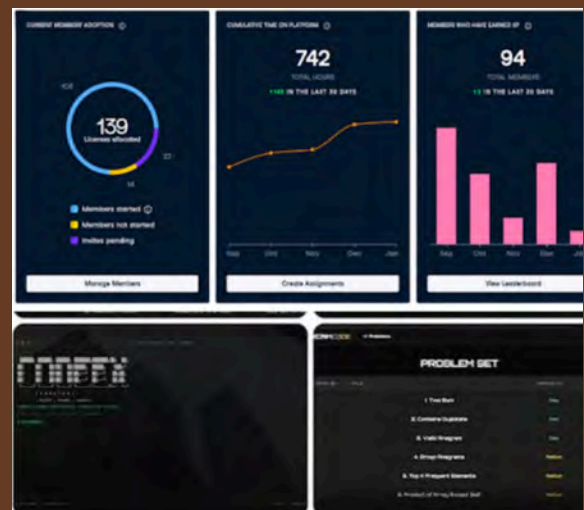


## Driving Technical Excellence and Innovation: CODEEX at SSSIHL

Founded on August 9, 2025, CODEEX is a student-led initiative under the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science (DMACS), empowering students in AI, Software Engineering, and Computing. The club's vision is to foster an ecosystem where technical expertise meets values-driven discipline, nurturing problem solvers and future leaders. CODEEX promotes high-engagement learning, partnering with DataCamp to guide members from programming foundations to advanced systems design. In the last six months, 103 members

logged 742 learning hours and completed 1,083 learning units, with advanced assessments benchmarking AI and Systems Engineering skills.

The club has earned national recognition from the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), maintains a LinkedIn network of 200+ professionals, and hosts tutorials on its YouTube channel. The upcoming CODEEX website will serve as a central hub for collaboration, coding challenges, and live events. Through Bug Week, Hackathons, and research projects in AI, healthcare, and imaging, CODEEX is shaping SSSIHL students into the next generation of technology leaders.



## Prasanthi Dance Club: A Journey of Devotion through Movement

The Prasanthi Dance Club of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam Campus, is a vibrant expression of devotion, culture, and artistic discipline. Rooted in the spiritual ethos of the campus, the club presents dance as a medium of seva through sādhanā, blending classical precision with devotional fervour to transform every performance into an offering at the Divine Lotus Feet. Established in June 2006 by the Founder Chancellor, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Club has grown into a student-led

platform dedicated to preserving and promoting Indian classical and folk dance while spreading Bhagawan's message of love, unity, and service.

In 2025, the club offered several significant performances. On 8th March, devotional Bharatanatyam recitals on the Shiva Panchakshari and Ardhanareeswara Stotrams immersed audiences in spiritual depth. Under the Shivarpanam programme on 25th July, classical and fusion performances celebrating Lord Ganesha showcased artistry, energy, and devotion. Freshers made their debut during Ganesh Chaturthi on 27th August, while the Durgashtami dance drama "Janani Jagath Kaarini" on 30th September brought



alive the triumph of good over evil. Through these offerings, the Prasanthi Dance Club continues to inspire devotion, nurture talent, and unite hearts, making each performance a prayer in motion—an elegant synthesis of art, tradition, and spiritual expression.

### **From Teachings to Transformation: Inside the Vachanamrutham Club**

Inspired by the divine mission of Samskarana Udyamam –the noble movement of inner transformation, the Vachanamrutham Club was established to study, reflect upon, and live by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's nectarine teachings.

The club provides a spiritual platform where students engage deeply with Sai literature through discussions, satsangs, and reflective sessions, fostering devotion, self-inquiry, moral integrity, and inner growth. Throughout the year, members participated in fortnightly presentations, foyer sessions, and

satsangs on themes such as ceiling on desires, the power of prayer, and dealing with bad habits the Sai Way. Special initiatives such as the Shirdi Sai Charitra Saptaha and the daily Sai Sandesham offer inspiration, guiding students to translate Swami's wisdom into meaningful action.

Through collective learning, heartfelt sharing, and disciplined practice, the Vachanamrutham Club nurtures a vibrant spiritual community, encouraging students not only to study Swami's teachings but to live them, transforming knowledge into wisdom and devotion into action.



### **Arthashastree's Club**

Arthashastree's Club is a student-led academic forum for economics enthusiasts under the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL).

During the last semester, the club actively engaged students in discussions and learning initiatives centered on economics, public policy, and interdisciplinary perspectives. Drawing inspiration from the foundation laid by the department in 2001 under the leadership of Prof. Vishwanath Pandit, the club continues to function as a platform where economic theory is meaningfully connected to real-world issues.



An important issue discussed during the session was gender disparity in school education. The speaker emphasised that while infrastructure development is necessary, it is not sufficient on its own. Meaningful change requires behavioural transformation at the societal level to ensure equal access and opportunities for both boys and girls in education.

### **Academic and Policy Engagements**

A major focus of the semester was public policy and governance. The webinar titled "The Landscape of Public Policy", delivered by Sri Karan Pareek, Consultant at the Amravati Municipal Corporation, provided students with a practical understanding of policymaking at the local level. The session examined the interaction between society, markets, and government, while highlighting key pillars of effective public policy such as legal frameworks, infrastructure, incentives, public awareness, and crisis management.

The policy discourse was further enriched by a session conducted by Ms Vaishu Rai, Consultant at the Office of the Deputy Leader of Opposition, Parliament of India. She offered valuable insights into the functioning of policy institutions and stressed the importance of stakeholder empathy, data literacy, and clear, action-oriented communication. Students were also guided on building a strong policy portfolio and developing professional habits essential for a career in public policy.

### **Interdisciplinary and Contemporary Perspectives**

To encourage interdisciplinary thinking, Arthashastree's Club organised a webinar on the intersection of climate change, law, and economics, delivered by Dr Sairam Bhat, Professor of Law at NLSIU. The session highlighted how climate change can be approached as a complex policy challenge requiring integrated legal and economic solutions, encouraging students to adopt a multidimensional perspective. A significant academic milestone of the semester was the inaugural Prof. Vishwanath Pandit Memorial Lecture, delivered by Prof. S. Mahendra Dev, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council

to the Prime Minister of India. His lecture on "Future of India: Growth, Inclusiveness and Sustainability" offered critical insights into India's development challenges, policy priorities, and long-term growth prospects. The lecture served as a fitting tribute to Prof. Vishwanath Pandit's legacy as a distinguished economist and academic leader.

