

Sewa International Expands Reach and Empowers Women Volunteers



President Arun Kankani presents a painting to Congressman Rich McCormick (Left); volunteers attending a session at Sewa International's 17th Annual National Conference in Atlanta, GA (Right).

Sewa International plans to establish an impressive network of 100 chapters nationwide and bring over 250 women into key leadership roles at various levels as part of its strategic growth plan. President Arun Kankani shared this vision in Sewa's seventeenth national conference held in Atlanta on May 6 and 7. He said Sewa aims to accomplish the plan by 2027.

Sewa's plan reflects organization's dedication to fostering inclusivity and women empowerment. Addressing delegates, Arun Kankani also said that Sewa International will open a "Sewa Academy" to train its volunteers. Sewa will open chapters in small towns closer to large metro areas through its neighborhood Sewa program.

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Executive Corner

Attending Sewa's 17th National Conference in Atlanta in early May made many of us nostalgic. Two days at the conference were over so quickly, like warm, sunny days in winter.



Vidyasagar Tontalapur
Director of Communications

The meeting, filled with laughter and deep conversations, made us look forward to signing up for the next one. I felt like a child wandering through the village fair, wanting to experience all the rides and shows.

Sewa conferences differ from others: family-like atmosphere, purposeful yet relaxed ambiance, non-competitive setting, and an exceedingly strong bond among attendees are a few things that make them stand out. Sewa International did not invent or perfect these qualities. Instead, we inherited them from a culture that celebrates living in harmony with nature. Growing up immersed in that culture, we all understand that humans are small cogs in the wheel that turns eternally.

Hindu civilization brings people together seamlessly by providing abundant opportunities for social interaction.

It effortlessly weaves cultural and social occasions to meet family, friends, and strangers into our daily lives. However, how does Hindu culture tie us in a common thread in a world divided by virtual and real conflicts and material abundance catering to the individual ego?

The answer lies in our ability to share our lives with others. We get this capability from our cultural heritage. Rich and colorful festivals, weeks-long carnivals associated with the village deity, and family events such as child's naming and marriage are a few of the occasions our civilization provides us to share our life's moments with others. Visiting a forest, river, or a sacred place, respecting animals or trees, and honoring elements like fire and water extend this unifying aspect to nature and beyond.

In a world increasingly mediated by technology where synthetic relationships and communities outnumber the real, our innate civilizational strength to create natural communities is a godsend. It is easy to sacrifice our traditions, festivals, identity, and culture at the altar of convenience.

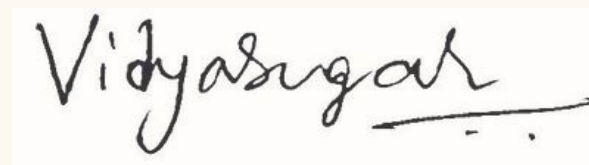
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However, building enduring relationships and sustainable communities requires us to realize that our seemingly irrational cultural practices take us nearer to God within and closer to people and nature around us.

In the post-pandemic world, we must bring the human element back to our lives and Sewa work. Remember when, as children, we went from home to home, distributing 'ellu bella' (til-gud or sesame, jaggery mix) during Sankranti or visiting 108 homes to see Ganapati Bappa during Ganesha Chaturthi or gathering in the village grounds for Ramleela? As small children, many of us accompanied our mothers and sisters when neighbors invited them for haldi and Kumkum. All these meetings, home visits, and gatherings serve a greater purpose. They facilitate stronger personal relationships and help us build a strong community

Yes, concrete and specific goals and programs were debated and discussed at the conference, and you can read about them in this newsletter. In addition, the conference enabled us to experience the profound, significant relationships and interactions that are rare in the modern settings of business, governmental, and academic conferences. I hope more of you can attend our next annual meeting and share this unique feeling of being part of Sewa.

