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Summer Course in Indian Culture & Spirituality 2023 at Brindavan Campus: A Brief Report

The Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Brindavan campus conducted the Summer Course 2023 from 14-16 July 2023.

Day 1

The inaugural ceremony began with a procession from the Hostel to the College Auditorium at 8.30 a.m. The Vice-Chancellor, the Director of the Campus, and the Warden joined the procession along with students and faculty led by Vedam and Bhajans.

The session started with Vedam chanting and the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by the welcome address by the Director. In his Inaugural address, the Vice Chancellor Prof. B Raghavendra Prasad spoke about the importance of Indian culture and Spirituality at the individual, family, societal, and global levels.

This was followed by a video presentation on "An overview of Bharatiya Shastras" by Swami Paramarthananda of Arsha Vidya Gurukulam. The speaker explained the Bharatiya Shastras in six layers namely – Vedas, Sutras, Smritis, Puranas, Itihasas, and Bashyas.

Group Captain K R Narayana, Alumnus of SSSIHL then gave a scintillating presentation on the topic "Defence forces and Spirituality". He compared the lives of a soldier and a Sai student and explained how the Sathya Sai Education system builds spiritual soldiers. This was followed by Bhagawan's discourse on discipline.

The final year students then presented a drama on 'Saint Narayana Bhattadri' and showed how the saint was blessed by Lord Guruvayurappan to compose the Srimad Narayaneeyam.

After a sumptuous lunch, the students assembled for a study circle to discuss Swami's discourse given to the World Youth, as a part of the World Youth Conference in 1997.

Bhajans were held in the evening, followed by Dinner. A parayanam session was held post-dinner by Sri. Niranjan Mudbidri, Alumnus of the campus, during which he narrated his experiences with the Lord.

Day 2

Day 2 of the summer course started with vedam chanting. This was followed by an inspiring panel discussion on the topic "Living with Sai" by four distinguished alumni of the campus – Prof. Gopichandran, Sri Jasti Krishna Kishore IRS, Sri Venkatesh Prasad, and Sri Ashok Ahuja. They divided the discussion into three parts – living with Sai before joining the campus, living with Sai on the campus, and living with Sai after leaving the campus. This was followed by Bhagawan's discourse highlighting the importance of discipline in a student's life. This was followed by a Quiz on Swami's life and teachings conducted by Dr. Balaram Khamari, Asst. Prof. Department of Biosciences. Students participated in the quiz enthusiastically.

After a delightful lunch, the students assembled for a session on situation analysis. This was innovatively presented in the form of a drama presentation entitled, "Cheppinatlu Chestara", inspired by the play written by Bhagawan. This was followed by a discussion led by the warden, Dr. T. Ravikumar where additional insights were provided into the situations presented.

In the evening, there was a music programme by the students at the hostel followed by dinner. This was followed by a parayanam session by Sri D V Chandrasekar, Alumnus and Sr. Mgr., SSSIHMS, Whitefield, where he shared his divine experiences with Bhagawan.



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Day 3

Day 3 of the summer course started with vedam chanting. This was followed by a presentation by Sri Naveen Lakkur, Chief Innovation Coach, Institute of Inspiring Innovation on the topic, "Inclusion and Diversity - Indian Culture and Spirituality Enabling Innovation". The session was interactive with students participating with their views.

A presentation by Sri Sai Giridhar Sairam, Resident Scholar, Sri Sathya Sai Center for Human Values on the topic "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" followed. This was also considered as a part of G20 Jan Bhagidhari events being conducted at the campus. The speaker showed how the students must practice gratitude as a prelude to understanding the world as one family.

This was followed by an inspiring Valedictory address by Sri Vijay Menon, Corporate Trainer. He exhorted the students to practice the cycle of Swadhayam è Sankalpamè Satyam -->Sanskar. Revisiting the takeaways from the two and half days, the Summer Course concluded with a vote of thanks followed by Mangala Arathi and the distribution of Prasadam.

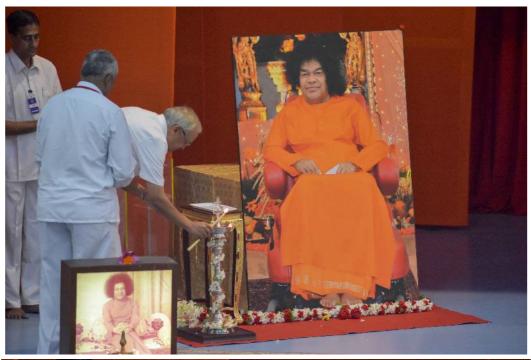




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