### **Capacity Building and Data-Driven Learning**

The club also focused on student development through the workshop "Clarity to Career: Structured Goal-Setting for Tomorrow's Leaders", conducted by Ms Poonam Mahtolia. The

workshop introduced practical frameworks such as SMART goals, IKIGAI, SWOT analysis, and prioritisation techniques, helping students gain clarity in academic planning and career decision-making.

In addition, a session on the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and the Political Economy of Education in India, delivered by Dr Abhishek Singh, Professor and Head, Department of Public Health and Mortality Studies, International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), highlighted the importance of evidence-based policymaking. The discussion examined public health indicators, gender equity, and educational access,

while drawing attention to persistent disparities despite improvements in enrollment and coverage.

### **Conclusion**

Throughout the semester, Arthashastree's Club successfully fostered critical inquiry, interdisciplinary dialogue, and real-world policy engagement. Through its diverse academic initiatives, the club reaffirmed its mission of making economics a practical, relevant, and transformative discipline for students.

At SSSIHL, learning goes far beyond textbooks. Through a spectrum of student clubs and initiatives, from environmental stewardship and scientific exploration to music, dance, literature, and spiritual reflection, students are shaping themselves into well-rounded, responsible, and compassionate individuals. Here, creativity meets discipline, curiosity meets values, and service meets action. Whether planting a sapling, performing a devotional dance, cracking a coding challenge, or reflecting on timeless teachings, students are actively living the Institute's mission: to harmonise knowledge, service, and character. In every initiative, SSSIHL's students are not just participants, but change makers, storytellers, and custodians of a brighter, more mindful future.



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No act is small when it is done with  
love and a sense of responsibility.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks*, Vol. 18,  
20 November 1985

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**CAMPUS PULSE:**  
**COME TO LEARN,**  
**GO TO SERVE.**



# World Heart Day 2025

World Heart Day 2025 was observed with great enthusiasm at Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi, marking a meaningful step towards spreading awareness about heart health and cardiovascular well-being. The programme successfully reached a diverse audience, including local villagers, visiting pilgrims, and devotees from across the world.



The event was jointly organised by the World Heart Federation (WHF) in collaboration with the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) and the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences (SSSIHMS). Activities were conducted simultaneously at two venues—Sai Hira Global Convention Centre and the Double Decker Building—each serving a distinct yet complementary purpose.

Sai Hira Global Convention Centre hosted eminent delegates and medical experts who participated in a series of insightful conferences and discussions centred on heart health, preventive care, and contemporary medical advancements.

These sessions provided valuable insights into the growing concerns surrounding cardiovascular diseases and emphasised the importance of early diagnosis, lifestyle modification, and preventive interventions.

Concurrently, the Double Decker Building resonated with the vibrant participation of students. Learners from SEMS, SSSHSS, Sri Sathya Sai Schools, SSSIHL, and SSSIHMS showcased innovative scientific models and delivered detailed explanations on various aspects of heart health. Their presentations effectively simplified complex medical concepts, making them accessible and engaging for the general public.



For the students, participation in such a large-scale and socially relevant programme was a source of immense joy and pride. Engaging directly with villagers, visitors, and people from diverse backgrounds provided them with a unique opportunity to serve society through the dissemination of knowledge. The experience transcended academic learning, instilling a deep sense of fulfilment and responsibility towards community well-being.

Above all, the celebration beautifully embodied Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's universal message, "Love All, Serve All." World Heart Day 2025 at Prasanthi Nilayam thus stood not merely as an awareness initiative, but as a living expression of selfless service, compassion, and love for humanity.





# Celebrating India's Space Journey: National Space Day 2025 on the Anantapur Campus



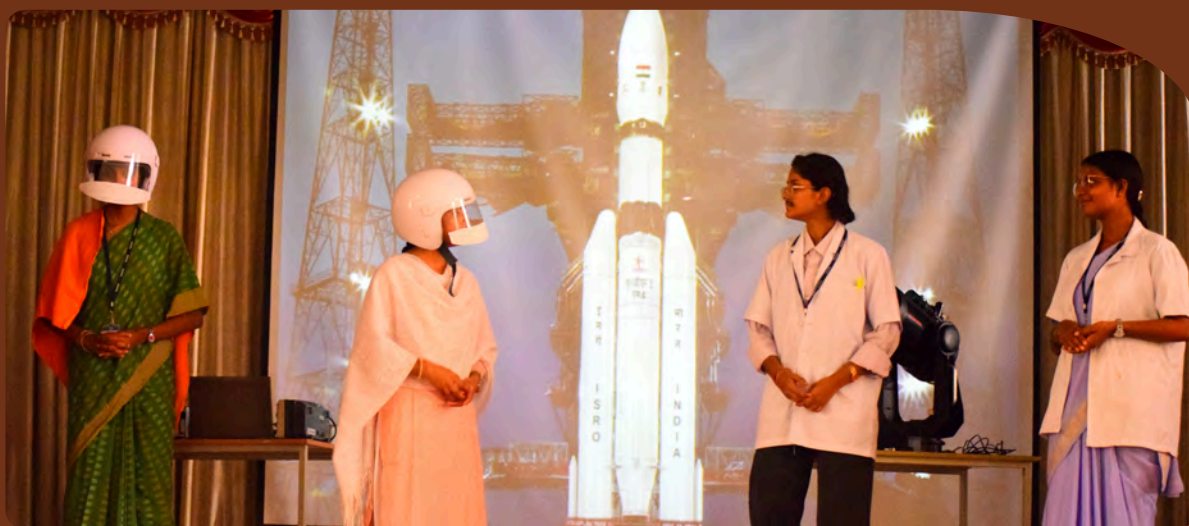
Our Bharat has made significant strides in the field of space exploration and technology, and in recognition of the historic accomplishment of the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 near the lunar south pole on 23rd August 2023, the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Sri. Narendra Modi, had declared 23rd August as “National Space Day”, with “Touching Lives while Touching the Moon” as the theme for the celebration in 2024.

