

Sanskriti

A unique collection of lifetime memories



A Message from Sanskriti Mahashibir Karyawaha

Dhiraj M Shah

When Lord Krishna revealed his universal and gigantic form to Arjuna, mankind was blessed with a scene that emanated enormity and magnificence.

Hindu Swaymasevak Sangh celebrates 50 years of contribution and achievements in the UK, and it all culminated in a mammoth gathering of around 2000 Swayemsevaks and Sevikas, all living in tents for 3 days of yoga, music, physical activities and spirituality.

The entire experience was held on the land of Hertfordshire County Show Grounds, with an emphasis on being environmentally friendly.

The idea of holding a Mahashibir at this scale was coined over a year ago, and required months of preparation from over 400 volunteers across UK and

Europe. From catering to cleaning, site construction to registration, security to all myriad of activities, the spectacle was undoubtedly unique and incomparable to anything we have experienced before. Innumerable meetings and thousands of human-hours were dedicated to the realisation of this dream.

The event attracted men and women of all ages - the youngest being 6 months to the oldest at 90 years, covering 70 towns and cities across UK, 10 EU countries and 5 non-EU countries.

Our pledge was to manifest an environment in keeping with the core values of Sanskār (positive values), Sewa (selfless service) and Sangathan (Community Spirit). Every component of Mahashibir ringed with a feeling of Dharmic awareness. Over 20,000



nutritious and purely vegetarian meals were served during the course of the event.

Shri Dhiraj D Shah, President of HSS (UK) remarked:- “When people see the village, their first reaction is WOW! The sheer scale of it is incredible and the fact that so many people are living in harmony whilst learning about our Dharma is something to be proud of”.

This milestone has truly reflected Hindu Swayemsevak Sangh and Hindu Sevika Samiti’s contribution to UK.

We hope you, the reader, can re-live this astonishing journey, this Viraat Swarup, and join us in creating a world full of peace and harmony.

Genesis of a Vision

How it came about

Wow! What an amazing journey we have been through over the past 50 years.

During this time, the immense dedication and commitment shown by Swayamsevaks and Sevikas has resulted in Sangh growing from 1 Shakha to over 120 Shakhas, Balagokulams, Sampark Kendras and Mashik Milan across the UK.

This journey has also been marked by a number of wonderful events including the Virat Hindu Sammelan, Hindu Sangam, Hindu Marathon and the British PMs visits to a shakha.

For the last 3 years, karyakartas had been thinking about how to mark the 50th year of Sangh in the UK. In the 2014 Pratinidhi Sabha (AGM) the decision was made to hold the Sanskriti Mahashibir. Over the next 18 months, a team of over 450 karyakartas set themselves the task to prepare this event.



The vision was to create an experience whereby participants lived the core values of Sanskaar, Sewa and Sangathan, throughout the Shibir. Hundreds of hours were spent on preparing the timetable, finalising the content and working out the logistics required for the Shibir.

The core Karyakram team included the Mukhya Shikshak [Chief Instructor] with three Saha-Mukhya Shikshaks [Assistant Chief Instructor], the Bauddhik Pramukh with three Saha-Bauddhik Pramukhs. They were ably supported with a wider team of 26 Vahini Pramukhs and 150 Shikshaks/Shikshikas working in smaller teams spanning across both the Bauddhik and Shareerik vishays.

The 13 Vahini teams were tasked to design a program specific for a diverse age group - ranging from the eldest participants in the Proudth Gana to the youngest in the Shishu Gana. They worked diligently to



plan all the content for the Mahashibir, exploring new and innovative ideas over numerous conference calls and face to face meetings.

In addition to the Karyakram, a lot of time and effort was dedicated to the Vyavastha for the Shibir. The core Vyavastha team of 5 and 15 sub-teams, covering everything from the Food, Cleaning, Security and Transport to A/V and Campus Experience. Additional teams supported the Nidhi, Sampark and Prachaar efforts.

In total, there were over 150 Shikshaks and 250 prabandhaks looking after the Karaykram and Vyavastha for a sankhya of around 2000 participants.



