

I know that though your bodies are far, far away, your thoughts are with Sai; that awareness and attachment are enough to keep Me near you. Thoughts have no walls or boundaries; they can reach me, though oceans lie between. There is no one without Me; I am with and within every one.

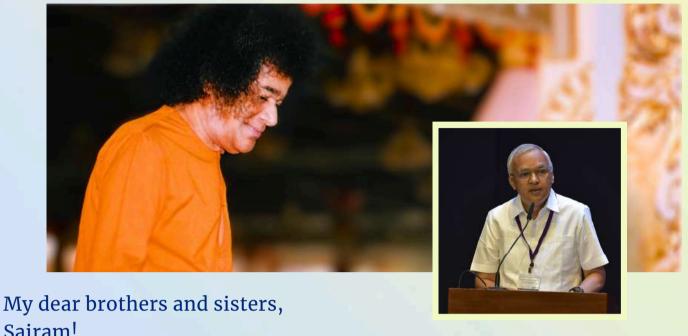
When only the body is near and the thoughts are far away, the situation is like frogs leaping around a lotus flower. But, only bees come to know of the ambrosia that the lotus is ready to give; they yearn to partake of the sweetness and ever hasten towards the flower. Bangaroo! You have Swami's grace in plenty. Where the name is, there is the form.

Busy yourselves with the duties which are laid on you, in good spirit and fine health. Sai is ever by your side. He is Sarathi (the charioteer) of the vehicle of your life. The ship of life, however heavily loaded with the cargo of joys and sorrows, can certainly reach the harbour of Self—realisation, provided it is propelled by holy mental energy. Recitation of the name is the dug—dug—dug of the piston; the steering wheel is Love; the anchor is faith. Continue the journey with confidence. Bangaroo! Sai is guarding you from harm and pain. You are His two eyes. Swami is always showering His compassion on you. On your part, be immersed in the duties entrusted to you. That is Swami's work, remember. When you discharge your duties, convinced that the work is Mine, health and happiness will be added onto you.

-Baba (Prema Dhaara)

WHY THIS NEWSLETTER MATTERS?

A Note from the Vice-Chancellor, SSSIHL



Sairam!

I am a proud member of Sri Sathya Sai Students, an alumni association comprising former students of Sri Sathya Sai educational institutions. These institutions, established by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, emphasize the holistic development of individuals by integrating secular education with spiritual and ethical values. Just as our alma mater aimed to nurture dedication to these higher ideals during our studies, this newsletter seeks to strengthen our dedication to our shared community, keeping us connected, informed, and celebrating the diverse paths our alumni have taken.

Let's continue to foster the spirit of community and mutual support that defines our alumni family. We look forward to sharing news, celebrating achievements, and strengthening our bonds in the issues to come.

Being a part of this Divine Mission of our Revered Founder Chancellor is truly a oncein-a-lifetime opportunity. He nurtured and moulded us into who we are today, instilling in us values through His unique system of holistic education. The alumni association allows us to embody Swami's vision of being torchbearers of love, selflessness, and service to society.

Joining Sri Sathya Sai Students is a deeply fulfilling way to build lasting connections, grow in our careers, and give back to the community that shaped us. As alumni, we strive to live by Swami's ideals in our personal and professional lives, becoming ambassadors of His message.

Our guiding principle reflects Swami's timeless guidance:

"Be good, do good, see good—this is the way to God."

CONNECT, SHARE, AND SERVE: REGISTER ON THE OFFICIAL SSSIHL ALUMNI PORTAL!

Sairam Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are excited to invite you to register on the official <u>Sri Sathya Sai</u> <u>Students alumni portal!</u>

This dedicated platform helps strengthen the bonds within our cherished alumni community, keeping us connected with fellow graduates of SSSIHL & SSSHSS and our beloved alma mater.

Why Register?