In 2025, the theme was “Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities”. At SSSIHL, on the Anantapur Campus, with the divine blessings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Space Club of the Department of Physics, with the support of the Physics Club, spearheaded a series of programmes spanning over a week culminating on the National Space Day on August 23, 2025. The celebration commenced at 9:05 A.M., in the campus auditorium, with the resonant chanting of “Brahmānandavalli” from the Taittiriya Upanishad, invoking the blissful and infinite nature of the cosmos and setting an elevating tone for the day. This was followed by a set of talks by the students. Pallavika Das, a student of III BS (Hons) in Physics, recalled the landmark moment of Chandrayaan-3 landing, which has become a source of national pride and inspiration for the students of



our country. Sai Tejaswi Paluru, a student of III BS (Hons) in Physics, shared her thoughts in a presentation titled, “Why Space Matters to Us?” highlighting how space research impacts every aspect of daily life, expanding not only scientific frontiers, but also human imagination and responsibility.

The creative highlight of the celebration was a skit titled “From Aryabhatta to Gaganyaan” written and enacted by the students. Through dramatic narration and effective enactment, the skit traced India’s journey from the astronomical contributions of ancient India’s scientists such as Aryabhatta, Bhaskaracharya, and Maharaja Jai Singh, leading up to Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, who envisioned and established India’s Space programme. The skit highlighted the accomplishments of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) since its inception in the 1960s, vividly portraying the continuity of India’s scientific spirit and aspirations,



culminating in a reference to the country's upcoming human spaceflight programme, the Gaganyaan mission.

Kintali Sai Mrudula Sree of III BS (Hons) in Physics presented insights into Chandrayaan-3's ongoing mission, the Aditya-L1 solar observatory, ISRO's plans for a Bharatiya Antariksha Station, and the role of technologies such as Vyommitra in space exploration. This was followed by a video presentation on the Gaganyaan mission, offering an exciting glimpse into India's preparations for sending humans to space. The visuals inspired awe and pride, making India's futuristic ambitions feel tangible and within reach.

Sai Niveditha of III BS (Hons) Physics delivered a talk weaving together the spiritual and scientific aspects of the cosmos, which was followed by the screening of a video clip of a Divine Discourse given by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. In His endearing style, Swami beautifully explains that the universe is not just a collection of matter and material, but the very manifestation of the cosmic personality of God, a reflection of the Divine itself. Swami reminds us that God is never separate from us, that consciousness is present everywhere: within us, around us, and above and below us. The morning session concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Sujata Kumari, a student of II BS (Hons) in Physics, followed by Mangala Aarathi to Bhagawan.

As a forerunner to the Space Day celebrations, the Space Club of the campus had also organised a creative Comic Strip Competition on the theme, "Alien Astronaut Adventure", aimed to ignite imagination among the students by blending science with creativity. The submitted entries were evaluated and the best creators were awarded with certificates of appreciation.

The evening session consisted of interactive activities celebrating India's space achievements. Highlights included thematic photobooths and space-themed games such as an online crossword, quiz, a Vikram Sarabhai puzzle, and a satellite-matching activity. Many students participated enthusiastically creating a lively, collaborative atmosphere that blended learning with celebration. Prizes were awarded to winners. The programme was coordinated by Prof. Deepa Seetharaman (Department of Physics), who is the Faculty Mentor of the Space Club, Anantapur Campus, also serving as the Deputy Director of the campus. The functionaries of the Space Club who led the activities included the President of the Space Club, Ananya R. Koushik, the Vice-President, Appi Reddygari Sharada, and the Secretary, Sai Tejaswi Paluru, all of whom are students of III Year BS (Hons) in Physics. The programme was supported by Dr C. Prathibha, Associate Head, Department of Physics and Faculty Mentor of the Physics Club along with Dr Lavanya Rathi P., Department of Physics. Dr Vedavathi Aluri of the Department of Physics, along with the doctoral research scholars of the department provided audiovisual system support for the programme.



# Celebrating India's Space Legacy: National Space Day 2025 at SSSIHL, Prasanthi Nilayam Campus

"Aryabhata to Gaganyaan: Ancient Wisdom to Infinite Possibilities"



The day began with invocatory chanting, setting a serene and focused tone for the proceedings. This was followed by a series of insightful student presentations on "Indian Space Saga".

A multidisciplinary group of undergraduate and postgraduate students from various science disciplines presented topics that included ISRO's Stellar Growth, Notable Indian Space Scientists, various Indian Space Missions, and an overview of Rocket Fuels, providing a comprehensive look at the nation's space journey.

The Department of Physics at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Prasanthi Nilayam campus, celebrated National Space Day on 23rd August 2025, with an inspiring event focused on the remarkable progress of Indian space exploration. The celebration, held in the college auditorium, brought together students, faculty, and a guest speaker to commemorate India's achievements and ignite a passion for space science.



The highlight of the event was an invited talk (online) by Guest speaker Sri. VLN Sridhar Raja, a Scientist SG from the Instrumentation and Lasers Division at LEOS-ISRO, Bengaluru. The talk covered India's past and current space missions, including detailed discussions on Chandrayaan-1 & 3, Mangalyaan-1, and the future missions like Chandrayaan-4 & 5 and the Mars Landing Mission. His presentation offered invaluable insights into the complexities and successes of ISRO's endeavours.

Following the lecture, a spirited quiz competition was held for undergraduate and postgraduate students. The quiz tested students' knowledge of space science and India's contributions to it, encouraging active participation and learning.

The event concluded with the distribution of prizes to the winners of the quiz and mementoes to the student speakers, followed by a vote of thanks. The celebration extended into the afternoon with a special planetarium show for all Physics students and other interested participants at the Sri Sathya Sai Space Theatre.

The event successfully achieved its goal of raising awareness about the importance of space science and fostering a spirit of inquiry and innovation among the students. The day served as a reverential reflection on India's ancient wisdom and its potential for infinite possibilities in the cosmos.



# Catalyst Team Interactions for Grooming MBA Students



With the blessings of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Brindavan Campus of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning recently hosted an intensive three-day training programme for its MBA students, conducted by distinguished alumni associated with Catalyst, an alumni initiative of SSSIHL.