The National Karyakarta Varg, held at Lutterworth college on the weekend of 23rd-24th January, gathered 175 swayemsevaks and sevikas from across the UK. Activities were centered around the planning of Sanskriti Mahashibir, where teams had time and space to ideate, iterate and create innovative ways of making it a memorable experience.

The theme of “Sanskaar, Sewa and Sangathan” became the mantra of that weekend, and the enthusiastic nature of all karyakartas was drawn to these values.

The weekend included insightful and entertaining experiences from

karyakartas whom have been involved with Sangh work since childhood. Their candid and authentic words were relatable and inspiring.

Sangh ethos reverberates with embracing diversity at every step. To some, this may sound like a difficult situation – “how do we handle all the diversity of opinions and still work together?” The answer lies in the fact that Sangh is based on foundational principles that allow and encourage a plethora of perspectives.

“Aneketa mein ekata” – Unity in Diversity is a core foundational principle that every

karyakarta has been brought up on. It opens a new possibility for working with different people. It celebrates authentic listening, and allows people to be open. It is only when people are open, that new things can be achieved.

NKV was a prime example of how diverse perspectives from individual backgrounds can be collectively combined to co-create a multi-dimensional canvas – that canvas being Sanskriti Mahashibir. This feature of co-creation and whole-system thinking set the mark for the next few intense months of preparation.







Abhyas Vargs
around the country





4 types of Abayas Vargs took place across the UK, namely Dand, Niyudh, Yogasana and Ghosh.

Maha Shibir was a great opportunity for the progression of Ghosh in the UK. A total of 52 participated in the Samarop. 3 national Ghosh Vargs took place and various local vargs in the midlands and south.

Traditional Indian instruments and the violin were also included in the Ghosh as an experiment, which definitely worked well. After Mahasbhir, the aim for the future is to hold abhyas vargs (training sessions) and setup centres to maintain and develop Ghosh in UK.





All Shakhas and Balagokulams were given the task of producing an A2 poster, which illustrated the idea of Sanskaar, Sewa, Sangathan and what this meant to them, as well as re-writing a moral story.



Bheema & Hanuman A Hindu legend

A moral story by Swindon Balagokulam.

Many centuries ago, lived five brothers (who were known as the Pandavas) and a hundred brothers (known as Kauravas). A fierce rivalry existed between these two groups. One day, the Kauravas hatched a plot and challenged the Pandavas to a game of dice. The Kauravas marked the dice and cheated. Unfortunately, the Pandavas lost. Delighted, the Kauravas banished the five brothers into the jungle for 12 long years. This story is of one of them in the jungle- Bheema.

Bheema and Draupadi were ambly strolling in the jungle. As they were walking, a beautiful flower fell before Draupadi's elegant feet. Its fragrance lured her towards it.

"Oh Bheem, this is the most beautiful flower I have ever seen! I want to give it to Yudishtra, but how I wish I had one for my own." sighed Draupadi. "Don't worry my Draupadi, I will find another flower for you,"

replied Bheem, "I'll go to the end of the world if I have to." After saying this, he guided Draupadi home and set out for searching the celestial flower.

Bheem strolled and strolled, but couldn't find the celestial flower Draupadi wished for. He felt tired and decided to sit in the shade away from the scorching sun.

Several minutes later, Bheem fell asleep. A noise as loud as a trumpet woke Bheem up. A raging elephant with red eyes stood before him. The elephant attacked him and Bheem fell on the



ground with a thump. This made Bheem very angry. He grabbed the elephant by its trunk tightly and threw him on the ground; he then swung it and threw it on the ground again. This made the earth shake and all the animals quaked with fear. Scared, the elephant ran away. He knew that Bheem wasn't to be messed with. This made Bheem feel proud. "I am the strongest man on Earth!" he shouted so all the world could hear him. "Nobody dare cross my path. Nobody can match my strength. HA HA HA HA HA!!!"

On his way, Bheem heard some loud snores. "What kind of a creature can make snores this loud? I must go and see for myself." When Bheem reached the animal, he was surprised to see a feeble, old monkey. Bheem laughed at this sight. "You are a weak, old monkey, yet you make a big commotion with your snores."

