

Thousands Celebrate Holi at Sewa Atlanta's Nineteenth Festival of Colors



Attendees immersed themselves in the colorful spirit of Holi, enjoying music and dance reflecting festival's joy

The Atlanta Chapter of Sewa International USA hosted its 19th annual "Holi – Festival of Colors" at the Cumming Fairgrounds on March 7, bringing together thousands of attendees from across the community for a vibrant and joyful celebration. The event created a festive atmosphere. People of all ages welcomed the arrival of spring with colors, music, dance performances, and a variety of flavorful foods. Families and friends enjoyed the traditions associated with Holi, a festival that symbolizes renewal, positivity, and togetherness. Speaking at the event, Fulton County Commissioner Bridget Thorne said, "Events like this bring people together and celebrate our rich cultural diversity..."

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Dr. Ram Vaidya Highlights Collective Mindset and Leadership Principles in Sewa Samvaad

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Collective Mindset



Dr. Ram Vaidya ji
Sah Samyojak (World Joint coordinator of HSS)

- Karya is the work – our Seva. Karyapaddhati is the how – the way we come together to do that work.
- Rooted in Dharma, it reminds us that individual effort alone is incomplete; together we create wholeness.
- Through oneness in action and strength in collaboration, we support each other and build sustained impact through Seva.

Let us learn from Dr. Ram Vaidya ji. He has been a swayamsevak since childhood and became Pracharak in 1998. He moved to the U.K. in 1999 for Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) and was a Pracharak for the Europe Zone before becoming Sah Samyojak (World Joint coordinator of HSS) in March 2011.

This is a highly interactive session, so do bring your questions

Date - 15th March 2026 PT
Start time - 15th March - 6pm PT, 9pm ET
Duration - 60 minutes



Sewa Samvaad focused on collective mindset principles during the virtual session held on March 15

Respecting differences among individuals but recognizing their interconnectedness is where the collective mindset begins, and collective decisions emerge when we attentively listen to everyone. Once the decision is made collectively, everyone supports it," Dr. Ram Vaidya, Global Joint Coordinator, HSS, said in Sewa Samvaad, a virtual interactive session with Sewa volunteers, on March 15.

Outlining key behavioral frameworks and team practices to strengthen volunteer-driven organizations, Dr. Vaidya said, cooperation among team members helps diverse roles function effectively. He highlighted the role of coordinators in integrating perspectives and acting as facilitators. Dr. Vaidya described four stages of human behavior—wicked, animal, human, and divine—and emphasized that the organization should favor actions that serve the larger good.

He also emphasized regularity, informality, and anonymity as core team practices, and limiting individual spotlight and conveying appreciation personally to individuals for their good work. The session, which drew over 60 participants, aimed to provide clarity on how to foster trust, improve communication, and sustain long-term engagement. through consistent and inclusive practices in volunteer driven organizations.

Dance Competition Drives Education Support in Milwaukee & Madison, WI



Dance event enabled about 24 student sponsorships in Milwaukee & Madison, WI

A regional dance competition titled “Sewa Dance Idol” in Wisconsin raised funds to support 24 students under Sewa’s Sponsor a Child (SAC) initiative. Organized in Milwaukee and Madison in the first week of March, the dance events drew over 900 attendees. Multiple dance genres, such as Classical, Semi-Classical, Folk, and Bollywood, attracted 290 dancers from several dance schools and troupes. Sewa distributed 260 trophies to the winners in various categories, and several dance teachers helped Sewa evaluate the dancers’ performances. More than 20 volunteers managed event operations and concessions at the dance event.

Volunteers Serve 300 Meals through Burrito Outreach in San Diego, CA



Sewa San Diego volunteers served over 300 meals through outreach in San Diego, CA

Sewa volunteers prepared and distributed over 300 fresh burritos in San Diego, CA, on March 22. Over 25 volunteers including many students coordinated cooking and distribution to ensure burriotos reached people who needed them. Burriotos were packed in ready-to-go boxes and energy bars and fruits were included.

