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Sewa Harnesses Organizational Strength for Social Transformation



Members of Sewa International's Board of Directors, Advisory Board, executive team, chapter presidents, coordinators, and other functionaries convened at Sewa's 20th National Conference in San Antonio, Texas

Delivering the keynote address at Sewa International's 20th national conference on "Strategic Horizons & Operational Excellence", Prof. Chaturvedi, Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University and a distinguished economist and policy thinker, noted, "Sewa International is bringing forward the power of consolidation and collective strength by harnessing organizational strength to drive meaningful social transformation".

Speaking at the conference held in San Antonio on May 2-3, 2026, he said, "The way we look at humanity must change, and we must move toward a collective, cosmic perspective, where the unit of concern is not just the individual but the entire ecosystem. This aligns with Indian principles of law, work, and prosperity, and acknowledges the limits of purely human-centered development."

Dr. Chaturvedi strongly advocated that we reimagine institutions for humanity, drawing on lessons from Nalanda, a celebrated seat of learning in ancient India. He also pointed out that the Washington Consensus, a set of economic policies aimed at developing countries, leads to the exploitation of nature.

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Chaitra Navaratri Cultural Celebrations Raise over \$15K in Austin, TX



Nearly 200 people attended the Chaitra Navaratri event organized by Sewa in Austin, TX,

Sewa Austin organized the Chaitra Navaratri celebration in Austin, TX, on April 5. Nearly 200 people attended, and the chapter raised over \$15,000 through the program. The event began with Devi puja (worship) and arati (prayer ceremony), followed by a live band performance. Participants took part in *Garba and Dandiya* (Gujarati folk dances), creating an engaging cultural experience. Sewa Austin volunteers, along with Gujarati Samaj of Greater Austin (GSGA), managed event setup and decorated the venue. Sponsors supported the event through contributions and participation.

Volunteers Sort Food and Prepare Meals to Fight Hunger at Tampa, FL



Sewa volunteers sorted and packed donated food at Feeding Tampa Bay Facility in Tampa, FL

Over fifteen Sewa volunteers participated in Food Sorting at the Feeding Tampa Bay facility in Tampa, FL, on April 25. Volunteers sorted and packed donated food items, helping prepare 2,907 meals for families in need across the region. The group contributed 30 volunteer hours during the activity at the Causeway Boulevard location. Through this effort, volunteers supported local hunger relief initiatives and helped distribute essential food supplies to neighboring families.

Volunteers Collect 54 Lbs of Plastic during Lake Cleanup Event in Chicago, IL



Sewa volunteers collected plastic waste during the lake cleanup event in Chicago, IL

Sewa Chicago organized a lake cleanup at the Earth Month service event in Chicago, IL, on April 11. Sewa volunteers collected 54 pounds of plastic bags as part of an ongoing recycling drive. The team worked along the lake area to remove waste and support environmental cleanup efforts. Sewa coordinated collection and recycling to ensure proper handling of the materials gathered.

Walk and Breakfast Event Engages 3 Generations at Katy Park in Texas



Sewa volunteers supported the senior walk and breakfast event at Katy Park in Texas

Sewa Senior team hosted a walk-and-breakfast event at the senior wellness program in Katy, TX, on April 18. Organized in collaboration with Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS), the event took place at Willow Fork Park in Katy. A guided walk, warm-up yoga, and team games led by HSS youth volunteers engaged the attendees.

Sewa LEAD (Leadership, Education, and Development) high school internship program participants supported coordination and assisted participants throughout the event. Sewa volunteer Prakash Mujmudar sang Bollywood songs, entertaining the participants with melodies from Hindi classics followed by a healthy breakfast.