Sincerely,



Vidyasagar Tontalapur
Director of Communication

Sewa International Expands Reach and Empowers Women Volunteers

Congressman Dr. Rich McCormick, representing Georgia's Sixth Congressional District, addressed the conference. He said that the Indian American community pays six percent of taxes despite comprising only one percent of the population. He further mentioned that Indian immigrants had come, like others, to participate in the American dream and represented a new generation of success stories in America. He urged the audience to get involved in politics, take control of their destiny, and advocate for one another.

McCormick emphasized that the choice of a representative would determine the tax burden, level of business regulation, and access to college for individuals. He encouraged people to focus on building connections and engaging in respectful discussions rather than seeking to win arguments. He expressed his solidarity with the attendees and advised them against supporting anyone who impedes their progress.

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Digvijay "Danny" Gaekwad, an entrepreneur and community leader from Florida, served as the chief guest at the inaugural event. He appreciated Sewa's continued focus and work in educating children from low-income families, considering it truly inspiring. He also announced that he would sponsor ten children under Sewa's Sponsor A Child program.

Subhash Patel, CEO of Global Hotel Group and a prominent businessman in Atlanta introduced Gaekwad to the audience. Patel praised Sewa for the humanitarian work done during the pandemic.

Sharing his joy on national conference's success, Syam Kosigi, VP Organization, said that 129 members from 23 chapters attended the event. He congratulated the Atlanta Sewa chapter for putting in great efforts to make it a success.

Sewa Honors Veteran Community Leader Dr. Manohar Shinde



Sewa's executive team with Dr. Manohar Shinde in his felicitation

Sewa International honored Dr. Manohar Shinde, a veteran community leader, a member of the Board of Governors of Dharma Civilization Foundation, and a board member of the Hindu University of America at the national conference. Dr. Suresh Jain, a member of Sewa's Board of Directors and Saumitra Gokhale, a member of Sewa's Board of Advisors, spoke about Dr. Shinde's contribution to organizing and strengthening the Indian American community in the US.

Accepting the felicitation, Dr. Shinde expressed his gratitude for the love and affection shown by the audience. He emphasized that the details of his achievements were less important than the spirit of unity and contribution that prevailed among everyone present.

He mentioned two anecdotes that had a profound impact on him. The first was from the life of Ramakrishna Paramahansa, a 19th-century spiritual leader from India, through which he learned the importance of considering the opportunity to serve humanity as a fortune rather than an act of personal glorification. This shift in perspective became a source of inspiration for him.

The second anecdote involved a story about a little girl who selflessly shared the food someone gave her on a train platform with a hungry boy. This incident, shared by the second chief of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in India, M.S. Golwalkar, popularly known as Guruji, highlighted the significance of sharing in addressing complex problems such as poverty. Dr. Shinde emphasized the need for technical expertise and economic strategies but also stressed the importance of communicating and caring for others.

Dr. Shinde also mentioned his personal experience as a medical college student in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, where he attended a presentation on the spirit of Sewa (selfless service) by an elderly leader. He recalled how this presentation had a lasting impact on him. Dr. Shinde commended the leadership of Sree Srinath, the former president, and Arun Kankani, the current president, who significantly expanded Sewa's reach and fundraising capabilities, especially during challenging times like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Started Small, Experimented Many Ideas: Saumitra Gokhale compares Sewa to Startups



Saumitra Gokhale (first from right), a member of Sewa's Board of Advisors, addressed attendees at the National Conference

"Similar to business startups, Sewa International started small, experimented with many ideas, and now has entered a phase of creating structures and processes to increase its capabilities and capacities. Its growth has led Sewa to attain greater visibility, credibility, and recognition, and acknowledgment of its contributions from the President of the United States and various state governors," Saumitra Gokhale, a member of Sewa's Board of Advisors, said at the annual national conference in Atlanta.

