

Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini (SSSVV) Presents...

Neurodiversity to Neuroplasticity

Global Education Summit - 2025

Delegate Handbook

Table of Contents

Summit Details - Dates, Venue, Participants 03

Welcome Message 04

Message from the Managing Trustee 05

From Our Director's Desk 07

SSSVV Partners 09

Pre-Summit Workshop 10

Global Education Summit 12

Panel of Eminent Speakers (In the order of their presentation) 13

Indian Sign Language (ISL) Interpreters 25

In-house Panel of Speakers 26

Language of Love - Neuro Expressions (Art Exhibition) 27

Inner Inspirations - A Musical Offering at Sai Kulwant Hall 29

Melodies of the Mindscape 30

Prapanna - The Ultimate Surrender 31

About the Organisers 33

About SSSVV 34

Spotlight for your Synapses 35

A Message for All Through Avaz App 36

Summit Details



Dates: When & What

25th June, 2025, Wednesday

Pre-Summit Workshop -
Cognitive Education for Diverse Learners:
The Missing Piece

26th & 27th June, 2025, Thursday & Friday

Global Education Summit



Venue

Sai Hira Global Convention Centre,
Prasanthi Nilayam



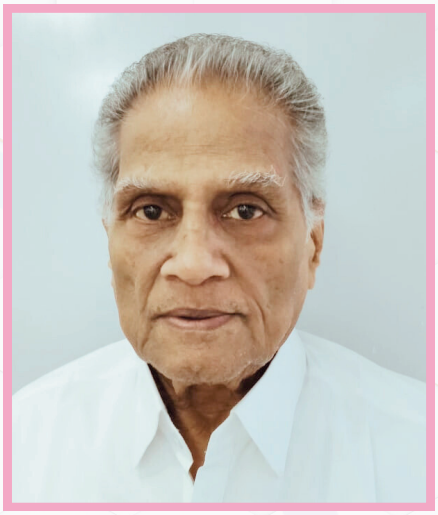
Participants

KG - Grade 12 Teachers & School Administrators
Policy Makers
University Students
Higher Education Faculty & Curriculum Developers
Educational Researchers
Therapists and Psychologists
Coaches & Educational Trainers
Parents

Welcome Message

Sri K. Chakravarthi
IAS (Retd.)

Chancellor - Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning
Trustee - Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam
Chairman - Sri Sathya Sai Global Council



Sai Ram and welcome to the Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini's **Global Education Summit 2025: Neurodiversity to Neuroplasticity** at Prasanthi Nilayam!

As a diverse community of researchers, educators, content creators, parents, neurotypical and diverse individuals gather at Prasanthi Nilayam to explore the promise that neuroplasticity holds, I urge you all to be guided by the spirit of love and empathy.

These values are essential for creating a society that values and supports all individuals, regardless of their neurological makeup. Love and empathy foster acceptance by helping us to understand and appreciate individual differences. This, in turn, promotes inclusive environments, drives innovation and inspires us to find solutions to meet the needs of diverse segments of society. Love and empathy are the strongest drivers to reduce stigma, anxiety and stress.

As a society, we are navigating growing awareness around cognitive and neurological differences. It is all the more important for every individual to feel accepted, supported, and well advocated for.

Let's cultivate a society that celebrates neurodiversity and acknowledges the potential of neuroplasticity, while being driven by love and empathy.

I welcome you all to Prasanthi Nilayam!

Message from the Managing Trustee



Sri R. J. Rathnakar

Managing Trustee
Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust,
Prasanthi Nilayam

Sai Ram! On behalf of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, I welcome you to this groundbreaking workshop-cum-conference on Neurodiversity and Neuroplasticity, organised by our digital education unit, the SSS Vidya Vahini. This global event reflects our commitment to inclusion and exploring the promise of neuroplasticity.

Neurodiversity is not a deficit, but a difference. It's a testament to the incredible complexity and adaptability of the human brain. By embracing neurodiversity, we can unlock the unique strengths and talents that individuals with diverse neurological profiles bring to our communities.

Neuroplasticity is the brain's remarkable ability to reorganise and adapt throughout life. This concept challenges traditional notions of fixed intelligence and ability and offers hope for individuals seeking to improve their cognitive and behavioural well-being.

As we navigate this journey from neurodiversity to neuroplasticity, we recognise the importance of:

Inclusion: Creating environments that welcome and support individuals with diverse neurological needs.
Acceptance: Embracing the unique strengths and challenges that come with neurodiversity.
Empowerment: Providing tools, resources and strategies to help individuals harness their neuroplastic potential.

Message from the Managing Trustee

Through research, innovation and collaboration, we can improve our understanding of the intersection of neurodiversity and neuroplasticity, develop effective interventions and share best practices.

Since 1950, Prasanthi Nilayam has welcomed everyone into its embrace without any filters and barriers, judgement or prejudice, guided as we are by Bhagawan Baba's call to Love All and Serve All. It is therefore only befitting that this historic event is taking place here.

Welcome to the Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini Global Education Summit 2025.

Sai Ram!

R. J. Rathnakar

From Our Director's Desk

Smt. Karuna Munshi

Director
Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini,
Prasanthi Nilayam



Prasanthi Nilayam is honoured to host the Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini Global Education Summit 2025, which will explore the intersectionality of neurodiversity and neuroplasticity. These two interconnected concepts are reshaping our understanding of the human brain, learning and inclusion.

