



SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Deemed to be University)

Prof. Gowrishankar R
Director, Prasanthi Nilayam Campus

Report on the 80th Independence Day Celebrations

Date: 15th August 2026

Venue: Prasanthi Nilayam Campus Quadrangle

The 80th Independence Day of India was celebrated with great patriotic fervour and dignity at the Prasanthi Nilayam Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning (SSSIHL) on 15th August 2026.

The programme commenced at 8:00 a.m. with the arrival of the Chief Guest. At 8:05 a.m., the National song was played after which the National Flag was hoisted by the Director of the SSSIHL Campus, Prof. Gowrishankar R., followed by the National Anthem.

At 8:10 a.m., the Director addressed the gathering and paid tribute to the freedom fighters whose sacrifices, courage, and profound love for the nation made India's independence possible. He emphasised that the freedom we enjoy today comes with the responsibility to contribute meaningfully towards the nation's progress.

Speaking on the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, he highlighted the importance of discipline, purity, integrity, and responsible citizenship. He reminded the gathering that service to the nation begins with our everyday responsibilities; in the classroom, at home, and in the laboratory. He also stressed the importance of respect, love, and compassion towards society, noting that nation-building begins with individual character and sincere performance of one's duties.

The Director further reflected on the deeper meaning of freedom, referring to the freedom of the Self, as emphasised by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba in 1993. He encouraged everyone to understand independence not merely as political freedom, but also as inner freedom achieved through self-discipline, purity of thought, and mastery over oneself. The programme was further enriched by a patriotic song offering by the students of Department of Performing Arts, which created a profound sense of patriotism and collective devotion.

The celebration served as a meaningful reminder that true independence is accompanied by responsibility, self-discipline, service, and love for the nation. It concluded with a renewed commitment among the members of the Institute to uphold these values and contribute towards the welfare and progress of the nation.

R. G. Govindarajan



SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

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Brindavan Campus

80th Independence Day Celebrations, 15 August 2026

1. Introduction

The 80th Independence Day Celebrations, was organised by the institution to honour the nation's freedom, remember the sacrifices of freedom fighters, and strengthen patriotic values among students and staff. The programme served as a platform to promote constitutional values, national integration, discipline, social responsibility, and pride in India's cultural and democratic heritage. Through ceremonial proceedings, speeches, patriotic songs, and band performances, the event encouraged students to reflect on the meaning of independence and their role in contributing to a self-reliant and developed Bharat.

2. Objectives of the Programme

The objective of the programme was to commemorate the 80th Independence Day of Bharat with dignity, discipline, and patriotic spirit, while instilling respect for national symbols, constitutional values, and the sacrifices of freedom fighters among students and staff. The programme also aimed to encourage student participation through speeches, patriotic songs, band performance, and ceremonial proceedings, and to promote institutional values such as unity, responsibility, integrity, discipline, self-reliance, and service to the nation.

3. Programme Schedule and Proceedings

The programme commenced with the formal welcome of the Chief Guest, followed by the rendering of the National Song, "Vande Mataram." In 2026, the rendition of "Vande Mataram" assumed special significance as Government directions required its collective singing as part of Independence Day observances, with the National Song to be rendered before the National Anthem wherever both were included in the ceremonial sequence. The singing of "Vande Mataram" created an atmosphere of reverence, unity, and devotion to the motherland, reminding the gathering of the song's historic role in awakening patriotic consciousness during India's freedom movement.

The National Flag was then hoisted by the Chief Guest, after which the National Anthem was led by the institutional band. The band was commanded by A. Prem Sai, II MBA. The proceedings continued with an introduction by Tatan Gope, II MBA, who invoked patriotic sentiment through Hindi lines celebrating the Himalayas, the Ganga, fearless winds, and the glory of the Tiranga.

“Tera Himalaya aakash chhoo le, bahti rahe teri Ganga; ooncha ho itna, chalti rahein bekhauf hawayein, lehra ke jhoomo Tiranga. Azaad rahe, aabaad rahe tu, taaron ko choome Tiranga.”

These lines set a devotional and patriotic tone for the celebration and prepared the gathering for the formal address by the student speaker.

