

SATHYAM JNĀNAM ANANTAM

THE ANNUAL MAGAZINE OF THE SRI SATHYA SAI UNIVERSITY FOR HUMAN EXCELLENCE

2019-2020

REALISING A VISION

Placing individual
transformation at the
heart of our University

INSPIRING PERSPECTIVES

Students, Parents
and Visitors





CONTENTS

- 01**
INTRODUCTION

- 05**
OLD ROOTS NEW SHOOTS
- MESSAGE FROM SADGURU SRI MADHUSUDAN SAI

- 09**
BLAZING A NEW PATH
- MESSAGE FROM CHANCELLOR

- 13**
MAKING A DIFFERENCE
- MESSAGE FROM PRO-CHANCELLOR

- 19**
BUILDING BETTER FUTURES
- MESSAGE FROM VICE-CHANCELLOR

- 22**
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

- 24**
STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES

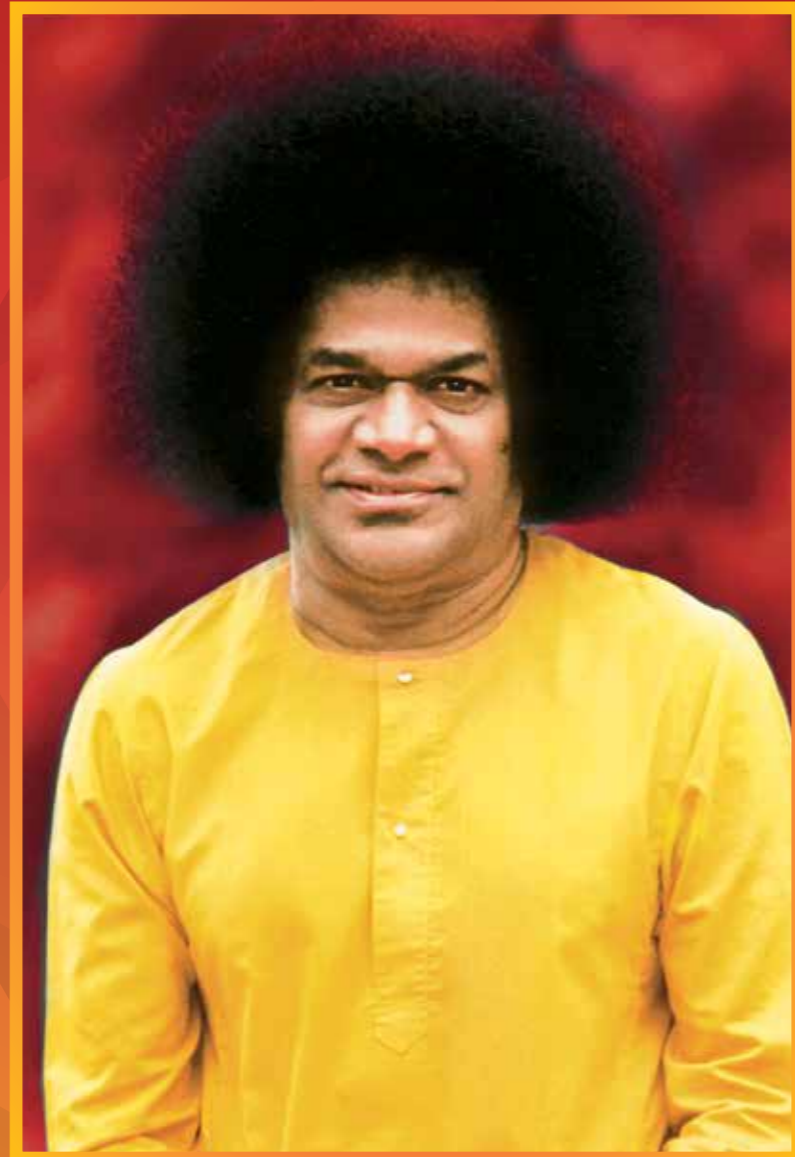
- 28**
FACULTY INSIGHTS

- 32**
GLIMPSES FROM SPORTS AND CULTURAL MEET

- 34**
PARENTS SPEAK

- 43**
LUMINARIES' OUTLOOK





*“True education, which moulds character, has no limits.
When we learn about that which is “limitless,” we attain the end of education.
Our character is reflected in our words, behaviour and conduct in daily life.
So we should speak pleasantly and not hurt others with our harsh words.
It is true that we cannot always oblige, but we can speak obligingly.”*

- Sri Sathya Sai Baba



INTRODUCTION

It is said, ‘Without seeds, there is no crop. Bad seeds, bad crop. Good seeds, good crop.’ Bringing up good children is very important, and it is the collective responsibility of all. Thus, the educational process should aim at developing character and not merely intellectual abilities. “The end of education is character”, says Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Character is defined as the ability to do the right thing all the time under all circumstances. Values like goodness, righteousness, truthfulness etc., cannot be taught, they have to be brought out from within the soul of the child. Through good education alone, will we be able to teach our children the right way of living. We are all one, and the only constant is **Love**, as decisions made out of love empower us, make us braver and nourish our souls. And this is how the next generation will change!

Spirituality reminds us that there is only love, without borders, races, ethnicities or cultural divides, and the basis of everything is a higher conscious energy, which many people refer to as Divinity. Somewhere deep down, unseen, there is this Divinity that permeates the entire creation. The 13th century Persian poet, Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi says, “The very centre of your heart is where life begins – the most beautiful place on earth.”

Gurukulas, the ancient centres of education in India were spiritual incubators, a place where students gained practical knowledge of the mundane, along with the wisdom of the highest, for a prescribed number of years. Other than gaining spiritual and worldly knowledge, there was an enhanced awareness of societal responsibility in students, with the undercurrent of all activities in the *Gurukulas* contributing joyfully to the well-being of everyone and everything. The integration of the body, mind, and soul through a holistic system of education, aimed at producing a balanced and complete personality, who could positively contribute towards a better world, is the means and end of the *Gurukula* System of Education. Such integrated personalities were a harmonious synthesis of a sharp mind, a kind heart and competent hands with the unique combination of nobility and ability.

Thus, education is not mere acquaintance with books or acquisition of knowledge. Can mere ability to read and write or acquisition of degrees be regarded as education? True education is associated with the ideal goals of life. Sri Sathya Sai Baba proclaims, “Man has to master two fields of knowledge in order to reach the goal. The first is the knowledge of the world, that is, the knowledge concerning the manifested universe. The second is the knowledge of the other world. The first confers the means of living and the second confers fulfilment with attainment of the ultimate goal of life.”

“THE END OF EDUCATION
IS CHARACTER”

The Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence has been established with the core idea to create individual excellence in all fields of knowledge, with the purpose to promote and propagate science, humanities, all forms of fine arts and spirituality, free of charges, based on the ancient Indian *Gurukula* System of Education, to all students without any discrimination. At the University, education is imparted to enlighten the student to pursue the supreme goal of life which is self-realisation, and equip him or her with ability and skills to serve the society. These are the twin goals of education.

Physical training through yoga and sports; emotional enhancement through music, dance, drama and other fine arts; intellectual consummation through study of science, commerce, philosophy and allied fields of knowledge; and above all spiritual awakening through a deeper experiential understanding of culture and religion; play distinctive roles in the forming of salubrious individuals with integrity and credibility.