Neurodiversity is nature's call to embrace cognitive variation in how human brains function, process information and interact with the world. This perspective asserts that there is no single 'correct' way for the brain to work and that differences, such as those seen in autism, ADHD, dyslexia and other neurological or developmental conditions, are part of the broad spectrum of human diversity.

Neurodiversity recognises that while some neurological differences can create challenges, they also bring unique strengths and perspectives.

India's New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) call for reducing barriers to create more accommodating and supportive environments in schools and learning communities.

Neuroplasticity refers to the brain's remarkable ability to change and adapt throughout life in response to experiences, learning and environmental influences. This means that neural pathways can be strengthened, weakened, or reorganised, allowing individuals to acquire new skills, adapt to challenges and even recover from injury.

From Our Director's Desk

Neuroplasticity is especially significant for neurodivergent individuals, as it offers the potential to develop alternative strategies for learning and functioning, rather than focussing solely on 'fixing' perceived deficits.

When combined, neurodiversity and neuroplasticity offer a hopeful and empowering framework.

Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini is honoured to be part of India's historic journey in the education space, which has the potential to challenge our traditionally held assumptions about neural functions. I offer my reverential obeisance to Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba for laying down this vision more than 50 years ago!

"...It is the duty of a person to see in society the expression of divinity and to use all his or her skill and effort to promote the welfare and prosperity of society. One must cultivate this expansive feeling, this inclusive thinking and this intuitive vision."

-Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Discourse Date: 01 March, 1974

Welcome to Prasanthi Nilayam!

Karuna Munshi
Director, Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini
Prasanthi Nilayam

SSSVV Partners

IITM Pravartak Technologies Foundation

AIISH

Indore Deaf Bilingual Academy

IIT-M

Muskan Foundation for People with Multiple Disabilities

NCERT-CIET

RSM

SSSIHL

Alpha to Omega Learning Centre

Pre-Summit Workshop:

Cognitive Education for Diverse Learners: The Missing Piece

Why Attend?

Engage with Feuerstein's Vision:
Gain an in-depth understanding of one of the most transformative theories of cognitive development in modern education.
Build Practical Skills:
Walk away with actionable techniques you can implement immediately to support diverse learners.
Network with Innovators:
Connect with experts, practitioners and educators who are passionate about cognitive enhancement and transformative learning.
Enhance Student Outcomes:
Learn how to equip your students with the tools they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond, regardless of their background or challenges.

By the end of the Workshop you will

Understand Cognitive Modifiability:
What it means and why it matters for the learning process.
Understand Techniques for enhancing cognitive functions:
Techniques such as memory, attention and abstract reasoning.
Understand the Role of Mediated Learning:
How guided interactions can improve students' cognitive structures.
Learn Practical Applications for Diverse Learners:
Find out how to equip your students with the necessary tools to succeed in the classroom and beyond, regardless of their background or challenges.

Expert Speakers:

Renowned Experts in Cognitive Science and Mediation:
Dr. Jeanne Zehr amongst other eminent expert speakers.

Pre-Summit Workshop:

Cognitive Education for Diverse Learners: The Missing Piece

Key Topics Include:

Understanding Cognitive Modifiability:
What it means and why it matters for learning.
Feuerstein's Instrumental Enrichment (IE):
Techniques for enhancing cognitive functions like memory, attention and abstract reasoning.
The Role of Mediated Learning:
How guided interaction can improve students' cognitive structures.
Practical Applications for Diverse Learners:
Addressing the needs of learners with difficulties in learning, memory, attention and emotional regulation.

Who Should Attend?

KG - Grade 12 Teachers & School Administrators
Policy Makers
University Students
Higher Education Faculty & Curriculum Developers
Educational Researchers
Therapists & Psychologists
Coaches & Educational Trainers
Parents

Mode of Participation:

Attend in person

Global Education Summit:

Neurodiversity to Neuroplasticity

Objectives:

Promote Understanding:
Foster an understanding of neurodiversity as a spectrum of neurological variations, including autism, ADHD, dyslexia and more.

Explore Neuroplasticity:
Discuss the science of neuroplasticity - the brain's ability to reorganise itself by forming new neural connections.

Share Best Practices:
Highlight successful interventions and educational strategies that support neurodiverse individuals and leverage neuroplasticity for positive outcomes.

Workshop Sessions:

Navigating Neurodiversity in Education:
Strategies for inclusive teaching practices that cater to various learning styles.

Approaches to Neuroplasticity:
Practical methods rooted in mindset, cognitive development and mental flexibility.

Panel Discussions & Case Studies:

The Future of Neurodiversity:
Experts discuss emerging research and societal attitudes towards neurodiversity.

Neuroplasticity in Action:
Case studies showcasing real-world applications of neuroplasticity.

Networking Opportunities:

Participants can connect through informal meetups, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Panel of Eminent Speakers



Dr. Jeanne M. Zehr

Director
Feuerstein Programs - North America

Universal Design for Learning:
Bridging Neurodiversity and Neuroplasticity

Dr. Jeanne M. Zehr, founder of The MINDCAP Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA, brings over 35 years of experience championing cognitive development, from children with ADHD to stressed CEOs. She holds a doctorate in 'Changing Teacher Belief Systems', awarded Dissertation of the Year. She pioneered Feuerstein cognitive training across North America and beyond, empowering diverse groups globally. Currently Director of North America Feuerstein Programs and Senior International Trainer for the Feuerstein Institute, Dr. Zehr blends neuroscience, leadership and faith to awaken human potential through dynamic, hands-on presentations worldwide.