Doctors For Sewa Provides Medical Support to Underserved Patients in Atlanta, GA



Doctors for Sewa (DFS) volunteers provided free medical support to patients in Atlanta, GA

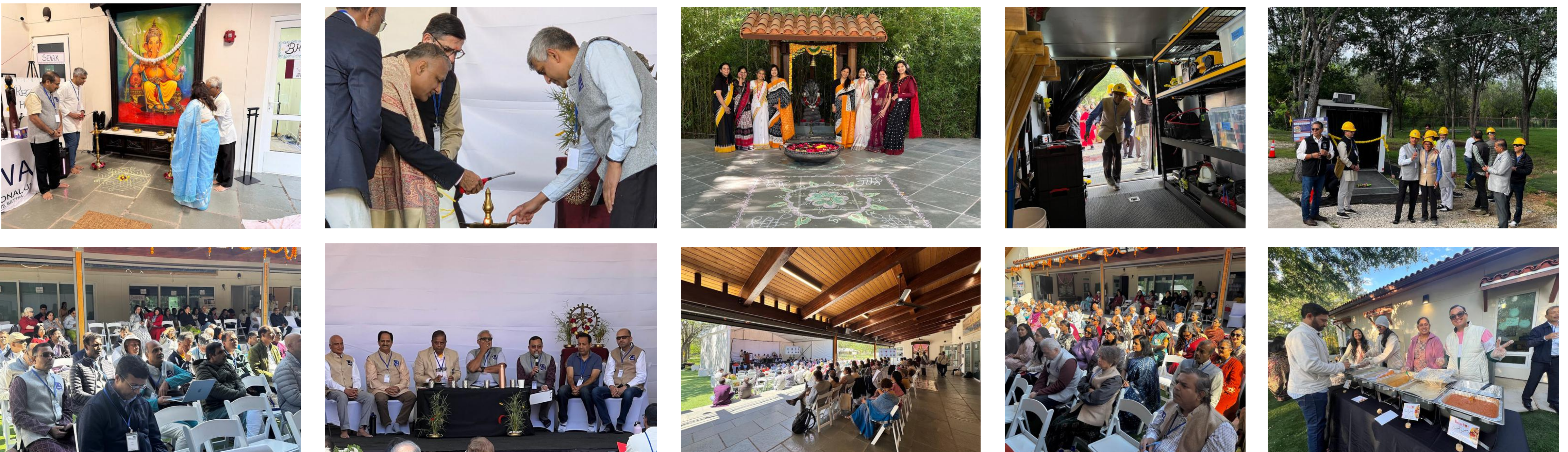
Doctors for Sewa (DFS) conducted a Free Clinic in collaboration with the GAPI (Georgia Association of Physicians of Indian Heritage) in Atlanta, on April 18.

DFS volunteers with two LEAD (Leadership, Education, and Development) volunteers provided medical assistance and consultations to individuals during the one-hour clinic session. The free clinic is organized on the first and third Saturdays of each month.

DFS runs the Free Clinic to support underprivileged and underinsured patients in Atlanta.

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Sewa Harnesses Organizational Strength for Social Transformation



Prof. Chaturvedi lighting the lamp (top second left), among other memorable moments from the 20th National Conference in San Antonio

Dr. Chaturvedi drew a parallel, noting that Sewa International is a grassroots, volunteer-driven organization reflecting Nalanda's age-old community-embedded model. Over 170 volunteers from 27 chapters attended the 20th National Conference. Participants included Sewa's board of directors, advisory board members, executive team, chapter presidents, coordinators, and other functionaries.