Addressing delegates at Sewa International's 17th Annual Conference in Atlanta, GA, Gokhale remembered that Sewa began its journey in a basement in Atlanta in 2003. "Sewa has completed 20 years. It organized its first national conference in a home. From those humble beginnings, Sewa has become a prominent non-profit making a tangible difference in people's lives, with this 17th conference in a hotel" Gokhale said.

Assembled for Sewa's national conference in Atlanta on May 6 and 7, volunteers from various chapters across the country shared their experiences and discussed many innovative and successful Sewa projects.

The meeting enabled volunteers to experience its unique family-like culture, and get inspired and energized for the journey ahead.

Highlighting Sewa's commitment and ability to turn its dreams and ideas into sustainable projects, Gokhale proudly announced that all twelve projects presented at the event were once mere ideas discussed in previous conferences. "As Sewa expands, self-care and volunteers' well-being are important. With the growth in projects and responsibilities, stress may arise. To address this, Sewa has appointed a 'Chief of Volunteer Well-being' to balance personal and professional lives," he said. Gokhale emphasized that by nurturing individual and organizational well-being, Sewa aims to sustain its impact and continue serving communities effectively.

Quoting a verse from the Bhagavad Gita, Gokhale said a balanced diet, visiting places that calm and elevate the mind, managing sleep, and enhancing life skills, bring in the sense of equilibrium that removes suffering and promotes holistic well-being. While maintaining intensity, passion, and motivation, we must ensure sustainability in Sewa's work. This balance, he suggested, allows for consistent and meaningful service to communities in need.

Drawing a parallel between the poor farmer who keeps chanting God's name while going through his routine tasks, as depicted in a story about Sage Narada and Lord Vishnu in Hindu scriptures, Gokhale emphasized the importance of balancing material responsibilities with spiritual awareness, a harmony that Sewa wants to achieve. Gokhale, however, underlined that this balance should not create stress but enable Sewa to handle its diverse duties effortlessly and efficiently.

Sewa International Plans to Establish Global Council for Worldwide Coordination

"Sewa International plans to establish a Global Council, an informal arrangement comprising representatives from different world regions, to provide guidance and strategic direction to Sewa units in various countries and offer shared services and support," Saumitra Gokhale, a member of Sewa's Board of Advisors, announced at the 17th Sewa National Conference in Atlanta, GA, recently.

Delivering the concluding address at the conference, Gokhale expressed Sewa's commitment to continuous learning, innovation, and excellence and encouraged all members to evolve and grow. He said Sewa's vision was "to see a harmonious and happy world where humanity experiences oneness through Sewa globally." He advocated promoting spiritual oneness and appreciating traditional wisdom while empowering communities.

Gokhale envisioned a future where dharma-based Sewa organizations unite on a larger scale, creating a worldwide impact and making Sewa a mainstream service organization. Gokhale encouraged attendees to carry the spirit and enthusiasm of the conference back to their respective chapters and work towards unity and greater impact.

Emphasizing mindful service and global collaboration, Gokhale called for effective speech and writing that fosters unity and avoids causing divisions or stress.

Quoting from the Bhagavad Gita, he said speaking pleasantly and being truthful are essential. He urged volunteers to speak with knowledge and understanding and ensure their words come from a well-informed mind.

Underlining the role of the mind in shaping our words and actions, Gokhale drew listeners' attention to the Gita's message of cultivating self-control and purity of mind, avoiding mental clutter and negative thoughts. By maintaining mental discipline, individuals can become better characters and contribute to their teams and the organization.

Gokhale discussed the motivation behind selfless service, as outlined in the Bhagavad Gita. He emphasized the need to work for the world's welfare, considering the bigger picture and the impact of one's actions on society.

Additionally, he highlighted the concepts of "yajna" (contributing to community) and "tapa" (discipline), emphasizing the importance of giving back and maintaining personal discipline for inner purification. The conference, filled with laughter, friendly chatter, thoughtful discussions, informal singing, and good-natured banter, left an indelible impression on attendees.