Dr. Onita Nakra

Educational Counsellor
The American School of Dubai, UAE



What is Cognitive Education?
Empowering Teachers: Practical Approaches to Applying Neuroplasticity for Students with Learning Disabilities

Dr. Onita Nakra, an educational psychologist based in Dubai, specialises in cognitive interventions for special needs learners. With over 25 years of experience in education, research, training, evaluation and counselling, Dr. Nakra has worked with special needs children in Dubai, India and the USA. Author of 'Children and Learning Difficulties' and 'Understanding Autism', she also wrote a widely read Gulf News column. With a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and currently at the American School of Dubai, Dr. Nakra continues to assess, guide and train across the GCC, championing inclusive education and parental support.

Panel of Eminent Speakers



Prof. (Dr.) Indu Kumar

Head - Dept. of ICT and Training - NCERT-CIET & National Coordinator - DIKSHA, New Delhi

Universal Design for Learning:
Bridging Neurodiversity and Neuroplasticity

Prof. (Dr.) Indu Kumar, National Coordinator for DIKSHA, has an extensive experience in educational technology. She leads DIKSHA's implementation across India, promoting inclusive and innovative practices. Recognised with national and international awards for eContent development, her work focusses on enhancing access to quality education through technology, impacting millions of students and educators. Her leadership has been pivotal in transforming India's educational landscape.



Prof. G. Balasubramanian

Former Director (Academics) CBSE, Leader & Mentor - Teacher 360, Bengaluru

Shaping the Future of Education:
Neurodiversity, Neuroplasticity and Leadership

Prof. G. Balasubramanian, former Director (Academics) of CBSE, is a pioneering educationist, author and teacher-trainer, with over 7000 workshops, impacting 7 lakh educators globally. With degrees in Chemistry, Hindi, Education and certifications from the UK, he has led key national reforms in curriculum and examinations. Advisor to leading educational bodies and poet-author of several books, his passion blends philosophy, creativity and leadership. His legacy continues to shape India's educational landscape with vision and depth.

Panel of Eminent Speakers

Dr. Bharti Kaushik

Professor - CIET-NCERT, New Delhi



Creating Inclusive Schools:
From Resistance to Reality

Dr. Bharti Kaushik, currently Professor at CIET-NCERT, is M.Sc Physics and PhD in Education from the University of Delhi and has been working in the area of equitable and inclusive education since 2002. She has published five books in English, two books in Hindi and 48 research papers in UGC recognised journals. She has developed the PRASHAST - the Pre Assessment Holistic Screening Tool for schools. Currently she is facilitating the preparation of learning-teaching materials in Indian Sign Language (ISL) and coordinating a live series "Teaching Learning Interventions in Inclusive Classrooms".

Smt. P. S. Lakshmi Sarkar

Occupational Therapy Specialist
M.O.H. - Sultanate of Oman



Thinking Through Senses – A Victory Guide

Smt. P. S. Lakshmi Sarkar, Senior Occupational Therapist at Khoula Hospital, Oman, brings 25 years of expertise, 20 years of which in Oman, specialising in paediatric rehabilitation, sensory integration and developmental disabilities. A certified international mentor and dynamic trainer, she has treated over 25,000 patients and led initiatives in inclusive education, curriculum development and clinical training. Member of Oman's Special Children Group and recipient of national awards, she continues to empower communities through mentorship, multilingual communication and global collaboration in sensory research.

Panel of Eminent Speakers



Col. Dr. Narayan Ramachandran (Retd.)

Orthopaedic Trauma Surgeon &
Life, Leadership & Surgical Coach, Oman

Flex Your Cortex

Col. (Dr.) Narayan Ramachandran (Retd.) is a highly respected Orthopaedic Surgeon with over 32 years of service in the Sultanate of Oman's Armed Forces. As Head of Orthopaedics & Trauma, he transformed the department into a multi-specialty centre of excellence. An international AO Trauma faculty and certified Life & Leadership Coach, he has mentored countless surgeons across the Middle East & North Africa (MENA) region and Africa. Having a Masters degree in Disaster Medicine, he has numerous publications to his credit and is a visionary educator, trainer and global leader in trauma care.

Dr. Uday Kiran Nori

Head - Dept. of Math & Computer Science
SSSIHL, Prasanthi Nilayam

Strength-Based Learning for
Neurodiverse Students in the Classroom



Dr. Uday Kiran Nori, Head of Mathematics & Computer Science at Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, is an expert in Mathematical Analysis and Scientific Computing. His research spans microlocal and algebraic analysis, SciML and quantum computing, applied to differential equations, images and number theory. Passionate about teaching, he inspires students through problem-solving and algorithms. A DST-SERB grant recipient and an active Ph.D. mentor, he blends theoretical depth with real-world impact in mathematics, computing and education.

Panel of Eminent Speakers



Dr. Ramandeep Kaur

Prof. - Dept. of Speech & Hearing
Father Muller Charitable Instiution &
Director - Speranza Inspiring Communication

From Within: Interoception, Autism and the Brain's Adaptability

Dr. Ramandeep Kaur, Professor and Head at Father Muller Medical College and Director of Speranza Centre, is a renowned speech-language expert with 13+ years in autism, interoception and inclusive education. She has authored multiple practitioner guides and contributed to peer-reviewed research. Her interventions target body awareness, stuttering and oral comprehension in children with autism. Actively leading institutional projects, she bridges clinical innovation with academic insight to foster holistic child development and inclusive practices.

