

Netrakumbh 2025: Restoring Sight, Transforming Lives



Netrakumbh 2025, an eye-care initiative, provided free eye screenings and spectacles at the Maha-Kumbha, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India

Netrakumbh 2025, one of the largest eye-care initiatives, has brought vision and independence to thousands at the sacred Maha-Kumbha. Through Project Jyoti-AI Pro, the initiative aimed to distribute 200 Artificial Intelligence-powered assistive kits, each priced at \$400, to visually impaired children, helping them navigate the world with confidence.

The event provided free eye screenings and spectacles, with expert medical support for vision restoration. Cutting-edge technology, including AI-powered Smart Glass, AI Ring, and AI Reader, will enable children to read, recognize objects, and move independently.

The AI Reader, a key feature of the initiative, converts text into speech, offering instant voice feedback. Its lightweight and portable design makes it an accessible tool for learning and daily life, fostering greater independence for visually impaired individuals.

Netrakumbh 2025 offers a beacon of hope—spreading light, restoring vision, and transforming lives. By combining medical expertise with assistive technology, the initiative is not only restoring sight but also empowering lives.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/r/164TiTD28N/>

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/165St4tnVe/>

Supporters can contribute at www.sewausea.org/Netrakumbh

Bay Area Chapter to Host Nineteenth National Conference in May



Volunteers posed for a group photo at Sewa International's 18th National Conference in Schaumburg, IL, in 2024

Sewa's San Francisco Bay Area Chapter will host the 19th National Conference on May 3 and 4, 2025. The National Board of Directors, members of the National Advisory Board, and the National Executive Team will attend the conference.

Attending the national conference offers opportunities for Sewa volunteers to connect with others, learn about the organization's progress, and get inspired. Sewa President Arun Kankani has requested chapter volunteers to work with their chapter coordinators to attend the conference.



Action-packed moments from Sewa International's 18th National Conference held in Schaumburg, IL, in 2024

South Jersey Chapter Raises Funds at Tamil Sangam Event



Volunteers receiving attendees at the Tamil Sangam event in Hightstown, NJ

Sewa's South Jersey chapter began the year with a fundraiser at the Tamil Sangam event held at Hightstown High School in Mercer County, NJ, on February 1, raising over \$1,172. The amount included \$172 raised by selling handcrafted bracelets made by Sewa LEADs, and a donation of \$1,000 from Tamil Sangam to support Sewa's relief work.

Volunteer Raj Mohan represented Sewa at the event, providing an insightful overview of the organization and its various programs. The event allowed Sewa volunteers to introduce attendees to the organization's programs and ongoing relief efforts, including the Los Angeles Fire Relief Fund. Chitra, the Fund Development Coordinator for South Jersey, played a key role in organizing the event and thanked Tamil Sangam for providing this opportunity.



Sewa volunteers showcased handcrafted bracelets and introduced attendees to Sewa's programs at the Tamil Sangam event

LEAD Youth Volunteers Host Fundraiser for Girl Child Empowerment



Sewa LEAD youth volunteers showcased their baked goods and handmade crafts during the fundraiser for the SHE Project

A group of Sewa LEAD (Leadership, Education, and Development) youth volunteers organized a fundraiser in Central Jersey on February 13, to support the Sewa SHE (Sanitation, Hygiene, and Empowerment) Project, which empowers the girl child.

The volunteers showcased their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit by baking cookies and brownies, packing goodie bags, and gathering donations. They raised a significant amount for the project. The Sewa SHE Project focuses on building toilets in government schools across India and educates girl children about health and hygiene.



A LEAD volunteer arranging the goodie bags for display at a fundraiser in Central Jersey

Sewa Organizes Job Fair in Guwahati, India



Students participated in the Job Fair organized by Sewa International at Dispur College, Guwahati, Assam

Sewa International, in collaboration with NEDFI (North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd.) and by HR Co., organized a job fair at Dispur College, Guwahati, Assam, on February 6. Over 470 students attended the job fair, with 104 receiving job offers on the spot. Additionally, 100 students were shortlisted for further rounds of interviews.

The event, part of Project Udyog Nipuna, aims to empower the youth of Assam by providing employment opportunities. PVLN Murthy, Chairman and Managing Director of NEDFI, who supported Project Udyog in Kamrup, Assam, sponsored the event.



The college staff gathered for a group photo during the mega job mela in Dispur, Guwahati, Assam

Volleyball Tournament Raises Funds for California Wildfire Relief in Chandler, AZ



Volunteers served food at stalls in Sewa's 3rd annual Volleyball Tournament in Chandler, Arizona

Sewa International's Third Annual Volleyball Tournament, held on February 2 at Chuparosa Park in Chandler, Arizona, raised \$8,000 to support the 'Sponsor a Child' and 'California Wildfire Relief' projects. The two-day event drew 23 teams—18 men's and 5 women's.

The Desert Panthers won the top prize in the Men's Talent Rich category, Volley Vortex taking top honors in the intermediate category, and Thunderbirds 1 claimed victory in the advanced category. In the Women's League, the Valley Titans were crowned champions.

