



THURSDAY, 14 JULY AND FRIDAY, 15 JULY 2022  
SATHYA SAI GRAMA, MUDDENAHALLI

## CONFERENCE AGENDA



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



**SRI SATHYA SAI  
UNIVERSITY FOR  
HUMAN EXCELLENCE**





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**Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence  
Central Campus, Kalaburagi, Karnataka**





## SRI SATHYA SAI UNIVERSITY FOR HUMAN EXCELLENCE

Inspired by the ancient Indian way of education that caters to all aspects of human development with spiritual evolution at its very core, the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence was established by Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai as a Private University under the Karnataka Legislative Act 2018 at Navanihala Village, Kamalapur Taluk, Kalaburagi District in Karnataka. The University encapsulates values-based integral education in a unique residential environment, with the core idea to create individual excellence in all fields of knowledge. The purpose is to promote and propagate science, humanities, all forms of fine arts, and spirituality, free of any tuition fees or other charges, based on the ancient Indian *gurukula* system of education, to all students without any discrimination.

***ātmano mokṣārtham jagad 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. The emphasis at the University is, first and foremost, on a perfect balance between spiritual education and material education, or rather, between the means of living and the ultimate goal of life.

The University is determined to reverse the current trends of commercialisation of knowledge, and herald a new goal of divinisation of humans by teaching sciences alongside spirituality, humanities alongside divinity, and excellence alongside enlightenment.

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# NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MAKING HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE AND AVAILABLE

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**G**ross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education in India was 27.1 per cent for 2019-20, an improvement from previous year's 26.3 per cent, as per the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20 report, which was released in 2021. This National Conference will delve into how higher education can be made accessible and available to everyone, while also discussing the importance of incorporating human values into the system of University education. Social Entrepreneurship, which is one of the major aspects of preparing youth for an effective and purposeful way of using their knowledge and skills in the service of society, while simultaneously giving them the necessary freedom and enthusiasm to be innovative in their approach to solving societal problems, will be expounded in the Conference by eminent entrepreneurs from around India.

The confluence at the Conference will consist of educationists, academicians, vice-chancellors, chancellors, and deans from several universities and educational institutions, to share their knowledge from the validation of their experience.

## OBJECTIVES

1. Newer vistas of knowledge and skills in higher education to bring out the true potential of every student.
2. Higher education of girls, women empowerment, and empowerment of socially backward students.
3. The need for information gathered through education to be translated into transformative action to benefit the neediest in society and concur that education must be laced with the higher idea of human values for the welfare of humanity.
4. The importance of students developing a deeper understanding of their roles and responsibilities to build sustainable societies that are progressive and equitable.







**Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai**  
**Founder – Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence**

## FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

As per our scriptures, *sā vidyā yā vimuktaye* is the definition of true education – education is that which liberates. Education is only a means to the greater goal of Self-realisation through selfless work, by using one's knowledge and skills gained in the process of education.

Today, literacy rates have improved but the question remains whether this has added to the improvement of societal values and common good of all. Thus, while higher education aims at building specialised skills and domain expertise, it must also make the literates more humane.

Towards this goal, the higher education wing of the Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Gurukulam – the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence – has been established, where education is a tool for individual and societal transformation. Such models of higher education, that seamlessly blend both the material and spiritual world while inspiring young minds to work constructively towards societal good, need to be made accessible, affordable, and even acceptable! Yes, acceptance from rural parents to get their girl children enrolled into higher education institutions is still a challenge, with barely a percent of rural girls enrolling into higher colleges. Almost 50% of Indian youth are girls and without higher education, their capacity to positively contribute to their families, communities, society, and the nation is severely affected.

Therefore, making transformational education accessible to rural geographies by establishing rural campuses, making it affordable by charging no fee, and making it agreeable especially to girls through constant engagement is the key to the future of higher education.





# CONFERENCE AGENDA

THURSDAY, 14 JULY 2022

**Inaugural Session: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

**SESSION 1 – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Theme: Creating Opportunities for Students to Pursue their Passion and Being Entrepreneurs**

**Session Goal:** To explore newer vistas of knowledge and skills in higher education to bring out the true potential of every student through a values-based approach.

**Speaker Topics:**

1. Dr Chandra B Sharma – The importance of providing access to necessary skill sets in Higher Education.
2. Mr Adinarayanan – Following your passion, forging your own path.
3. Mr Shiv Kumar – Amalgamating enterprise with social service: A values-based approach.
4. Swami Sarvottamananda – Living values is different from preaching values.