We bring you the first issue of '**Sathyam Jnānam Anantam**' or '**Truth-Knowledge-Infinity**', the annual magazine of the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence. **Sathyam Jnānam Anantam** – is the best definition of the Supreme Being. There is a deeper spiritual basis for everything, call it by any name - supernatural force, supreme being, divine power etc. Einstein called it 'Supreme Intelligence.' It is Pure Existence, hence, *Sathyam* or the Ultimate **Truth**. It is Omniscience, All-**Knowledge**, so it is called *Jnānam*. It is eternal, endless, **Infinite**; therefore, it is called *Anantam*. The ultimate goal or purpose of human birth is to ultimately realise our true selves, and the principal method prescribed in the ancient texts is direct inward communion with that Reality.

At the end of it all, why is it important? Awareness of the Divine makes us humble so that we can realise that we are part of the larger scheme of things. This brings a sense of unity and self-discipline, and will certainly make us more loving, tolerant and kind. And as we slowly traverse on this journey, we encounter the truth that we are spiritual beings having a human experience!

ॐ ब्रह्मविदानोति परम्। तदेषाऽभ्युक्ता। सत्यं ज्ञानमनन्तं ब्रह्म।

om brahavidāpnoti param |

tadeṣā'bhyuktā |

satyaṁ jñānam anantaṁ brahma |

(taittirīya upaniṣad 2.1.1)





“Our every act of service, word of wisdom, knowledge of sciences, humanities, fine arts, and acquisition of skills are only oriented to achieve – a heart that shines in the beauty of the spirit and embraces all by merging into all.”

- Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai



OLD ROOTS NEW SHOOTS

MESSAGE FROM

SADGURU SRI MADHUSUDAN SAI

Rṣi śaunaka, adept in the art and science of material knowledge, yet dissatisfied with all that he had learnt, approached Sage anigirasa in all humility. He then asked the revered Sage, “What is that knowing which, all else can be known?” And to this the great Sage anigirasa replied, “Two kinds of knowledge are to be gained, as told by the knowers of the supreme truth, parā - the transcendental spiritual knowledge and aparā - the fundamental material knowledge. Of which, the aparā vidyā consists of all that is in the four Vedic scriptures and the six limbs of studies, whereas parā vidyā is that which takes one to the supreme goal of self-realisation.”

तस्मै स होवाच - - द्वे विद्ये वेदितव्ये इति ह स्म यद्
ब्रह्मविदो वदन्ति परा चैवापरा च ॥

*tasmai sa hovāca - - dve vidye veditavye iti ha
sma yad brahmavido vadanti parā caivāparā
ca ॥*

(muṇḍaka upaniṣad 1.1.4)

śaunaka! The wise experts of brahmvidyā say that there are two types of vidyā famous in this world. One is parā vidyā, the other aparā vidyā’.

This is the opening conversation between the two sages of muṇḍaka upaniṣad, who then deliberate on the two kinds of knowledge and conclude that the higher knowledge of one’s own divinity is the ultimate education.

ब्रह्म वेद ब्रह्मैव भवति

brahma veda brahmaiva bhavati

(muṇḍaka upaniṣad 3.2.9)

The one who knows God becomes God.

This upaniṣadic thought is the fundamental principle of the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence where the sciences are taught alongside spirituality, humanities are taught alongside divinity, and excellence is taught alongside enlightenment.

When someone asked as to why another University? The answer was the above.

I am glad that in this bygone year, the University has begun its journey towards this goal, and the very ‘first year’ milestone has already brought much clarity to this vision of divinisation of humanity. “Every soul is potentially divine”, said Swami Vivekananda and so did our scriptures, which called out to the entire human race as - children of immortality (śṛṅvantu viśve amṛtasya putrāḥ). Baba would address all as ‘Embodiments of Divinity’ (divyātmaswarūpalārā) and that is precisely what this University is here to help the society realise.

When the permissions were to be granted to begin the University, an eminent political leader and a cabinet minister of the Karnataka Government commented, "Usually, universities are established in busy cities to attract the fee paying students, whereas, here is a University that is being established in a rural area with no fee at all." In line with the ancient Gurukula System of Education, the Campus is in a rural setting and also charges no fee at all. In these times when global student debt is burgeoning and higher university education is becoming prohibitively expensive, not just subsidising education but having no fee at all, makes it absolutely enlightening for all to seek higher education. The University is now attracting students from across the Country, and not just Karnataka, and faculty from around the world. And the most important goal of this University is to produce noble and able teachers to continue spreading the light of education to the farthest corners of the Country.

The ancient Indian universities of yore like, *Takshashila* and *Nalanda* had students and scholars from the Far East, as well as from ancient Countries of Greece and Persia, and all forms of sciences, arts and culture were promoted. In the modern times, the experiment of Mahatma Gandhi with Gujarat Vidya Peeth to make a self-sufficient India by addressing the needs of the villages, and that of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore of amalgamating art and culture into the main stream education at Shantiniketan, and the tireless efforts of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya to bring back ancient Indian ideals into secular education at Banaras, serve as guide posts for our journey.



The great Kannada poet D V Gundappa wrote in his composition 'Mankutimmana Kagga',

ಹಳೆ ಬೇರು ಹೊಸ ಚಿಗುರು ಕೂಡಿರಲು ಮರ ಸೊಬಗು ।

ಹೊಸ ಯುಕ್ತಿ ಹಳೆತತ್ವದೊಡಗೂಡೆ ಧರ್ಮ ॥

ಋಷಿವಾಕ್ಯದೊಡನೆ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಕಲೆ ಮೇಳವಿಸೆ ।

ಜಸವು ಜೀವನಕೆ - ಮಂಕುತಿಮ್ಮೆ ॥ 522 ॥

The tree with old roots and new sprouts is most beautiful

The path with new strategies guided by old principles is the right one

When modern sciences and arts are blended with ancient wisdom,

That is the surest path to universal welfare!

- Mankutimma

As another year begins at the University, new vistas of knowledge are being opened for the students, which would now include fine arts courses in music and dance, as well as study of veda and ancient Indian scriptures; post graduate courses in humanities and sciences would follow suit.

This philosophy of the ancient ṛṣis and the pursuit of modern thinkers combined together, is the soul of Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, and may it grow in strength year after year, with its roots growing deeper into the ancient spiritual culture of our Country and its shoots spreading wider into the infinite skies of modern learning.

Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai



BLAZING A NEW PATH

CHANCELLOR

- B N NARASIMHA MURTHY

Sri Sathya Sai Baba blazed a new path in the field of education by elucidating and promulgating its real essence – *ātma vidyā* or 'Self-Knowledge'. '*ātmano mokṣārtham jagat hitāya ca* – Redemption of one's own self and the welfare of society', is the principle on which the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence has been founded. Here, the emphasis is first and foremost on a perfect balance between spiritual education (*parā vidyā*) and material education (*aparā vidyā*) or between *jivita upādhi* (means of living) and *jivita paramāvadhi* (ultimate goal of life).

Many decades ago, Martin Luther King Jr, said, "We have guided missiles and misguided men". Today, in retrospect, his statement stands absolutely true. In the name of modernity and progressive outlook, men and women have lost their spiritual moorings, become disconnected from their true divine nature and succumbed to the tyranny of their mind and senses. There is nothing wrong in evolving with time and age, as long as each individual looks beyond the selfish boundaries of 'me, mine and myself'. What is the use of education, if it does not teach man the true purpose of life? Is it enough to produce doctors, engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs and so on, if at the very foundation we are not nurturing an individual who is motivated subliminally in human values such as love, peace, tolerance, compassion, honesty, etc.? How will such individuals be endowed with the capability of ultimately projecting their divine nature?