Sewa thanked sponsors Preethi and Bindu Reddy for their generous contribution to the cause. The tournament featured food stalls, kite flying, and henna art. Sewa LEAD (Leadership, Education, and Development) youth volunteers baked and sold delicious treats, while a local henna artist donated her earnings to the fundraising campaign.



Exciting moments from Sewa's 3rd annual Volleyball Tournament in Chandler, Arizona

Houston AmeriCorps Program Serves Over 500



Children participated in a disaster preparedness workshop in Greater Houston, TX

Sewa Houston's AmeriCorps program has helped over 500 people in the greater Houston area, through disaster preparedness workshops.

The team collaborated with various organizations, including Alief and Katy ISD, Fort Bend Literacy Council, and Harris County Precinct 1, among others.

Sewa Houston thanked the AmeriCorps team and the community for their support, which has been key to this initiative.

Pineapple Sapling Distribution in Tripura, India

In a significant initiative to promote sustainable livelihoods, Sewa International distributed 230,000 pineapple saplings to local farmers in Agartala, Tripura, on February 3. This effort, supported by LICHL (Life Insurance Corporation of India Housing Finance Limited) as part of their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) initiative, aims to empower farmers and foster economic growth in the region.



Pineapple jam and squash produced at a Sewa-established unit in Agartala, Tripura

In addition to the sapling distribution, Sewa established a production unit, run by 300 women entrepreneurs, to manufacture high-quality pineapple jam and squash.

These products, made from natural ingredients, are now available for purchase.

Individuals can place orders for Pineapple Delights to support local farmers and promote sustainable livelihoods by calling 011 4300 7650.



Sewa and HSS Volunteers Meet Hart Pantry Founders



Prasad Koranne, Director of the Central Region, Ruth Langford, founder of Hart Pantry — a charity in Peoria, Arizona — and Vaibhav Navghare (left to right), an HSS volunteer

Volunteers from Sewa International and the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) met the founders of Hart Pantry, a charity serving homeless students in Peoria, Arizona. For 12 years, Hart Pantry has provided weekly snacks and meals to 300 vulnerable students across 28 schools in three school districts.

The charity, run by a dedicated husband-and-wife team, provides clothing, hygiene supplies, and bikes with help from the community and city support. The meeting was an inspiring testament to their commitment to making a difference in young lives. Sewa and HSS appreciated Hart Pantry's efforts and presented a contribution from the SewaDiwali food drive, a community initiative aimed at eradicating hunger across the United States.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BcW5hkuUr/>



The charity's collection of bikes, with help from the community and city support in Arizona

Hasthkala Pradarshani Empowers Local Artisans in India



Sewa Hasthkala Pradarshani in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, empowered skilled women artisans to achieve financial independence and self-reliance

In Uttar Pradesh, India, Sewa International organized an exposure visit for over 40 women from the Sewa Mahila Jyoti Kendra to the Sewa Hasthkala Pradarshani, supported by Oracle, on February 6. The event provided a platform for local artisans and skilled women from stitching centers to showcase their handcrafted products while equipping them with essential marketing, sales, and business skills to enhance their earnings and long-term success.

Held at the Sai Kripa Vocational Center, the visit introduced participants to stitching-related skills and facilitated interactions with entrepreneurial women. For many artisans, it was their first visit to a city and maiden experience selling their crafts. This initiative fostered the participants' confidence, financial independence, and community growth. Each handcrafted item on display carried a story, a dream, and a step toward self-reliance.



Skilled women artisans and local craftsmen showcase their handcrafted treasures at Sewa Hasthkala Pradarshani in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

Exploring Alignment of Social Impact and Financial Markets



Mrugank Paranjape (right), Chairman, Sewa International Bharat & Independent Non Executive Director at SBI & OFSS, participated at a panel discussion in New Delhi

On January 24, a panel discussion was held in New Delhi in collaboration with the Institute of Management Studies, Ghaziabad, State Bank of India, National Stock Exchange-India, and Crystal Crop Protection. The discussion brought together experts to explore the intersection of investment in social projects and financial markets. Chief Guest Piyush Goyal, India's Minister of Commerce and Industry, delivered the keynote address at the event.

The panel featured distinguished speakers, including DM Kiran, CEO of Sewa Bridge, Mrugank Paranjape, Chairman of Sewa International, Ramesh Swamy, Trustee of Shri Guruvayurappan Bhajan Samaj Unnati Foundation, Abhinav Agarwal, Chief Manager of National Stock Exchange of India Limited, and Saurabh Bajpai, Deputy General Manager of the Small Industries Development Bank of India. They delved into the possibilities of transforming social investments into sustainable growth opportunities.



DM Kiran, (left) CEO, Sewa Bridge, participated in a panel discussion in New Delhi

Houston Chapter Begins LEAD 2025 Program



Kavita Tewary, Executive Director of Houston chapter, addressed participants at the LEAD 2025 program in Houston, TX.

Sewa Houston Chapter launched its LEAD 2025 program with a grand kickoff event, enrolling over 170 youth volunteers. Over 120 youth and parents gathered at the T.E. Harman Center in Sugar Land, TX, for the event on January 11.