Sewa Fresh Food Pantry of Simi Valley: Providing Access to Nutritious Food for All

The Fresh Food Pantry of Simi Valley is an innovative program that provides healthy food options to needy families. Local high school students volunteer their time to help others while gaining valuable life skills in the process. Sewa International launched this program as a pilot initiative to test its viability. It has now become a sustainable program with support from various organizations.

The pantry is a game-changer for the Simi Valley community. It provides a safe and secure environment for families to access healthy food options they may not otherwise afford. In addition, the program promotes healthy eating habits and reduces the likelihood of health problems associated with poor nutrition.

Volunteering at the Fresh Food Pantry allows students to understand social problems, develop problem-solving skills, learn self-governance, and prioritize tasks. The food pantry receives support from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Share of Ventura, Simi Valley Unified School District, Simi Valley Police Department, Simi Valley Chamber, and various city officials.

Fresh Food Store

The Fresh Food Pantry has a brick-and-mortar store at the intersection of Los Angeles Ave. and 5th Street, next to Stater Brothers Markets. It operates a few hours every day of the week. Anyone can shop at the store, which does not require any fee, membership, or payment.



Sewa provides food to the people in need at its store in Simi Valley



Racks of items available in Sewa's food pantry

The store offers fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, eggs, cereals, bread, personal care and hygiene products, and canned goods.

The food pantry started in October 2022 and served over 400 families within three weeks. Amar Nadig, the coordinator of Sewa's pantry, thanked the Los Angeles city officials for supporting the pantry through grants. He and his family are working hard to ensure the pantry is operational and it serves people in need in the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Amar Nadig said the Sewa team had been encouraged by the pantry's success and plans to start a seniors' kitchen in 2023.

Sustainability

The success of the Fresh Food Pantry program lies in its sustainability. The program has evolved from a pilot initiative to a sustainable program with the support of various organizations. The program has created a platform for students to volunteer, learn, and grow while serving their community.

"The Sewa Pantry is an excellent example of a community-driven initiative that addresses a critical need. The program is a testament to the power of collaboration, community engagement, and social responsibility. Programs like these can help build healthier, more sustainable, and more equitable communities, one family at a time," says Amar Nadig.

Sewa SHE-CAF Provides Entrepreneur Training to 64 Transgender People



Sewa empowers transgender individuals to achieve self-employment

Sewa International's initiatives are empowering 3,500 women and bringing about positive transformation in communities across 16 Indian states. Sewa's Sanitation, Hygiene, and Empowerment Project for the Girl Child (SHE) team has successfully implemented a model village concept in Rajasthan. Over the past two months, they have constructed 42 new toilets in underprivileged schools, benefiting more than 1,800 students and staff.

Due to generous funding from Google and the North Jersey LEAD group, the SHE team has educated over 1,500 adolescent girls on menstrual health and provided self-defense and yoga training to over 300 students. Moreover, they have empowered over 120 women through skill development training.

Sewa International's Covid Affected Families (CAF) program has extended its support to transgender communities as well. Training programs in Karnataka, West Bengal, and Telangana have empowered over 64 transgender beneficiaries, including the start of a successful food truck service named "Premato" near Hyderabad. This inspiring initiative provides breakfast and snacks to street vendors and workers, creating a profitable enterprise and fostering inclusivity. Furthermore, beneficiaries from Ranaghat, Nadia District in West Bengal, are undergoing tailoring and beautician training, connecting them to retail outlets or enabling them to become self-employed. In Cooch Behar District, Sewa has supported four beneficiaries and established a paper plate manufacturing unit.

Sewa Provides Relief to Balasore Train Victims



Tragic collision of three trains in Balasore district, Odisha, India

In a devastating train accident in Odisha, India, over 288 people died, and over 1,000 were injured. This mishap has caused immense grief. Families that lost loved ones in the accident and survivors face severe trauma. It may take years for them to get back to their everyday lives. Having provided relief to people in natural and human-made disasters, Sewa International understands their pain. We are planning rehabilitation and preparing a series of supportive actions.

