**Tamil Nadu CM lays the foundation stone of Sai University’s** **new campus**

**Takes the next step in bringing world class education in Chennai**

**Chennai, August 31st 2020:** Sai University, India’s upcoming global university in Chennai, the cultural capital of India, today laid its foundation stone marking the beginning of the construction of its 104-acre campus. Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Edappadi K Palaniswami, laid the foundation stone virtually through video-conferencing, in the presence of Hon’ble Minister for Higher Education, Thiru K.P. Anbalagan and Hon’ble Minister for Rural Industries, Thiru Benjamin, for the first phase of the new-age University.

In Phase 1, with an investment of Rs 600 crore, Sai University will grow to a student strength of 6,000, accommodated in 12 lakh sq. ft of campus. In this phase, Sai University will have a faculty of 300 members, supported by another 300-member administrative staff, thus generating employment for 600 people in total. In its full capacity, Sai University will accommodate 20,000 students in a 30 lakh sq. ft. campus with all facilities for faculty and students at international standards. The University has seen an investment of Rs 227 crore till date, and has appointed 15 members as its management team and 10 faculty members.

Speaking on the occasion, the **Founder and Chancellor of Sai University, Mr KV Ramani**, said, “Our vision is to build a global multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary university, which lays its foundation in the three-dimensional aspect of acquiring knowledge. Sai University will offer an educational ecosystem where students will be encouraged to challenge and question the existing and stated principles, liberating their minds, pursuing knowledge in complete freedom.”

“India has immense talent and it is our duty to provide our young aspiring students the best learning atmosphere closer to home. With our world-class infrastructure, globally renowned academia and emphasis on research, we will offer an overall learning environment, becoming an educational hub in the Asian region.” Mr KV Ramani further added.

To propel the vision of Sai University to become an outstanding global university, Professor Dr Jamshed Bharucha has been appointed Founding Vice Chancellor.

Commenting on this landmark day, **Professor Dr Jamshed Bharucha, Vice Chancellor, Sai University** stated, “Sai University has been spawned to unleash the vast potential of our talented young minds. It will be the first institution designed according to how the mind reaches its full unique potential, informed by the latest research in the cognitive neuroscience of learning. Our endeavour is to motivate our students to expand their horizons, to explore the unknown, to follow their dreams, and to attain a larger societal purpose.”

The campus is being designed by leading architects, selected through an international design competition. It will add degrees of grandeur, replete with modern-designed buildings, surrounded by a panoramic water front view and laced with tree-lined walkways and gardens.

Sai University already has a city campus of about 20,000 sq. ft. in Navalur, OMR. This city campus can accommodate 240 students, and houses management and administration offices, 5 classrooms, seminar halls, and a library.

**About Sai University:**

Sai University aims to integrate the three fundamental pillars of education – learning, research and societal impact. The 104-acre campus has been designed maintaining a balance between modern aesthetic and cultural heritage and will be a net zero campus preserving natural resources. Sai University has been founded and promoted by Mr KV Ramani, a successful Chennai-based telecom software entrepreneur and the founding trustee of the Shirdi Sai Trust, and is promoted by Sai Education, Medical, Research and Charitable Trust, which he founded. Sai University is committed to the highest universal standards of excellence, accomplishment and integrity.

The board is comprised of luminaries -- Padma Vibhushan and Padma Shri recipients from across sectors and industries. Sai University is guided by visionaries including: Mr N.R. Narayana Murthy, Founder and Chairman Emeritus, Infosys; Justice MN Venkatachaliah, Former Chief Justice of India, Mr Ashank Desai, Chairman Emeritus, Mastek, Mr Mohandas Pai, Chairman, Manipal Education Trust; Dr Pramath Sinha, Founder & Chairman, Harappa Education; Dr Anil Kakodkar, Former Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission, Mr Sriram Panchu, Senior Advocate, Madras High Court and Mediator; Mr Sriram, Former Managing Director of State Bank of India, Ms Savita Mahajan, Former Deputy Dean of ISB, Mr Santhanaraman FCA, among others.