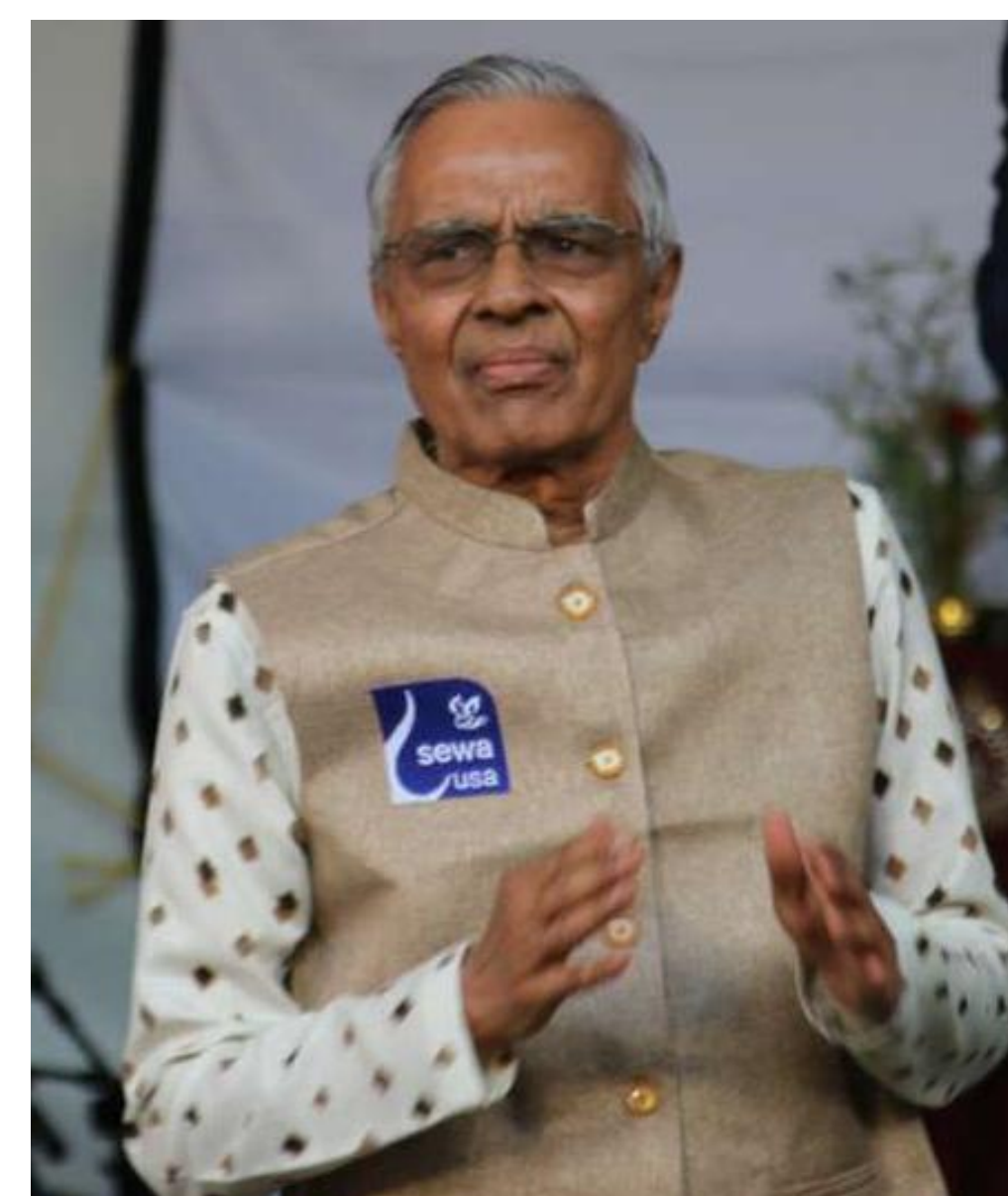
Jose Menendez, State Senator representing Texas Senate District 26 and a San Antonio resident, appreciated Sewa's 20-year journey serving the underserved. John Lujan, State Representative from District 118 and a football coach, and Ivalis Meza Gonzalez, a councilwoman from San Antonio, attended the conference.

In his welcome address, Suresh Jain, Sewa Board Chairman, said the national convention provides an opportunity for volunteers to learn from each other and get inspired.

