



Smaran Alumni Homecoming 2026 – A Report

Theme: Revive Memories. Relive Joy. Rekindle Bonds.

Venue: Brindavan Campus, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL)

Date: March 15, 2026

Attendance: 400+ alumni (with 80+ participating in the early morning sessions)

I. The Dawn of Nostalgia: Reliving Student Life

The homecoming commenced by bridging decades, as alumni stepped back into the disciplined yet soulful rhythm of Brindavan hostel life.

A Spiritual Awakening (5:00 A.M.): The day commenced with over 80 alumni gathering in the early pre-dawn hours to begin their day exactly as they had as students. The air resonated with the chanting of **Suprabhatam**—a powerful moment of reflection that allowed many to relive the spiritual foundation of their youth.

The "Ragi Malt" Tradition: Following the morning prayers, a brief refreshment break was held, where the quintessential hostel classic—Ragi Malt—was served. For many, this simple offering was the literal taste of nostalgia, sparking immediate conversations about shared hostel memories.

Physical Vitality & Camaraderie: Recognizing that jogging and games are pillars of the Brindavan experience, the alumni moved to the institute grounds. The “alumni brothers” took to the field for a session of jogging and informal games, demonstrating that the spirit of brotherhood and physical vigor remains a lifelong trait of an SSSIHL student.

The Morning Feast: The activities then transitioned to the college quadrangle, where a scrumptious breakfast was served, providing a scenic backdrop for reconnecting before the formal proceedings began.

II. Formal Inaugural Session: "Belonging" to the Source

The formal session opened in the auditorium, reverberating with the sacred chants of bhajans and invocatory Vedam performed by the alumni.

Welcome Address by Prof. N. Sivakumar (Dean, Department of Management and Commerce, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning):

Prof. N. Sivakumar noted that “Smaran” was born from a sense of oneness and belonging. He shared a poignant observation from a recent NHRD summit, where a discussion on “burnout” evolved into the realization that “belonging” is the ultimate cure. He welcomed the alumni back to their “home away from home,” expressing a hopeful vision for a future defined by collaborative giving back.



Introductory Address by Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad (Vice-Chancellor, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning):

The Vice-Chancellor fondly reminisced about his student days at Brindavan, reflecting on how studying at His Lotus Feet shaped his life and character. He reminded alumni of the honour and responsibility of being Sai students, emphasizing that living the values imbibed at SSSIHL earns enduring respect in society. Recalling Bhagawan's oft-repeated words that His students are His "only property," he highlighted the deep love and trust placed in them, and underscored the Sri Sathya Sai Students Alumni Association as a valuable platform to reconnect and contribute.

Keynote Address by Sri R.J. Rathnakar (Managing Trustee, Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust):

Sri R.J. Rathnakar, reflecting on his own journey as an alumnus, expressed gratitude to Bhagawan for creating a unique ecosystem that nurtures individuals into good human beings. He noted that Bhagawan dedicated the prime of His life to building institutions rooted in human values, offering education free of cost—an extraordinary and divine endeavor. He invited alumni to play an active role in the continued growth of the institution, as mentors, guides, and contributors in diverse ways.

III. Strategic Breakout Sessions: Collaborative Giving Back

Following a group photograph session across batches spanning over six decades, and before lunch, alumni engaged in intensive breakout sessions with senior faculty to bridge the gap between industry and the institute.

Session 1: Student Mentoring, Welfare & Statutory Compliance

The Context: Faculty briefed alumni on newer UGC mandates, including the introduction of "feature phones" for student connectivity and the evolving mentor-mentee ratio (currently 1:15).

Alumni Insights – Inspiration over Knowledge: It was suggested to move beyond rote awareness courses toward "inspirational case studies" of alumni who have lived Bhagawan's ideals in the corporate world.

- **The "Digital Fast":** A proposal for "No Gadget Days," paired with alumni-led parayanam (reading) sessions.
 - **Buddy System:** A virtual buddy mentoring system and a formal "Mentor Office" were proposed to streamline academic and wellness support.
 - **Drama as a Tool:** Discussions highlighted how participation in drama fosters "character through source, not force."
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Session 2: Academic Innovation & Industry Readiness

Current Progress: Prof. R. Gowrishankar, Dean of Academic Affairs, highlighted the institute's transition to NEP 2020, including 4-year UG Honours programmes, multiple exit options, and specialized 1-year Master's programmes.

Market-Ready Evolution: Highlights included the 100% placement milestone, the **SSSRIF** innovation centre, and the new **High-performance Computing** facility at Prasanthi Nilayam.

Future Curricula: Discussions covered the BS in Finance & Data Analytics, part-time PhD programmes for professionals (up to age 50), and MoU-based ACCA/CFA integrations.

Alumni Contributions: Alumni from the **Tata Group**, **Gen AI startups**, and the semiconductor industry offered to conduct workshops on prompt engineering and computational science.

- Proposals were also made for industry-sponsored research internships and the creation of audio-visual recordings of expert guest lectures to address industry-specific skill gaps (e.g., embryology, actuarial science).

IV. Afternoon Session: Reflection and the Divine Call

After a delicious lunch in the hostel dining hall, the day moved toward its emotional and spiritual crescendo. In a visual tour led by **Sri C. N. Kshetragna** (Professor of Practice, DMC), the institute's evolution was framed through a Triple Engine Framework: Bhagawan's Grace (Values), Leadership Drive (Rigor), and Alumni Power (Industry Connect).

The Strategic Evolution:

- **Then:** Traditionally recognized for deep theoretical grounding and academic rigor within a disciplined "Gurukula" environment.
- **Now:** An integrated, industry-aligned ecosystem blending management and analytics, marked by 100% placement milestones, 6-month mandatory internships, and specialized tracks in Gen AI and Fintech – while remaining firmly rooted in the same disciplined "Gurukula" environment.

Key Alumni Takeaways:

- **Mentorship:** Transitioning to a formal "Buddy System" and a dedicated Mentor Office.
- **Skill Transfer:** Opportunities for alumni to lead workshops on prompt engineering and industry-specific certifications (ACCA/CFA).
- **Collaborative Innovation:** Engaging in funded research and sharing real-world datasets for student projects via SSSRIF.



- **Alumni Q&A:** A stimulating interactive session took place with the Vice Chancellor and Dean of Innovation at the helm. Alumni displayed keen interest in integrating their professional networks with the institute's research and placement goals.
 - **The Closing Documentary:** A 15-minute film took the alumni brothers back through the corridors of time, culminating in a divine message from Bhagawan Baba. The auditorium grew silent as Bhagawan's voice reminded everyone that they are His property, cherished beyond measure.
 - **Song Offering:** The afternoon session concluded with a song offering, '*Humko Tumse Pyaar Kitna*', by the alumni.
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V. Conclusion: Capturing the Eternal Bond

The day concluded with light-hearted engagement and spiritual closure:

Memories Captured: Alumni visited fun stalls, the Memory Wall, and photo booths to document the reunion with their respective batches.

Trayee Session: The event concluded with the evening Trayee Darshan, where alumni sat in the divine presence at Trayee Brindavan—the sanctum of the Sri Sathya Sai Ashram, Brindavan, Whitefield—carrying home a renewed commitment to the values of their alma mater.

The homecoming stood as a reaffirmation of the timeless bond between alumni and SSSIHL—strengthening a shared commitment to values, service, and collective growth.