**End of Session Summary: 12:45 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**SESSION 2 – 3:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.**

**Theme: A Social Impact Study of Empowering Girls with Higher Education**

**Session Goal:** To study the social impact of empowering girls through practical examples and thus finding clear pathways for making higher education available and accessible for girls and socially backward students.

**Speaker Topics:**

1. Ms Sumita Ghose – Creating opportunities for self-sufficiency amongst rural women.
2. Mr Madan Padaki – Social Entrepreneurship: A platform to create young changemakers.
3. Dr Rupa Vasudevan – Making higher education accessible to girls and socially backward students based on proven methods and ideas.

**End of Session Summary: 4:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.**



FRIDAY, 15 JULY 2022

**SESSION 3 – 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**

**Theme: From Rights to Responsibilities**

**Session Goal:** To understand the importance of students developing a deeper understanding of their roles and responsibilities to build sustainable societies that are progressive and equitable.

**Speaker Topics:**

1. Dr Neil Hawkes – Adopting a values-based approach in higher education to build a sustainable society.
2. Ms Smrithi Rekha Adinarayanan – Moulding students to share the responsibility of creating sustainable societies.
3. Ms Gitanjali J B – Progressive and Equitable - How do we take both together hand in hand to make a sustainable society?
4. Dr Gopalkrishna Joshi – Instilling an ethical mindset amongst students.
5. Mr B N Narasimha Murthy – A successive progression of responsibilities - Individual, Family, Community, National and Global.

**End of Session Summary: 10:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**

**SESSION 4 – 11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.**

**Theme: Clarifying the Purpose of Education – Serving the Unserved**

**Session Goal:** To discuss the need for information gathered through education to be translated into transformative action to benefit the neediest in society and concur that education must be laced with the higher idea of human values for the welfare of humanity.

**Speaker Topics:**

1. Mdm Kunawathyammal d/o Kaliannan – Redefining Education – Nurturing Positive Thinking in Our Students for the Future: An Educator’s Endeavour.
2. Ms Smita Bhatnagar – Impact created on society upon empowering youth with specific skill sets.
3. Dr Suma Parahakaran – Integration of Values and Ethics in Higher Education.

**End of Session Summary: 12:30 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.**

**Valedictory Session: 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Founder’s Address**

**Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai**

Founder of Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, Kalaburagi, Karnataka

# SPEAKERS



### **Dr Chandra B Sharma**

Former Chairman – National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)  
Professor (Education) – IGNOU

**D**r Chandra B Sharma is Professor of Education at the School of Education, Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi. He served as the Chairman of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) during April 2015 to April 2020. He has three decades of teaching experience. He is the recipient of the President’s Award for ‘Commendable Contribution to Digital Initiatives’ during the National Convention on Digital Initiatives for Higher Education on 09 July 2017 (Vigyan Bhawan), New Delhi. He has also been the Director of the Distance Education Programme of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (DEP-SSA), a MHRD-IGNOU project.

Recognising his talent and contributions, the Government of India had assigned the responsibility of training more than 12,00,000 untrained in-service teachers to the NIOS through the ‘Diploma in Elementary Education (DEEd) Programme’ and the same was completed in a record time of 18 months.

He was a member of the Indian delegation led by the Hon’ble Human Resources Minister of India to the Commonwealth Ministerial meet held at Bahamas in May 2015. Professor Sharma was invited by the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) to facilitate the establishment of an open school in Nigeria in July 2018.

Under his leadership, the National Institute of Open Schooling bagged the prestigious ‘Commonwealth of Learning Award of Excellence for Institutional Achievement in Distance Education’ in November 2016. His contributions towards revamping of the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and bringing the certificate at par with secondary and senior secondary was also highly appreciated.



## **Mr Adinarayanan**

Founder – Anaadi Foundation

**M**r Adinarayanan is the Founder of Anaadi Foundation located in the South Indian State of Tamil Nadu, spread out in a nine acre stretch of land, as the centre for spiritual evolution and intense learning. It is a socio-spiritual organisation dedicated to unfolding the spiritual self of individuals. The programmes offered by Anaadi Foundation are aimed at inspiring young people to lead a self-reliant, sustainable and fulfilled life.

After a deep spiritual experience during his graduate studies in the US, Adinarayanan had a strong desire to return to India to dedicate himself to spirituality and serving the society. Since their marriage in 2004, Adinarayanan and his wife Smrithi have been leading a yogic life of simplicity and purpose.