The programme served as a valuable platform where real-world insights, professional experiences, and structured guidance converged to prepare students for the demands of the corporate world.

The training addressed every key stage of the placement process. Students participated in mock interviews, technical assessments, and behavioural rounds designed to mirror real corporate scenarios. Each session was followed by detailed and constructive feedback, enabling students to refine their responses, strengthen their communication skills, and align themselves with industry standards of professionalism and conduct.

A significant highlight of the programme was the career counselling sessions organised for third-year BBA and BCom students. These sessions provided students with clarity regarding their individual strengths, potential career pathways, and the competencies required to thrive in an evolving professional landscape. Through focused interactions, students were encouraged to reflect on their aspirations and prepare purposefully for future opportunities.

The three-day engagement proved to be both enriching and transformative. It helped students build confidence, enhance interview readiness, and develop a deeper understanding of corporate culture and workplace expectations. The presence and guidance of alumni mentors added a meaningful dimension to the programme, reinforcing the importance of experiential learning rooted in shared values.

The Institute extends its heartfelt gratitude to the alumni of Catalyst for their time, commitment, and dedication in mentoring and uplifting the next generation of professionals. Such initiatives play a vital role in empowering students to step into their careers with clarity, confidence, and a strong foundation of values, reflecting the holistic educational vision of SSSIHL.



# Heart Matters: A Report on the Preventive Cardiology Science Exhibition Preview at SSSIHL, Anantapur Campus

On the morning of 23rd August 2025, the auditorium of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Anantapur Campus, hosted the screening of a recorded online meeting related to the forthcoming Preventive Cardiology Science Exhibition. The exhibition is being organised by the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Medical Sciences (SSSIHMS), Prasanthigram, in collaboration with the World Heart Federation (WHF), an organisation that works closely with the World Health Organization (WHO). The preview session offered students and faculty an overview of the objectives and scope of this important health initiative. The exhibition forms part of the global observance of World Heart Day, which is marked every year on the 29th of September. The session highlighted the growing global concern surrounding cardiovascular diseases, which continue to be the leading cause of mortality worldwide. By focusing on preventive cardiology, the initiative seeks to shift attention from treatment to awareness, early intervention, and healthy lifestyle practices.

A key segment of the session featured Dr Vidya, Consultant Cardiologist at SSSIHMS, who spoke about the purpose of the exhibition and the crucial role of public engagement in promoting heart health. She emphasised that most cardiovascular diseases arise from modifiable lifestyle factors such as diet, physical inactivity, and stress. Dr Vidya underlined the importance of early awareness, noting that preventive measures adopted from a young age can significantly reduce the risk of serious cardiac complications later in life. Addressing students from the Department of Biosciences at SSSIHL and the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, Whitefield, Bengaluru, Dr. Vidya encouraged them to take an active role in public sensitisation. She invited students to act as ambassadors of heart health by educating communities through creative and accessible means. In this context, she urged them to design posters, slogans, and awareness material that could effectively communicate key messages related to cardiovascular well-being.

The session highlighted the vital role of youth in promoting public health and collective well-being. Through creative outreach and collaborative effort, students were encouraged to contribute meaningfully to society, reflecting the Institute's core values of service, responsibility, and compassionate action.

The preview concluded by reinforcing the message that caring for the heart is both a medical and moral responsibility.

# IGNITION 2025: Alumni Interactions for BBA Students



The Department of Management and Commerce, SSSIHL, hosted IGNITION 2025, a dynamic, day-long alumni interaction programme designed to equip BBA students with practical insights and a clearer sense of direction as they navigate their academic and professional journeys. Held at the Brindavan Campus on 19th July 2025.

The programme served as an engaging interface between students and accomplished alumni of the Institute.

Conceived as an immersive one-day workshop, IGNITION 2025 featured a series of thoughtfully curated panel discussions, roundtable conversations, and interactive sessions. These sessions were led by SSSIHL alumni representing a wide spectrum of industries, including consulting, finance, technology, entrepreneurship, and global business services. Their diverse professional experiences provided students with valuable perspectives on the realities of the corporate world.

Through candid conversations and experience sharing, the alumni offered insights into entry-level jobs, life beyond academics, skill development, career planning, and the challenges and opportunities that shape professional growth. The sessions encouraged students to ask questions, reflect on their aspirations, and gain practical advice on navigating life after graduation with confidence and clarity.

More than a conventional workshop, IGNITION 2025 aimed to foster a culture of mentorship and strengthen the enduring bond between students and the alumni community. By creating a platform for dialogue, guidance, and inspiration, the programme laid a strong foundation for future growth, reinforcing the Institute's commitment to holistic, value-based professional education.

# Celebrations and Career Readiness: Highlights from Brindavan Campus in 2025



With the blessed celebration of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's Centenary Year, the Brindavan Campus of SSSIHL witnessed many memorable moments filled with devotion, joy, and inspiration. Events such as SAIcing 4 Sai and several other meaningful programmes brought students, staff, and alumni together in the true spirit of love and service.

The year was also special because of several developments on campus. New facilities such as seminar halls, basketball and volleyball courts, an outdoor gym, and many renovated spaces were inaugurated. Classrooms were upgraded into smart classrooms, and new labs were established, further enriching the learning environment.

As the glimpses of Brindavan 2025 are shared here, the year is remembered with gratitude as one filled with celebrations, growth, togetherness, and unforgettable memories.

## Catalyst Team Interactions for Grooming MBA Students

With the blessings of Bhagawan Baba, it was reported that over a period of three days, the institute had the privilege of hosting an intensive training programme for MBA students, conducted by distinguished alumni—Catalyst of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning.





The initiative brought together real-world insights, personal experiences, and structured guidance to help students step confidently toward their careers.

The training covered every key aspect of the placement process. Students participated in mock interviews, technical assessments, and behavioural rounds that reflected real corporate expectations. Each interaction was followed by detailed feedback, enabling students to fine-tune their responses, strengthen their communication, and understand industry-aligned standards of professionalism.

A key highlight of the programme was the career counselling sessions arranged for third-year BBA and BCom students. These sessions helped them gain clarity about their strengths, career pathways, and the competencies needed to excel in an evolving corporate landscape.