Donors and Volunteers Strengthen SAC Bonds in Milwaukee, WI



Donors and volunteers strengthened the Sponsor a Child (SAC) engagement in Milwaukee, WI

Consistent communication and building relationships between donors and volunteers in the United States and participating children in India were highlighted as essential ingredients for the Sponsor a Child (SAC) program's success in a recent Sewa Milan (Sewa gathering) organized in Milwaukee, WI.

Sponsor a Child Donor Coordinator Ranjani Kapur attended Milan and had a candid discussion with SAC donors and volunteers to understand their perspectives and address challenges in program execution. Discussion focused on strengthening donor engagement with the program and ways to deepen donor-children relationships to overcome geographical distance. Many youth attended the Milan and showed interest in volunteering for the program, indicating opportunities to build involvement through initiatives such as LEAD (Leadership, Education, and Development).

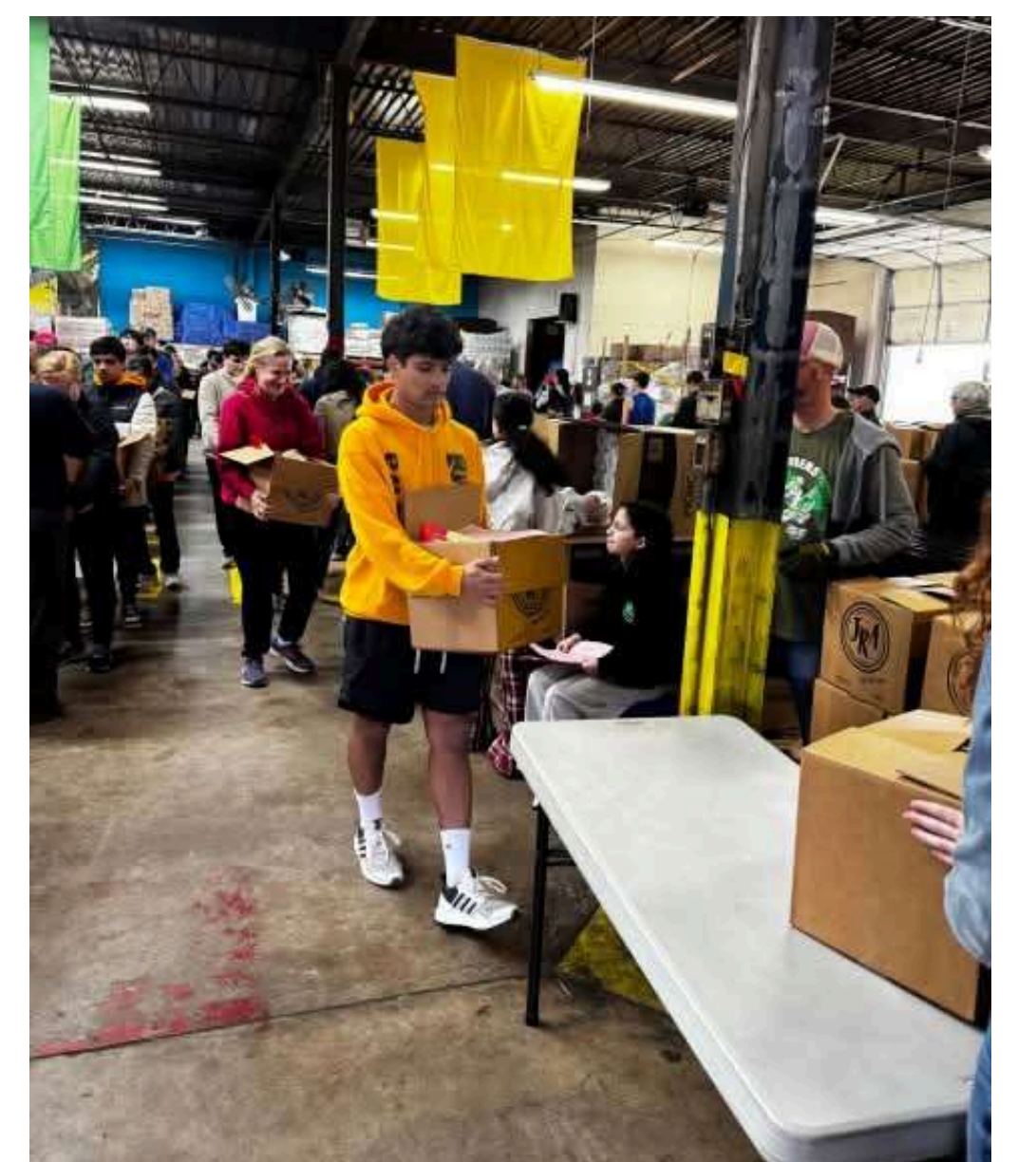
Gundavarapu Engages Volunteers and Leaders during Chapter Visit in Chesterfield, NJ



