



SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Deemed to be University)

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

The Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Muddenahalli campus conducted the Summer Course 2023 from 13-15 July 2023. The inaugural ceremony began with a grand procession of all students, faculty, and staff members, carrying Swami's palanquin, from the hostel to the Institute at 8:45 am on 13 July 2023.

Day 1:

The session began at 09:00 with Vedam by the students followed by the lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest, Dr. Sai Kumar IAS, the Director of the campus Sri B. Venkataramana, the Warden of the campus, Sri Sai Manohar, the Head of Department of Management and Commerce, Dr. K Sai Manohar and Dr. G S Srirangarajan, Associate Professor, DMC, BRN Campus, SSSIHL.

Sri Sai Govardhan J, Assistant Professor in English, MDH campus SSSIHL, introduced the purpose of the Summer Course in Indian culture and Spirituality at the Sri Satya Sathya Institute of Higher Learning and invited the Director of Muddenahalli campus, Sri B Venkataramana, to deliver the Welcome Address to the gathering. In his address, Sri B Venkataramana welcomed everyone to the Summer Course and expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, Dr. Sai Kumar I.A.S, and Dr. Rangarajan for joining the session. He emphasized the importance of starting early on the spiritual journey and understanding its benefits. He encouraged the participants to explore and learn about Indian culture and spirituality during the two-and-a-half-day course and concluded by expressing gratitude and wishing the students a fruitful learning experience.

The next speaker Sri Bhaskaran V, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, recalled the history of the Summer Course and deliberated on its importance as a part of our integral education system. He referred to Swami's speech on the importance of spirituality and denoted the role of our integrated education system in inculcating the same in the young minds of our Nation.

This was followed by the Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest, Dr. Sai Kumar I.A.S., who emphasised the importance of divine blessings in converting our limitations into strength. He elaborated on the richness of our culture and spirituality highlighting the way they can help us in our sustainable development. He insisted on looking back to our ancient scriptures like Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Vedas to understand our cultural strength and spirituality. He encouraged the audience to practice the teachings of Indian spirituality and culture. Dr. Sai Kumar IAS shared anecdotes about individuals seeking divine intervention for their health issues, emphasizing the need for personal responsibility and practical action in addition to spiritual beliefs. He also cited the Bhagavad Gita, highlighting the importance of combining action with wisdom to achieve success and firm resolve in life. He concluded his speech by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to discuss Indian Spirituality. After his talk, the Director of the campus felicitated the Chief Guest with a token of love.

The audience was then treated to a video of Bhagawan's Summer Course Discourse delivered on 23 May 1990. At noon, a soulful Bhajan Workshop was hosted by Sri S Ravi Kumar, Dr. Amey Deshpande, and Dr. Siddhartha R of Prasanthi Nilayam, followed by a special lunch.

Post lunch, a Study Circle was conducted that saw a group-wise discussion on a video presentation of Bhagawan's discourse. The next session was a talk by Dr. Srirangarajan, Associate Professor, DMC, who elaborated on the lessons that can be learned from the Ramayana. His explanation with the help of matrices gave wholesome perspectives to his insightful talk.

The proceedings of Day 1 concluded with Shanthi Mantra, which was followed by a sumptuous dinner at the hostel and a Parayanam session by Sri R Subramanyan who shared his experiences with Bhagawan.



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Day 2 started with Vedam chanting followed by a talk by Sri Ashok Sundareshan on Indian current problems and finding Bharatiya solutions for the same. His insightful talk was a direct reflection of his prowess in his professional and spiritual fields. Followed by his talk, Pandit Sri Mukesh Sudarshan addressed the audience. His speech, interspersed with recitations of Vedic Chants emphasised the importance of Vedas in our culture and traditions.

Following a short break, the participants had an opportunity to listen to a Panel Discussion with the Alumni of SSSIHL, MDH campus. The panelists, moderated by Dr. B. Chandrasekhar of DMC, shared their thoughts on the topic "Spirituality Works". They shared their personal experiences where Bhagawan guided them with the right thoughts to overcome the challenges life has thrown at them. The panelists were: Sri Vikram GN, Associate Manager, Global Advocacy; Sri S Ajay Mukund, Ph.D. Scholar, Anna University; Sri M Sai Santosh, Financial Analyst intern, Valuetinum Advisory; Sri Sravan Sai, Associate Organizations, JP Morgan; Sri Chikkam Sai Phani Kumar, Asst. Manager, HDFC.

Post lunch, a Study Circle was conducted that saw a group-wise discussion on a video presentation of Bhagawan's discourse. In the evening, the Parayanam session was conducted by Sri SVS Sarma sharing his experiences on how he came into Bhagawan's fold.

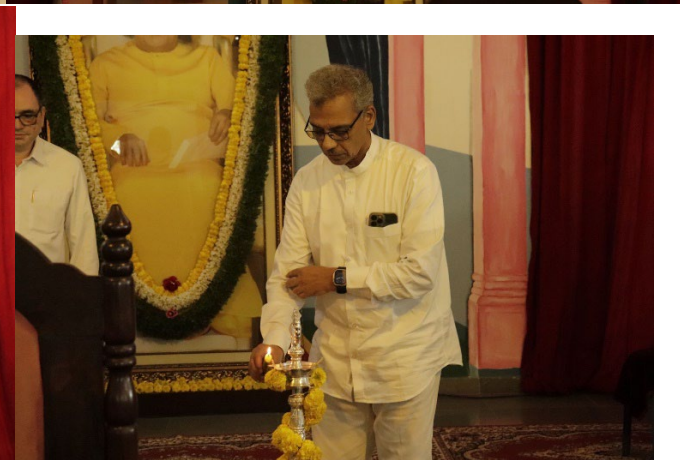
Day 3 started with Vedam chanting followed by a talk by Sri Kota Shiv Kumar on the topic "Dharmo Rakshati Rakhitaha". This was followed by a skit by the students on Swami's moral stories "*Chinna Katha*".

The Valedictory Address was given by Sri Sanjay Sahni, Controller of Examinations who shared his experiences with Bhagawan. The two-and-a-half-day Summer Course concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Sri Sai Govardhan J. and Mangala Arathi.



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Culture and Spirituality
With Campus on 10 JULY 2019