Sewa International USA President, Srikanth Gundavarapu, released the annual report, describing it as a reflection of "compassion in action" and a mirror of Sewa's impact. He also announced key new leadership positions to strengthen focus areas, including community engagement and promotion, IT, youth engagement, grants, and thought leadership and policy.

In his concluding remarks, Saumitra Gokhale, Sewa advisor, said, Sewa's vision is to create a harmonious world where humanity experiences oneness through service.

Sewa honored Ramesh Bhutada, member, Board of Directors, and Ramesh Shah, a well-known community leader from Houston, with the Sewa Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of their service and commitment to the community over the past six decades.



Sewa honored Ramesh Bhutada (left), member of the Board of Directors, and Houston community leader Ramesh Shah with the Sewa Lifetime Achievement Award at the 20th National Conference in San Antonio

Volunteers Remove Trash during Chesterfield Cleanup Effort in NJ



Sewa volunteers collected trash and cleared debris at the Chesterfield, NJ, cleanup drive

Sewa South Jersey LEAD (Leadership, Education, and Development) participants and parents conducted cleanup work at the Chesterfield cleanup activity in Chesterfield, NJ, on April 11. More than 30 participants, including members from Sanskriti Shaka of Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) USA, removed trash from the wooded area around Canter Place. The team collected around six large bags of waste and cleared debris to improve safety for wildlife. Sewa volunteers also removed a large trampoline that had blown in from a nearby residence during the winter season.

Over Four Service Events across Chicago Area Locations in IL



Sewa volunteers supported four events across Chicago, Naperville, Aurora, and Lincoln Park, IL

Sewa Chicago volunteers conducted four service initiatives in Chicago, IL, on April 25. Volunteers launched their first Adopt-A-Highway cleanup in Naperville and Warrenville with support from local partners. Teams organized a food drive for DuPage Pads Interim Housing Center (IHC), which provides temporary housing and support services to help end homelessness, collecting essential supplies for families. At Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry, volunteers packed food boxes, managed traffic, and supported drive-thru distribution. Sewa also partnered with Isha Foundation to host the Save Soil Walkathon in Lincoln Park, where participants raised awareness on soil health and sustainability.

Women Receive Meals Through Shelter Support Initiative in Raleigh, NC



Sewa volunteers provided meals for women at a shelter in Raleigh, NC

Sewa Research Triangle Park (RTP) launched a partnership with Recuperative Respite Raleigh at The Women's Center of Wake County in Raleigh on April 12.

As part of its Women Empowerment initiative, Sewa provided lunch for a few women staying at the shelter. The meals included pizza, quinoa and chickpea salad, and water.

In addition, the Sewa RTP team plans to continue supporting the shelter through quarterly service activities. Recuperative Respite Raleigh provides short-term residential support for individuals recovering from illness, surgery, or injury, including services for seniors and post-operative recovery.

Sewa LEAD Students Attend Session on Trauma at RWJ Hamilton Center in NJ



Sewa volunteers attended a medical session at the RWJ Hamilton Center in Hamilton, NJ

Sewa South Jersey youth participated in the Mini Medical School session at the education program in Hamilton, NJ, on April 14. The sessions were part of a six-week series hosted at the RWJ (Robert Wood Johnson) Hamilton Fitness and Wellness Center.

The first session of the series was on different types of trauma, where Erik Williams, LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker), explained physical and psychological aspects, coping methods, and careers in social work and therapy.

Participants actively engaged and discussed key takeaways during the session. Sewa volunteers also met Anjul Bagdwal, from the community education department, who coordinated the program and discussed future collaboration opportunities.

Volunteers Clean Galveston Shoreline to Celebrate Earth Day in Texas



Sewa volunteers cleaned beaches (first two photos) and planted trees (next two photos) during Earth Day events across TX

Sewa Houston celebrated Earth Day at the Texas Adopt-A-Beach program in Galveston on April 20. More than 60 volunteers, including adults and youth, cleaned 3 miles of shoreline and collected over 500 pounds of man-made trash from the beach.