"The human race's prospects of survival were considerably better when we were defenceless against tigers than they are today, when we have become defenceless against ourselves."

- Arnold Toynbee





Alas, our scientific power has outrun our spiritual wisdom! This has certainly led to a complete forgetfulness of human values, which are inherent in each and every one of us. Albert Einstein emphatically proclaimed, "Most people say that it is intellect which makes a great scientist. They are wrong, it is character." Hence, the fact of the matter is again that character is higher than intellect. Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore averred, "Character, not brain, will count at the crucial moment." The welfare of human society can be achieved only by inculcation of character based on the synthesis of 'computer and culture'.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba took to the royal route of education to establish the ultimate truth about life, the truth about the creation, the truth about the creator and eventually the truth about each individual's true-self, all of which comprise of the same conscious energy of intelligence and infinity, beauty and bliss, expansiveness and eternity – *Sathyam Jnānam Anantam*. He said, "My students are my property", for He believed in the potency and purity of young hearts to imbibe this truth, experience it, live by it and spread the truth to the rest of humanity.

एको वशी सर्वभूतान्तरात्मा एकं रूपं बहुधा यः करोति।
तमात्मस्थं येऽनुपश्यन्ति धीरास्तेषां सुखं शाश्वतं नेतरेषाम् ॥

*eko vaśī sarvabhūtāntarātmā ekaṁ rūpaṁ bahudhā yaḥ karoti |
tamātmasthaṁ ye'nupaśyanti dhīrāsteṣāṁ sukhaṁ śāśvataṁ netareṣāṁ ||*

(kaṭha upaniṣad 2.2.12)

Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence is a living edifice made of the bricks of truth, the cement of goodness, the colours of beauty, built on the substratum of the One principle – Divinity. The University is symbolic of Baba's very purpose of His sojourn on earth. It reverberates with His energy, chanting the eternal words of wisdom – *aham brahmā, sarvaṁ brahmā* (I am Divine and so are You, so is everything else around us – both the animate and the inanimate). The students and the staff of the University are the worthy recipients and selfless messengers of this treasured wisdom.

In the modern set phrase, 'Divinity' and 'Godhood' are regarded as superstitions – diversions from science and secularity. However, history has proven time and again that, real scientists experience spirituality at the end of science and true spiritualists understand science as a subspace of spirituality, both in search of truth.

Once at a party in Berlin in 1929, someone said that God is a superstition, to which Einstein replied, "Try and penetrate with our limited means the secret of nature, and you will find that, behind all the discernible laws and connections, there remains something subtle, intangible, and inexplicable. Veneration for this force beyond anything we can comprehend is my religion. To that extent, I am, in fact, religious."

The Cosmic Self is one, yet it controls all. It is the inmost Self of all beings, and it manifests itself as many. Only those wise people who see that Self within themselves are eternally happy, and not others.

We, as educators, have a great responsibility to take care that all the learning and knowledge imparted will purify the intellect of students. Otherwise, we run the serious risk of clouding it with the unnecessary clutter of mere information, leading to temporary gratification born out of a bloated ego. Students should be taught that true happiness and satisfaction can be found only within; this will encourage them to follow the path of self-enquiry. Baba would always say that the hearts of students should melt at the suffering of others, their heads should always think of the welfare of others and their hands should always act in the service of others. Transformation of humanity can happen only with the right kind of education, which is the lone solution to all the problems of the world.

Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence unequivocally declares, "We are here to remind humanity about their only right – the right to realise their innate divinity and to claim this right without a tremble of doubt and without a shiver of uncertainty. We are here to pare the rind of commercialisation of education, to enfeeble the noise of competition in education and to enervate the boom of money-making education."

A perfect prayer travels beyond space! We, at the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence are blazing a new path towards the golden age and we humbly submit ourselves in thought, word and deed to fulfill this prayer of our hearts.

B N Narasimha Murthy
Chancellor



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

PRO-CHANCELLOR

- DR A R MANJUNATH

Sri Madiyal Narayan Bhat, who was the catalyst behind the establishment of two Sathya Sai Schools, then known as Sathya Sai Vihar (one in the town of Alike, Dakshina Kannada District in the year 1963 and another at Muddenahalli, Chikkaballapur District in the year 1973), offered a humble prayer at the feet of his Guru, Sri Sathya Sai Baba, to serve humanity through Educational Institutions established in every district of the State of Karnataka, which will impart values-based education, firmly rooted in spirituality. Baba accepted the prayer of this pure hearted soul, and after his untimely demise in 1977, Baba accepted the two schools. This has today grown into a group of Educational Institutions known as the Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Gurukulam, across Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu.



*“Seek the wisdom that will untie your knot.
Seek the path that demands your whole being.”*

- Rumi



Sri Sathya Sai Baba, in one of His discourses had conceptualised a University which would impart the teachings of the Indian scriptures - *Ramayana, Mahabharatha, Bhagawatam, Bhagavad Gita*, and more importantly *advaita vedānta*, along with the regular secular education. When the spontaneous question surfaced regarding the natural progression of a large group of Educational Institutions suffused with the mission of societal and individual transformation, the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence with its vision to make every student realise his innate divinity, came as the only answer and the only means to achieve this glorious end.

The Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence is possibly the only University in the Country to have a full-fledged Symphony Orchestra and a brass band which includes an admirable range of instruments, including woodwinds, brass, strings, percussions and much more.

The University is sanguine to lead the way in the field of education, and uproot the dogmas of the modern narcissistic learning system. It is established and based on the pillars - Academic Excellence, Spiritual Growth and Self-Development. The branch of Self-Development which is critical to the University, enhances the talents and inherent skills of a student, making him or her more efficient to the service of humanity. This includes skills like cooking, driving, gardening, and a whole range of other life skills. In addition to this, an Integrated Rural Development Programme has been initiated for the development of the rural populace, through student outreach. Former Minister of Higher Education, Mr G T Devegowda made a statement in his mother tongue, Kannada, "Kamalapuradalli Kamala Udbhavisede" - this University is like a lotus flower that is blooming in the village of Kamalapur at Kalaburagi District.

With state-of-the-art sports facilities on the one hand for nurturing the physical prowess and sportive vein of students, and a wide range of opportunity on the other to unravel the depth in the niche of fine arts for fine tuning the artistic acumen of students, be it Carnatic or Hindustani Music, inclusive of both vocal and instrumental, the University hasn't left any stone unturned. Another stand out is the offering of western music, and this is possibly the only University in the Country to have a full-fledged Symphony Orchestra and a brass band which includes an admirable range of instruments, including woodwinds, brass, strings, percussions and much more. All this has been possible in such a short span, with the passion and dedication of best professionals from India and beyond.





With roots firmly embedded in Indian Culture and Spirituality, based on *sanātana dharmā*, students are exposed to the highest knowledge of ancient India, through a specific course on the deep wisdom of Indian Culture and Spirituality. Emphasis is given to learning about the true purpose of human existence, the knowledge of the Self, which is imparted through the teachings of the *Upaniṣads*, *Brahma Sutras*, *Bhagavad Gita*, *Ashtavakra Gita* and *Narada Bhakti Sutras*. It is the grand fortune of the students that an enlightened soul like Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai who embodies Sri Sathya Sai Baba, is directly imparting this profound Truth.