"HAHAHAHA!" he said, "HEY YOU, MOVE OUT OF MY WAY! I NEED TO FIND THE CELESTIAL

FLOWER FOR MY WIFE, DRAUPADI!"

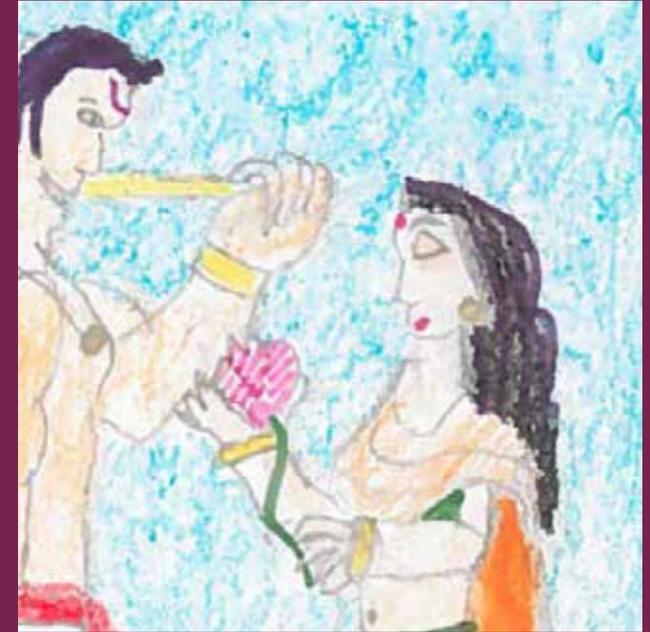
slowly, the monkey opened his weary little eyes. "Who are you and what do you want from me?" he asked in an old and frail voice. "I'm Vayu-putra (Vayu's son) Bheem, the strongest man on Earth and I want you to move from my path." Bheem boasted. "I was sleeping and you woke me up."

"That is not good!" the monkey explained. "I DO NOT care! Move your tail out of my way." "I feel old and tired, can you move my tail?" the poor monkey said. For all the noise you make, you can't even move your tail??? HAHAHAHAHA!!!" Bheem crouched and tried to put the tail aside but he couldn't, let alone budging it an inch. He used both of his hands this time, but still couldn't! 'What is happening to my strength?' he thought, 'I defeated an elephant with my bare hands and now I can't even move the tail of the monkey!' He said a little prayer, folded his hands together and tried again, but the tail wouldn't budge! He realised that the monkey is no ordinary being. "Oh Great One, you are no ordinary being, I'm sorry for my actions and pride."

Please, please show me your real form?" As soon as Bheem said this, the monkey transformed into a human. A human being with a monkey's face, tail and a crown. Bheem recognised this face immediately; it was his half brother, Hanuman. "Oh brother, I'm so sorry for my deeds."

I don't know what I can do to make you forgive me!" Bheem cried as he touched Hanuman's feet. "Don't worry Bheem," Hanuman said. He got Bheem off the floor." I just wanted to protect you. This path you were going to enter is only reserved for the gods. Any human that goes in is cursed. I just wanted to save you from such a curse and at

the same time, teach you the value of SANSKAR,



never be egoistic and always be humble, polite and helpful!"

"Oh brother, before you go, can you please show me the form you went to Sri Lanka to get Sita. As soon as Bheem said this, Hanuman grew bigger and bigger and bigger until he was taller than the mountain behind him. Bheem folded his hands again at Hanuman and asked for his blessings. Hanuman grew back to his normal size and embraced Bheem. After this Bheem felt an amazing power spreading through his veins. Hanuman guided Bheem (where and how to go safely) towards the place he could find the celestial flower he was looking for and then disappeared."

Bheem said to himself, "I must remember to be humble and always give respect to everyone!" The moral of this story is:

Always give respect to others and be humble!