4. Student Address by Sai Utkarsh Opal

Sai Utkarsh Opal, II MBA, delivered a reflective Hindi address on the meaning of freedom and the responsibilities of youth in nation-building. He began by extending greetings on Independence Day and urged the audience to ask what true freedom means. Referring to the sacrifices of freedom fighters, he highlighted that freedom was not merely a transfer of political power, but the right of Bharat to determine its own future. He recalled the inspiring words of Bhagat Singh and Subhas Chandra Bose and emphasised that their courage was rooted in faith, sacrifice, and the dream of an independent nation. The speaker noted that today's generation has inherited the Bharat envisioned by earlier generations and must now strengthen the nation through discipline, integrity, education, innovation, and social responsibility. He further stated that real progress is measured not only by economic growth but also by the character of citizens. Citing Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and Mahatma Gandhi, he encouraged students to dream of a scientifically advanced, economically strong, secure, and socially united Bharat, while becoming the change they wish to see. The address concluded with a collective resolve to remain ambitious without arrogance, successful without compromising honesty, aware of rights without forgetting duties, and committed to asking not only what Bharat has done for us, but what we can do for Bharat. The speech ended with patriotic affirmations of Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Vande Mataram, and Jai Hind.

5. Introduction of the Chief Guest

The Chief Guest, Dr. Commander Devendra Singh, was introduced as a Senior Principal Scientist with education in Aerospace Engineering from IIT Kanpur and extensive professional experience in aerospace research, electronics, instrumentation, strategic sectors, aerodynamics, flight physics, mission planning, aircraft design certification, systems engineering, and project management. His contributions to National Aerospace Laboratories, CSIR, naval aviation, indigenous aircraft carrier programmes, aerospace defence, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, cyber security, robotics, research, innovation, and academia were acknowledged. The institution expressed its honour in welcoming him and invited him to address the gathering.

6. Address by the Chief Guest

Dr. Commander Devendra Singh delivered an inspiring address connecting national freedom with technological self-reliance. He stated that while earlier generations fought for freedom with sacrifice, the present generation must protect and sustain that freedom through technology, innovation, discipline, and self-reliant capability. Drawing from his experience in the Navy, DRDO, and research institutions, he described students as “soldiers of technology” who must prepare themselves to serve the nation through knowledge, precision, and resilience. He emphasised that the strength of the armed forces lies not merely in machines, aircraft, ships, or submarines, but in the people behind them. He connected the military principle “the more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war” with student life, encouraging students to prepare continuously rather than only at the time of examinations or challenges. He explained that discipline is not a restriction on freedom, but the highest form of freedom, freeing individuals from laziness, mediocrity, and carelessness. He highlighted the importance of accuracy in

engineering, noting that even a small error in software, simulation, or design can have serious consequences in aerospace and defence systems. Referring to rapid technological changes in drones, communication, aerospace, defence, artificial intelligence, and related fields, he stressed that Bharat must advance as a self-reliant technological power. He encouraged students in Bengaluru, a hub of aerospace, defence, and technology, to convert ideas from classrooms and laboratories into products that serve the country. He further linked the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 with the present generation, stating that the students of today will become the leaders, scientists, engineers, officers, entrepreneurs, and decision-makers of tomorrow. He concluded with three guiding messages: aim beyond the horizon, fly with disciplined rotors through character and ethics, and keep the nose up by preserving Indian values, hard work, and integrity. The address concluded with the message that the world is watching Bharat's ascent and that students must contribute meaningfully to it.

7. Cultural and Patriotic Performances

The formal addresses were followed by group patriotic songs and band performances. The cultural segment was designed not only as an artistic presentation but also as an expression of national feeling, gratitude, courage, unity, and collective responsibility. The students presented "Mera Mulk Mera Desh," "Sundaram Bharatam," and the institutional band performance of "Kadam Kadam Badhaye Ja." Together, these songs reflected devotion to the motherland, respect for India's soil and culture, readiness for service, and the spirit of marching forward with courage for the nation.

The song "*Mera Mulk Mera Desh, Mera Yeh Watan*" presented the nation as a garden of peace, progress, and love. The lyrics "Shanti ka, unnati ka, pyaar ka chaman" conveyed the ideal of Bharat as a land where harmony, development, and affection flourish together. The lines "Iske vaaste nisaar hai mera tan, mera man" expressed complete dedication of body and mind to the nation. The song also reminded the audience that the bodies and identities of citizens are formed from the soil of the motherland: "Iski mitti se bane tere mere yeh badan." Through these lines, the performance encouraged students to recognise the nation not merely as a territory, but as a living source of identity, values, protection, and belonging.