Volunteers from Sewa's partner organizations in India have assisted government authorities in rescuing people and removing bodies with the utmost respect. They have organized a blood donation camp to help the injured. They have also been distributing food and other essentials to the affected people. To help us expand the relief work, please support us by donating to Sewa. Your generosity can help assuage grief and aid people in overcoming this tragedy.

Sewa Appeals for Funds to Help Manipur Riot Victims

In the wake of recent attacks against the aboriginal Meitei community in Manipur, a state in northeastern India, many people have fled their homes and living in temporary shelters in desperate living conditions. Sewa International has started a fundraiser to provide immediate assistance to the victims of violence in Manipur.

Appealing to people to help, Swadesh Katoch, Vice President of Disaster Recovery, said, "By donating or spreading the word about this cause, you can join forces and bring comfort, relief, and hope to the lives of those affected by the violence in Manipur. Sewa strives to create a positive and lasting impact and help rebuild the lives of those in need," Swadesh said.

Sewa plans to provide victims with food, water tanks, mosquito nets, blankets, tents, cooking gas stoves and utensils, medicine, and other essential items. Each contribution helps Manipur violence victims regain their confidence, and know that people care about them and they are not forsaken.

To contribute or learn more about the campaign, Sewa has requested the donors to visit its official website at <https://sewaua.org/SupportManipurViolenceVictims>.



Sewa's relief work in Manipur brings health care to victims of violence

Houston "Seniors Sewa" Team Organizes Picnic



Madan Luthra (second from left) and volunteers prepared to serve food

Sewa International Houston Chapter's "Seniors Sewa" team organized a picnic for seniors at the Sai Durga Shiva Vishnu temple (SDSV) ground in Katy, TX, on April 30. Over 140 seniors participated in the event. The Seniors Sewa teams from Katy and Sugarland organized the picnic.

Games tailored to specific age groups, music, and a raffle draw kept the attendees engaged while giving them many opportunities to socialize. Two raffle winners received paintings with Indian motifs. In addition, an awareness booth set up by volunteers gave information about vaccination to seniors.

Jay and Rekha Sanghvi from Katy expressed their delight at meeting new people, relishing delicious food, and enjoying the live music and games. They extended their gratitude to all the volunteers who made the picnic an extraordinary experience.

Ajit Thakkar, a participant from Sugarland, also expressed his appreciation, remarking, "Bahoot bahoot shukriya – many, many thanks -- to all the volunteers who worked to bring happiness to the seniors. Every individual in the yellow Sewa t-shirt deserves a medal."

The "Seniors Sewa" initiative, launched in 2022 by Sewa's Family Services team, aims to assist community members in need and during emergencies. It serves as a platform for senior citizens to come together for their overall well-being, encompassing physical, intellectual, and emotional aspects. Through neighborhood groups, mentors, and workshops, seniors living in the same area convene, fostering networking, new connections, and mutual support. At present, there are two active groups in Sugarland and Katy, with plans to establish similar groups in other neighborhoods. For a visual glimpse of the event, including pictures and videos, please visit <https://photos.app.goo.gl/1FJ6eUJZG8cm5j6r6>



Houston seniors pose for a photo during the picnic at the Sai Durga Shiva Vishnu temple (SDSV) ground in Katy, TX

Sewa grew by addressing unmet needs of the community: Arun Kankani

Sewa USA started in Atlanta in 2003, completed twenty years this year. Began in a basement with a handful of volunteers now Sewa has grown to nearly 5,000 volunteers with 43 chapters. Sewa's founding members Saumitra Gokhale, Syam Kosigi, and Venkata Santhanaraman are still associated with Sewa and hold key responsibilities. Arun Kankani walked through Sewa's twenty years journey in the conference.