Thousand Tree Initiative: In another event, more than 40 Sewa volunteers joined the Alief Super Neighborhood Council and Houston Trees Initiative to plant the final 100 trees at South Dairy Ashford Road in Houston on April 20. The activity was part of a larger 1,000-tree planting initiative carried out over several months. Participants of all ages planted trees, coordinated efforts, and supported the environmental initiative throughout the event.

Central Jersey Completes Garden Preparation and Beach Cleanup Activities Across NJ



Sewa volunteers prepared garden plots (top row) and cleaned shorelines (second row) during service activities across NJ

Sewa Central Jersey volunteers prepared garden plots at the garden service activity in Chesterfield, NJ, on March 29. About 20 participants worked under the supervision of Ms. Roseann to rake leaves along the fence line and clear debris from the garden beds.

In another event, Sewa Central Jersey volunteers removed litter and debris during a beach cleanup drive in New Jersey on April 11. The team collected waste along the shoreline to help protect marine life. Sewa coordinated cleanup activities, assigned responsibilities, and ensured proper disposal of the collected debris.

Mobile Pantry Distributes Groceries across the UT Dallas Area in Texas



Sewa volunteers distributed groceries across Dallas, TX, apartment complexes during the pantry drive

Sewa Hindu Mobile Pantry distributed more than 3,000 pounds of groceries at the mobile pantry food drive in Dallas, TX, on April 25. Sewa collaborated with the UTD (University of Texas at Dallas) Indian Student Association to deliver food to student apartment complexes across the UTD area.

The team distributed groceries, providing over one month of essential supplies per household. Sewa organized logistics, coordinated volunteers, and ensured smooth distribution across multiple locations. The pantry included staples such as rice, daal, wheat flour, cooking oil, sugar, and salt, along with other household essentials to support balanced meals.

Sewa Central Jersey Cleans Garden and Collects 900 Eyeglasses to Donate



Sewa volunteers maintained gardens (first two photos) and collected eyeglasses (next three photos) during service initiatives across NJ

Sewa Central Jersey volunteers participated in a garden service activity at Kiddie Keep Well Camp (KKWC) in Somerset, NJ, on April 4. Volunteers carried out weeding, planting, watering, and general maintenance work to support the upkeep and cleanliness of the community space. The team coordinated tasks throughout the activity to maintain the garden environment.

In another event, Sewa Central Jersey volunteers collected nearly 900 eyeglasses during a statewide collection drive in New Jersey on April 12. The drive operated at two locations from April 5 to April 12, with participation by volunteers, parents, and leads. Sewa coordinated collection activities, managed drop-off points, and sorted donated eyeglasses to support individuals in need of vision care.

Over 150 Participants Join Monthly 5K Health Event at Houston Park in TX



Sewa volunteers organized 5K walk event at Houston, TX, park with 15 partners

Sewa Houston S.E.L.F. (Sleep, Exercise, Living in the present, Food, and Diet) team organized a 5K walk/run at the health and wellness event in Houston, TX, on April 4. Sewa collaborated with the Bilingual Education Institute and 14 partner organizations to conduct the program at Arthur Storey Park.

The event began with warm-up and stretching exercises, followed by an overview of health goals and partner initiatives supporting refugees. Around 150 participants joined the 5K walk/run, with children receiving finisher medals. Sewa coordinated post-event activities, including partner booths with informational sessions, an Easter egg hunt, and a photo booth.

Seattle Delivers Meals to 250 Beneficiaries at Three Shelters in Seattle, WA



Sewa volunteers distributed meals across three shelter locations in Seattle, WA

Volunteers prepared and distributed vegetarian meals for 250 beneficiaries as part of Annalakshmi, Sewa Seattle's flagship Serve food donation program, in Seattle, WA, on April 26. The initiative supported three shelters, including Friends of Youth in Kirkland, Porchlight in Bellevue, and one more in Auburn. Two LEAD (Leadership, Education, and Development) and six adult volunteers packed and delivered meals and contributed 40 volunteer hours during the five-hour activity.