Smt. Mallika Ganapathy

Consultant Educator - working with schools in creating conducive environment for inclusion

Panel Discussion: Early Intervention and Neuroplasticity: Changing the Trajectory for Children with Disabilities



Smt. Mallika Ganapathy is a Consultant Educator with 32 years of experience. Starting as a volunteer at Vidya Sagar, she earned a PG Diploma in Special Education and coordinated its PG Diploma course for the Neurologically Impaired for 13 years. She worked on inclusion in a rural school near Madurai and advised schools on differentiated curricula. She remains active in community-based rehabilitation, assessments and referrals.

Panel of Eminent Speakers



Smt. Jayashree Ramesh

Director - Academy for Severe Handicaps and Autism (ASHA)

Panel Discussion: Early Intervention and Neuroplasticity: Changing the Trajectory for Children with Disabilities

Smt. Jayashree Ramesh is the Director of Academy for Severe Handicaps and Autism (ASHA). With extensive experience in special education, she leads the academy in providing tailored educational programmes and support for individuals with severe handicaps and autism. Her work focusses on enhancing the quality of life for these individuals through innovative teaching methods, community engagement and advocacy. Under her leadership, ASHA has become a beacon of hope for many families.

Smt. Lalitha Ramanujan

Director
Alpha to Omega Global School



Panel Discussion: Early Intervention and Neuroplasticity: Changing the Trajectory for Children with Disabilities

Smt. Lalitha Ramanujan, Founder–Director of Alpha to Omega Learning Centre, is a pioneer in Specific Learning Difficulties with over 34 years of experience. Trained internationally and certified in multiple intervention models, she champions holistic, inclusive education. A passionate educator and trainer, she has empowered thousands of teachers, parents and therapists through her programmes. Her awards and books reflect her unwavering commitment to helping children with learning challenges discover their strengths and thrive academically.

Panel of Eminent Speakers



Dr. Venkat Lakshmi H.

Prof. and HOD - Dept. of HDRC
School of Home Science
Smt. VHD Central Institute of Home Science
Maharani Cluster University

Panel Discussion: Early Intervention and Neuroplasticity: Changing the Trajectory for Children with Disabilities

Dr. Venkat Lakshmi H. brings 28 years of rich academic experience and expertise in sexual health education and inclusive development. She has led UGC-funded research, published 70+ papers and authored acclaimed guidebooks for parents and educators of children with special needs. A prolific tool developer and active member of leading professional bodies, she serves on multiple academic boards and inspires through her outreach, mentoring and scholarly contributions nationwide.

Dr. Tarishi Nemani

Consultant - Paediatric Neurologist
Institute of Neurosciences
Mazumdar Shaw Medical Centre, Bengaluru



Panel Discussion: Early Intervention and Neuroplasticity: Changing the Trajectory for Children with Disabilities

Dr. Tarishi Nemani is a Consultant Paediatric Neurologist at the Institute of Neurosciences, Mazumdar Shaw Medical Centre, Narayana Health City, Bengaluru. With an MD in Paediatrics from KGMU Lucknow and specialised fellowships in Paediatric Neurology from Mumbai, London (Bill Marshall Fellowship) and Cleveland Clinic, USA, she brings extensive expertise in paediatric epilepsy, epilepsy surgery, cerebral palsy, autism, ADHD, CNS infections, movement and neuro-genetic disorders. She has numerous publications and has authored several book chapters, reflecting her significant contributions to the field.

Panel of Eminent Speakers



Prof. Viswanath Kumar Ganesan

Adjunct Faculty - IIT Madras
Principal Scientist - TCS

Adaptive Engaging and Employment Pathways to Empower Neurodiverse Individuals

Prof. Viswanath Kumar Ganesan, an adjunct faculty at IIT Madras and Principal Scientist at Tata Consultancy Services, specialises in industrial logistics and human capital management. A passionate advocate for neurodiversity, he fosters inclusive innovation with empathy and compassion. At TCS since 2005, he leads large-scale data science initiatives across diverse sectors. He serves on advisory boards at AMTDC and SASTRA University. An award-winning researcher, he has received national and international recognition for his contributions to operations research and innovation.

Padma Shri Prof. M.K. Sridhar

Member - NEP Drafting Committee
Teacher, Researcher, Institution Builder, Mentor



The Role of NEP 2020 in Promoting Cognitive Flexibility and Neuroplasticity in Students

Padma Shri Prof. M.K. Sridhar is an inspiring Management Professor with over 40 years of experience. He has served as Professor, Dean and Director at Bangalore University's Department of Management Studies. He has been awarded the esteemed Padma Shri award in recognition of his momentous contributions to literature and education. He was Executive Director of the Karnataka Knowledge Commission (2009-2013) and contributed to the draft National Education Policy (NEP). He has been a member of CABE, UGC, AICTE's All India Board of Management Studies and the Executive Councils of the Central University of Gujarat and Kerala.