The entire three-day engagement was truly transformative. It helped students build confidence, sharpen their interview readiness, and develop a deeper understanding of corporate culture and expectations. Gratitude was expressed to the alumni who took time to guide, mentor, and uplift the next generation of professionals.

Empowering students with such experiential learning opportunities is a vital step in preparing them to enter the corporate world with purpose, clarity, and confidence.



# SSSIHL Students and Alumni Ride for Sustainability in S.A.I.cling 4 S.A.I. — A Centenary Tribute to Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba



In the quiet, reflective hours of the morning on 12th November 2025, the Brindavan Campus of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning witnessed the beginning of a remarkable journey. As the first light of dawn spread gently across the campus, a collective resolve gathered momentum, setting in motion an expedition that was as symbolic as it was physical.

This was S.A.I.cling 4 S.A.I., a unique cycling initiative undertaken in reverence to the 100th Birth Anniversary of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, the Revered Founder Chancellor of SSSIHL, and inspired by His timeless message of love, service, and transformation. Conceived as a living expression of the Institute's commitment to Sustainability, Awareness, and Inclusivity, the expedition brought together 150 cyclists comprising students, alumni, and staff members.

Their journey covered a distance of 161 kilometres, tracing a meaningful route from the Brindavan Campus at Kadugodi, Bengaluru, through the Nandigiri Campus, and onward to Prasanthi Nilayam in the Sri Sathya Sai District of Andhra Pradesh. The riders were expected to reach the Sri Sathya Sai Hill View Stadium by the evening of 13th November, completing a journey that united physical endurance with spiritual intent.

The expedition was flagged off at 7 a.m. by Professor B. Raghavendra Prasad, Honourable Vice-Chancellor of SSSIHL, in the august presence of Dr Srikanth Khanna, Registrar, SSSIHL; Mr Vinay Kumar, Convenor, Brindavan Ashram; Dr D. C. Sundaresh, Director, SSSIHMS, Whitefield; along with Directors of SSSIHL campuses, Deans, Wardens, and faculty members. Their presence reflected the



across physical, mental, societal, and environmental dimensions, offering a living demonstration of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's vision of integral education.

collective institutional spirit that sustains initiatives grounded in values and guided by purpose.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad noted that S.A.I.cling 4 S.A.I. reaffirmed the Institute's commitment to holistic education, where physical fitness, environmental consciousness, and community service come together as expressions of gratitude to the Founder Chancellor. He emphasised that such initiatives nurture the individual

At the heart of the expedition lay four pillars of purpose. Cycling as a sustainable way of life encouraged participants to adopt environmentally responsible choices. Cycling for health and fitness reinforced discipline, resilience, and balance. Tree plantation transformed ecological concern into tangible action by enhancing green cover along the route. Waste management initiatives fostered awareness of cleanliness and responsibility through active engagement with the environment. Together, these pillars transformed the expedition into a moving classroom of values.

### **A Student's Reflection: Sai-Cling as a Journey of Faith**

For many participants, the journey was deeply personal. One such voice was that of Malakari Gowtham, a second-year undergraduate student from the Nandigiri Campus, whose experience captures the inner landscape of the expedition with quiet poignancy.

For him, the 160-kilometre journey from Brindavan to Shanti Vedika was never merely about cycling. It was a slow,





unfolding test of faith. The real journey, he recalls, had begun months earlier during the uncertainty of the summer vacation. At that time, cycling itself felt daunting. Training rides through Bengaluru's congested roads were exhausting and often discouraging, with every kilometre seeming like a negotiation with personal limits. A physical breakdown during recovery further reduced strength and speed, filling him with doubt about whether he could even complete long rides, let alone a journey of such magnitude. These doubts were shared by many, as participants questioned the distance between where they stood and where the goal demanded them to be.

When students returned to campus, the challenges shifted from physical endurance to logistical perseverance. Delays in procurement tested patience, and finding reliable bicycles within a limited budget proved difficult. Yet, in this period of waiting, something transformative began to take shape. Leadership emerged organically. The entire initiative was guided with quiet determination by an alumnus whose experience became the backbone of the expedition. Alongside him, students who had once remained in the background stepped forward to coordinate logistics, manage communication, and ensure collective well-being. Gradually, individuality gave way to unity. What began as personal preparation evolved into a shared journey, bound together by love for Swami.

Training intensified in the hilly terrains of Chikkaballapur, where the roads themselves became teachers. The climbs demanded endurance, the descents required focus, and the long stretches instilled lessons in pacing and sustainability. Some roads were smooth and forgiving, while others tested both body and resolve. Yet, even on the most difficult patches, there was laughter, encouragement, and a quiet joy that emerged from togetherness. The journey became fulfilling not because it was easy, but because it was shared.

On the day of departure, a sense of anticipation filled the air. Dressed in Sai-Cling jerseys that fostered unity and belonging, the cyclists felt a deep sense of pride as the Vice-Chancellor formally inaugurated the expedition. As they moved through Bengaluru, an almost surreal experience unfolded. Traffic police cleared roads, flyovers opened up, and junctions stood still as the cyclists passed in disciplined formation. The usually chaotic city momentarily yielded to a higher purpose. Throughout the journey, support vehicles accompanied them, generously stocked and quietly reassuring each rider that they were never alone.

Stops along the way offered moments of rest and reflection. A peaceful temple ashram provided not just nourishment but mental stillness, while the Sri Sathya Sai Super Speciality Hospital welcomed the cyclists with warmth and care. Volunteers awaited them with smiling faces, reinforcing the sense that love and service were guiding every step of the journey.

The final stretch was the most demanding. Muscles ached, legs grew heavy, and the road tested their resolve repeatedly. Yet, the joy never faded. Circling the hospital together felt like an offering, a symbolic gesture of gratitude to a place that embodied Swami's love through service. As they approached Shanti Vedika, cheers filled the air. In that moment, the journey's meaning crystallised. It felt not as though they were riding towards Prasanthi, but as though Swami Himself was drawing them closer. The distance covered was not merely physical. It was a distance bridged by grace.

They began the journey as individuals uncertain of their strength. They concluded it as a collective soul, reaffirming the truth that when the destination is Him, every road, whether smooth or rough, is always paved with love.