Education experts define the most important skills for the twenty first century students of a global society, as the 4 Cs – critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity. But, we consider the 5th C – CHARACTER, over and above the 4 Cs, and as the most important. Keeping the ancient learning of '*sarva lokahite ratāḥ*' - being ever engaged in the welfare of the world, the University also organised the Global Education Conference in 2019, where educationists from many Countries of the world convened to discuss and deliberate as to how values should not be treated as ideal concepts, but rather as 'empowering tools' which will be helpful in meeting the challenges of the contemporary social world. Sri Sathya Sai Award for Human Excellence is another initiative of the University which acknowledges the efforts and single-minded perseverance of individuals who are making a difference in societal transformation.

In the last one year of its existence, it is perspicuous that the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence is truly treading on the principles of *sanātana dharmā*, and the students of this University are grooming themselves to become the flag bearers in the society, and eventually lead their brethren towards a glorious future encapsulated in peace and harmony.

Dr A R Manjunath
Pro-Chancellor



**SRI SATHYA SAI
AWARD FOR HUMAN EXCELLENCE**

“IT IS VITAL THAT WHEN EDUCATING OUR CHILDREN’S BRAINS WE DO NOT NEGLECT TO EDUCATE THEIR HEARTS BY NURTURING THEIR COMPASSIONATE NATURE.”

- HIS HOLINESS, THE DALAI LAMA



BUILDING BETTER FUTURES

VICE-CHANCELLOR

- PROF P D N SRINIVASU

Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence has completed one year since its formal establishment at Kalaburagi in North Karnataka, and is picking pace in an unprecedented manner every single day. In perpetuum, the University is aiming to provide the best of the facilities to students, and is incessantly working to take education to a whole new level, and thereby, serve as a beacon light in the field of education.

With talented and skilled faculty from various fields of education like science, arts, sports, music, self-development, Indian Culture and Spirituality and others, every aspect of the University's offering, is deeply entrenched in the fundamentals of the ancient *Gurukula* System of Education, where every student is groomed to realise his or her true potential. This is the unique proposition of the University, where there is a balanced fusion of both secular, and spiritual knowledge.

The academic year, commenced with Bachelors of Arts, Bachelors of Science and Self-Development courses, well supplemented with Indian and Western music. Expansion of the programmes with Fine Arts in various categories like music, dance, languages, etc., are also in the pipeline. New specialisations are being added to these programmes in the coming year, to cater to the versatility of the skills of the students. The University is also in the planning stage to include Post Graduate Programme in Arts and Science. A very unique Under Graduate Programme is also being introduced - Bachelors



of Arts in Vedic Studies. Typically, a full-fledged Vedic Institution or a Sanskrit imparting *patashala* offers Vedic Studies as a structured course. The Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, being a Higher Education Institution which offers general courses, is possibly one of the first to introduce such a course, as part of its Under Graduate Programme.

The impact of a well-equipped learning environment contributes to the student's physical and mental well-being, and also to the effectiveness of the lectures. To augment a rich learning experience, the University established a state-of-the-art conference facility, an edifying multimedia room, several digital classrooms, a digitally equipped central library, a modest computer lab, well-equipped science labs, a striking 300 seater open-air amphitheatre, a well-designer 200 seater auditorium, football, basketball, volleyball, kho-kho and shuttle badminton courts, an imposing cricket grass field, and much more. The sports arena covers over 200,000 sq.ft of outdoor area, and about 2,000 sq.ft for indoor activities.



“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.”

– John Dewey



An integrated development, with the right parity of academic and moral tutelage is at the forefront of every effort at the University. During the last twelve months, students were also exposed to various fields of learning like world culture and studies, sacred geometry, english language and communication skills, culinary art, innovation and creative learning. Consistent efforts are underway to strengthen the faculty pool and other resources, to provide the best education to students, who hail from multifarious socio-economic backgrounds, talents, cultures and languages, and from various States, including Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Bihar and Maharashtra.



The University is also mindful about nurturing and spreading values through thought-provoking initiatives like the Global Education Conference and the Sri Sathya Sai Award for Human Excellence.

The Global Education Conference was held in 2019, with the main motive of driving home the very essence of education. It is said, education will be complete only if we teach our students how to love, how to accept, how to tolerate and how to be united with everyone. Education without true love is not real education, it is only incomplete, it cannot be perfect. The Conference witnessed a vast panel of many distinguished and eminent authorities of education from many Countries, who shared valuable insights on the importance of a values-based education system. A convention of close to 1,000 teachers, professors and aspiring youth from across the Country convened for the three-day event.

The Sri Sathya Sai Award for Human Excellence, is yet another initiative which celebrates individuals from various walks of life, from around the world, who have passionately stood by their value system, and have created a meaningful impact in the lives of many thousands of beneficiaries. The Award is given away in seven categories – Education, Health, Woman and Child Welfare, Environment, Music and Fine Arts, Unity of Religions and Sports.

It is my privilege to be a part of this great vision, which has manifested itself as this University. We are looking forward to nurturing every student who will pass out through the portals of this admirable Institution, and will adorn the role of torch bearers of the principles of *sanātana dharmā*.

Prof P D N Srinivasu
Vice-Chancellor



Sathya Sai Grama, Muddenahalli, India



Dr James Biddulph
Head Teacher -
University of Cambridge
Primary School,
United Kingdom



HE Mr Lytou Buapao
Former Deputy Minister
of Education and Sports,
Laos



Professor Emeritus Ron Toomey
Victoria University,
Australia



Professor Mirian Vilela
Executive Director
– Earth Charter
International Secretariat
and the Earth Charter
Centre for Education for
Sustainable Development
at the University for Peace,
Costa Rica