Panel of Eminent Speakers



Dr. Anupam Ahuja

Former Prof., Head - IRD & DEGSN - NCERT
Member - IBE-UNESCO

Indigenous Approaches to
Inclusive Education

Dr. Anupam Ahuja, former Professor and Head at NCERT, brings over four decades of pioneering work in education, policy, and inclusion. Renowned for her leadership in accessible curriculum design, she has shaped major national initiatives and contributed to the National Education Policy. Dr. Ahuja has worked across 20+ countries, advising governments and agencies on inclusive education. A member of UNESCO-IBE's advisory group, she has authored widely on school improvement and learning diversity, advancing equity and quality in education for all learners.

Dr. Sujata Bhan

Senior Prof. and HOD of Special Education
SNDT Women's University, Mumbai

National Curriculum Framework:
The Foundational Stage



Dr. Sujata Bhan, Senior Professor and Head of the Department of Special Education at SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, is a distinguished expert in inclusive and special education with over 30 years of experience. A prolific researcher, author and advisor, she has guided multiple doctoral scholars and contributed significantly to national and international educational policies. Recognised for her pioneering work through prestigious awards, Dr. Bhan actively leads curriculum innovation, teacher training and global collaborations, shaping inclusive education both in India and abroad.

Panel of Eminent Speakers



Prof. Victoria Naomi

Former Dean - School of Education
Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science & Higher Education for Women

Multi-Tiered System of Supports for Academic and Behaviour Enhancement

Prof. Victoria Naomi has had a distinguished career in educational leadership, marked by impactful contributions to teacher education, curriculum development and educational research. Her visionary approach led to several initiatives that raised academic standards and fostered innovative, learner-centric teaching methodologies. Deeply committed to student empowerment and faculty development, she consistently championed quality and equity in education. Admired for her integrity and passion, Prof. Naomi's legacy continues to inspire educators and shape educational practices, leaving a lasting imprint on the academic landscape.

Smt. Indrani Basu

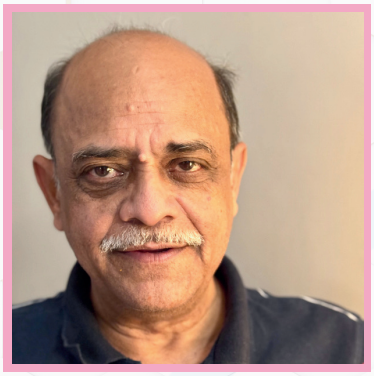
'Autism Advocate'
Action For Autism, New Delhi



Parents as Allies: Guiding Parental Expectations to Foster Neuroplasticity

Smt. Indrani Basu, an RCI-certified special educator specialising in autism, has over 25 years of experience supporting individuals with autism across various age groups. As Head of Parent Empowerment and Training at Action for Autism, New Delhi, she mentors families, trains educators and leads sensitisation programmes for schools, corporates and civic bodies in India and abroad. A key contributor to autism-specific services nationwide, she has authored vital resources for the field. Indrani integrates Social Role Valorisation (SRV) into both her personal and professional life.

Panel of Eminent Speakers



Sri Ajmal Jami

Visual Communication Professional, Visual Journalist, Educator and Cinematographer

Capturing the Power of Resilience:
The Neuroplasticity of the Human Spirit

Sri Ajmal Jami is a visual journalist, cinematographer and educator with over 35 years of award-winning work spanning documentaries, conflict reporting (Kargil, Afghanistan, Iraq) and mobile journalism. At NDTV, he led the camera team for two decades, pioneering smartphone-based visual reporting. Since 2018, he has trained diverse groups - including bureaucrats and tribal communities - through workshops across India. As FTII's Smartphone Filmmaking Course Director, he champions inclusive storytelling, notably with neurodiverse and disabled individuals, whose films have featured at MIFF. He also creates 'I AM I' inspirational films for Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini.

Dr. Dipti Gandhi

Founder & CEO
Muskan Foundation, Mumbai

Neuroplasticity and Vision Rehabilitation in Neurodiverse Children



Dr. Dipti Gandhi began her career as a low vision consultant and went on to establish the Muskan Foundation to provide holistic services for children with visual and multiple disabilities. She developed a pioneering vision rehabilitation program and serves as a national-level Master Trainer and Mentor. A recipient of several prestigious awards, including the Jewel of India and the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Lifetime Achievement Award, she is active on key institutional committees. Dr. Gandhi holds a doctorate from Thames University, UK and presents widely on issues related to multiple disabilities.

Panel of Eminent Speakers

Grp. Capt. Chandrashekhar Sreenivas VSM (Retd.)

Vice President - Daily Operations & Customer Experience, Bengaluru Airport



Creating Sensory Friendly Spaces for Neurodiverse Individuals: Lessons from Bengaluru Airport

Grp. Capt. C. Sreenivas, VSM (Retd.), brings over 30 years of experience, including a distinguished Indian Air Force career honoured with the Vishisht Seva Medal. Currently leading Operations at Bengaluru International Airport, he oversees Customer Experience, Terminal, Landside, Airside Operations and AOCC. Known for his strategic foresight and focus on accessibility, he drives excellence through innovation and teamwork. Under his leadership, the airport has achieved notable gains in passenger satisfaction and efficiency. He also plays a key role in future planning and regulatory compliance.