## A Living Tribute in Motion

More than a commemorative event, S.A.I.cling 4 S.A.I. emerged as a living testament to how Sai's vision continues to inspire action in contemporary forms. It demonstrated that the most meaningful tributes are realised not through ceremony alone, but through sincerity in action, discipline in effort, and devotion in purpose.

As the cyclists journeyed towards Prasanthi Nilayam, they carried with them not only physical determination but a shared resolve to walk the path laid down by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. In doing so, they reaffirmed that at SSSIHL, education is not merely the pursuit of knowledge, but a lifelong journey of faith, service, sustainability, and love in action.





# A Hostel Like No Other: A Popcorn Machine and the Culture of Love and Care at SSSIHL, Anantapur Campus



As the sacred chants resonated through the dining hall, the first kernels of corn popped within the machine, filling the space with the comforting aroma of freshly prepared popcorn. The inauguration of a new popcorn machine brought joy to the hostel community, serving as a gentle reminder of Swami's abiding love and grace that permeate campus life.

More than a culinary addition, the popcorn machine symbolises the hostel management's deep care and concern for its students. While SSSIHL functions as a Modern Gurukula, upholding discipline and moral values, such thoughtful gestures reflect the underlying spirit of the institution—the Founder Chancellor's unconditional and ever-attentive love for His students.

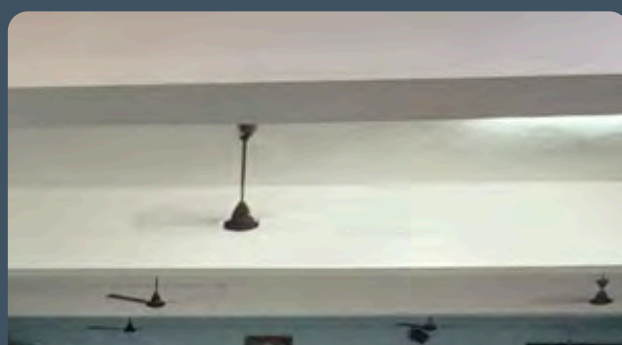
The introduction of popcorn to the bi-monthly movie nights at the Sri Sathya Sai Girls' Hostel, Anantapur, is sure to enhance the sense of joy, togetherness, and community living among the students. The inauguration thus became a moment of collective





gratitude and happiness for the campus community.

Cherished as a loving gift from Swami to His daughters on the occasion of His 100th Birthday, the popcorn machine now stands as a symbol of His boundless grace. Like all gifts from the Divine Master, it will be remembered not merely for its utility, but for the love and thoughtfulness it represents—an enduring reminder of the unique spirit that defines life at SSSIHL.





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Creativity finds its true fulfilment  
when it springs from purity of heart  
and depth of feeling.

*Sri Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. 22,*  
19 November 1989

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# CONTOURS OF THOUGHT: CREATIVE AND CRITICAL EXPRESSIONS



## *The Living Verse*

**Sparsh Sharma**  
**BS (Hons) Computer Science**  
**Nandigiri Campus**

You are the amber glow that wakes the day,  
The quill that translates what my heart  
would say.

A silver spring where weary spirits mend,  
The gilded light on which my hopes depend.

A lifelong shadow, sacred as a prayer,  
A guiding pulse when all the world is bare.  
A veiled enigma, yet the truth I hold—  
The breath of heaven cast in earthly mold.

Your voice—an echo from a celestial reed,  
A hushed devotion in my hour of need.  
With hands like velvet and a gaze like wings,  
You are the hymn that every silence sings.

The cool monsoon upon the burning dust,  
A blooming promise in a world of rust.  
A sanctuary where the restless hide,  
The ancient law that serves as nature's  
guide.

Be hearth and harvest, be my sun and sea,  
The thread that weaves through all eternity.  
In every pulse, let grace and rhythm chime  
My living poem, untouched by tide or time.



# Words Carry Weight: Rereading Goethe's Werther

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Werther was a Romantic personality first and foremost; it had an indubitable hold over his wishes and desires that never wavered, and it is the curse that haunted him. Through a series of letters, Werther poured out the excruciating pain that he held within the chasms of his self, for his love for Charlotte was unrequited, for she had been promised to another man. His wish to be close to her only deepened his scars and forged a path to his own grave when he took his life.

"I shall say nothing of...Charlotte's grief. Charlotte's life was despaired of," was written after the demise of Werther.

*The Sorrows of Young Werther* was a masterpiece written by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, a German polymath whose works have had a wide-ranging influence on literary, political, and philosophical thought in the Western world from the late 18th century to the present. The work, a chef d'oeuvre, of Goethe was written in an epistolary manner, in mere five and a half weeks.

The story, only by plot, is incredibly melancholic and doleful, as it would make almost anyone feel instantly attracted to it by empathy and the familiarity of pain. It was a piece that mirrored Goethe's own life.

"That," said Goethe, "is a creation which I, like the pelican, fed with the blood of my own heart. It contains so much from the innermost recesses of my breast—so much feeling and thought, that it might easily be spread into a novel of ten such volumes."

The depressive nature of Goethe's story, as well as the act of suicide



by Werther had affected the readers more than the world expected, as it brought forth a phenomenon known as “copycat suicide”, which is defined as an emulation of another suicide that the person attempting suicide knows about either from local knowledge or due to accounts or depictions of the original suicide.

A spike in emulation suicides after a widely publicised suicide is known as the Werther effect, after rumours of such a spike following the publication of Goethe's novel *The Sorrows of Young Werther*. A simple transaction of letters that conveyed the sorrows of a young man owing to his unrequited love has brought forth such prodigious emotions from its readers that they contemplated and arrived at a decision to relate their own misgivings to Werther and thus follow suit, into the hands of death, as a means of a cure or escape.

It is stupefying to see how a string of words and sentences that had been crafted into a story can have such a vast and devastating effect. Now we can understand that words hold more power and are more dreadful than a sharpened sword.

What is quite astounding to me and maybe a couple of others is that something that was first used to simply communicate, to spread emotions and narrate high tales, a vital tool for survival and evolution of humanity, to be used in world's greatest odes and love letters, suddenly became a catalyst of mass suicide to a point that there are even research papers trying to fathom the Werther's Effect on the modern world.