Sewa International's President, Srikanth Gundavarapu visited projects and met local leaders in Chesterfield, NJ

Sewa's President, Srikanth Gundavarapu, visited Chesterfield, NJ, on March 23. He attended a food packing event organized by the local Sewa chapter and visited key project sites, including the 9/11 memorial and community garden. Gundavarapu met with Chesterfield's elected officials to discuss ongoing initiatives and to increase Sewa's collaboration with the city. His visit provided an opportunity for interacting with volunteers and partner organizations and strengthened Sewa's outreach efforts to work with elected officials.

Volunteers Support Large-Scale Food Distribution in Philadelphia, PA



Sewa volunteers supported Passover food distribution in Philadelphia, PA

Sewa volunteers assisted the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA), in packing and delivering Kosher food boxes and fresh produce to over 3,350 households in Philadelphia, PA, on March 22. More than a dozen teen and parent volunteers contributed to JRA's large-scale food distribution during a special March Passover drive. Sewa volunteers focused on efficient packing and distribution to meet recurring monthly needs and seasonal demand at the food packing and distribution event.

Dr. Ram Vaidya Addresses Key Questions on Collective Mindset in the Q&A Session



In a Q&A session, Dr. Ram Vaidya addressed questions on practical challenges leaders and volunteers face working in teams and motivating others. Dr. Vaidya outlined methods such as *Sraavanam* (listening), *Mananam* (reflection), and *Nididhyasan* (contemplation) to guide decision-making and participation.

Dr. Vaidya also dealt with questions about balancing individual recognition with team cohesion, sustaining long-term motivation, and encouraging innovation within a shared framework. He explained how organizations can maintain efficiency while building long-term sustainability through shared ownership. He said it is possible to apply these collective principles in both volunteer and professional settings.

Dr. Vaidya explained how organizations can maintain efficiency while building long-term sustainability through shared ownership.

Participants discussed collective mindset practices in the Q&A session

During the Q&A, participants discussed methods to handle conflicts, manage recognition, and support individuals with different abilities by assigning them roles that suit their interests. The discussion reinforced that unity does not require uniformity and encouraged open dialogue before decisions and collective responsibility afterward. In the closing message, Dr. Vaidya emphasized listening, humility, and mission focus as core practices. He highlighted the need to avoid ego, competition, and internal divisions while strengthening trust and collaboration across teams.

Active Adult Group Marks One-Year Milestone with 50 Participants in Sacramento, CA



Over 50 participants attended the Active Adult Group's first anniversary in Sacramento, CA

The Active Adult group celebrated its first anniversary in Sacramento on March 17, with more than 40 participants and 10 volunteers helping to organize the event. The event featured music, games, group activities, and a potluck meal, providing attendees ample of time for conversations and making connections. Guru Prasad, Director, Western Region, participated in the event. The Active Adult group offers a platform to adults for regular interaction and volunteering.

Sewa Partners with Marathi Mandal for Highway Cleanup in Austin, TX



Volunteers cleaned the roadside through a joint effort in Austin, TX

Volunteers from Sewa USA and Austin Marathi Mandal Yuva joined together to clean a stretch of highway as part of the Adopt-A-Highway initiative in Austin on March 21. The team focused on, removing litter and and safe disposal of the collected trash. The group involved many youth volunteers and the well-coordinated effort strengthened collaboration between Sewa and Marathi Mandal resulting in a public good.