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

JUNE 2019

Inauguration of the Academic Block



SEPTEMBER 2019

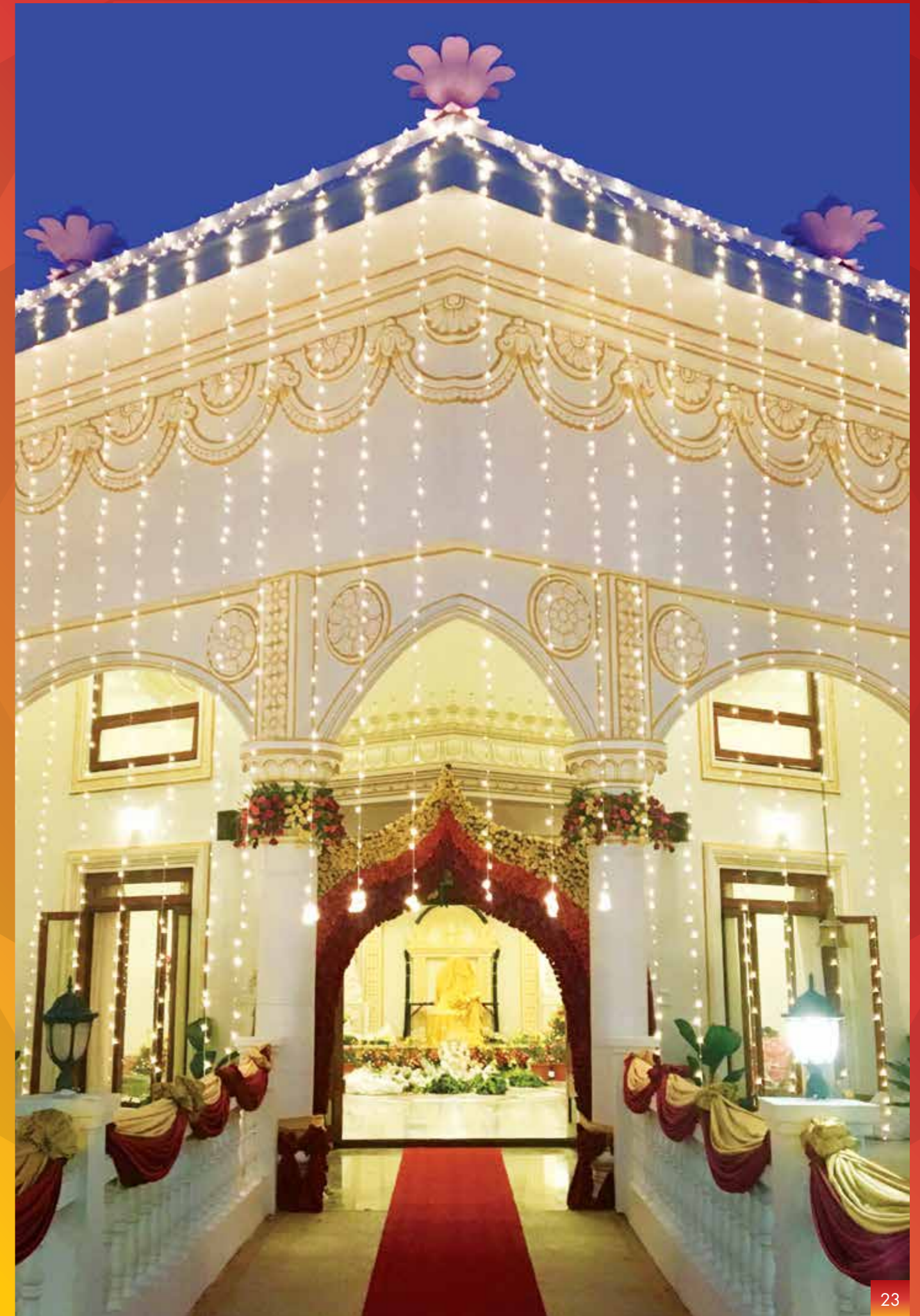
Inauguration of state-of-the-art Prayer Hall

Foundation Stone laying for Central Kitchen and Staff Quarters



MARCH 2020

Inauguration of Sports grounds - Basketball and Volleyball



STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES



The inner transformation of the heart is more important than the outward or external, and this true transformation makes us selfless and fearless. Ever since I joined, it has been an absolutely illuminating experience every second. One key learning for me has been that this illumination is actually within each individual, and to realise this, is the true goal. I did not have any understanding about the ancient wisdom of our Indian culture (called *parā vidyā*). With a perfect blend of this wisdom, along with the modern knowledge of a secular world (*aparā vidyā*), I am beginning to understand my true potential, for which I am ever grateful.

Praveen Kumar T C
Year II - Bachelor of Science



Baba always said, “*The End of Education is Character*”, and I never fully understood the meaning in its entirety. I had also heard that the Sathya Sai System of Integral Education serves as a lighthouse imparting the wisdom of ancient India, with the knowledge of science, blended well with fine arts and sports. After having spent more than a year now, I can say it with conviction that my character has blossomed, and I am certainly not the same person, and now the meaning of Baba’s statement is slowly revealing itself to me.

This University constantly urges us to become better individuals, by imbibing insights from the lives of various personalities in the society who have been harbingers of peace and oneness. I am greatly enthused to take up the noble mission of spreading this knowledge and wisdom to the whole world.

Akshay Kumar G
Year I - Bachelor of Arts



STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVES

Values-based integral education has always been the underlying philosophy of Sri Sathya Sai Baba's educare mission. In order to mould the personality of students like me, the University is patterned as per the ancient Gurukula system, with the tenacity to transform humans into divine. I feel students like me who join this University are uniquely blessed to receive the opportunity to mould our lives. We are taught to see through the lens of love from the heart, taught to serve through the alacrity of compassion with the hands and taught to think through the power of discrimination from the highest Self. To me, this aspect is the best part of education here, as we get ready to face the outer world with strong spiritual moorings. This is helping me grow into a conscious person. This University is sculpting me into a better human being, and I feel proud to be a part of this glorious Institution, where the motto of every person is to learn together by helping each other.

Hema H S
Year II – Bachelor of Science



As it is said 'ability without nobility is dangerous, and nobility without ability is useless', this University which is based on our ancient tradition and culture, is making each student both able and noble, by imparting wisdom on the one hand, and also providing all kinds of facilities, on the other. Though I knew about Baba from my childhood and have also read many books about His teachings, what I am experiencing here is helping me transform on a daily basis, as I am learning to balance between the outer and inner world. I never knew the true meaning of spirituality - loving everyone with the understanding that the same God resides in all.



I am learning these truths from our scriptures and this is making me fearless. My self-confidence has improved tremendously, and I am able to face any difficult situation with courage and certitude. Most importantly it is helping me to accept both success and failure with equal mindedness and to move forward in life, overcoming the fear of failure which lingered in me before. Along with academics, knowledge of all other aspects to function in today's society are also taught - cooking, driving, communication skills, banking, leadership, organising, etc. I feel very blessed to be part of this University.

Vithya Mari M
Year II – Bachelor of Arts



FACULTY INSIGHTS

Coming from Singapore, when I first joined the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, I was pleasantly surprised to see an Educational Institution totally engulfed in spiritual environment. It's rare to find an Educational Institution where every act is lovingly dedicated as an offering to God. The way this Institution is imparting secular education along with spiritual education for the holistic development of students is commendable. I consider it as a blessing to be part of such a system, where not only students, but the faculty are also constantly reminded of their true purpose in life.

Most of the students come from remote areas and economically weaker sections of the society, where education is a dream. And here, they receive free education in par with any top class Institution, and are raised under a loving environment. The life long bond which develops between a student and teacher is based on mutual love, faith, trust and respect for each other. I feel humbled to be working with all my students and colleagues, who are a constant inspiration to me, and the learning I derive, has helped me in so many aspects of life.

Dr Pragya Yadav
Associate Dean
School of Arts and Philosophy



Truly, spirituality leads us towards *dharma*, which protects us, when it is protected by us. Lecturing on spirituality may be possible to many, but practicing spirituality is possible only to a few. The Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence (SSSUHE), unlike other universities, makes us practise spirituality which paves the way to our own self-emancipation or *mokṣa* (the real goal).

To be a real human being, values-based education is mandatory. A strong foundation is indispensable, and that basement is well available here. This University is a temple of learning, and every day it makes me realise that the objective of teaching is not to teach only academics, but rather to make students mould themselves into responsible individuals. I feel elated by teaching these students who come here from various strata of society, especially those from the rural hinterlands.