The Werther's Effect cannot be simply dissected apart like a lab experiment to be understood; one needs to delve deep into the nuances of the purity of emotions etched in words written by someone who seemed to know no other way to leave the droughts of life than through words.

The Werther's Effect remains not due to its dark mark in history but because of the intimacy and intensity of the suffering that it conveyed.



Goethe did not merely tell a story, he revolutionised literature. He transmitted an emotional state so unguarded and unequivocal that readers could instantly relate to it. To read *Werther* is to confront the uncomfortable truth; art in its purest form does not simply mirror life but embodies it, alters it, and at times, becomes so overwhelming to those who are dangerously close to the edge.

Rereading Goethe's *Werther* reminds us that words are never weightless; they linger, seep, and settle into the quiet corners of the human mind. When language is charged with unguarded emotion, it does more than narrate suffering—it invites identification, sometimes dangerously so. Goethe's genius lay not merely in telling a story, but in revealing how deeply art can inhabit life. To return to *Werther* today is to recognise that while words can console and illuminate, they also demand responsibility, for what is written with sincerity can move hearts, alter lives, and leave traces far beyond the page.



# Ancient Wisdom, Modern Ventures: Entrepreneurial Insights from the Charaka Samhita

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**SSSIHL**

Indian Knowledge system (IKS) fosters entrepreneurship and innovation by providing a foundation for culturally relevant business enterprises through ancient wisdom in Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH), inspiring modern ventures in wellness and healing that emphasise self-reliance and harmony with nature for global competitiveness.

Charaka Samhita, a foundational text of Ayurveda provides a framework for entrepreneurship and innovation through its emphasis on preventive healthcare, holistic wellness and systematic problem solving. 'Hetu' and 'Nidan Parivarjan' (cause of diseases and avoidance of causes), the method for identifying market gaps or societal problems and developing preventive solutions, from Charaka Samhita is a directive for entrepreneurs.

The Trisutra framework from Charaka Samhita, Hetu - Linga - Aushadha (Causation-symptomatology-therapeutics), reflects, modern business planning, helps in understanding the market, diagnosing issues and implementing an action plan strategically. The Samhita advocates patient centric care and corporate social responsibility. The description of Dushya, Desha, Bala, Kala, and Prakrithi from Charaka Samhita provide guidelines to the entrepreneurs to innovate new businesses.

Charaka Samhita (Sutra Sthana, Chapter 30), elaborates the eightfold framework of Astha Prashna (the eight questions) - Tantra, Tantrarth, Sthana, Sthanarth, Adhyaya, Adhyayarth, Prashna, and Prashnarth which can be used effectively in systematic development of business ideas with critical reasoning. The businesses should ensure AYUSH/FSSAI regulatory compliance, avoid disease-treatment claims unless clinically validated, prioritise scientific research enriched with tradition, and include documentation, safety, and sustainability.



.Based on the eight Sthanas (eight sections), 1. Sutra Sthana 2. Nidana Sthana 3. Vimana Sthana 4. Sharira Sthana 5. Indriya Sthana 6. Chikitsa Sthana 7. Kalpa Sthana and 8. Siddhi Sthana, the entrepreneurs would be able to explore, identify and implement the business solutions beyond profit to holistic value creation through ancient wisdom.

The following are some of the ideas in different categories from the understanding of the knowledge recoded in the Charaka Samhita:

- Product-based entrepreneurship ideas derived from Classical Ayurvedic formulations – ethical, transparent manufacturing, standardised and quality-controlled churnas, tailas, avalehas, and ghr̥ta, QR-code batch traceability assured compliance with AYUSH & FSSAI and honest labeling (no miracle-cure claims)
- Medicinal plant cultivation and value chain business, contract farming of herbs mentioned by Charaka, Seed banks for endangered species, eco-friendly drying, grading, and supply to pharmacies, and GIS-based conservation nurseries
- Ayurvedic food and nutraceutical products inspired by ahara and dinacharya concepts, dosha-balanced snacks/teas, season-specific food kits (ṛtucharya), and digestive health tonics based on safe, approved ingredients
- Ayurvedic cosmetics and personal care based on Rasāyana and Dinacharya, herbal skin and hair oils, ubtan and lepam-inspired scrubs and packs, and smoke-free dhoop/fragrance products for ambience wellness
- Service-based entrepreneurship ideas such as preventive lifestyle and wellness coaching platforms that emphasise prevention over cure, sleep, diet, routine tracking apps, workshops on daily rituals (dinacharya, ritucharya), and corporate wellness packages (also avoiding diagnosis and treatment unless licensed)
- Panchakarma and wellness retreat centres, stress management, detox-oriented retreat experiences, yoga–Ayurveda–mindfulness integration, and digital detox tourism
- Education and content entrepreneurship, simplified Ayurveda learning portals, “Ayurveda for daily life” courses, vernacular-language explainer videos, and illustrated Charaka Samhita for students
- Tech-enabled Ayurveda entrepreneurship ideas such as digital dosha assessment and habit-guidance apps, AI-supported questionnaires (non-diagnostic), personalised lifestyle suggestions, and food logging aligned



to prakriti concepts

- Supply-chain block chain for herbal authenticity, farm-to-bottle transparency, herb origin verification and fraud prevention in raw materials
- Wearables aligned to dinacharya principles, circadian rhythm reminder bands, sleep–activity balance trackers, and seasonal routine advisory notifications
- Sustainable and social entrepreneurship inspired by Charaka would include tribal herb gatherer cooperatives, fair-price procurement training in sustainable harvesting, and women-led self-help groups
- Eco-friendly packaging based on Ayurveda philosophy, biodegradable herbal packaging, natural dyes/inks, and zero-waste refill systems
- Public health entrepreneurship ideas such as community preventive health programmes grounded in Reflecting Charaka's emphasis on Swasthasya Swasthya Rakshanam, school nutrition and lifestyle clubs, anemia and gut-health awareness using safe practices, and digital health literacy platforms
- Ayurveda-inspired canteen/food business, sattvic meal services, campus herbal tea kiosks, and seasonal diet menus

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# Śrī Kṛṣṇadevarāya's *Āmuktamālyada*

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Śrī Kṛṣṇadevarāya's *Āmuktamālyada* translates literally to "The Giver of the Worn Garland". On the way to the Kingdom of Kalinga when this poet - king of Vijayanagaram rests in the Āndhra Viṣṇu temple of Srikakulam, the deity of the temple commands King Kṛṣṇarāya to compose a poem in Telugu and dedicate it to him. The Lord also provides him with the subject matter, His Divine Consort Āṇḍāl. Perhaps the King had no idea that this 16th-century epic poem *Āmuktamālyada* would become one of the major works in Telugu in the future and would be renowned for its poetic excellence and felicity of expression.