Youth Build Leadership Skills through a Structured Training Program in Central New Jersey, NJ



More than 15 students joined leadership training sessions in Central New Jersey, NJ

Sewa Central New Jersey chapter organized a Youth Leadership Program (YLP) in partnership with Toastmasters International, on March 20. The program included eight sessions and 15 participants took part in public speaking, teamwork, goal setting, and decision-making through guided activities and mentor support. The program featured hands-on exercises aimed to improve self-expression, collaboration, and practical life skills. These sessions helped build participants' confidence in speaking and leadership. The initiative also established a dedicated youth leadership club to ensure continued learning.

Sewa Receives City Recognition for Service Impact in Houston, TX



Sewa was recognized by the city for its service impact in Houston, TX.

Sewa received recognition for its service impact across Districts J and G at an event hosted by CASE for Kids in partnership with the Houston City Council on March 5. A council member presented the award, acknowledging consistent efforts and program delivery across focus areas.

The recognition highlighted sustained engagement and collaboration with local stakeholders and partners, reinforcing the value of volunteer-driven initiatives and outreach efforts at the City Connections Grantee Recognition Event in Houston.

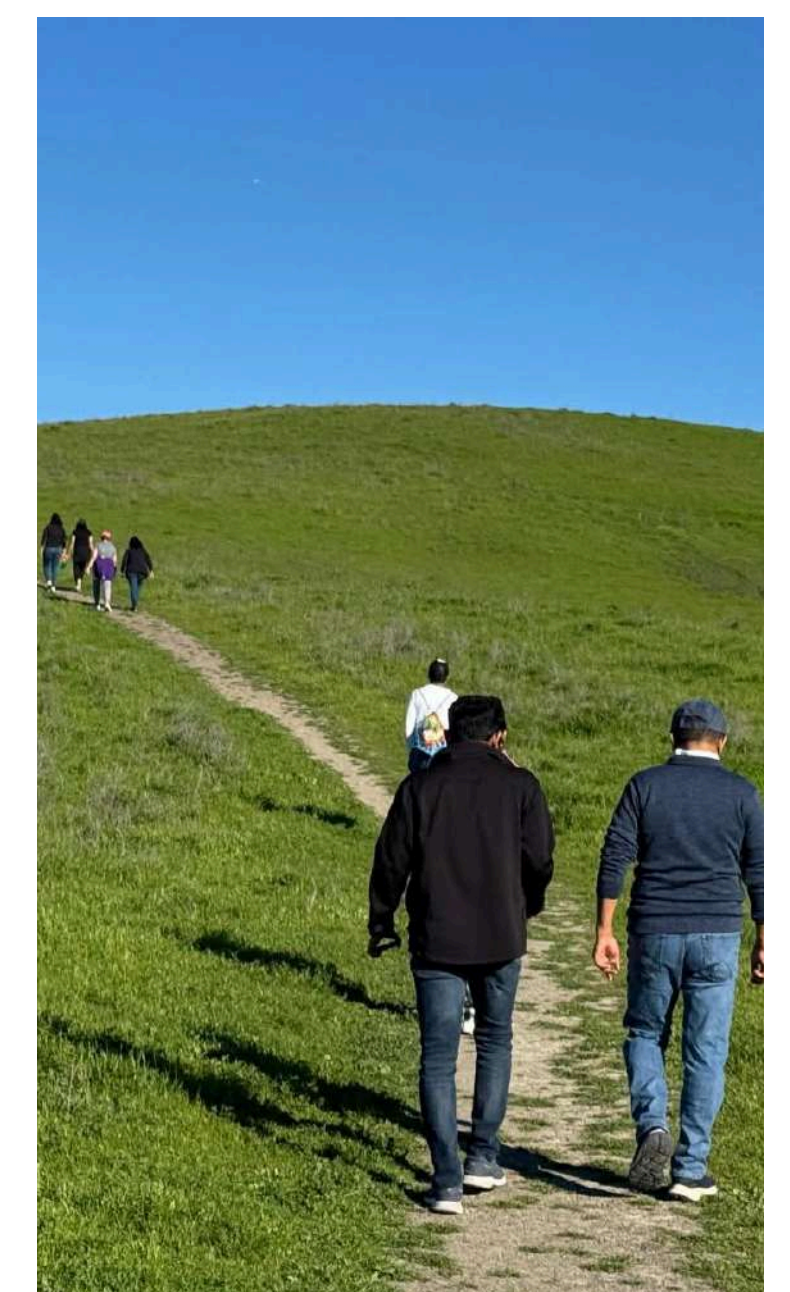
Volunteers Restore Creek Ecosystem through Cleanup Effort in Bay Area, CA



