



**SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING**

(Deemed to be University)

**Department of Languages and Literature - English**

**brings to you**

**LIT-TREAT: EDITION VI**

**15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

***Contours of Consciousness***

**Mapping Life, Literature and Spirituality**

**Sai Hira Global Convention Centre,  
Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi**

[Click here to register](#)



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## **LIT-TREAT: EDITION VI**

### **Contours of Consciousness**

### **Mapping Life, Literature and Spirituality**

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

From the genesis of oral traditions to the intricacies of modern literary compositions, the human spirit has perpetually sought articulation through language. Across its myriad forms, literature has consistently functioned as a profound conduit for exploring existential inquiries, the ineffable essence of the soul, and the nuanced dimensions of spiritual exploration. Throughout diverse civilisations, both sacred and secular texts—ranging from the *Bhagavad Gita*'s discourse on duty and liberation to Dante's allegorical ascent in the *Divine Comedy*, Rumi's ecstatic poetry, and the meditative serenity of *Tao Te Ching*—have intricately interwoven the temporal with the eternal.

Lit-Treat VI aims to illuminate the pervasive influence of spirituality within narrative, poetry, and drama across diverse temporal and cultural landscapes. It positions spirituality not as rigid dogma, but as an enduring and evolving dialogue between the finite and the infinite. The event will convene distinguished scholars, writers, and thinkers to meticulously trace the spirit's journey as articulated through language, symbolism, and cultural memory. By reflecting upon some seminal works, we endeavour to uncover how literature persistently serves as both a reflective mirror and a guiding compass for the human soul.

**When?** 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**Where?** Sai Hira Global Convention Centre,  
Prasanthi Nilayam, Puttaparthi

**Who can attend?** Interested students, research scholars and  
academicians from any academic discipline

**Contact email -** [events.engdept@sssihl.edu.in](mailto:events.engdept@sssihl.edu.in)

## **LIT-TREAT: EDITION VI**

### **Contours of Consciousness**

### **Mapping Life, Literature and Spirituality**

## **PLENARY SPEAKERS**

Prof. N. Nagaraju is a distinguished academician and the Vice-Chancellor of The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, Telangana. With an illustrious career spanning 37 years in teaching, research, and administration, he has previously served in various capacities such as Vice-chancellor of Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur, Odisha, faculty of Central University of Karnataka, Rajiv Gandhi Central University (Arunachal Pradesh), and as Visiting Faculty at the Sri Sathya Sai University.

Prof. Nagaraju has held several key leadership roles, including Head of the Department of English, Dean of Languages, Registrar, and Chairman of Board of Studies. He has published extensively, guided multiple research scholars, and presented papers at prestigious forums, including the South Asian Literary Association in Seattle and the Modern Language Association in Glasgow. An accomplished administrator, he actively integrates the National Education Policy (NEP) and promotes inclusivity, innovation, and cultural values in education. His vision emphasises excellence in learning, research, and holistic institutional growth.



**Prof. N. Nagaraju**



**Prof. Sreekala M. Nair**

Prof. Sreekala Nair is an eminent scholar and Director of the International School for Sree Sankaracharya Studies and Senior Professor of Philosophy at the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit (SSUS), Kalady. She is a Visiting Professor at the Hindu University of America, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, and Santhigiri Research Foundation. With expertise in Indian epistemology, consciousness studies, and post-Śāṅkara Advaita Vedānta, she has authored a seminal book, *Analysis of Knowledge: Classical and Contemporary Approaches*, edited two volumes, and published over 70 research papers. A prolific academic, she has presented about 300 papers worldwide, organised more than 70 national and international conferences, and supervised around 60 dissertations and theses. She has served SSUS in multiple leadership roles, including Dean, Director of IQAC, and Controller of Examinations. Recipient of several prestigious awards, Prof. Nair is widely recognised for her outstanding contributions to Indian philosophy and higher education.

**LIT-TREAT: EDITION VI**  
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**Prof. Sumita Roy**

Prof. Sumita Roy is a distinguished academician, former Director of the English Language Training Centre at Osmania University, Hyderabad and Head of the Department of English. With over four decades of teaching and research experience, she has guided around 30 scholars and led four major post-doctoral research projects, including UGC and MHRD-sponsored initiatives. An accomplished author with 47 books and 52 research papers, Prof. Roy has delivered over 1,400 lectures worldwide and conducted over 50 workshops. She has represented India across 15 countries, collaborated internationally through MoUs with universities in the USA, Canada, Germany, and Norway, and served as a resource person for prestigious institutions. Her YouTube channel, *Sumita Roy's English Classroom*, has garnered 90k subscribers and 2.5 million views, reflecting her passion for teaching. Recipient of the **Books on Books** Award (2006), Prof. Roy continues to inspire learners globally.