The program began with a welcome address by Chapter Coordinator Nikhil Jain, followed by an overview of Sewa's initiatives by Chapter Executive Director, Kavita Tewary. Joint Coordinator Rajesh Patwari detailed the LEAD (Leadership, Educational, and Development) program, volunteer opportunities, and PVSA (Presidential Volunteer Service Award) eligibility.

Executive Member Vaibhavi Kotnis encouraged youth to participate in Alief Independent School District's tree-planting drives. Joint Coordinator Santosh Jha highlighted SERVE (volunteer development) and disaster recovery projects.

The program aimed to connect youth with various teams, including S.E.L.F. (Sleep, Exercise, Lifestyle Practices, Food, and Diet), Serve Food Bank, Family Services, and ASPIRE (Achieving Students Progress, Instilling Resilience, and Excellence), to support community events. The event concluded with great enthusiasm, inspiring youth to make a lasting impact in the community.



Joint Coordinator Rajesh Patwari addressed the attendees at the LEAD 2025 Inaugural Event in Houston, TX

Volunteers Clean and Adopt a Road in Tampa Bay, FL



The Sewa Tampa volunteers participated in "Adopt-A-Road Cleanup Event" in Tampa Bay, FL

The Sewa Tampa Chapter and "Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful" organized an Adopt-A-Road Cleanup Event on February 10. Over twenty volunteers participated.

Ramnathan Ramsubbu, Tampa Chapter Coordinator, said, "Our volunteers showed incredible energy and teamwork, demonstrating their commitment to the environment and community. Thanks to their efforts, Tampa Bay is now cleaner and greener."

Sewa Tampa and Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful appreciate their dedication and encourage them to keep making a difference."

In another event, over 20 volunteers recently gathered at the "Feeding Tampa Bay warehouse" to sort through donated items. The effort resulted in 8,699 pounds of items being sorted, which will help provide 7,250 meals.



Volunteers sorted donations at the Feeding Tampa Bay warehouse in Tampa Bay, FL

Music Workshop Organizers Receive Recognition



Ashi and Aditi Shrivastava conducted a Music Workshop at the New Tampa Regional Library in Tampa Bay, FL

Ashi and Aditi Shrivastava organized a Sewa Music Workshop at the New Tampa Regional Library in Tampa Bay, FL, on February 1, which attracted many participants.

The duo's dedication and passion for music inspired young students to explore their creativity and develop a love for music.

The Sewa LEAD team commended Aashi and Aditi for inspiring students and fostering music appreciation in the community.

Bay Area ASPIRE Volunteers Log 1500 Hours; Program Expands to Livermore



Participants of the Spelling Bee (left) and Robotics competition (right) at Lincoln school in Newark, CA, organized by Sewa Bay Area ASPIRE

Since January 2025, ASPIRE (Achieving Students Progress, Instilling Resilience, and Excellence) has expanded its supplemental program to support students in English, Math, Science, and Spanish. Over 10 members serve in this program at BGI, Schilling, and Lincoln schools in Newark, CA. Results from one school show a 30% increase in math scores and a 28% increase in English scores. ASPIRE members have contributed over 1,500 service hours this academic year.

ASPIRE expanded through diverse activities. In collaboration with PALS (Parent Teacher Association) team, Sewa hosted the Scripps Spelling Bee, engaging 150 students at Lincoln Elementary, with three advancing to the next level.

ASPIRE art classes fostered creativity through watercolor, blending, and pastels, while Global Explorer sessions fueled curiosity. High schoolers-led robotics lessons made Friday evenings both fun and educational.

Additionally, money management classes equipped elementary students with essential life skills—distinguishing wants from needs and managing time and money. These classes helped students discover their personal “Ikigai”—the Japanese concept “Iki” means “to live,” and “gai” means “reason,” together translating to “a reason to live.” In February, ASPIRE expanded to two new schools in the Livermore School District, with seven additional members teaching Math, English, and Science.



Guruprasad (first row, second from left), Director of the West Region, posed for a group photo with volunteers from the ASPIRE team

Green Team Volunteers Clean Up Chattahoochee River



Sewa Green Team volunteers team up with National Park Service rangers to clean the Chattahoochee River

Over twenty volunteers from the Sewa Green Team joined forces with National Park Service rangers to clean up the Chattahoochee River's Jones Bridge Corridor in Atlanta, GA, on February 9. Their collective efforts resulted in the removal of over 300 pounds of trash from the riverbanks.



Sewa Green Team and park rangers work together to remove 300 pounds of trash for a cleaner environment

Upcoming Events

- March 15, 2025: SMTS, LTSFA, HSS, Manabadi and Sewa - 5k Walk/Run | Tom Bass Park, Cullen Blvd, Houston, TX
- March 25, 2025: Sewa Los Angeles - Holi Celebrations | Johnny Carson Park, 400 Bob Hope Dr, Burbank, CA
- March 29 - May 3, 2025: Stop Diabetes Movement Session in Dallas | SLPS Center, N Britain Rd, Irving, TX
- May 3 - 4, 2025: 19th Sewa National Conference 2025 | 691 S Milpitas Blvd, Milpitas, CA

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