Registration

The challenge of registering around 2000 attendees was never going to be a walk in the park – more like a trek up a mountain! The first challenge for the team was to pick which path to take in order to peak Mount Sanskriti. The highly familiar manual route? Or the new, untrodden path supported by shiny technology?

The registration team selected a user friendly and familiar online registration tool to sign up all attendees. Weeks prior to Mahashibir, the team stayed up for several weekends at a time at the Leicester Karyalaya, allocating each and every attendee to a tent manually, fine tuning the end to end processes, helping

the older technophobic generation register over the phone, ensuring regular communication with attendees

Combining technical expertise, efficient management and the warm, welcoming spirit of Sangh, 150 people were trained to check-in around 4100 delegates during the course of the entire shibir. As a team, important lessons were learnt like keeping a human connection whilst maintaining efficiency. Mount Sanskriti was finally scaled using innovative tools and backpacks full of optimism. The view from the peak was worth it!

Total sankhya for Mahashibir

1910



76 Gana (Groups)



over 400 named venues



1077

Swayamsevaks



833

Sevikas

35,000
plates used

52.5kg
cornflakes eaten!



57 Bauddhik shikshaks
facilitated over 39 sessions,
with 65 speakers



70 UK Nagars (towns)
10 EU countries
5 non EU Countries



81 boxes of fruit
719 loaves of bread



Registered and welcomed
1700 participants in 4 hours.



Sanskriti Karyakarta varg

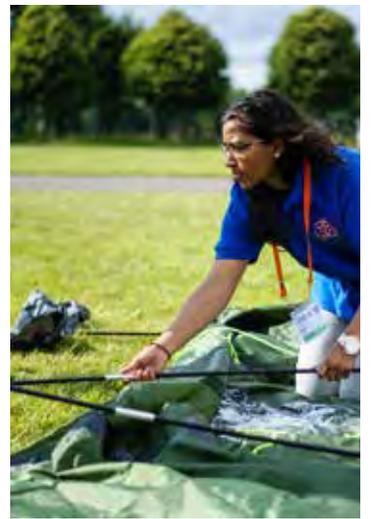
With a strong sence of achievements from the previous 50 years, planning for the Sanskriti Karyakarta Varg started with defining the aspirations and objectives for the future of Sangh. Sanskriti karyakarta varg was an excellent opportunity for a whole spectrum of karyakartas from a range of abilites and ages. to meet, learn and work together to meet a like minded goal.

The various sub-teams came together to work tirelessly and create an intense, immersive and over-all educational timetable for the shikshaks and shikshikas. This included bauddhiks, charcha sessions, khel and shareerik activities during the mornings, and site setup in the afternoon. Evenings were filled with fun Ratri Karyakram sessions.













Registration for Mahashibir





Opening Ceremony - Udghaatan

The opening ceremony was inaugurated by one of our most senior swayemsevaks, Shri Bupendra ji Dave (who was present at the first ever UK shakha in Finchley) and Param Poojaniya Sar-Sanghchalak ji - Man. Mohanji Bhagwat.

We saw the launch of the special edition of Sangh Sandesh, which captured a snippet of 50 years of Sangh Work in the UK.

Man. Dattatreya Hosabale, gave the opening speech where he spoke, "Doctorji, has shown us the marg (path)

many years ago and we are doing darshan to that path every time we attend shakha". A beautiful solo geet was sung with the chorus of, "Saadhana ke karya mean mat naam le vishram aka", meaning we should continue to work tirelessly towards the accomplishment our goals.





Dattatreya Hosabale (RSS, Saha Sar Karyawaha)

“50 years of Sangh”

I congratulate you all on this 50th year anniversary of HSS UK. Throughout this journey, the work of HSS(UK) has become an inspiration for other countries.

In a world full of conflict and confusion, humanity is searching for way to enable all people to come together and for all ideologies to co-exist in a spectrum of diversity.

‘Hindutva’, I believe, is a way. However, it is a bitter truth that, no matter how great a philosophy may be, the world will not understand or notice it unless a strong, socially conscious samaj practices these principles in their daily lives, thereby adding a driving force behind them

Sangh work means to cultivate countless karyakartas that are practicing these universal Hindu values and become living examples for the world to see and aspire towards.