## **Mr Shiv Kumar**

Founding Director – The Catalyst Group

**C**o-Founder of The Catalyst Group and Chief Integrator of the COVID Action Collab, Mr Shiv Kumar is a social investor who is passionate about solving complex social problems and improving the health and wealth of vulnerable communities. Shiv has dedicated 30 years working on social development, in India and internationally. His experience spans consulting, strategy, advisory, technical support provision, institution-building, mentoring, leading teams, being a facilitator, and coaching across a spectrum of focus areas such as – health, livelihoods, education, sustainability, and gender equity, among others.

Shiv holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Rural Management, Institute of Rural Management; Postgraduate Diploma in Systems Development, National Institute of Information Technology and Bachelor of Commerce, St Joseph's College, Tamil Nadu.



### **Swami Sarvottamananda**

Vice-Chancellor – Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute

**S**wami Sarvottamananda popularly known as, Shreesh Maharaj, has devoted most of his life to the social cause of education for the masses. His awards and achievements over the years are the testaments to his brilliance and simplicity. He joined IIT Kanpur in the year 1985, after securing the second rank in the All India Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). Although presented with many opportunities to advance his career, he remained true to his goal of devoting his life to society's service.

After completing his PhD, Swami Sarvottamananda went on a mission to provide education to the underprivileged. He has worked in several teaching positions, and currently serves as the Vice-Chancellor of the Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute. Continuing to be a force for change in the lives of the poorest of the poor, Swami Sarvottamananda's life is an inspiration, as he displays unwavering spirit and profound courage in his mission of uplifting society.





### **Ms Sumita Ghose**

Founder and Manager Director - rangSutra Crafts

**M**s Sumita Ghose is the Founder Director of rangSutra, a social enterprise that seeks to engender socio-economic transformation through handicrafts and handlooms in India by engaging both, the community of artisans and the market for handcrafted products.

Prior to starting rangSutra in 2006, Sumita lived and worked closely with rural communities in India, primarily in rural Rajasthan with the Urmul Rural Health Research and Development Trust, on issues of integrated community development with a focus on women's empowerment. Sumita has a Master's degree in Economics from Mumbai University, India, and a Master's in Conflict Transformation from Eastern Mennonite University (EMU), Harrisonburg, USA, where she was a Fulbright Scholar in the year 2001-02.

She was a recipient of the Nari Shakti Award in 2016, from the President of India for her work related to the empowerment of women and rural artisans.



### **Mr Madan Padaki**

Founder and Chief Executive Officer – 1BRIDGE

**M**r Madan Padaki is an entrepreneur working at the intersection of transforming youth, enabling entrepreneurial journeys and empowering social change-makers. His vision is for every youth to be an empowered youth, every empowered youth to be an entrepreneur and job-creator, and every entrepreneur to be a social changemaker.

As an engineer from the National Institute of Engineering, Mysore and holding an MBA from the S P Jain Institute of Management and Research in Mumbai, Madan worked with Wipro, Infosys and Mphasis (Japan), before being bitten by the entrepreneurial bug in the year 2000, when he co-founded MeritTrac as a pioneering idea in skills assessments. Madan eventually transitioned out in March 2013, listening to his heart to embark on a journey as a changemaker.

He founded 1Bridge in 2014 as a platform that empowers rural entrepreneurs, with 1Bridge receiving national acclaim and praise in 2022 from the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi for its good work. In 2018, he co-founded Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME), a network that aims to catalyse large-scale job creation by igniting a mass entrepreneurship movement. Since 2018, he has served as a Strategy Advisor to UNICEF India for a large initiative on youth empowerment called YuWaah and works closely with the UNICEF and YuWaah teams with a vision to create 300 million youth as changemakers and leaders.

Madan has also been appointed as the Co-Convenor of the Skills and Entrepreneurship Taskforce, set up by the Government of Karnataka to galvanise public-private collaboration in order to create 10 million economic opportunities for youth.



### **Dr Rupa Vasudevan**

Chancellor – Bharatiya Engineering Science and Technology Innovation University

**D**r Rupa Vasudevan is an educationist, sociopreneur and investor with more than 22 years of experience in setting up institutions, schools and universities that provide students holistic experiences. She is the Founder and Chancellor at Bharatiya Engineering Science and Technology Innovation University in Andhra Pradesh.

She is the Co-Founder and Global President of the World Forum for Education, an independent non-profit organisation working globally to advance sustainable development and humanitarian response, while facilitating public good through knowledge-sharing and education. Additionally, Dr Rupa is the Co-Founder of Evergreen Naturals, an all-natural agribusiness venture. She was appointed as one of the ten academicians in the General and Executive Council of Karnataka State Higher Education Council- KSHEC, the apex body on education in the State.