Over 30 volunteers restored creek areas in the Bay Area, CA

Over 17 Sewa volunteers teamed up with participants from “Living Arroyos” organization to clear trash and refresh local creek areas in the San Francisco Bay Area on February 21. Through the creek cleanup, the team focused on supporting ecosystem health and improving public spaces. The effort contributed to protecting local flora and fauna. Representatives from “Living Arroyos” acknowledged consistent volunteer support and effective participation from Sewa in environmental initiatives.

Participants Mark Women’s Day with Hike and Wellness Session in San Ramon, CA



About 26 participants joined the Women’s Day hike in San Ramon, CA

A group of 26 people celebrated International Women’s Day with a hike, a short wellness session, and a shared meal in San Ramon, CA on March 8. The group walked together from Old Ranch to Dougherty Hills, making it easy for everyone to chat and engage. A health session provided practical tips, followed by a group breakfast and distribution of roses to participants. The Women’s Day hike brought together walking, simple health tips, and time in nature to interact.

Seniors Engage in Tax Awareness and Cultural Activities in Sugar Land, TX



Seniors attended tax session and activities in Sugar Land, TX

Seniors came together for a simple tax discussion covering Required Minimum Distributions, donations, and gift taxes on March 14 in Sugar Land, TX. Participants enjoyed a Q&A, songs, a Ram Navami quiz, and group activities. Youth volunteers helped with planning and refreshments, keeping everything running smoothly. The event provided useful tax and financial tips mixed with cultural activities at the monthly senior meet-up.

Volunteers Support Texas Gaushala Holi Festival for 2,500 Attendees in Waller, TX



Over 30 volunteers supported festival operations in Waller, TX

A team of over 30 Sewa volunteers supported the Texas Gaushala Holi celebration, which welcomed more than 2,500 people in Waller, TX, on March 7. They handled parking, guided the crowd, set up and removed tents, and cleaned the site housing 60+ cows. Their teamwork helped manage the crowd and ensured the event was conducted as planned.

Volunteers Transform School Campus in Peoria, AZ



Volunteers beautified campus in Peoria, AZ during 9/11 service event

More than 30 youth and adult volunteers joined together on March 29 to support Explore Academy in Peoria, Arizona. They worked across the campus by weeding, clearing shrubs and tree cuttings, cleaning outdoor areas, planting trees, and adding fertilizer. Their shared effort made the school cleaner and more inviting for students.

Sewa volunteers Priya and Sangeetha and their family supported the project by purchasing plant holders and enhancing the tomato plants on campus. School staff thanked the volunteers for restoring the campus and giving it a new look.

Volunteers Prepare and Distribute Meals Through Outreach Effort in Milpitas, CA



More than 30 volunteers prepared 270 meals in Milpitas, CA

A team of about 30 volunteers, including children aged 3–7, worked together to prepare 270 burritos for partner organizations in Milpitas, CA on March 14. They handled ingredient prep, assembly, and packaging to support timely delivery. Loretto Brigade and AGAPE Foundation distributed the meals to individuals in need. The Burrito Sewa event showed organized teamwork, inclusive involvement, and efficient execution.

Sewa Volunteers Expand Meal Distribution Program in Dallas, TX



Sewa volunteers served meals across two locations in Dallas, TX

Sewa volunteers have expanded meal distribution program to two locations in Dallas. Working with ISKCON and Little Caesars to serve hot meals to homeless shelter residents and other individuals experiencing homelessness. Volunteers handle food preparation, distribution, and delivery of rice, beans, cookies, and pizza and manage logistics and outreach at both sites.