Smt. Sowmya Sanak & Sri Sanak Kumar Athreya

Founder Directors & Music Therapist Svarakshema Foundation, Bengaluru

Empowering Young Minds Through Music: Therapeutic and Educational Strategies for Neurodiverse Learners

Dr. Sowmya Sanak and Sri Sanak Kumar Athreya, founders of Svarakshema Foundation, are pioneering music therapists with over 13 years of experience in music-based healthcare. Dr. Sowmya, with a PhD in Music Therapy and a background in microbiology, integrates Carnatic music with science to develop non-invasive therapeutic methods. Sri Sanak Kumar, a multi-instrumentalist and Nāda Yoga researcher, fuses rhythm, yoga and music for healing. Formerly in clinical research and IT respectively, they now champion music's transformative power by research, talks and outreach.

Indian Sign Language (ISL) Interpreters



Smt. Susheela Joseph

ISL Interpreter

Smt. Susheela Joseph's passion for sports inspired her to empower the differently abled, particularly hearing-impaired women, through coaching in athletics and team games.

With over 35 years of experience, she has guided many to participate in Special Olympics events across India. Her dedication led to her appointment as the official Sign Language Interpreter for the Government of Karnataka's 'World Disabled Day' celebrations. Beyond sports, she actively facilitates employment opportunities for the hearing-impaired by connecting them with IT companies, continuing her lifelong mission of inclusion and empowerment.

Smt. Priyanka Prashanth

ISL Interpreter



Smt. Priyanka Prashanth Upadhyaya is a professional interpreter and has over 10 years of experience working with MNCs, BPOs and NGOs, with a background in CSR and accounting.

Currently a freelance interpreter, she has worked with organisations like NASSCOM and Thomson Reuters. She previously served as an accounts officer at Tansharp Allied Consulting, an interpreter and job coach at V-shesh Pvt. Ltd. and a lecturer and interpreter at S. R. N. Adarsh College. She is a registered sign language interpreter with the Rehabilitation Council of India.

In-house Panel of Speakers



Smt. Karuna Munshi
Director
Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini



Dr. Srividya Sridhar
Project Management Team
Inclusive Education Project



Sri Saurabh Saksena
Project Management Team
Inclusive Education Project



Sri Tharanatha Kotian
Project Management Team
Inclusive Education Project



Smt. Vidya Praveena
Team Member
Inclusive Education Project

Language of Love - Neuro Expressions



Smt. Archana Apte Gokhale

About the Artist: Smt. Archana Apte Gokhale from Bengaluru, born with hearing impairment, pursued art passionately. After SSLC in 1999, she trained at Ken School of Arts, specialising in pencil sketching, landscapes, animals and portraits. She also learnt 2D animation at Arena Multimedia. A hearing aid surgery greatly enhanced her communication. She worked as a multimedia expert (2006–07) and completed a detailed campus sketch for GE. Archana has exhibited her work in Goa, Mumbai, Bengaluru and London.

About the Artist: Kum. Anaida loves to explore a wide range of media, including acrylic painting, pencil drawing, digital painting and brings her art to life through animation. She is also a motivational speaker and a talented sand artist. Anaida loves to inspire people through her life stories and maintains a consistently positive outlook on life. Diagnosed with Osteogenesis Imperfecta (Brittle Bone Disease) at birth, she has undergone numerous surgeries and faces mobility challenges. However, she proudly says, "I may have breakable bones, but my spirit is unbreakable."



Kum. Anaida Stanly



Kum. Gayatri Gupta

About the Artist: Kum. Gayatri is an internationally acclaimed Bengaluru-based photographer and painter. Gayatri's paintings express her deep connection with nature. She captures the beauty of people around her with her keen understanding of light and shade. Through her creative endeavours and infectious positivity, she continues to inspire others to embrace gratitude, love and the beauty of self-expression. She is diagnosed with Down's Syndrome.

Language of Love - Neuro Expressions



Dr. Sai Kaustuv Dashgupta

About the Artist: Dr. Dashgupta, a National Awardee and India's first differently-abled Certified Happiness Coach, is a global TEDx motivational speaker, creative designer and DEI advocate & changemaker. A Sathya Sai Balvikas alumnus and former designer at the Sri Sathya Sai Media Centre, he has inspired millions through 1,000+ sessions on inclusion, diversity, resilience and mental wellness. A UN-recognised disabled leader and Harvard Medical School Mental Health Program attendee, he transforms adversity into creativity, compassion and global collaboration.

About the Artist: Sri Anand specialised in Fine Arts from the Kalakshetra Foundation. Trained under the late Prof. S. Dhanapal, he brings over nine years of expertise. Specialising in impressionistic landscapes with palette knives in oil, acrylic and watercolour, his work features semi-realistic nature scenes and textured abstracts using impasto technique. Despite being physically challenged, his passion and skill inspire, encouraging support for his continued exploration of innovative, layered and space-conscious artistic expressions.



Sri Anand S.



Sri Varun Naren

About the Artist: Sri Varun is a multi-talented artist, doodler, caricaturist, photographer, baker and coder, known for his infectious smile and sharp sense of humour. Diagnosed with Fragile X syndrome, Varun channels his thoughts and emotions through vibrant art forms that radiate joy and inclusivity. His creativity reflects his belief in a happy, accepting world for all. Whether sketching, baking or coding, his work carries a unique spark that uplifts others and showcases the power of self-expression beyond barriers.

In addition to the above-listed artists, there will also be creative displays by students from Muskan Foundation's H. G. Hanmante School for Children with Special Needs, Mumbai.

