

# Exploring Stealth Leadership at MBA DAY 2022 – A Report

The 36th MBA day of Sri Satya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) was celebrated on 21st August 2022 with a conclave, themed “Stealth Leadership”. Prominent leaders from the industry graced the occasion and spent their valuable time interacting with the students while sharing their perspectives on the importance and role of selfless leadership in the modern-day context. The entire discussion revolved around reinforcing the selfless aspect of a leader which ensures that the team feels empowered and the role of the leader thereby becomes an enabler as Lao Tzu said, “A leader is best when people barely know he exists when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves”.

## **The Proceedings:**

The delegates, guests, alumni, and students were welcomed by Dr. K Sayee Manohar, Head, Dept. of Management and Commerce, who went on to set the context for the conclave.

The inaugural address was delivered by the Registrar, Dr. B Sai Giridhar, who elucidated and introduced the attendants to “Stealth leadership” and established how this is a model for selfless leadership. This was followed by the keynote address by the Vice-Chancellor Dr. CB Sanjeevi, who further dwelled upon the topic and shared his valuable insights.

Our Guest of Honour, Sri R J Rathnakar, Managing Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, spoke to the gathering and shared several leadership lessons and attributes he has learned from the founder Chancellor, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. The students were then blessed with the Divine benediction itself, wherein Bhagawan enlightened them on aspects of business, management, and the qualities of a true manager.

The first guest speaker was Sri Mayank Bathwal, CEO of Aditya Birla Health insurance. Mr. Bathwal shared with the audience, his vast experience and the “life lessons in leadership” he imbibed throughout his career, which were reflected in his Zen-like demeanour. While there was leadership advice in the talk, students also got an insight into strategic thinking and career exploration during the course of their interaction. Regarding “managing oneself” he had similar advice as Peter Drucker, who believed in exploration and finding the strengths to prosper in one’s career.

Sri Vinay Tonse, MD & CEO, SBI Funds Management Private Ltd., and Deputy Managing Director, SBI, addressed the students next. Sharing his thoughts on Stealth leadership, he referred to it as Invisible leadership and spelled out his 3 *mantras* for his career - Be responsible, Be Different and Make a difference. Mr. Tonse then gave a list of suggested reads which included classics such as “Creation of Wealth” by R M Lala, “The Toyota way” and a case study on the once innovation leader “3M”. He reiterated the views of Lao Tzu and highlighted the selflessness a leader must possess. The session was highly interactive and engaging.

Post Lunch, the third guest speaker Sri D Lakshmi Narayanan, MD of Sundaram Home Finance delivered his talk around the lines "To lead is to serve - nothing more and nothing less". Mr. Narayanan grabbed the audience's attention with his humour and unique style of oration.

The final segment titled "Ask me Anything" was led by a panel of five industry leaders who are also alumni of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. The panel consisted of Sri Ram Gopal, CEO, Barclays Bank India; Sri Rangarajan Krishnan, CEO, of Five Star Business Finance Ltd.; Sri Anand Nergunam S, Global VP Revenue, Management & Growth, Zoho Corporation; Sri Bharath M Sundaram, Vice-President, Everest Group; and Sri Jitendra Panjabi, CEO, EMInvestco Capital Advisors.

Students immensely benefited from the advice they received from the alumni on various fronts which included being industry-ready, workplace environment, and leadership among others.

Our founder Chancellor envisioned education for life and not mere living and the conclave did just that, equipped students mainly for life and aspects of living that will enrich their professional lives, in turn contributing to a better society, a better world.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Deepak Anand, faculty of the Department of Management and Commerce and Harathi.