## Ashtanayikas in Āmuktamālyada

Bharata Muni, in his *Nāṭyaśāstra*, lays down eight avasthas of nayakis to the hero, or Nayaka. These Ashtanayikas are vasakasajja, virahotkanthita, svadhinabhartruka, kalahantarita, khandita, vipralabdha, proshitabhartruka, and abhisarika. Usually, one nayaki is represented in one avastha, or maybe sometimes two or three. In *Āmuktamālyada*, however, one gets to see Andal in all the eight avasthas, making it a complete representation of the aṣṭāvasthās.

Āṇḍāl is the first nayika, adorned in garments and jewels, prepared to receive her beloved in the lines, "After taking a bath, she would rub her body with turmeric, / put on a thin cīra and daub fresh kuṁkum around her breasts./ She would decorate her brow with a böṭṭu made of camphor/ and ornament her hair with her father's fresh flowers./ And with longing, she kept the garland on her heart/ for just a little while." (V. 39)

She also becomes virahotkanthita nayika, experiencing utmost sorrow due to separation from her beloved in the lines “Like hot coals roasting in a fire pit, the pains of separation burned inside her. And though Goda wanted to stay there, she couldn’t bear it anymore” (V. 66). On the other hand, she assumes the aṣṭāvasthā of a swadheena-pathika nayika, enjoying close association with her beloved and winning His trust and earning a place in His heart, “Viṣṇu was eager, he couldn’t contain his desire,/ he whisked her off to his private chambers, and in her place/ he left an illusion, a woman in her image, created by him./ Viṣṇucitta and the others didn’t even notice,/ they all remained there perfectly still.” (V. 106)

These Ashtanayikas not only represent the nayaki’s aṣṭāvasthā, but also the character of nayaka in a way. When the nayaki is vipralabdha nayika, anxious that her beloved has not shown up despite repeated messages, the nayaka comes across as uncaring towards his beloved. “She melted when she heard about that handsome Killer/ and tender love rose as if she was struck by a lotus. / But when the Lady of the Lotus revealed her affections, / he rejected her, he abandoned her, he left her for dead” (V. 48). These lines from Āmuktamālyada paint Āṇḍāl as vipralabdha nayika, waiting for her Lord. These lines allude to Parashurama abandoning Bhū by donating her to Rishi Kashyapa. These lines not only highlight Āṇḍāl’s pain and anxiety but also the Lord’s heartlessness at rejecting her and abandoning her. But this stage is also viewed as an important milestone to achieve the final stage, abhisarika nayika, achieving union with the beloved.

“She perfumed her body with deer musk/ and placed a chaplet of red lilies in her hair/ which was tied up, to one side, in a bun.” (VI. 129)

“This is how God was adorned, just before Ādiśeṣa, the Bed of Snakes, announced that the auspicious moment was drawing close.” (VI. 130)

Āmuktamālyada demonstrates how, in a way, all of us are Nayikas and God as the eternal Nayaka. Āṇḍāl’s every state in the Ashtanayikas is not just a depiction of love, but the soul’s journey towards the union with the divine. Kṛṣṇarāya offers a complete portrayal of feminine subjectivity with heightened imagery and sensitive articulation.



# *Serving with Love: Food Seva during Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's 100th Birthday Celebrations*

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The 100th Birthday Celebrations of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba were not merely a grand event; they were a living expression of His message of love and selfless service. For us, students across all campuses, the celebrations offered a rare and sacred opportunity to participate directly in seva—by serving food during the various food sessions organized by Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust. Alongside thousands of dedicated volunteers, including sevadals and devotees who had come from different regions and backgrounds, we were entrusted with the responsibility of serving food to the vast gathering of devotees. Each day involved multiple sessions—breakfast, lunch, snacks, and dinner—each one meticulously planned and executed with precision, discipline, and devotion. It was awe-inspiring to witness how seamlessly such massive operations were carried out, purely driven by the grace of Swami's love.

The scale of the seva was unimaginable. For every food session, more than 40,000 people were served. In a single session, over 15 massive vessels were prepared for each food item, with each vessel capable of feeding thousands of devotees. The kitchens functioned like a well-oiled machine, where devotion replaced fatigue and love replaced any sense of burden. We were fortunate to assist not only in serving but also in food preparation, observing firsthand the effort, cleanliness, and care that went into every step.

Food counters were arranged at multiple locations to ensure smooth flow and accessibility. Though the food was offered free of cost, it was never treated as “free food.” It was Prasadam—offered by Swami Himself—and was received with deep reverence and gratitude. Devotees from all walks of life stood patiently in long queues, waiting humbly, accepting the food with folded hands and heartfelt smiles. That sight alone was a powerful lesson in humility, unity, and gratitude.

As student volunteers, we also helped in maintaining queues, serving drinking water through Sai Ganga, ensuring that the process remained orderly and

peaceful. Throughout the service, we were deeply inspired by the discipline, dedication, and silent efficiency of the sevadals, who worked tirelessly without any expectation or complaint. Their example taught us what true selfless service looks like.

This seva was not just about feeding people—it was about transforming ourselves. It taught us teamwork, patience, humility, and the joy that comes from serving others without seeking recognition. Above all, it helped us experience the happiness that Swami often spoke about—the happiness that arises when service is done with love, for love, and to love.

Every plate served, every glass of water offered, and every queue managed, felt like an offering at Swami's Lotus Feet. Fueled entirely by His love and grace, this experience will remain etched in our hearts as a reminder that the simplest acts of service, when done selflessly, become the highest form of worship.









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What the head thinks should be examined critically in the heart, and this right decision should be carried out by the hands. This should be the primary product of the educational process.

”

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba



SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING  
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