Bhagyashree Sathay (Chanda tai)
(Vishwa Vibhag Sampark Pramukh & Akhil Bharateey
Taruni pramukh of Rashtra Sevika Samiti)

“SMS is a big boost for all karyakartas”

Motherhood is not a physical concept but psychological concept. We have to take care of Hindu Samaj / society with expanded

motherhood. In whichever field we are working - shakha, BG, Sewa etc - we are all doing the same work; all for the welfare of society. Strong bonds and intimate relationships are developed due to work - these can still be amplified further. The Vanaprastha stage is an optimum stage in life to give more time to Samaj work.



Jay Shetty (Motivational Speaker)

“In Pursuit of Purpose”

We need to move away from what we want to DO in situations to what we want to BE in situations. When we know why we want to do something we can inspire change. We are sometimes always fixated by the results and lose sight of the journey. It is ok to go slow and take everything in from the journey, as long as you don't stop.



Shri Manoj Ladwa
(Founder and Chief Executive of India Inc)

“Dharmic Capitalism”

Traditional Capitalism spurs the battle between wealth and labour, and supports the notion of the survival of the fittest. Money by its very nature will make the world unequal. However as Chanakaya stated, a King must also consult a child. The future of capitalism needs to be one that is pragmatic and create space for intellectual dialogue. We need to be more assertive to put the community first.



Swami Dayatmananda (Ramakrishna Mission UK)

“Is Spirituality Beyond Religion?”

The name for God in Hindu Dharma is ‘Satchitananda’ – Immortal truth, knowledge and eternal infinite bliss. Our actions in life are largely based on achieving happiness. If we practice the rituals properly, we will attain spirituality. Religion is a preparation for spirituality, it provides form to something that may not be so tangible, and provides a route that gives every soul the potential to be divine.



Man. Mohan Raoji Bhagwat, (RSS, SarSanghchalak)

"Hindutva Paribhasha"

The quest for happiness is driven by seeking pleasures externally and the western world has now realised that such happiness is temporary. The Hindu approach has been to realise the Internal Happiness and to search for one unity in the diversity. Thus the Hindus view the world as manifestation of the Reality. In relation to other points of view, there is no competition & therefore we must co-operate to help others survive.

The realisation is through perseverance in ones 'vyaktigat jivan' (personal life) and also 'samajic jivan' (social life). Hindutva facilitates multiple identities of the individual at the same time, and no one identity is compromised in any way.



Philip Carr-Gomm (Chosen Chief of The Order of Bards, Ovates and Druids)

"Is Spirituality Beyond Religion?"

Religion is like a staircase that provides one means to reach spirituality. It provides values, gives clothing, teaches traditions and acts as a shield around the soul. But many get confused and start worshipping the staircase. Religion is important and can provide clarity when in a world of distraction it can be difficult to be spiritual. However, spirituality doesn't need religion, but religion needs spirituality!



Ram Vaidya, (Vishwa Vibhaag Sah Samyojak)

"My Role in Sangh"

Shakha is not separate to community. Sanghatan Shreni creates karyakarta, and Samaj Shreni creates impact in society. Our contribution in this country should be to impart Dharma as far as possible.



Keerti Mathur
(The Art of Living)

Yoga is not just about stretching. It's power and depth goes far beyond the mechanical benefits it gives the body. The combination of Asana and breathing has a significant influence on the nervous system which has an impact on the regulation and control of all the bodies faculties. It also benefits the mind and influences emotions to bring about clarity. Yoga is by far the most comprehensive form of exercise.



Saumitra Gokhale
(Vishwa Vibhaag Samyojak)

"What after Higgs Boson?"

Modern Physics views the universe on the basis of three core principles: 1. Consciousness is the basis of the universe, 2. All matter originates and exists only by virtue of the force of a conscious and intelligent Mind. 3. The info of the entire universe is contained in each of it's part. This converges entirely with Vedic principles that have been shared across a Millennia. The future premise of the Universe will come through a model of Harmony in which Humanity serves Community and visa versa.