By joining the portal, you become part of a vibrant network and can:

- *Reconnect: Find and connect with batchmates and fellow Sai Students across the globe.
- Re-live Memories: Share and revisit cherished moments through features like 'Sai's Memory Lane' and 'Hostel Haven'.
- Celebrate Together: Share personal milestones and celebrate life's special moments collectively in 'Sai's Celebration Hub'.
- ♣ Stay Informed: Get updates on alumni news, upcoming events (check the Event Calendar!), and service opportunities (Seva).
- Be Part of the Mission: Engage with the alumni association's objectives, supporting Sri Sathya Sai Educational Institutions and contributing to society, furthering Bhagawan's vision.
- Access Resources: Utilise current features and look forward to upcoming additions like the Alumni Career Centre.









CONNECT, SHARE, AND SERVE: REGISTER ON THE OFFICIAL SSSIHL ALUMNI PORTAL!



HOW TO REGISTER?

Register Today!

Take a few moments to complete your registration and ensure your details are current. This helps us stay connected with you and strengthens our alumni family. **Visit the portal here:** https://ssss.sssihl.edu.in/registration/

Spread the Word!

Please help us reach all our alumni – share this registration link with your batchmates and encourage them to join our growing online community.

Let's continue to inspire one another and serve society, guided by the values we imbibed at His Lotus Feet.

In Sai Service,

The Sri Sathya Sai Students Alumni Association Team





Solemn Oath, Once Again

An Alumnus' Reflections on Receiving the Kit

"Can you please wait for 5 minutes? You will be ushered into Bhagawan's room. The Vice Chancellor will see you there to hand over your ID card; we will do a small ceremony of sorts."

These words were a pleasant surprise; nay, they amazed me when I visited the Administrative block to collect my alumni society identity card. Tucked in the corner of the glorious Ad Block building is the current alumni society office, where tireless activities go on to complete the registration of about twenty thousand alumni touched by Bhagawan's education mission.



I had opted to collect my alumni ID card physically from Prasanthi Nilayam post my registration with the alumni society. It was a moving experience to realize that a ceremony is organized wherein the alumni get time to be in Bhagawan's room in the university Ad block, reflecting on the student days gone by in the divine ambience of Swami's room. This place is charged with Swami's vibrations, where He spent so much time unfolding His glorious plans of high-quality, value-based education. The Vice Chancellor or the Registrar, based on their availability, comes and hands over the ID card to make the moment memorable.

Like many others, I have also debated internally if we, the alumni of SSSIHL, need a formal structure, given we have always been connected through the informal & unseen bond of Bhagawan's love. However, as we reach a critical mass, with existing twenty thousand and two hundred plus getting added with every graduating batch, it becomes essential to be more organized and structured as a community. opportunities galore to volunteer and collaborate with the Institute that were hitherto limited. As the University is constantly striving to reach the next level of professional excellence through the path of valuebased education, there are opportunities to express gratitude to our alma mater, to our ever-loving founding Chancellor. The alumni society is an endeavor to give structure to that expression of love and gratitude.

Describing us as 'My property', He always established a deep sense of belongingness with Him. As I think deeply, the word property also means the characteristic or quality of something or someone. Maybe it is time we discover a new meaning; that being His property can also mean being of His nature - ever loving, serving and smiling in bliss.

For me, the alumni society ID card is a symbolic reminder to readminister the oath taken multiple times in His presence.

I hereby solemnly declare and promise that I will in my daily life and conversation, and thought, word and deed, conduct myself as befits a member of the Sri Sathya Sai Institute Educational Institutions. I will, to the utmost of my capacity and opportunity, support the cause of sound learning, humanity, morality and spirituality. As far as lies in me. I shall uphold and advance the social and indeed all-round welfare of my countrymen and fellowmen.



INNOVATION AS AN INSTRUMENT OF SERVICE LAUNCHING SRI SATHYA SAI RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FOUNDATION (SSSRIF)

Innovation has always been part of the Sai students' journey.