Dr. Lalitha Sarma is a Project Research Scientist at The Cell for Indian Sciences and Technology in Sanskrit (CISTS), in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay. She is an alumna and a former faculty member in the Department of Languages and Literature – English, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. She has a rich teaching experience with her research interests as diverse as Women Studies, Gender Studies, Shakespeare Studies, Digital Humanities and Indic Studies. She has several publications to her credit in highly indexed journals.



**Dr. Lalitha Sarma**



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## **LIT-TREAT: EDITION VI**

**Contours of Consciousness**

**Mapping Life, Literature and Spirituality**

## **PANEL DISCUSSIONS**

**संस्कृतसाहित्ये आध्यात्मबोधः**  
**Spiritual Insights**  
**in Sanskrit Literature**

**Spirituality Across Traditions:**  
**A Study with Reference**  
**to the Select Narratives**

**The Seer, the Seen,**  
**and the Act of Seeing:**  
**Perception in Literature,**  
**Philosophy, and Spirituality**

**Sai Kruta Vahini:**  
**Conversation**  
**on Sri Sathya Sai Vahinis**

**Decoding Spirituality:**  
**A Panel on the Key Texts**  
**in Sai Literature**

**Department of Sanskrit,**  
**Sri Sathya Sai Institute**  
**of Higher Learning**  
**and National Sanskrit University,**  
**Tirupati**

**Department of English,**  
**Central University of Andhra**  
**Pradesh, Anantapur**

**Department of English**  
**and Cultural Studies,**  
**Christ University, Bengaluru**

**Centre for Sri Sathya Sai Studies,**  
**Sri Sathya Sai Centre**  
**for Human Values**  
**and Sri Sathya Sai Media Centre**

**Department of Languages**  
**and Literature,**  
**Sri Sathya Sai Institute**  
**of Higher Learning**

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**CULTURAL EVENTS**

**Hermeneutics of Abhinaya:  
Embodied Interpretation of Literature  
in Mohiniyattam**



**Ms. Vidya Pradeep**

This presentation will explore abhinaya in Mohiniyattam as a form of hermeneutics — an embodied mode of interpretation that uncovers layers of meaning beyond the written word, transforming poetry and text into a lived aesthetic experience on stage.

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**From Padārtha to Paramātmā: Tracing the Footprints  
of Four Spiritual Seekers**

Students, Department of Languages and Literature – English,  
Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Anantapur Campus

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**The Muse of Hundred Suns**

Students, Department of Languages and Literature - English,  
Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Nandigiri Campus



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**ABOUT THE INSTITUTE**

Founded in 1981, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (Deemed to be University) is a visible manifestation of its Founder-Chancellor, Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's vision of "Education for Human Transformation". It provides values-based quality education, free of cost to students. This transformation (of students, teachers and staff) has been the guiding principle right from the inception, when Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning integrated ethics and values as the undercurrent of every subject taught at the Institute. The residential system of the Institute, combined with academic and research excellence, guarantees the holistic development of the body, mind and spirit of the student in an environment similar to the ancient Indian 'gurukula' system of education, in the modern context.





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**ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT**

The English Department is one of the oldest departments of the Institute, evolving with time in tandem with the emerging trends in the field. The Department offers B.A. (Hons./ Hons. with Research) in English in line with the New Education Policy, comprising courses that cover Literary and Language Studies. The Department also offers an M.A. in English Language and Literature, carefully crafted to make the curriculum contemporaneous, innovative, inclusive and skill oriented, bringing together the best of the classical and the modern in English Studies. Additionally, the Department has a very robust Doctoral Research Programme which contributes positively and effectively to the core domain and the society at large. The areas of research are contemporary, spanning a wide spectrum of literary and language studies, like Linguistics and Stylistics, Trauma and Memory Studies, Narrative Studies, Environmental Humanities, Children's Literature, Indian Philosophy and Poetics, English Language Teaching to name a few. The Department also facilitates an enriching academic and research experience and exposure to the students through varied extension activities. With its dedicated, erudite and inspiring faculty, the English Department at the Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning aims to become a leading centre of academic and research excellence by shaping learners into holistic individuals and competent professionals, through interdisciplinary, literary and linguistic pursuits.



## **A GLIMPSE THROUGH THE EDITIONS**

### **Edition I**

#### **The Spirit(-ual) of Life in Literature: Characters of Resilience (2020)**

A webinar on Life, Language and Literature

### **Edition II**

#### **Exploring Authorpreneurship (2021)**

A webinar exploring creativity and entrepreneurship

### **Edition III**

#### **Mythological Narratives in Indian English Writing (2022)**

A hybrid conference bridging ancient stories with modern voices

### **Edition IV**

#### **Earthy Echoes in English Literature (2023)**

An International Seminar on ecological and environmental themes

### **Edition V**

#### **Language, Literature and Beyond:**

#### **Exploring New Frontiers in English Studies (2025)**

National conference for PG students & research scholars

### **Participation Details**

- Lunch will be provided on both days.
- Accommodation will be provided to out-station participants inside the Prasanthi Nilayam Ashram for a nominal price.
- Accommodation will be on a shared basis only.
- For information regarding Ashram rules, please visit:
  - <https://www.prasanthinilayam.in/codeofconduct.php>
- Participants can also choose to stay outside the Ashram.
- Participation certificate will be issued to all the participants.