Sarva mangala maangalyaam, Deveem sarvaartha saadhikaam

The most sacred of all that is auspicious,
This means to achieve all that one aspires









At the heart of an enjoyable experience were the physical activities. Over 1800 participants partook in daily Yoga and afternoon Khel sessions, with some 219 sevikas and swayamsevak demonstrating Dand, Niyuddh, Yogasana and Ghosh at the concluding ceremony.

Physical activity forms a core pillar of Sangh work, and participants caught an energetic taste of what is being performed at shakhas across the country.



57 Bauddhik shikshaks and shikshikas took the task of facilitating over 39 sessions during the weekend, with 65 speakers attending from all over UK, Europe, USA and Bharat. The content ranged from a variety of topics including spirituality, science, personal development, yoga, sociology, economics, Sangh history and future dimensions of our work. Especially striking was the incredibly innovative ways that these topics were delivered.





Divakar Shikotra - Yuva vahini pramukh

Yuva Vahini consisted of approximately 800 people, setting us a formidable challenge. After months of planning amongst our team of thirteen, we delivered a wide range of sessions, which had a very contemporary theme - Chemistry of Relationships, Achieving a Work-Life Balance, Extending Family, Relationships with teenagers, Personality development, Sanskaar of Sharing, Time Management and Dealings with Spirituality. It also included a stimulating large group panel discussion on the future direction of Sangh and Samiti in the UK and around the world.





Puja Chandegra - Tarun/Taruni Vahini

Our sessions provided a healthy platform for fruitful debate and discourse. We endeavored to foster critical thinking and our topics included:- The Bucket List, Question Time, Man. Mohanraoji's discourse, alongside various other discussions. I'll never forget my experience and the people I came in contact with (especially those 5am Bauddhik briefs!)





Reena Rabadia – Baalika Shikshika

It was great fun planning and executing for the Baal and Baalika group. It took us back to our own childhoods! The children were curious, engaging and joyful. With a dedicated and creative team, all the sessions ran smoothly with key objectives reached. During the shibhir we could see the children grow in maturity and begin to understand and implement the core values of the Shibhir.





Exhibition 50 years of Sangh

The Sanskriti Mahashibir Exhibition team was challenged to showcase 50 years of HSS UK through a creative and immersive environment. The research and archiving HSS's content was a mammoth task, compounded by the fact that information was scattered across the country in people's homes and heads. This required endless meetings and interviews, travelling across the country to collect documents, pictures and videos. The task was so big it required a full time Vistarak to start the archiving work a year prior to the shibir – and the process continues!

Digging through the treasure of archives was truly inspirational. Reading through countless stories and events gave an insight into the dedication and devotion of our Karyakartas. The exhibition displayed over 51 posters, 100 videos, 25 audio discourses, 6 cutouts and the digital HSS UK timeline, which is only a fraction of what HSS (UK) now has in its archive library.



THE BEGINNINGS OF OUR JOURNEY

THE FIRST...

... SANGH SHAKHA

- HSS UK formally began on 14th August 1966.
- A baithak was held at the house of Kulwantji Chagar in Greenford, London.
- It was held in the presence of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.



... SAMITI SHAKHA

- Began in 1975 in Leicester, Birmingham and Croydon.

... BALAGOKULAM SHAKHA

- Began in Borehamwood in 2005.

... SANGH SANDESH

- Published September 1977 from the house of Shri Dhiraj Shah, Birmingham.
- It had a combination of typewritten and handwritten/hand-drawn content.
- It replaced a monthly newsletter published from 1973 to 1977.



स्वयमेव मृगेन्द्रता
Swayameva mrgendratā
We achieve by our own efforts

... NATIONAL SHIBIR

- Held 9th - 11th November 1973 at Chigwell, near Ilford.
- Total Sankhya was over 450.
- The Sarvadhikari was Shri Rashikbhai Shah.

... SANGH SHIKSHA VARG

- Held 23rd - 30th August 1975 at Bradford University.
- Full time attendance was 34.
- The Varg Sarvadhikari was Dr Shah from Bradford.