Dr Rupa also holds the position of Honorary Trustee at Disha Bharat, a non-profit social organisation that works in the field of values education, and Member of the Governing Council of Indic Academy, a non-traditional University for traditional knowledge systems.



### **Dr Neil Hawkes**

Founder – The International Values-based Education Trust

**D**r Neil Hawkes is an educator, motivational speaker, broadcaster, writer and social commentator who founded the Charity, The International Values-based Education Trust (IVET). As an International Education Consultant, Neil's IVET Foundation and its transformational education dimension – Values-based Education International (VbE), are powerful and influential worldwide movements for educational and social change.

Neil's passion is to transform education so that it integrates sustainable values within the context of quality basic education and his enthusiasm is based on his research and practical experience as a headteacher, adviser, consultant and visitor to thousands of schools worldwide.

Neil first gained international recognition when he was a Headteacher in Oxfordshire, UK where he worked with a school community to devise and implement a pedagogical system that would give children a transformational ethical vocabulary, based on values such as respect, tolerance, humility and justice. Pupils were empowered to be self-leaders, with an active moral compass that affected behaviour, their thinking and the quality of their school work. Values-based Education (VbE) International is now recognised internationally as the foundation of outstanding school practice.



## **Ms Smrithi Rekha Adinarayanan**

Co-Founder – Anaadi Foundation

**M**s Smrithi Rekha Adinarayanan is the co-founder of Anaadi Foundation. She was formerly an Edtech and Cognitive Science researcher at CREATE Labs and a Faculty member of the Computer Science and Engineering at Amrita University. She has an MS in Information Systems from University at Buffalo, USA. In 2015, she was a visiting faculty at the University of L'Aquila, Italy and contributed to research in the area of organisational group decision making. Her research in Cognitive Science involves designing learning content that utilises the human cognitive potential for enhanced learning outcomes.

At Anaadi Foundation, she devotes her time to design transformative programmes that blend Yoga, Meditation, Cognitive Science and modern Psychology to enhance the quality of teaching and learning process. So far, more than 5,000 students and 1,000 teachers have been part of these programmes. Deeply interested in the cause of ecology and sustainability, Smrithi also works with the youth in making them more conscious of their interactions with nature and help them cultivate an integrated worldview that connects man, society and the environment. She has co-authored papers with Adinarayanan in the area of Spirituality, Sustainable Businesses and Ecology.



## **Ms Gitanjali J B**

Co-Founder – Himalayan Institute of Alternatives

**A** multi-talented, multi-faceted personality with experience in entrepreneurship, fine arts and martial arts, Ms Gitanjali's first tryst with the education sector in 2015 saw her heading the Cambridge School in Chennai. During this time, Gitanjali gained a great deal of exposure to the education system and its practices in the country, but she was left unimpressed. She believed that a lot more could be done in teaching indigenous knowledge, raising student-teacher engagement and learning through experience and this soon led her to the Himalayan Institute of Alternative Learning in Ladakh. Relocating to Ladakh as a founding member and CEO of this unique Institute, Gitanjali has developed the university's curriculum to provide local solutions to real-life problems, thereby benefitting the wider community. She also started an initiative called 'Peaceful Warriors' with the objective of making every girl in India a black belt in karate.

Gitanjali is a Chevening Fellow at the University of Oxford and a recipient of the 'Women Transforming India' national award, presented by the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), Government of India.

Using her numerous skills, Gitanjali has contributed immensely to setting up the Himalayan Institute of Alternative Learning, which as the world's first 'Doer's University', is indeed paving the way for a new system of education by integrating the ancient wisdom of India with the modern and practical techniques of today.



## **Dr Gopalkrishna Joshi**

Executive Director – Karnataka State Higher Education Council

**D**r Gopalkrishna Joshi is the Executive Director of Karnataka State Higher Education Council (KSHEC), Bengaluru, India. Prior to joining KSHEC, he served as Dean (Curriculum Innovation & Program Assessment) at KLE Technological University (KLE Tech), Hubballi, India.

Dr Joshi is involved in practice and research in outcome-based education. He has made contributions to innovations in the first-year engineering curriculum and project-based learning practices. With 42 publications to his credit, he has involved himself in design and conduct of a number of faculty development programmes. Passionate about faculty development and institutional mentoring, Dr Joshi has designed and conducted unique faculty development programmes. He has trained more than 3,000 faculty members on practice of outcome-based education and over 3,500 faculty members on 'Examination Reforms in Engineering Education' for the All India Council for Technical Education, New Delhi.