Inner Inspirations - A Musical Offering



Sri Ritvik Rajan

About the Artist: Sri Ritvik Rajan is a gifted and versatile musician, trained in Hindustani classical (Visharad Poorna) & Western music, with a Trinity London Rock & Pop Grade 8 certification earned with 94%. B-High artist of AIR Bangalore, he has performed in over 3,000 stage shows since the age of 9. Visually challenged since birth, Ritvik is known for his perfect pitch, multilingual singing & ability to switch voices effortlessly. He plays several instruments & runs a music school with his mother. His accolades include the Kempegowda & Balakrishna Madhuskar Awards.

About the Artist: Sri Aditya, an individual on the autism spectrum, has been immersed in classical music for 19 years. Trained in Carnatic music on the keyboard and piano, he performs a unique genre exclusively created by his guru, Vid. Kumaresh. His deep dedication has made music the central celebration of his life. In addition to his mastery of the keyboard and piano, Aditya also plays the guitar and drums, showcasing his versatility across instruments. His journey reflects the transformative power of music and the boundless potential of neurodiverse individuals in the realm of art.



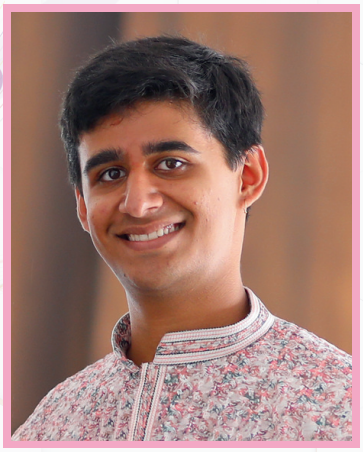
Sri Aditya Venkatesh

From Within the Fold: Vidya Vahini's In-house Talent



Sri Sreevalsam Gopinath

Tabla



Sri Sai Krishna Mishra

Harmonium

Melodies of the Mindscape



Kum. Niranjana A.

About the Artist: Kum. Niranjana, a talented young musician from Coimbatore, has been passionately learning the saxophone for the past five years. A visually impaired artist, she also trains in Carnatic music and film songs, skillfully blending classical depth with popular appeal. Her dedication and musical brilliance have shone through in numerous stage performances, where she has earned admiration and acclaim. Niranjana continues to inspire audiences with her unwavering commitment to music and her ability to transcend limitations through heartfelt expression.

About the Artist: Kum. Menuka Poudel, a gifted visually-impaired singer from Nepal, has captivated audiences with her soulful voice and inspiring journey. She began learning music at age four, rose to prominence through Nepal Idol Season 1 and further showcased her talent on India's Sa Re Ga Ma Pa and Indian Idol 14, where she earned a golden mic. Making her Bollywood playback debut in the film Salaar, her story highlights resilience, passion and the transformative power of music to overcome challenges. Menuka beautifully renders Sai bhajans too, sharing spiritual music with heartfelt devotion.



Kum. Menuka Poudel



Kum. Sapna Soundararajan

About the Artist: Kum. Sapna Soundararajan, a multilingual Carnatic and light music singer from Muscat, Oman, performed on many platforms, along with legendary playback singers like SPB, Chitra, Vani Jayaram, S. P. Shailaja and others. A finalist in Sun Singer, she holds an India Book of Records title for singing over 3,500 songs. Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder at age 2, Sapna has won global awards, performed across India and abroad and now pursues her musical career from Chennai, captivating audiences with her swift learning and soulful performances.

About the Artist: Sri Manoj discovered his passion for music early, beginning formal training in Hindustani classical vocals at age seven. He trained under renowned gurus and received prestigious scholarships, including from CCRT and Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Scholarship. A gold medalist from Mumbai University, he later moved to New Jersey, teaching at the Academy of Indian Music before founding Swarras School of Music. Deeply devoted to Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, Manoj has performed bhajans in His presence and contributed to the Living God music series.



Sri Manoj Govindraj

Prapanna - The Ultimate Surrender

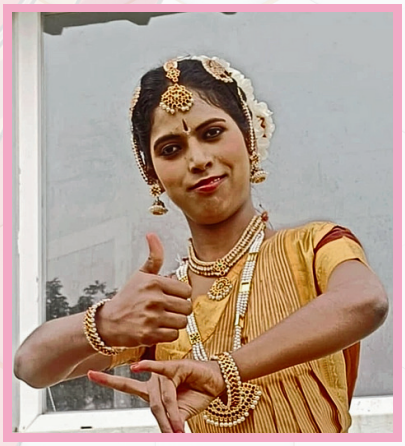




Kum. Asiya Begam

About the Artist: Kum. Asiya Begam, a passionate young artist from Jalahalli, Devadurga Taluk in Raichur district, is currently pursuing her 2nd PUC in Arts. She began learning dance at the age of 12 and has since performed at various festivals in Bangalore, Mysore and Raichur. Representing Deepa Academy for the Differently Abled, she has excelled in both solo and group dance competitions organised by the Karnataka government. In addition to her artistic pursuits, Asiya is also a skilled football player, having represented her state in several matches.

About the Artist: Kum. Rakshitha V. hails from Singanaluru, a remote village in Karnataka, and has completed her 2nd PUC in Arts. A passionate dancer, she represents Deepa Academy for the Differently Abled and has performed at Sai Nrityotsav in Bangalore and Mysore Dussehra. Deeply interested in folk traditions, she excels in complicated and extremely vigorous art forms like Kamsale and Dollu Kunita, while also pursuing Bharatanatyam. Alongside her dedication to dance, Rakshitha aspires to continue her education and fulfill her dream of becoming a lawyer, blending artistry with ambition.