Over 30 Participants Attend Medicare and Medi-Cal Seminar in San Jose, CA



Sewa volunteers supported the Medicare and Medi-Cal seminar in San Jose, CA

Sewa Bay Area's Family Services Program hosted an educational seminar on Medicare and Medi-Cal at the Evergreen Library in San Jose on April 26. Marcelo Espiritu, Steven Rubalcaba, and Dr. Govind Desale led the sessions and explained healthcare coverage topics while answering participants' questions. The facilitators also shared information about the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) and available support resources. More than 30 people participated in the workshop and received informational handouts during the session.

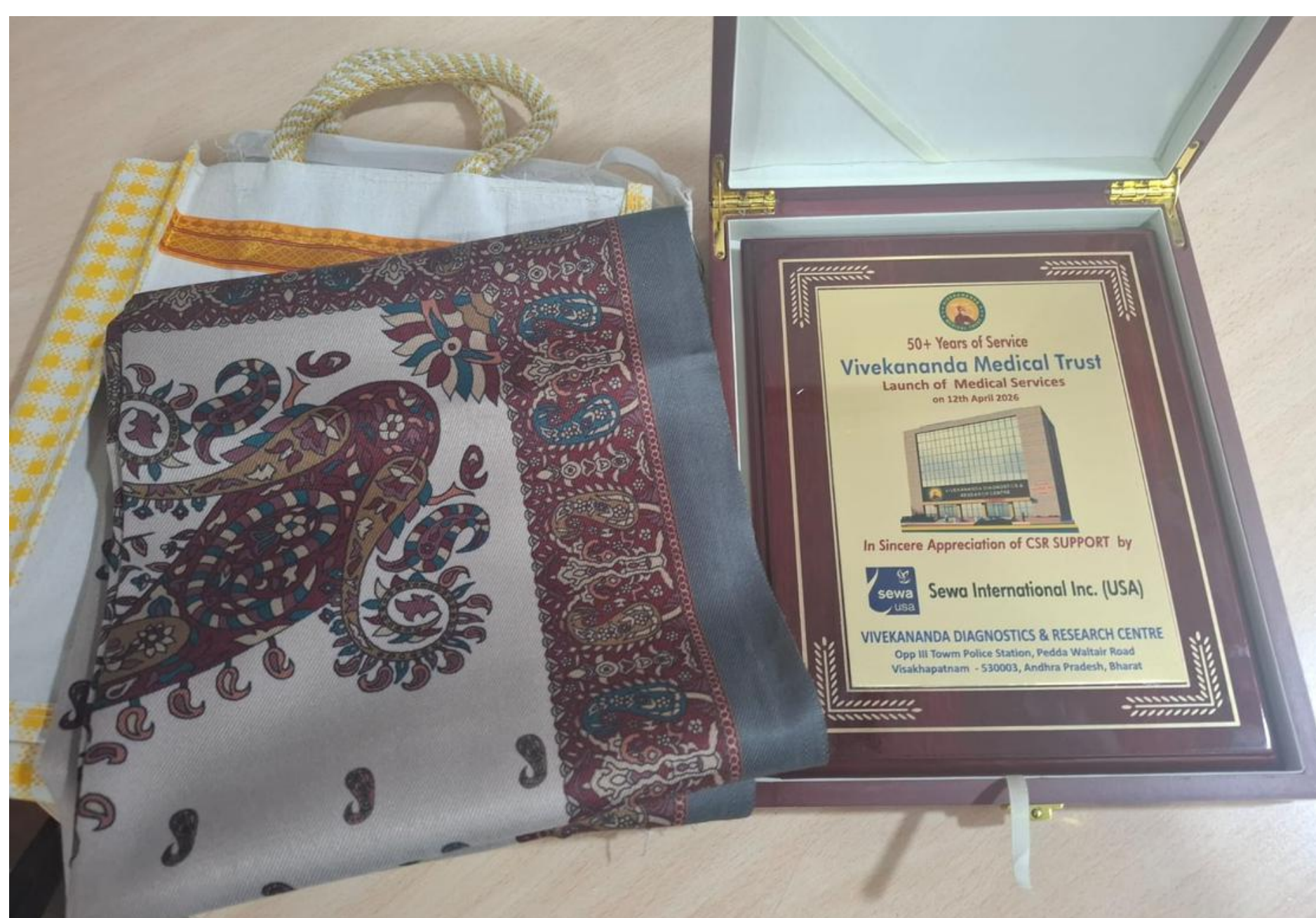
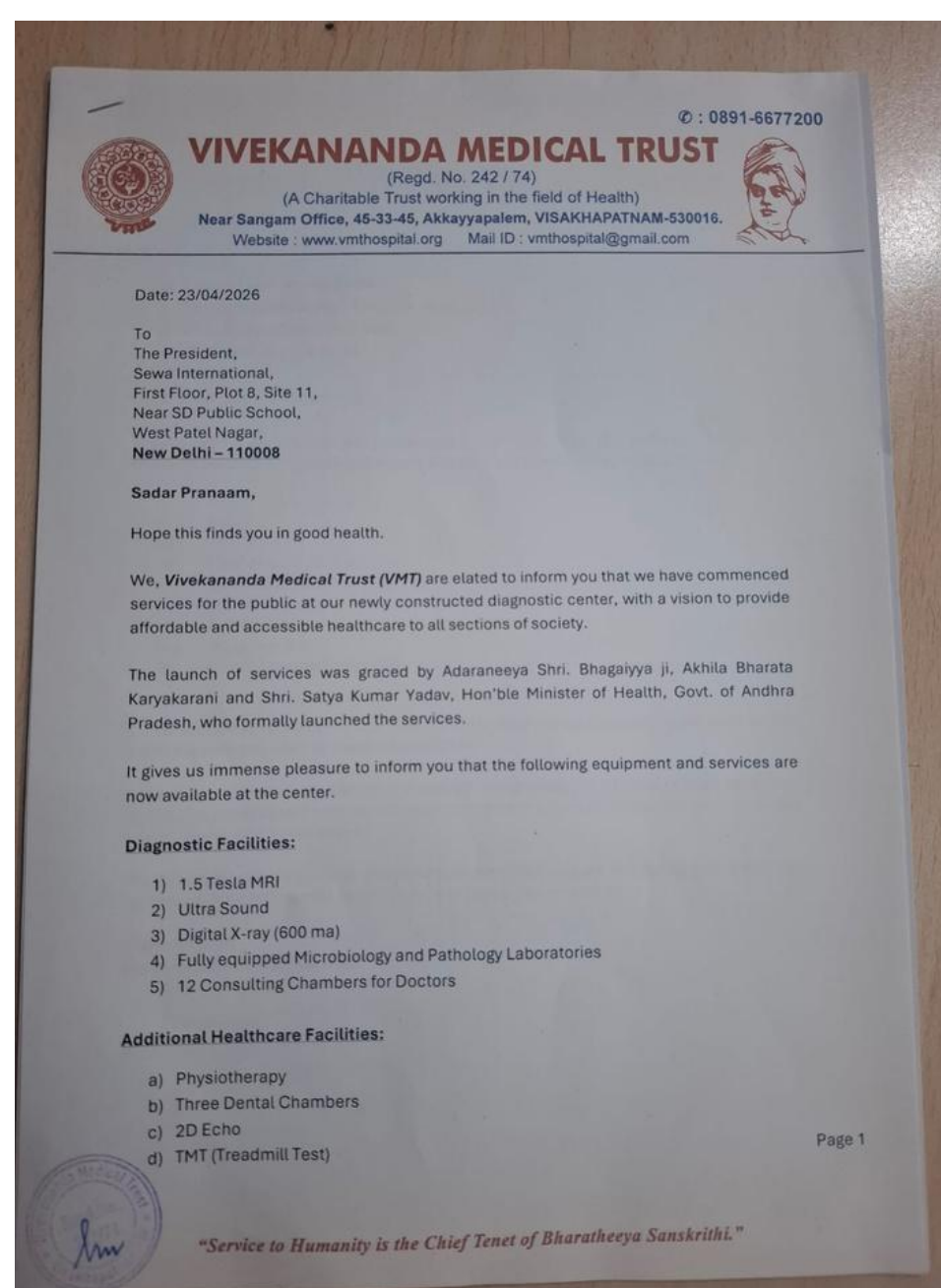
Participants Clean 2 Miles Stretch and Collect Trash along Roads in Los Angeles, CA