Sewa International has grown by creating programs to address the unmet needs of the community, and through the unwavering commitment and efforts of its donors, volunteers, and mission-oriented staff, it has made a remarkable contribution to disaster relief and community empowerment, Sewa's President Arun Kankani said.

Answering questions from participants in an informal session at the 17th National Conference in Atlanta, Kankani traced Sewa's journey from its beginning in 2003 when the organization identified the need for a Hindu faith-based Sewa organization in the US. Registered as a 501(c)(3) charity, Sewa, through sustained efforts from its finance team, got a four-star certification for accountability, transparency, and other metrics from Charity Navigator, the leading non-profit evaluator in the US.

Kankani recounted the organization's first disaster relief effort in 2004, responding to the devastating tsunami that struck the southeastern coast of India.



Digvijay 'Danny' Gaekwad lighting the lamp (top left) among other memorable moments captured in the collage from the National Conference in Atlanta, GA.



Participants immersed in lively discussions, felicitation, and celebratory moments at the National Conference in Atlanta, GA

When Hurricane Katrina hit Houston, TX, in 2005, Sewa gave a check to Governor Kathleen Blanco. She asked why Sewa gave \$15,001, not a round figure of \$15,000. Sewa explained to Governor Blanco that an odd number indicates a desire to keep giving more in Hindu tradition. This philosophy has driven Sewa International's willingness to do more for those in need.

Tangible Results

Narrating how the Bhutanese Refugees Empowerment (BRE) initiative, the first Sewa program in the US to extend to more than 30 chapters, started, Kankani acknowledged the challenges faced in assisting individuals.

Touching upon Sewa's diverse range of programs, Kankani emphasized Sewa's commitment to supporting local communities in the US. He highlighted the Family Services program, which began in 2011 and has since expanded to include case management and awareness, such as the Stop Diabetes program. Kankani also commended the local disaster projects and the LEAD youth internship program, which has engaged over 1,000 high school students across 22 cities, providing them service and socially conscious leadership orientation.

Sewa grew by addressing unmet needs of the community: Arun Kankani

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The Aspire program, another significant initiative, aims to support underserved communities in education. It has already been implemented in four cities and continues to grow. Kankani acknowledged the challenges in transitioning from an all-volunteer model to having mission-oriented staff. However, he stressed that the organization should always focus on the result rather than personal preferences. Sewa International now has over 40 dedicated mission-oriented staff members nationwide and globally.

Significant Donations

Kankani celebrated the pivotal moments in Sewa International's growth, including the first million-dollar donation from a young person under 30. This generous contribution marked a significant milestone for the organization. He also mentioned a senior volunteer, Ram Gehani, who made a remarkable commitment to donate his entire wealth to Sewa International, demonstrating the profound impact and trust the organization has commanded.

Kankani underscored the importance of these critical milestones in propelling Sewa International's growth by leaps and bounds. Two years before the conference, the organization achieved an astounding feat by raising an impressive \$45 million through the support of 150,000 generous individuals.



Yummy food and friendly chat at the National Conference in Atlanta, GA



Participants shared their views during the National Conference in Atlanta, GA

In conclusion, Kankani reiterated Sewa's motto, *Together We Serve Better*.

President Arun Kankani announced a few new responsibilities at the conference. Here are the details.

Srikanth Gundavarapu (top right corner), Sewa International Atlanta Chapter's President, has accepted the responsibility of Vice President, Fund Development. Srikanth is an entrepreneur from Atlanta and will have dual responsibility until the Atlanta chapter finds a new president. Srikanth will focus on Sewa's partner development and fundraising activities.

Prem Pusuloori (first right in the middle row), Sewa's Director for programs, has assumed the responsibility of Vice President of programs. Prem recently left his full-time job in the software industry to dedicate all his time to Sewa. Prem will be responsible for flagship Sewa programs such as Family Services and Sponsor A Child.