It shows up not just in research labs but in self-reliance departments, classrooms, and communities. It is found in how problems are approached—with humility, context, and care. The Sri Sathya Sai Research and Innovation Foundation (SSSRIF) takes that spirit forward into a new platform for building real-world solutions with real-world relevance.

Formally launched as a Section 8 not-for-profit incubation company, SSSRIF is designed to support founders solving high-stakes challenges in healthcare, clean energy, the environment, and sustainability. It exists for those who want to build seriously, ethically, and in service of others.

The goal is not just to inspire ideas. It is to equip innovators with the tools, structure, and guidance they need to take those ideas to the next stage—from insight to implementation and from intention to impact.

Whether it's a student working on a rural health tool, an alumnus shaping a sustainable energy solution, or a researcher turning years of data into deployment, SSSRIF backs the work that truly matters.

Health: Delivering care with dignity

Access to healthcare remains uneven, especially in rural and underserved areas. SSSRIF backs projects that improve how care is delivered, accessed, and experienced, especially by those at the margins.

These include efforts to digitise health records in low-infrastructure regions, design tools for early-stage screening, and explore nutrition models rooted in local realities. Technology is important—but only when it respects the dignity of the people it serves.

"Try to provide free education wherever you can. Provide free medicines and treatment for the poor."

— Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Sustainability: Embedding responsibility in design

Environmental sensitivity at SSSIHL was always practical, not performative. Food wasn't wasted. Lights weren't left on. Water was never taken for granted. SSSRIF builds on this foundation.

It supports projects that treat nature as a trust, not a resource. Past student experiments have explored smart irrigation, organic composting, and upcycling lab waste. The emphasis remains on scalable ideas that are affordable, replicable, and respectful of context.

"Do not crave for the property of others... Earn by the sweat of your brow."

— Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba



Energy: Simplicity as strength

Energy access is a technical design problem. SSSRIF supports innovations that focus on usability, affordability, and adaptability, especially for off-grid and semi-rural environments.

This might mean building solar cookers that match the rhythm of a rural household or modular power storage that uses reclaimed parts. Solutions are evaluated not on novelty but on clarity, relevance, and long-term value.

The objective is not to impress. It is to enable.

Seva as the operating system

Every venture supported by SSSRIF is viewed through one lens: Whom does this serve? This question shapes how projects are selected, structured, and supported. It also defines success differently. Founders are encouraged to focus on outcomes that improve lives, not just balance sheets. Impact is not treated as a byproduct. It is built into the model.

Entrepreneurship here is not a deviation from service. It is one of its most rigorous forms.

A platform for value-driven innovators

SSSRIF is open to individuals across the Sai ecosystem and beyond — students, faculty, alumni, professionals, young founders, curious engineers, grounded designers — to those who think deeply, act intentionally, and build for others.

The incubation program includes:

- Sector-aligned mentorship and reviews
- · Access to labs, research, and academic insights
- Guidance on IP, compliance, and product-market alignment
- Opportunities for visibility and funding through curated networks

SSSRIF builds on a decades-long culture of discipline, inquiry, and responsibility. It brings that culture into a new arena—one that demands sharper thinking, deeper relevance, and bold experimentation.

This is an invitation to shape ventures that matter—and do so with quiet strength and ethical clarity.

Let the work begin!



A DESIGN THAT REFLECTS THE MISSION

As part of its launch, **SSSRIF** is inviting the Sai student and alumni community to help shape its identity by participating in a Logo Design Competition.

The logo will serve as a lasting symbol of the foundation's intent—to build ventures that are grounded, scalable, and aligned with the spirit of selfless innovation.

SUBMIT BEFORE

30 MAY, 2025 | 7PM

The competition is open to:

- ☑ Students of SSSIHL and Sri Sathya Sai Schools
- ☑ Alumni from all campuses
- ☑ Creatives from across the Sai network who feel inspired to contribute

Remember: it is not just about aesthetics. It is about expressing values through design.