Dr L Jyotsna
Assistant Professor
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science



FACULTY INSIGHTS

As an alumnus of the Sri Sathya Sai Educational Institutions, I owe a lot to these temples of learning which taught me that education is not just for living but for life. Rabindranath Tagore says, "The highest education is that which does not merely give us information, but makes our life in harmony with all existence." Secular education (*aparā vidyā*) along with spiritual education (*parā vidyā*) is imparted, and the amalgamation of this is the liberating force for one's life. Therefore, I consider teaching in this University as a great privilege and blessing.

Today, acquiring a degree in this County is still a dream for many. The Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence envisions in making their dreams come true, by providing an education that is enhanced by state-of-the-art facilities, completely free-of-cost. The relationship between teachers and students in this University is something that stands out and is unique only to this setup. When I pursued my research in Economics at a University in United Kingdom, if I wanted to meet a Professor after the college hours, it was rather difficult and even considered inappropriate to seek an appointment. But here, students and teachers stay in the same campus, very similar to the ancient *Gurukula* System of Education. This enables the teachers to assist not only in the academic progress, but also in the overall personality development of the students.

Sunil M Dev
Assistant Professor
Department of Economics



Looking at every student's unflinching faith in Baba's mission, I am inspired to teach them and do everything possible to ensure that their academic journey is exciting, and intellectually rewarding. It is my firm conviction that each student carries with them in their heart, the joy of learning and sharing, which is deeply entrenched with a sense of reverence in our spiritual tradition.

The 'spirituality quotient' of the students in this University is way higher than mine, and I only wish their discipline and dedication rubs off on me and my efforts to 'teach' them. Every moment of interaction with the students has been enjoyable, and more importantly, getting to know them and learning from their experiences.

I have had my share of fun, pride and 'eureka moments' in the Physics lab with the students. When we give our best to do an experiment well, it teaches us many things apart from grasping the science involved. It teaches us:

- how not to feign
- how to be sincere and true to ourselves
- how not to panic when things don't work out the way it is intended to be
- how to debug the way through the hurdles till our experiment matches what we learnt in theory
- to appreciate the power and limitations of the human mind in understanding the creation around us, with the humility of a true scientist



Religion and Science need not necessarily be at conflict - let feeble souls think that way - but in fact they compliment each other very well. With the renewed emphasis on *parā vidyā*, my efforts as a faculty of this University will be to illustrate and bring out the parallels in *aparā vidyā*, and help the students appreciate how seamlessly the two worlds merge into ONE! In a world where Institutions are run according to laws and by-laws, rules and regulations, paperwork and documentation, all struggling to ensure that individuals are compliant...WE are building ours on spirituality, faith, trust, belief, ethics and human values, that will serve well for future generations.

Dr R D Prabhu
Associate Dean
School of Science

GLIMPSES FROM SPORTS AND CULTURAL MEET



PARENTS SPEAK

As a parent of a student who is studying at the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, I would like to share my thoughts on the wonderful change in perspective of our entire family. As a family, our outlook of life has been reshaped, and this is the most amazing aspect which I have noticed. As I have been observing my son from the day he joined the University, his self-confidence has grown tremendously. The way he speaks, the way he shoulders responsibilities, the way he advises us on certain aspects, is pleasantly astonishing. What to add more, even at this young age, he is guiding us on our spiritual path. Franklin D Roosevelt said, "We may not be able to prepare the future for our children, but we can at least prepare our children for the future." As parents, this is what we feel. We showed him a good Institution, which is preparing him for the future. There is a great feeling of fulfilment in our hearts, as we now know that our son is on the right path, and our immense gratitude to every single person in this Institution.

Praveena M B
Home Maker
(Mother of Premchand – Year II – Bachelor of Science)



It was a dream to enrol our son in Baba's hallowed Educational Institution, which became a reality when he joined in grade six. After completing Pre-University, he joined the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence last year. In these modern days, it is rare to see people who have the hunger and thirst to know the ultimate Truth and the true purpose of life. As parents, we have observed this craving and inclination in the students even after a few months of their stay in the Gurukulam atmosphere. This shows the way the students are mentored and nurtured. It is endearing to see that the staff have become their parents and are imparting the right kind of education, both academics and beyond. Our son comes home during his vacation twice a year, for a short period. We have noticed his thoughts on life are suffused with an undercurrent of spirituality, which is inspiring all of us in the family. He has made us proud parents with his way of life, and truly, we have absolutely no worries about his goals and achievements in his life.

K V Rajeswara Rao
Deputy Director of Census Operations, Goa
(Father of Anand Sai – Year I – Bachelor of Science)



PARENTS SPEAK



It's natural for every parent to wish the best for their child. Education is the prime power to shape up the future of the child, and hence as a parent we think the best investment we can make for our child is in the form of education. Typically parents have a logic behind the choice of the University and the subjects that they want their children to study, based on the reputation, people associated and the market demand.

While it feels perfect as a parent to think this way, but if we deliberate a bit further, we will realise it's not a perfect plan to get into the rat race. If we are mindful, we will also realise that even if they win, they are still a rat. It would be a smart choice if parents choose the subjects that are big in demand but short in supply and the University that has good people, a pleasant place with the right culture. As a parent, I am very happy that my child is in Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, studying superior subjects related to human upliftment and developing skills for excellence in all fields, living and growing amongst divine people in a serene place.



Essentially as a parent, we are very happy when children are beneficiaries of a holistic education system which is based on ancient wisdom. We believe that this will mould them into able and noble individuals. This University is imparting such an education, and at no cost to parents. As a parent we can only treat this as a blessing bestowed by Sri Sathya Sai Baba to the children studying in this unique University focussed on 'Human Excellence' which is now a rarity in the society, and that which the world needs, more than ever before.

Parents investing in children's education to make them good 'Human Resource' is ordinary; University investing in our children's education to make them a good 'Human Asset' is extraordinary.

Naveen Lakkur
*Chief Innovation Coach at
Institute of Inspiring Innovation
(Father of Sriniketh – Year II – Bachelor
of Science)*



Those with a commercial mindset, have polluted the present day education system with a tag to it – 'money-making-business'. In this current state, Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai guided by Sri Sathya Sai Baba has given a new structure and shape to the education system through this great University. "Greatness is not a function of circumstance. Greatness, it turns out, is largely a matter of conscious choice and discipline", said the author Jim Collins. For the development and upliftment of the society, the right kind of education which is imparted in a conscious way, keeping the blossoming of the child at the core of everything, plays a prominent role. This University imparts values-based education and also provides the education of culture, education of *samskāra*, education of divinity, education of humanity and education of service.

I am very pleased and satisfied to see my son's transformation. It swells my heart, and my immense gratitude to this man-making Institution. The importance of values-based education has been included in the New Education Policy, and the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence is one of the frontrunners to impart a humanistic and ethical education to all the students. I wish and look forward that this University will establish its branches all over India, and beyond.