Sewa volunteers cleaned roadside areas and collected trash in Los Angeles, CA

Sewa USA LA Chapter volunteers cleaned a two-mile long stretch from Tierra Rejada Road to Olsen Road during a highway cleanup activity in Los Angeles on April 26. Five volunteers partnered with LA Adopt-A-Highway program and collected more than 10 bags of trash. They contributed 15 volunteer hours to help maintain cleaner public spaces.

Vivekananda Medical Trust Recognizes Sewa International Support for Diagnostic Centre Initiative



Vivekananda Medical Trust recognized the support extended by Sewa International USA in helping it build its Diagnostic Centre in Vishakapattanam, India, on April 25.

In the center's inaugural event, the trust presented a memento and shared a letter of appreciation acknowledging Sewa's contribution to the initiative.

The recognition highlighted the ongoing partnership between the two organizations in providing residents with healthcare facilities in the coastal city.

Volunteers Complete Spring Cleaning Service Activity in Sacramento, CA

More than five Sewa volunteers participated in the Spring Cleaning Sewa activity at the Vedanta Society in Sacramento on April 11.

During the three-hour event, volunteers cleared weeds, cleaned hallways, and organized library books to improve and maintain the facility. The participants also interacted with Swami Prapannananda Ji over tea following the service activity.



Swami Prapannananda Ji (third from left, second photo) with Sewa volunteers who cleaned and organized the Vedanta Society in Sacramento, CA

Work Smarter This Year: Plan Your Giving Early

Did you know?

While many smart gifts are made at year-end, the most impactful giving starts much earlier—with awareness and planning.

This is the perfect time to explore Planned and Smart Giving—simple, tax-efficient ways to support Sewa's mission while aligning with your personal financial goals.



Support Sewa through:

- Appreciated Stocks & Mutual Funds
- IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (70½+)
- Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)
- Cryptocurrency

These options may help you:

- ✓ Maximize your impact
- ✓ Reduce taxes
- ✓ Give without using cash

Create a Lasting Legacy

Planned Giving includes Sewa in your will or trust:

- No cost today
- Flexible and revocable
- Supports causes you care about for generations

Get started:

👉 [\[Smart Giving with Sewa\]](#)

👉 [\[Planned Giving with Sewa\]](#)

Upcoming Events

- May 24, 2026 (US) / May 25, 2026 (IST): Sewa Samvaad Webinar | Online | 6 PM–7 PM PT (9 PM–10 PM ET)
- June 6, 2026. Chess Tournament | New Tampa Regional Library | 10001 Cross Creek Boulevard, Tampa, FL
- June 19–21, 2026: Cricket for Sewa – Charity Cricket Festival | CCA Chaat Bhavan Field, 277 Rodonovan Dr, Santa Clara, CA
- June 21, 2026: International Day of Yoga & 5K Walk/Run | George Bush Park, Katy, TX

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