Yashwant Belsare (bottom right corner), Yashwant Belsare, from Sewa International Atlanta Chapter, has accepted the responsibility of Chief of Volunteers' Wellness. Previously, he was the Bhutanese Refugee Empowerment (BRE) program coordinator.

Lakshmi Bhoopalam, from Karnataka, India, has been a Sewa volunteer since 2021 with the North New Jersey (NJ) Chapter. She works as an engineering manager for a travel company and lives with her husband and daughter in Denville, NJ.

Her husband works in the Information Technology (IT) sector, and her daughter is an elementary school teacher. They are a long-time Sewa family, involved with local organizations for volunteering and support wherever needed.



Lakshmi Bhoopalam with her family

Her husband has been involved with the Hindu Swayamsewak Sangh (HSS) for many years, and her daughter has always been a Sewa volunteer.

Before joining Sewa during Covid-19 times, Lakshmi used to be part of a care group at work where she was involved in monthly activities to support a local old age home, school, or soup kitchen.

Whether supporting children globally, doing environmental work, or spreading awareness of social issues locally, she likes all aspects of Sewa. In the last few years, Lakshmi has become a key member of the North NJ Chapter. She has coordinated Family Services workshops and individual cases in 2022. She is actively involved in fundraising for the "Sponsor A Child" initiative through the local Summer fest in 2022.

Lakshmi is currently involved with the LEAD program as a mentor and enjoys participating in events along with LEAD. She is also working with the North Jersey team for "International Yoga Day" along with support from HSS, SPYSS, Art of Living, and ISHA to spread yoga, meditation, and breathing awareness. Lakshmi makes Sewa visible within local communities and encourages new high school students to promote volunteerism.

Sewa's SAC Anubhuti Camp Sparks Creativity and Unity



Prof. Sree Sreenath (sitting second from left) joins participants at the Sponsor A Child (SAC) Anubhuti camp in Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh, India

Over 60 high school students from six Indian states participated in Sewa International's Sponsor A Child (SAC) Anubhuti camp held at the Agastya International Foundation, in Kuppam, India, from May 15 to 20. The camp showcased 11 "best-out-of-waste" initiatives projects, including glider-making.

The camp, aimed at providing students with a platform for exploration and innovation, helped children think creatively and develop life skills. Prof. Sree Sreenath, President of Vivekananda Yoga University (VaYU) and former president of Sewa International, and Prof. Bhagirathi, Head of the local Music College, were guests at the inaugural event.

Various games, art, painting, music, and other activities enabled children to work in teams, hone their talents and foster friendship. Daily eco walks allowed participants to enjoy nature around them.

Most children at the camp traveled outside their home state for the first time, and they spoke and sang in different languages, such as Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam. As it always has been in India, language or region did not matter as children felt oneness and developed deep bonds with each other. The camp Anubhuti (Sanskrit for experience or feeling) allowed children to experience their nation's diversity and enjoy the beauty of their travel and togetherness.

Upcoming Events

- Jun 14, 2023: Sewa Detroit Blood Donation Drive | the Hindu Temple of Canton - 44955 Cherry Hill Canton, MI
- Jun 17, 2023: Sewa IDY Color 5k Walk/Run, Wellness | 5K Katy, 20150 Wertheimer Pkwy, Houston, TX
- Jun 25, 2023: Vasundhara Sewa | on Loop 360 near FM, Austin, TX
- Jul 1, 2023: Adopt-A-Highway cleanup | Riata Vista Cir and W Parmer Ln, Austin, TX

Sewa International

P.O.Box 820867
Houston, TX 77282-0867

(708) 872-7392
info@sewausea.org
www.sewausea.org



Editorial Team: Vidyasagar Tontalapur, Denver, CO (Director Communications), Inchara Kumar & Aditi Pyakurel (Interns), Consultant: Prof. Ramesh Rao