Sewa Hosts Meet & Greet With India's Consul General in Denver, Colorado



Colorado Leaders engaged in dialogue and networking at the event in Denver, CO

Sewa Colorado hosted a Community Leaders Meet and Greet with Consul General of India Dr. Srikar Reddy, National Board Member Sridhar Talanki, CGI SFO Nahas Ali, and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Dr. MS Reddy. Representatives from more than 30 groups gathered in Denver, CO, on March 27 for open dialogue and community engagement.

Leaders from cultural, religious, and professional organizations came together to share ideas and strengthen coordination. The program included guided interaction, an open discussion, and a Q&A session. Participants exchanged views on collaboration, service projects, and cultural outreach. A networking dinner closed the evening, giving attendees more time to connect. The meeting supported direct engagement between community leaders and diplomatic representatives and encouraged future joint efforts.

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It's wonderful to see families and friends enjoying such a joyful atmosphere." Georgia State Representative Carter Barrett added, "Sewa International brings communities together through service and celebrations. Holi shows how traditions unite people from all backgrounds." "Sewa Holi is more than a festival of colors; it is a celebration of community, culture, and the spirit of service," said Raj Radhakrishnan, President of Sewa Atlanta. "We are grateful to the thousands of attendees, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners who joined us in making this celebration a memorable experience."

Sewa Academy: Learning & Leadership Development

Sewa Academy

- Builds a learning organization through training and knowledge sharing
- Develops leadership across programs and functions
- Creates standardized learning pathways
- Strengthens functional expertise and program execution
- Prepares future leaders across the global ecosystem
- Expands courses in philanthropy and marketing
- Maintains strong learner engagement across platforms

Impact Snapshot

- 32 structured courses available
- 5 dedicated learning portals
- 1,200+ active learners.
- Link: <https://sewa.zoholearn.com>

New Courses

Course Name	Vertical	Learning Outcome	Course Link
The Deep Dive: Grant Submission & Lifecycle	Philanthropy	Master the grant lifecycle to improve compliance and success.	https://sewa.zoholearn.com/c/deep-dive-grant-submission-lifecycle/l/deep-dive-grant-submission-lifecycle
Marketing and Communication	Marketing	Strengthen marketing communication to enhance stakeholder engagement.	https://sewa.zoholearn.com/c/sewa-usa-marketing-and-communications
The Deep Dive: Post-Grant Award Handover and Program Implementation	Philanthropy	Implement post-award practices for effective execution and reporting.	https://sewa.zoholearn.com/c/deep-dive-post-grant-award-handover-and-program-implementation/l/deep-dive-post-grant-award-handover-and-program-implementation

Smart Giving Strategies for Tax Season

Tax-Smart Giving

- Promotes strategic giving during tax season
- Highlights tax-efficient donation options
- Helps maximize impact and tax benefits
- Reflects 2026 tax updates

Smart Giving Options to Consider

- Stock or crypto donations can reduce taxes while helping your favorite causes.
- IRA gifts offer a simple, tax-efficient way to give for eligible donors.
- Donor-advised funds make giving easy and help with long-term planning.

Planned Giving (Impact for the Future)

A bequest is a simple way to create a lasting legacy through your will or trust.

- No cost today
- Flexible anytime
- Supports loved ones + causes
- Impact for generations

Learn More

Explore how smart giving & planned giving can work for you and the communities we serve:

- Learn More- [\[Smart Giving with Sewa\]](#)
- Learn More- [\[Planned Giving with Sewa\]](#)

Upcoming Events

- April 26, 2026: A Bollywood Musical Journey | Marcos De Niza Auditorium | S Lakeshore Tempe, AZ
- April 26, 2026: Rhythm 4 Sewa | 3rd Annual Cultural Fundrizer | Randolph High School, Randolph, NJ
- May 9, 2026: NMNA SW Vadtal Dham | Heartfulness and Sewa | 5K Walk/Run | W Belfort Ave, Richmond, TX
- May 16, 2026: Fundraiser Gala, Pearl Banquet & Conference Center 1490 West Lake St. Roselle, IL

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