Kum. Rakshitha V.

Prapanna - The Ultimate Surrender



Sri Shivaswamy B. P.

About the Artist: Sri Shivaswamy B. P., born in a remote village in Kanakapura, rose above early vision challenges to earn a Masters in Social Work, a postgraduate diploma and CAIIB certification. Trained in Bharatanatyam through tactile methods since age seven, he has delivered over 2,600 performances across 11 countries, featured on BBC, CNN and Doordarshan. Honoured with awards like Karnataka Jyothi and Rotary International, he is also an accomplished national cricketer and motivational speaker. His journey proves that determination transforms limitations into limitless potential.

About the Artist: Sri Guruprasad Uppar is a classically trained Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi and Kathak dancer, Carnatic vocalist and percussionist. A performer with over 1500 shows worldwide, he has represented India across the US, UK, Australia and Asia. Visually challenged since birth, he is a founding member of Articulate Ability. Guruprasad's journey, from vocational training to acclaimed performances, proves his mastery of life skills, resilience and dedication. His work uplifts, educates and transforms perceptions of disability through the power of performing arts.



Sri Guruprasad Uppar



Sri Tharaka Ramudu K.

About the Artist: A Bharatanatyam exponent, Sri Tharaka Ramudu has turned personal challenges into a journey of artistic excellence. Trained at Ramana Maharshi Academy under Guru Sri Ashok Kumar and later at Articulate Ability with Karnataka Kalashree Dr. Suparna Venkatesh, he has performed over 1,500 shows across 15 countries. As a visually challenged artist mastering a visual art form, his journey inspires deep reflection and admiration. A recipient of the Kempegowda Award, he also supports global causes through dance. His son Darshan KT now proudly follows in his footsteps.

About the Organisers

The Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust was established by Sri Sathya Sai Baba to provide the necessary foundation, structure and guidelines for His egalitarian mission.

As Sri Sathya Sai Baba's work constantly grew in response to the needs of the poor and distraught, the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust was founded by Him in the year 1972. Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust is a Public Charitable Trust registered under Section 10(23C)(iv) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, for carrying out activities in the areas of:

- Relief to the Poor - Sociocare
- Medical Relief - Medicare
- Education - Educare
- Other projects of the General Public Utility

The greatest strength of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust is its people. The projects facilitated by The Trust bring together over a million engaged individuals from diverse backgrounds under several categories - employees, volunteers, students, alumni and devotees.

Devotees who conduct themselves in accordance with the teachings of Bhagawan Baba are spread all over the world - from Patna to Peru, Gujarat to Guatemala, Bengal to Benghazi, in over 120 countries. People across all professions bring diverse expertise to the organisation.

This diverse intellectual and human capital comes together for a singular purpose - to serve.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba inspired the formation of Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organisations, India and Sri Sathya Sai Global Council in various countries around the world, in order to provide an organised framework to offer selfless service in the spirit of 'Love All Serve All'.

About SSSVV

Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vahini is the digital education project of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, born out of the global collaboration between educators, trainers and technologists, inspired by Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's teachings. It combines the latest in pedagogy, teacher training, learning-teaching aids and technology.

The shared values that unite humanity, drive this project. Apart from academic excellence which is inclusive, these values focus on universality while celebrating diversity and promoting social justice, environmental sensitivity and responsible citizenship. This platform offers free access to content in the form of Master Lesson Plans and supporting digital teaching aids, mapped to learning outcomes, as per the **National Education Policy**.

"Whosoever assigns their wealth, strength, intellect and devotion towards the promotion of humankind is worthy of reverence. They are those who are born for a noble purpose.

This ideal of service and the urge to practice it forms the very heart of education."

- Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba
Chapter - 8, Vidya Vahini



Spotlight for your Synapses



Accessibility-Friendly Venue

Sai Hira Global Convention Centre is accessibility-friendly, ensuring comfort and seamless participation for individuals of all abilities.



Need Assistance?

Volunteers with red lanyards are readily available at the venue to offer assistance and ensure a smooth and supportive experience.



First-Aid Kit for Assistive Relief

For any medical emergency, a first-aid kit is present at the venue, managed by Smt. Sai Madhavi Gunturi & Smt. Shalini Niranjan.



Language of Love - Neuro Expressions

Neuro Expressions Art Exhibition is open for all, after the inauguration on 26th June 2025. Make sure you visit and celebrate the artists.



Selfie Spots to Capture the Connection

Frame your myriad mosaics of memories at the NeuroLens Zones - where every click captures your unique journey with us.



Refreshments for Energy Reboot

Timely and tasty refreshments are arranged for the participants in the foyer at the back of the auditorium.

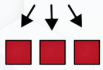


Cleanliness and Discipline

Please maintain all spaces at the venue dry and clean, clear of clutter and spills, including in the toilets. Please maintain silence in the auditorium and low noise levels elsewhere.

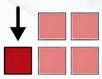
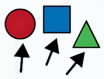
A Message for All Through Avaz App

by Master Rudra J. Rao

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 people |  who | can can |  learn |  to |  help |  all | the the |  neurodiverse | learners

→ to |  achieve |  their |  full | potential | and and |  live | fulfilling |  lives |  like

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