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



## **Chief Patrons**

Shri K. Chakravarthi, IAS (Retd.),  
Hon'ble Chancellor, SSSIHL

Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad,  
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SSSIHL

## **Chairperson**

Prof. Rani P.L.,  
Dean, Humanities & Social Sciences, and Languages & Literature,  
Director, SSSIHL, Anantapur Campus

## **Convenors**

Dr. Maitali Khanna  
Assistant Professor and Head,  
Department of Languages and Literature  
maitalikhanna@sssihl.edu.in

Dr. Siddhartha R.  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Languages  
and Literature-English  
siddharthar@sssihl.edu.in

Dr. Sowmya Srinivasan  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Languages  
and Literature-English  
sowmyasrinivasan@sssihl.edu.in

## **Organising Committee**

Dr. N. Vani Sri

Dr. Prashant Luthra

Ms. Sai Archana M.

Dr. Vijayalekshmi R.

Dr. Vivek Chauhan

Dr. Priyamvada C.

Ms. Aarthi R. M.

Dr. B. Venkata Ramana

Sri. Sai Govardhan J.

## **Coordinators**

Research Scholars of the Department

[Click here to register](#)



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**LIT-TREAT: EDITION VI**  
**SCHEDULE**

**15th September 2025**

**Venue: Sai Hira Global Convention Centre**

**Inaugural Session**

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

**Invocatory Vedam**

**Welcome Address**

**Inaugural Address**

11:00 AM to 11:50 AM

**Plenary Talk I**

Prof. Sreekala Nair, Director, International School for  
Sree Sankaracharya Studies

11:50 AM to 12:40 PM

**Plenary Talk II**

Dr. Lalita Sarma, Project Research Scientist,  
CISTS, IIT Bombay

12:40 PM to 02:00 PM

**Lunch Break**

02:00 PM to 02:50 PM

**Panel Discussion I**

**संस्कृतसाहित्ये आध्यात्मबोधः**

***Spiritual Insights in Sanskrit Literature***

Department of Sanskrit,  
Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning  
and National Sanskrit University, Tirupati

02:50 PM to 03:40 PM

**Cultural Presentation**

***Hermeneutics of Abhinaya: Embodied Interpretation  
of Literature in Mohiniyattam***

Ms. Vidya Pradeep, Mohiniyattam Artist

03:40 PM to 04:30 PM

**Panel Discussion II**

***The Seer, the Seen, and the Act of Seeing:  
Perception in Literature, Philosophy, and Spirituality***

Department of English and Cultural Studies,  
Christ University, Bengaluru



## **LIT-TREAT: EDITION VI**

### **SCHEDULE**

**16th September 2025**

**Venue: Sai Hira Global Convention Centre**

10:00 AM to 10:10 AM

#### **Invocatory Vedam**

10:10 AM to 11:00 AM

#### **Plenary Talk III**

Prof. Sumita Roy, former Director,  
English Language Training Centre, Osmania University,  
Hyderabad

11:00 AM to 11:50 AM

#### **Panel Discussion III**

#### ***Spirituality Across Traditions: A Study with Reference to the Select Narratives***

Department of English, Central University  
of Andhra Pradesh, Anantapur

11:50 AM to 12:40 PM

#### **Panel Discussion IV**

#### ***Sai Kruta Vahini: Conversation on Sri Sathya Sai Vahinis***

Centre for Sri Sathya Sai Studies,  
Sri Sathya Sai Centre for Human Values,  
and Sri Sathya Sai Media Centre

12:40 PM to 01:50 PM

#### **Lunch Break**

01:50 PM to 02:15PM

#### **Cultural Presentation**

#### ***The Muse of Hundred Suns***

Students, Department of English,  
SSSIHL, Nandigiri Campus



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## **LIT-TREAT: EDITION VI**

### **SCHEDULE**

**16th September 2025**

**Venue: Sai Hira Global Convention Centre**

02:15 PM to 03:05 PM

#### **Panel Discussion V**

##### ***Decoding Spirituality:***

##### ***A Panel on the Key Texts in Sai Literature***

Department of Languages and Literature,  
Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning

03:05 PM to 03:35 PM

#### **Cultural Presentation**

##### ***From Padārtha to Paramātmā: Tracing the Footprints of Four Spiritual Seekers***

Students, SSSIHL, Anantapur Campus

03:35 PM to 04:20 PM

#### **Valedictory Address**

Prof. Naga Raju, Vice-Chancellor,  
The English and Foreign Languages University,  
Hyderabad

04:20 PM

#### **Vote of Thanks**

04:30 PM

#### **Mangal Aarthi**