Submission Link:

<u>https://iic.sssihl.edu.in/launching-the-contest-to-design-the-symbol-of-innovation/</u>

INNOVATION BEGINS AT HOME

Sparklab's Inaugural Chapter Unfolds at SSSIHL

Innovation, when rooted in values, has the power to transform society — gently, purposefully, and enduringly. With this conviction, the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning launched its first startup training cohort, *Sparklab*, on 5th May 2025.

The inaugural ceremony brought together participants and mentors, and a larger ecosystem of Swami's devotees and institutions — a coming together of students, alumni, faculty, administration, members of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisation, and Sai Youth — all united by a shared purpose and the invisible thread of Swami's blessings.

Gracing the occasion were two distinguished guests: Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad, Vice-Chancellor of SSSIHL, and Sri Nimish Pandya, All-India President of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations. Both addressed the cohort with insight and inspiration, encouraging participants to see entrepreneurship not just as problem-solving, but as a form of modern-day service, rooted in dharma and driven by empathy.

The event was hosted under the visionary guidance of Prof. Pallav Kumar Baruah, Dean of Sciences and President of the IIC, who also serves as Program Chair of Spark Lab. His leadership has brought clarity, focus, and momentum to the university's innovation efforts. Spark Lab is co-chaired by Sri N.L.S. Murthy, GM at GreenwayHealth and a respected business leader with deep experience mentoring startups and scaling ventures. The program is also supported by Smt. Sai Sudha Nunna as Co-Chair, Sri T. L. Pavan Kumar as Program Lead, Dr. Swetha T and Sri G. S. R. Murthy as Mentoring Co-Chairs and a committed tech team comprising Sri R. Raghuram, Karunakar Raykar, Gobinath, Sree Yogeshwari R, Venkata Sai Meenakshi Himika Piduri.



The Vision of IIC at SSSIHL

The Institution's Innovation Council was founded to nurture purposedriven innovation within the ecosystem of SSSIHL, where creativity is not celebrated for novelty alone, but for its ability to uplift, solve, and serve.

IIC acts as a bridge between students' aspirations and the practical tools they need to bring their ideas to life through mentorship, hands-on training, exposure to real-world solving, problem and ethical grounding. It is aligned with the national framework of the Ministry of Education's Innovation Council while deeply rooted in Swami's principles of selfless service and character-based education.

Over the last year, the IIC has hosted multiple speaker series, ideation sessions, and incubation-oriented dialogues, and 'Sparklab' marks its most recent, structured, and sustained effort yet.

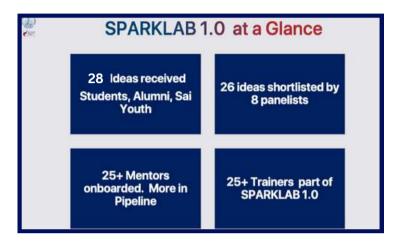
SPARKLAB

SPARKLAB: A STARTUP TRAINING PROGRAM

Sparklab is an 8-week, blended learning program designed to equip early-stage innovators with the mindset, skillset, and support system required to build ventures that matter.

Participants from across the country — including SSSIHL students, alumni, and Sai Youth — were invited to apply. After a rigorous selection process, 28 out of 50 teams were shortlisted, each working on early-stage solutions in sectors like healthcare, sustainability, rural livelihoods, and digital empowerment.





Each team has been paired with dedicated mentors — over 50 experienced professionals from across industries who are contributing their time, expertise, and insight to guide these ideas forward.

The program will take participants through the essentials of entrepreneurial development: from problem validation and customer discovery to business model design, financial planning, and storytelling for investor pitches. Sessions are delivered virtually, while the final phase of the program — including the investor pitch day — will be held in person at Prasanthi Nilayam in June.

Cohort One Has Officially Begun

The inaugural event included a Welcome Note and ceremonial lamp lighting, followed by the IIC context-setting and an overview of the Sparklab roadmap. Prof. B. Raghavendra Prasad and Sri Nimish Pandya both shared reflections on building institutions and aligning innovation with inner purpose.