As the Executive Director of KSHEC, Dr Joshi has involved himself in the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 and international collaborations in the space of higher education. He is also a member of professional bodies including the Institution of Engineers (India), Association of Computing Machinery and Indian Society for Technical Education.





### **Mr B N Narasimha Murthy**

Chancellor – Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence

**M**r B N Narasimha Murthy, a true *parāvidyā ācārya* of the highest knowledge, not just by precept but by practice as well, believes that spiritual education is the basis of integral education, and has spent a life of dedicated service of over 50 years to Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba and His students.

An engineer by education, Mr Murthy decided to dedicate his life for service to humanity at a very young age. He has authored several books, which have been widely translated into many languages worldwide. Mr Murthy is spearheading the establishment of schools and colleges for the underprivileged strata of society, where education is provided totally free of any charges. He is the Chancellor of the Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence based in Karnataka in South India. Over 5,000 boys and girls are benefitting from free values-based integral education across 27 Campuses in the States of Karnataka and Telangana, under his leadership as the Chief Mentor of Sri Sathya Sai Loka Seva Gurukulam Group of Institutions.



### **Mdm Kunawathyammal d/o Kaliannan**

Senior Teaching Fellow – National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

**M**dm Kunawathyammal or Mdm Kuna, was trained at the Institute of Education, National University of Singapore, as a teacher. She earned a Further Professional Diploma in Educational Programme (FPDE) and was the Head of Department at the National Institute of Education-Nanyang Technological University (NIE-NTU). She has taught at Raffles Girls' Secondary School, her alma mater, in the Gifted Education Programme and has served as the Head of Department for Affective Education.

Affective education focuses on developing students' belief systems, emotions, and attitudes. The underlying principle of affective education is that in order to learn traditional subjects optimally, students must develop their personality. Mdm Kuna represented Singapore in the Ship for South East Asian Youth Programme (SSEAYP) in 1990 nominated by National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC), Singapore Head Quarters, for her commendable services as a NPCC Teacher Officer and as Area Commandant. In her capacity as Vice-Principal in three secondary schools, Mdm Kuna has initiated several pupil development and leadership programmes and learning circles both for students and teachers.



## **Ms Smita Bhatnagar**

Chief Executive Officer – SEWA Manager Ni School

**P**osted as Senior Coordinator with the Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA), an organisation and movement comprising of 1.7 million informal sector women members across 16 States of India, Ms Smita Bhatnagar currently heads SEWA Manager Ni School - the training vertical of SEWA which strengthens the managerial, technical, and soft skills of grassroots women and their micro-enterprises. Some of her key initiatives in this segment comprise of identifying and developing needs-based content, delivering training, leading the Training Module Digitisation Project, setting up livelihood linkages, and developing a cadre of grassroots master trainers.

Smita also works on various programmes in agriculture, micro-enterprise development, capacity building, digital financial inclusion, and networks with partners like the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development, World Bank, academic institutes, private and government players.

With over 30 years of experience, Smita holds a Doctoral Degree along with an MBA, and certifications from the Indian Institute of Management, Yale School of Management, Coady Institute, British Council, and more.



### **Dr Suma Parahakaran**

Faculty Research – Manipal GlobalNXT University, Malaysia

**D**r Suma Parahakaran is a researcher in Education in Human Values and currently serves as a Visiting Professor for the American University of Sovereign Nations, USA and her research is on Spiritual Human Values and Bioethics in Environmental Education. Suma also works as a consultant for the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) at the Regional Centre for Education in Science and Mathematics (RECSAM), Malaysia and as a tutor in the Education faculty for Wawasan Open University, Malaysia.

As an education training consultant, Suma has led numerous teacher training workshops over the years in various Southeast Asian countries. The focus of her work is in the integration of education in human values in the curriculum for Education and Environmental Education.

Silent sitting is one of the main teaching pedagogies which Suma is interested in implementing in educational systems and has authored the book 'A Human Values Pathway for Teachers - Developing Silent Sitting and Mindful Practices in Education', which includes transnational, comparative research related to the benefits of silent sitting and mindful practices as tools in education.

*“It is the duty of every individual who has enough resources to support and provide the right of education to children who are deprived of education due to various reasons. Given the right kind of education and guidance, every child can not only stand on his or her own feet, but also grow into a talented adult, useful to the society.”*

**- Sadguru Sri Madhusudan Sai**





**A bird's eye view of Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence, Kalaburagi Campus, Karnataka**