The song "*Sundaram Bharatam*" added a cultural and civilisational dimension to the celebration by portraying Bharat as beautiful not only in its landscapes but also in its values, traditions, diversity, and spiritual heritage. Its presentation strengthened the message that patriotism includes admiration for the nation's culture, respect for its plurality, devotion and land of Rama, Krishna and Sathya Sai Baba and responsibility towards preserving its dignity.

"*Kadam Kadam Badhaye Ja*" is a famous patriotic marching song associated with the Azad Hind Fauj and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Its rhythm and words represent courage, forward movement, sacrifice, discipline, and devotion to the nation. The repeated call "Kadam kadam badhaye ja" inspired the gathering to keep moving ahead with confidence, while "Yeh zindagi hai qaum ki, tu qaum pe lutaye ja" communicated the message that individual life finds its highest purpose in service to the nation. The song's marching character added energy and ceremonial strength to the programme and reinforced the ideals of bravery, unity, and national commitment.

8. Conclusion

The 80th Independence Day Celebration of Bharat was conducted in a dignified and meaningful manner. The programme successfully combined ceremonial observance, student participation, patriotic expression, cultural presentation, and thought-provoking addresses. The event reinforced the institution's commitment to national integration, constitutional values, student development, ethical citizenship, and contribution to the vision of a self-reliant and developed Bharat.



SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

(Deemed to be University)

Nandigiri Campus

80th Independence Day Celebrations, 15 August 2026 – A Report

Introduction

This year, India celebrated its **80th Independence Day**, marking eight decades since the nation attained freedom from British rule. The occasion provides an opportunity to remember the immense sacrifices made by countless freedom fighters, patriots, and unsung heroes who dedicated their lives to the cause of India's independence. Independence Day is not merely a celebration of the freedom we inherited; it is also a reminder of the responsibility that comes with it. The progress and prosperity of our motherland depend upon the contribution of every citizen, particularly the younger generation, who will carry forward the nation's journey in the years to come.

At the Nandigiri Campus, Independence Day was celebrated with great fervour and patriotic enthusiasm. The campus was adorned in the Tricolour and beautifully decorated to mark this momentous occasion. Faculty members and working staff came together to commemorate the nation's 80th Independence Day, and we had the privilege of welcoming **Col. Arvind Bhagra** as the **Chief Guest** for the occasion.

The celebrations sought to remind us that while we honour the sacrifices of those who secured our freedom, we must also recognise our own responsibility to contribute towards the nation's development, progress, and prosperity.



Programme

The programme commenced with everyone joining together in the singing of “**Vande Mataram**,” which holds special significance this year as the nation commemorates its anniversary. This was followed by the **invocatory Vedam**, setting a solemn and auspicious tone for the celebrations.

The invocation was followed by a musical presentation by one of our brothers, which added a vibrant and celebratory spirit to the occasion. This was followed by a series of speeches by the students, who reflected upon the significance of Independence Day and the responsibilities that accompany the freedom we enjoy today.

The speakers reminded everyone that the struggles and sacrifices of the past must never be forgotten, and that remembering them should inspire us to build a safer, stronger, and more prosperous future. They emphasised that the destiny of the nation rests, to a great extent, in the hands of its present generation. The speakers also highlighted that celebrations would remain

incomplete if they were not accompanied by a sincere commitment to discharge the responsibilities entrusted to us as citizens.

The student speakers were:

- **Hariprasath, II BS**
- **Nirmal Kafle, II BA**
- **Nandhu Kumar, III BS**
- **Sayseekumar, IV BS**

The programme was compered by **Arjhun from II BA**, whose able coordination ensured the smooth flow of the proceedings. The thoughtful speeches and enthusiastic participation of the students added considerable charm and colour to the celebrations.





Address by the Chief Guest

The gathering was then addressed by the Chief Guest, **Col. Arvind Bhagra**. In his address, he expressed his appreciation for the thoughts shared by the student speakers, observing that many of the themes he had intended to speak about had already been covered by them.

Drawing from his experience and understanding of contemporary India, Col. Bhagra spoke about the country's growing emphasis on **Atmanirbhar Bharat**, or self-reliance. He emphasised the importance of reducing our dependence on other nations, particularly in strategically important areas. He highlighted how external dependencies can have far-reaching consequences, especially during periods of international instability.