H R Suresh
*Head of an NGO for Organic Farming
(Father of Rajeev – Year II – Bachelor of Science)*

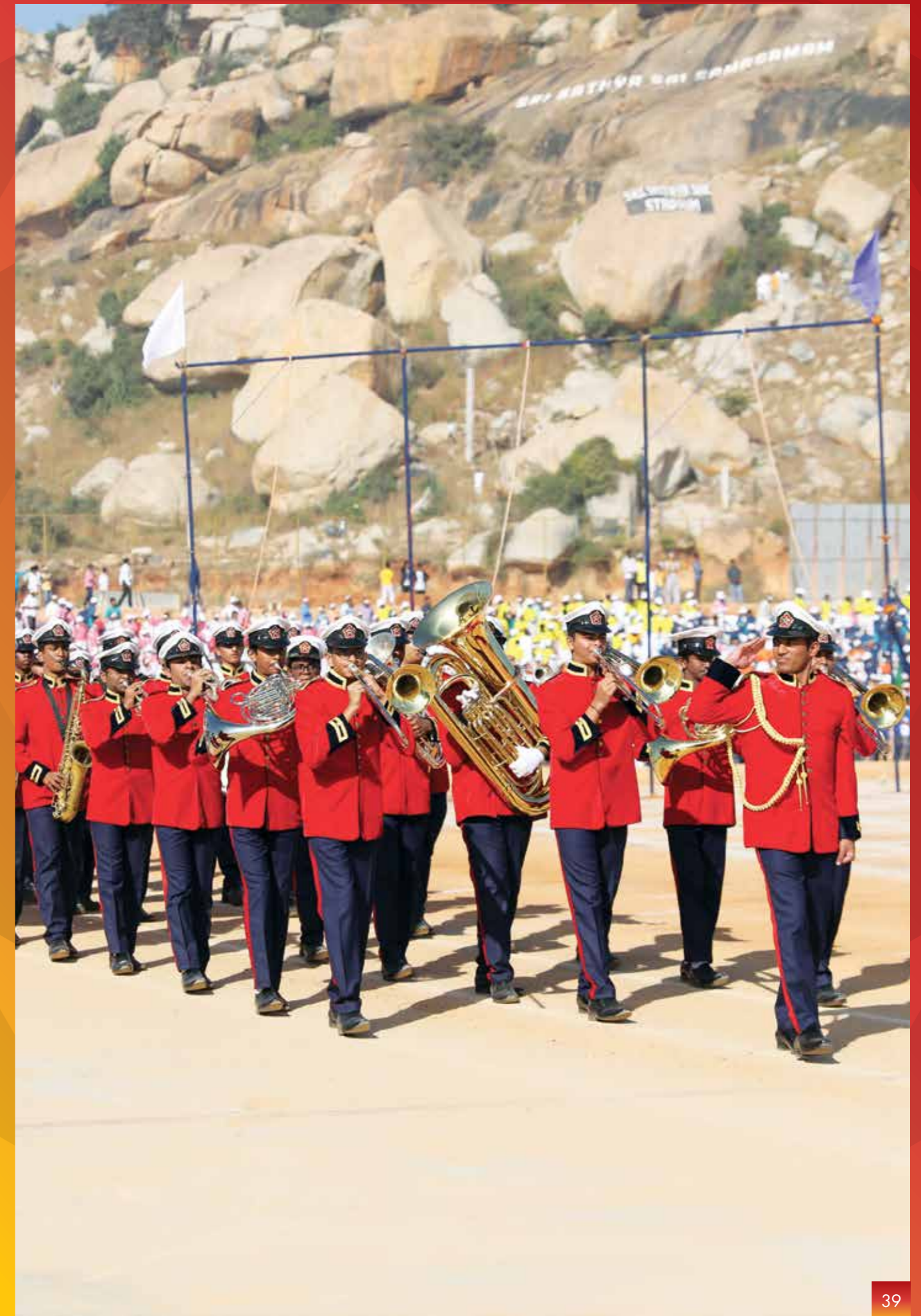




It was the vision of a missionary, Sri Madiyal Narayan Bhat, to establish Educational Institutions which would impart values-based education, to transform youth into better humans in the society. Sri Sathya Sai Baba has fulfilled this selfless desire by establishing the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, in Gulbarga, which is a holy land of great saints and revolutionaries. The type of education which is imparted in this University is unique, as it focuses on the spiritual growth of every student. Of course academics is an integral aspect, but not the only aspect like many Universities in India, where the focus is only on academic achievements through cut-throat competitions, forgetting basic values of life.

Here, students are encouraged in every field like music and sports too. My son has been a part of the band, and I never even dreamt that one day he would be able to touch a western instrument, forget learning and performing. As a farmer, my natural predisposition was to see him also become a farmer one day. But, today when I see what he is doing and the way he has changed himself, I feel proud and blessed that my son is pursuing his education in such a University, and is also showing the correct path to others. I am sure that the students of this University will inspire positive changes not only in their communities and villages, but all over the world, by leading many more, and I look forward to those wonderful days.

Tukaram Narayan Kalal
Farmer
(Father of Amrut Kalal – Year II – Bachelor of Arts)



PARENTS SPEAK

When we got to know about this University, we knew in our heart that this could be the right place where our daughter should study. We realised that students are not taught mere academics, but equal opportunities are also given in the field of music, dance, fine arts, sports and much more. All this definitely helps in the all-round development, and this is very evident when we see our daughter now, after two years in this system of education. Even the spiritual education which is taught along with academics is probably the biggest and the best aspect of this Institution, and I certainly couldn't have given this learning to her.

My daughter's attitude has changed very much. She has become kind, humble and has developed a deep sense of inner strength and determination to help the society. This has happened only because of this University, which has shown her not only the goal of life, but also the path to achieve it.

Nayana B S
Home Maker
(Mother of Sanjana B S – Year II – Bachelor of Science)



Before joining this University, my daughter was an innocent girl, and knew nothing about life and how to live in this society. Now, after studying here for a couple of years, she has learnt great lessons of life and its true purpose. Now she can lead her life without our support, of this we are certain as parents. Seeking her positive attitude towards life, we have enrolled our son in one of the schools of Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Gurukulam.

This University is providing academic knowledge intertwined with the requisite spiritual wisdom, which is the basis for one to lead a moral life. We are very thankful for this gift of education, which is like a 'Raksha Kavacham' or talisman, in our lives. We feel safe, and have no worries about her future, as this Institution is shaping her life daily. With this great faith we are spending every moment of our life in a faraway land, and we are ever grateful to this Institution.

Ambika Pradeep A P
Works at a plantation in South Africa
(Mother of Joshika Pradeep A P – Year II – Bachelor of Science)





LUMINARIES' OUTLOOK



I am very happy about the opening of the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence. I consider this a good initiative since the very purpose of education is to bring out good human beings. Sri Sathya Sai Baba has always taught His followers to be good human beings, and therefore this University is not just a University for Commission, but a University with a Mission, and hence is sure to prosper.

Mr Prakash Javadekar
*Former Minister of Human Resource Development
Government of India*



LUMINARIES' OUTLOOK

We are aware that teaching has an element of unpredictability in it. The current circumstances present many new challenges, but nonetheless adapting practice to best support learners is nothing new by any means. Change for good and adaptation are two concepts that one should accept in life on a daily basis. We should adapt to the changing environment and needs of the students, all the while keeping the students' interests in mind. This is no different now as we navigate through the new territory of 'Distance Learning' through education and we would like students to become life-long learners not only inside but outside the classroom too. The faculty, I am sure will attain this. I take this opportunity to wish all of you All The Very Best.

Dr Ashwath Narayan C N
*Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka
(Higher Education, Electronics, IT, BT, Science and
Technology, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship
and Livelihood Department, and Ramanagara
District Incharge Minister)*



Nelson Mandela said, 'Education is the most powerful weapon one can use to change the world.' It is very endearing to see such an Institution which is imparting holistic education for the development of all aspects of a student's personality. Good character brings out the inherent excellence in each human being, and character can be nurtured and shaped only with the right kind of education, which will serve as a strong foundation. Having seen the students here, I am certain they will be the much needed change agents in society, marching forward selflessly.