... NATIONAL KHEL PRATIYOGITA

- Held Sunday 27th March 1988 in Croydon.
- Total sankhya was over 250.
- Winners: Football - Rugby, Kabaddi - Woolwich, Kho Kho - North Mandal

... EUROPEAN SHIBIR

- Vivekananda Shibir was organised at Frankfurt on 9th-12th April 1993.
- Sankhya of 85 from 10 countries.



Hindu Sahitya Kendra

This was the official store for purchasing all kinds of products – from Hindu literature, ayurvedic items, T-shirts, to greeting cards, rangoli patterns and many more.

There was also an online pre-order system for purchasing camping equipment to help attendees plan ahead and reduce the luggage space. With 1484 orders in our lively, retro and eco-friendly tent, we were a popular 'hang-out'. There was freedom to walk, sip tea, muse over books and listen to music. All products were up to a high ethical standard and HSK made great connections with service-based organisations to encourage ethical trading.





The Vyavastha team of 250 prabandhaks with all its 15 sub-teams were charged with the overall responsibility for the smooth running

of the Shibir. The sheer scale of Mahashibir meant planning and the formation of teams started early. Prabhandhaks have learned a great deal from this including:- a thorough understanding of large scale event planning, a deeper insight into the methodology of building workers and bringing people together, and stronger relationships amongst ourselves and ways of working.

Communication between teams was no doubt challenging, however, the selfless dedication of every worker, day or night, inside and outside the campus, was truly inspirational.





Bhojanalaya and Vitaran

Over 20,000 delicious and nutritious meals were served during shibir, made by a hardworking, diverse team and aided by over 100 servers across the campus. Despite the continuous work required in the kitchen, all workers were seen laughing and singing. All servable utensils - plates, spoons, cups - were environmentally friendly and bio-degradable, with minimum use of plastic.



We were entrusted with a role to create an environment that inculcated the core values of the Shibhir. From naming over 400 venues and decorating 8 staged backdrops to assembling 200 hay bales as furniture, our team of 20 creative workers fulfilled our aims. Campus experience - Rajen Shah



The setting up and maintaining of the monumental Sanskriti campus was an extraordinary achievement. The site was designed using CAD software, and constructed with the help of hundreds of karyakartas. The magnificent scene consisted of marquees, tipi tents, generators, WC/showering facilities, offices and a kitchen. An aerial view provides a glimpse on the enormity of this exercise, and with it a high standard of quality and safety.
Site – Kamlesh Mistry



A team of 40 doctors and first aiders were available 24-7 to provide prompt and professional medical service for all shibir ailments. By God's grace, there were no major medical incidents.



Supplies Team had the opportunity to work alongside every other team, in ensuring the necessary items for every activity were available. A dynamic inventory during the shibir was challenging, but we learnt and developed a useful system of maintaining accountability for all items. Cross-team communication was crucial in our success. Our welcome packs included a beautifully woven bag, made by tribal village women in Maharashtra.



An excellent diverse group of prabandhaks worked tirelessly from pillar to post in delivering all the needs of the shibir. Managing the entire workforce was challenging, and placement of workers required on-the-spot decision-making, a skill we have personally developed.





Each aspect of Mahashibir was well thought from a Sanskar point of view. For the Sanskriti Mahashibir bags we have chosen a small sewa project "UDYAMITA" in Maharashtra (Bharat).

UDYAMITA is a social enterprise that enables women from slums to secure a sustainable income through micro-level employment. It promotes the traditional arts with home based employment. Currently there are 35 beneficiaries.

It's bliss and satisfaction to see how "big smiles of mahashibir" travelled abroad and reached to families in need.



Three information centres, formed as hubs for guidance, instructions and general administration for the shibhir.
Karyalaya – Sharad Mistry



From directing, parking and managing road rage(!), the team executed an efficient process of parking over 3,000 cars during the whole shibhir.
Parking – Ishwalal Chaggan and Rakesh Patel



With a strong team of 13 talented individuals, we captured over 15,000 photos and 30 hours of video footage, making use of drone technology and video editing software. Now you can experience Mahashibir as many times as you want, digitally!
Photography - Tushar Shah



The security team provided an important role – to protect the entire campus. There were challenges, however the team’s sacrifice ensured a 24-7 secure campus, making everyone feel at ease.