He further spoke about the importance of India maintaining its independent position in world affairs. He expressed pride in the country's ability to withstand external pressures and pursue its national interests without being compelled to take sides in international conflicts.

While acknowledging the economic challenges being faced globally, he noted that India remains relatively well-positioned compared with many other countries, particularly in the context of the ongoing geopolitical conflicts around the world. He encouraged the students to view these circumstances with maturity and to recognise the opportunities available to the younger generation.

He drew attention to the sacrifices of revolutionaries such as **Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad**, who gave their lives for India's freedom, and urged the youth to reflect upon whether the values and aspirations of today's generation are worthy of the legacy they left behind.

His address served not merely as a reflection on India's present circumstances but also as a call to the youth to recognise their responsibility towards the nation and to contribute meaningfully to its future.



Inter-Batch Competition Prize Distribution

Following his address, Col. Bhagra presented the prizes to the winners of the Inter-Batch competitions conducted during the semester. The prize distribution recognised the spirit of healthy competition, teamwork, discipline, and sporting excellence demonstrated by the participating batches.

The winners were:

Event	Winning Batch
Cricket	2nd Years
Basketball	4th Years
Volleyball	4th Years

Overall Championship 4th Years

The 4th Years emerged as the **overall champions**, having demonstrated consistent performance across the various competitions.



Tree Plantation

Following the programme, Col. Bhagra planted **two saplings** on the campus as a lasting memory of his visit. The tree plantation added a meaningful conclusion to the celebrations, symbolising growth, continuity, and our collective responsibility towards the future.

The saplings planted on the occasion will stand as a lasting reminder of the Independence Day celebration and of the message conveyed throughout the programme: that the freedom inherited from the past carries with it the responsibility to nurture and build the future.



Conclusion

The Independence Day celebrations at the Nandigiri Campus were not merely a commemoration of India's freedom, but a meaningful reflection on the responsibilities that come with it. The invocation, musical offering, student speeches, and the address by the Chief Guest collectively reminded us that the freedom secured through the sacrifices of countless patriots must be honoured through responsible action and sincere service to the nation.

The words of the student speakers and the Chief Guest encouraged everyone to look beyond the celebration itself and recognise the role that each one of us has to play in shaping India's future. The emphasis on self-reliance, national progress, and the responsibilities of the youth made the occasion particularly relevant to the present generation.

The distribution of prizes celebrated the spirit of teamwork and healthy competition among the batches, while the planting of two saplings provided a fitting and symbolic conclusion to the programme—reminding us that just as a sapling requires care and responsibility to grow into a tree, the nation too requires the continued efforts of its citizens to flourish.

The celebrations thus concluded on a note of patriotism, gratitude, and renewed commitment to contribute towards the growth and prosperity of our motherland.





SRI SATHYA SAI INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING

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Anantapur Campus

80th Independence Day Celebrations, 15 August 2026

The **80th Independence Day** was celebrated with great patriotism and enthusiasm at the Anantapur Campus of Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning. Students, research scholars, faculty, and staff assembled at the Campus Grounds by 8:20 AM, eagerly awaiting the ceremony.

The celebration began with a ceremonial procession, followed by the reception of the **Chief Guest, Prof. Rani P. L., Director, SSSIHL, Anantapur Campus**. The full National Song, Vande Mataram, was rendered, followed by the flag hoisting, marked by a flag salute and bugle call from the Sai Melodies team.

All assembled then sang the National Anthem in unison and recited the National Pledge, after which the Director inspected the parade and the students presented a disciplined march past, during which an **80-feet Tiranga** was unfurled to mark the 80th Independence Day celebrations.

The programme continued with speeches by four student speakers, followed by a patriotic song from the Music Self-Reliance Group. A highlight of the morning was the Student Council Investiture Ceremony, with the oath administered by the Chief Guest to the newly elected council.

The Campus Director delivered the concluding address, emphasizing responsibility, unity, and national pride. The parade then dispersed to the resounding slogan "*Bharat Mata Ki Jai*," chanted three times.

The morning concluded with the Anti-Ragging Pledge and Human Chain Formation, reinforcing the spirit of unity, discipline, and vigilance across the campus community.