The theme of the day was clear: Entrepreneurship is not merely about building businesses — it is about solving the right problems, in the right spirit.

The ceremony concluded with Mangala Harathi, a reminder that at SSSIHL, even the most forward-looking initiatives are rooted in timeless grace.

13

SPARKLAB

TO OUR ALUMNI: WE INVITE YOU TO STAY ENGAGED

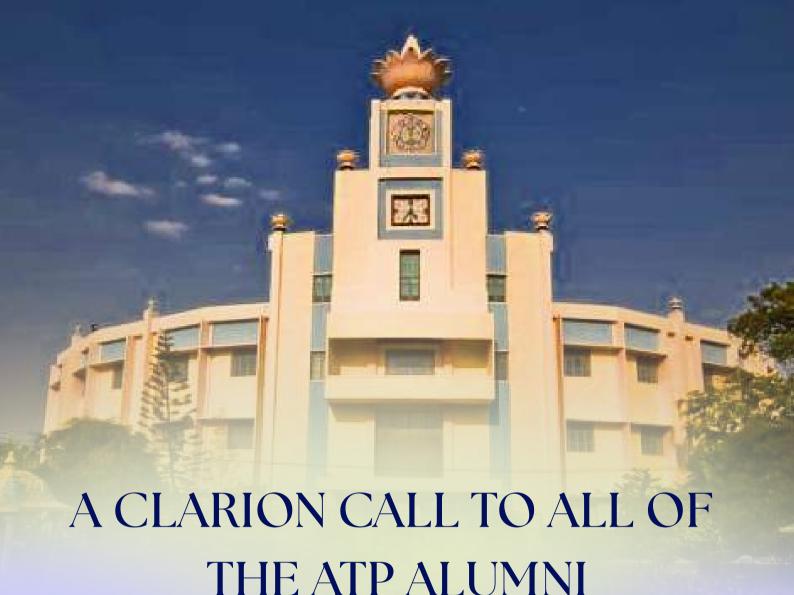
To all our alumni reading this, we invite you to take a moment to explore what's unfolding at your alma mater.

You can view the Sparklab Welcome Kit [<u>Click here to open</u>], which outlines the full program, expectations, session schedule, and learning modules.

This initiative is just the beginning. We see Sparklab not as a one-off cohort, but as the foundation for a larger incubation ecosystem at SSSIHL — one that can be scaled, sustained, and shaped with continued support from alumni, mentors, and Sai Youth around the world.

If you wish to contribute — as a mentor, advisor, connector, or collaborator — we welcome you with open arms. This is your home.





ANNOUNCEMENT: DECLARE YOUR DEDICATION - REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Sairam Dear Sisters!

We are joyously reminded that Swami declared His Avatarhood, a profound moment for all devotees. In the spirit of that divine declaration, it is now our turn to respond with devotion. This is a call for us to come together and declare our dedication to Swami.

To participate in this blessed initiative and join fellow sisters in **celebrating His Glory together**, you are warmly invited to <u>register</u>.

Stay Tuned:

In our next issue, we will delve deeper into the emergence and significance of Bhagawan's Avatar Declaration Day. We'll explore how ATP alumni are connected to this celebration, the reasons behind its observance, and its profound importance for all of us.

Let's unite in devotion and celebrate Him!



Our Team

This newsletter, a labour of love, is dedicated to fostering stronger connections within our esteemed alumni community. We value your feedback and suggestions as we continue to grow and evolve. Please feel free to reach out to us at communications@ssss.sssihl.edu.in

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We express our gratitude to the esteemed President of the Sri Sathya Sai Students Alumni Council for his inspiring words. We would like to thank Brother Dinesh Talreja for sharing such a beautiful experience and the Vidyullekha team for their valuable assistance.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Pallav Kumar Baruah Sir for his unwavering guidance and support throughout the creation of this newsletter.



THE END OF EDUCATION IS CHARACTER

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba Revered Founder Chancellor