Mr S Suresh Kumar
*Minister of Primary and Secondary Education
Sakala and District Incharge Minister of
Chamarajanagar
Government of Karnataka*



LUMINARIES' OUTLOOK

We are facing a huge problem in this modern world, which is the scarcity of human values. The only solution for the crisis of human values and humanity is, divinity and spirituality. Unfortunately, this has not become a part of the modern education system, not only in India but the entire world. This University is going to be the panacea to this problem.

The measurement for length is meter, the measurement of liquid is litre, but what is the measuring unit of human happiness? Our seers and sages from the past have given the way to measure happiness and prosperity of the world, and that is - the youth and people of the society must be those of character, and should be educated not only in *aparā vidyā* (secular education), but also in *parā vidyā* (knowledge of the Self). I look upon this University as the Centre to contribute graduates, who will bring forth the desired change in this world.

Dr Satya Pal Singh

*Former Minister of State
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Government of India*



It is almost impossible for me to believe that such a University can ever exist! It gives me happiness and satisfaction for being instrumental in its inception process. I am convinced that this Country needs young people like these students, and confident that a day will dawn when students of Baba, will be leaders and assets in the society, marching forward and guiding everyone.

Mr G T Devegowda

*Former Minister of Higher Education
Government of Karnataka*

LUMINARIES' OUTLOOK

Sri Sathya Sai Baba has been serving mankind in different ways; water projects, super speciality hospitals and much more. Building Educational Institutions and providing free values-based education is also one of the service activities that Baba has undertaken, and the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence is a milestone in this education mission. This University is imparting sound, liberal education on modern lines and tastefully blending it with the values of Indian heritage, in a serene atmosphere of devotion, discipline, love and mutual cooperation.

Mr T B Jayachandra
*Former Minister of Higher Education
Former Minister of Law and Parliamentary Affairs
Government of Karnataka*



In this modern era, man is forgetting the meaning and essence of humanity and human values. We need to guide humanity towards the right path and the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence is going to be the torch bearer for the entire world.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba has not only blessed this state of Karnataka, or the Country of India, but the entire world by establishing this University which is on the path of producing youth infused with good character.

When I was the Minister of Education of the State of Karnataka, we tried to institute an educational set-up, like this University, which would be different from others. Sri Sathya Sai Baba has yet again performed a miracle by establishing such a University, which even the Government was unable to set up. Moral education is the need-of-the-hour in this modern world, and I am very delighted about the fact that this is taught in this University.

Mr Basavaraj Horatti
*Former Minister of Primary and Secondary Education
Government of Karnataka*



LUMINARIES' OUTLOOK



The Covid-19 pandemic is the latest reminder that the current 'conventional' factory-like education system is failing. Like the factories that have to be closed, likewise schools and Education Institutions! They are not built to 'fight' back because they are soulless and unsustainable - the weaknesses upon which the deadly virus thrives. Humans, like the lepers of yore, have to run and hide from the invisible enemies, and seek safe havens through COVID learning which encompasses values of Collaboration, Openness, Values-based, Inclusivity and Diversity. In other words, this means the bringing back the 'soul' into education. Before reopening educational campuses, we must first be sure to 'reopen' our hearts, heads and hands for the good of humanity by humanising education, that which is being done at the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence.

Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak
Rector - International Islamic University Malaysia



India aspires to regain its glory as a unique educational learning hub that could attract seekers of truth from all around the globe. Indian tradition of comprehensive knowledge quest accords primacy to the knowledge of the Self, giving due and adequate space to the secular knowledge. National Education Policy of 2020 envisages fundamental reforms in the education system, and envisions nurturance of full human potential. It intends to develop human beings possessing compassion and empathy, courage and resilience, with sound ethical moorings and values: 'Value-based education will include the development of humanistic, ethical, constitutional, and universal human values of truth (satya), righteous conduct (dharma), peace (śānti), love (prema), non-violence (ahimsā), scientific temper, citizenship values, and also life-skills; lessons in seva/service and participation in community service programmes will be considered an integral part of a holistic education.' This inclusion paves the pathways to character development.

These five Sai Values are universally acceptable. The articulation of these by Sri Sathya Sai Baba stirs the hearts of the old and young alike. Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence is devoted to the propagation of these values nationally and internationally. One could say with confidence that it would succeed in moving substantially towards a world of social cohesion and religious amity; a world of peace and human dignity to one and all.

Prof J S Rajput
Former Director - National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT), India



LUMINARIES' OUTLOOK



A vital element and a pivotal instrument for striving and thriving humanity is Values-Based Education (VBE). In this disruptive VUCA world (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity), where the future is unknown, it is even more pertinent that Educational Institutions, parents and the community alike play a significant role in the holistic development of our young. The University with its focus on VBE is set to build the social capacity of its students through the eminent quality of its shared values.

Mdm Kunawathyammal d/o Kaliannan
Senior Teaching Fellow
National Institute of Education-Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

In a world deluged with information, it can be difficult to see what matters more and what matters less. Alongside important knowledge and technology, arts and sciences, skills and methods, it seems clear that something else is required to help us find our way as individuals and societies. Universal Human Values, recognised across cultures and times, and applied in the particularities of our life, bring meaning and depth to education. Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence offers a profound and central commitment to these values and brings them to the daily life of learning at the heart of this vital university. In so doing, it engenders just the transformative education that the world so desperately needs.

Dr Tobin Hart
Professor of Psychology
University of West Georgia



LUMINARIES' OUTLOOK



India's demographic dividend provides it a unique strength for future growth. The Country's average age is expected to be 29 years by 2026; this is a major positive indicator and leaves a huge responsibility with the youth of this Country. This necessitates an education system that builds wholesome individuals, based on knowledge and human values. There has been a substantial increase in Educational Institutes and a growing expanse of private sector in the last two decades.

There is no doubt these Institutes are academically sound, however, a holistic education system covering the human aspect, mostly remains outside the formal education system. After visiting the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, and interacting with the students and faculty, I was impressed to see their holistic education standard.

The focus is to educate students taking inspiration from the ancient *Gurukula* system and the wisdom of our sages and seers. The University's goal is to make students realise the importance of serving the society selflessly, and guiding them to become change agents by differentiating themselves from the rest of the crowd through values-based education. The effectiveness of such a differentiated education system largely depends on the commitment of the Institution and its faculty. I strongly felt this is one of the biggest strengths of the University, which has highly learned, committed, and passionate individuals at the helm, to spearhead in a manner that it makes a difference to the society. I am fortunate to be associated with them in some form to witness this change with my own eyes, and experience it.

Mr A Balasubramanian
Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer
Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC Limited

“SPIRITUAL EDUCATION IS NOT A DISTINCT
AND SEPARATE DISCIPLINE;
IT IS PART AND PARCEL OF ALL TYPES
AND LEVELS OF EDUCATION.
IN FACT, IT IS THE VERY FOUNDATION
ON WHICH A LASTING EDIFICE CAN BE BUILT.”

- SRI SATHYA SAI BABA





SRI SATHYA SAI UNIVERSITY FOR HUMAN EXCELLENCE

योग: कर्मसु कौशलम्

*Free Values-Based Integral Education
for Transformation*

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