Monday's evening program was split into a few locations. Balagokulam had a talent show; the Tarun and Taruni vahini were put through their paces with an interactive Mahashibir challenge and the Proudh gana sung their way through a musical quiz.

On Tuesday evening, everyone joined in for a night of Raas Garba in the Dharma tent with a musical group from Birmingham.

Participants took part in an innovative digital board game called Sangathan Sutra on Wednesday.

Thursday was a Bhajan evening by the Art of Living group followed by a play entitled 'whatappening to my family', a funny take on how social media has pervaded in to our family life. Shri. Saumitra ji concludes the evening with an uplifting Sangh Geet.

Friday evening saw a medley of various performing artists. The evening comprised of a choir by Bharatiya Vrund Gaan, a scintillating Kathak group dance from Manchester, violin and flute performances from Bradford, Bharatnatyam from London and concluded with a rousing performance by a Marathi Dhol group.

Saturday karyakram was started by an invocation by Sevikas from Paris followed by 3 amazing plays from Leicester, Swindon and Liverpool's Balagokulam. There was also an energetic Kathak performance and Taekwando demonstration to the rhythm of mantras by Sevikas from Nottingham. A lively Bhangra performance from the West Bromwich group got everyone on their feet!



Sampark - Guests at Mahashibir



Our pledge to bring more social consciousness through “Samskar, Sewa and Sangathan” through this mammoth gathering of Hindus, attracted the attention of many well-wishers of Sangh and Samiti. From MPs, councillors, and organisational leaders to TV channels and social media trends (#SMS) – all managed to catch a glimpse of and add value to Sanskriti Mahashibir.

With a dedicated national and regional team, the Sampark team engaged with countless organisations and individuals. Over 250 distinguished guests attended at some point during the shibir. MATV and ABP news covered the shibir in their documentaries.





The concluding ceremony attracted many Sangh sympathisers, MPs, community and business leaders, and of course our Swayamsevaks' and Sevikas' families from across the UK. We were honoured to have in our presence Sammani Pratibha Pragya of Jain Samaj, Swamini Atmaprakashananda of Arsha Vidya Gurukulam, Swami Dayatmananda of Vedanta Centre and Swami Nirliptananda of London Sevashram Sangh.

Vishays practised at a local and regional level, were brought together at the Maha Samarop. Where shibirathis performed the Vyayamyog sequence in an impressive display of unison to over 1500 guests. 80 participants demonstrated Yoga, 25 performed Dand (Stick fighting), followed by 60 swayamsevaks and sevikas from the Midlands performing Niyudh (Martial Arts) This also included a Ghosh gana, showcasing a remarkable spectacle of talent.

Our chief guest, Man.Mohanji Bhagwat, Sar-Sanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, had some key messages for families and for the Hindu Samaj at large - "A family should sit together regularly and talk about our identity as Hindus, and how we should conduct ourselves and contribute to the wider society. Everyone in the Hindu community must work towards strengthening the Hindu society so it can make its contribution to the world."

Mahashibir team

Karyawaha Dhiraj M Shah
 Coordinator Mayur Shah
 Coordinator Paresh Mistry

SMS Advisers

Dhiraj ji D Shah
 Vidulaben Ambekar
 Ramji Vaidiya
 Chandra kantji Sharma



Karyakram Pramukh - Harsh Haria

Shareerik

Mukhya Shikshak Jiten Davdra
 Sah Mukhya Shikshak Parin Shah
 Sah Mukhya Shikshak Kirti Vekria
 Sah Mukhya Shikshak Reena Parekh

Vahini Pramukh

Praudh Govind Bhanderi
 Yuva Kalpen Mistry
 Tarun Vikesh Vadukar
 Kishor Bharat Rabadia
 Bal Nilesh Agnihotri

Praudha Shilpa Chheda
 Yuvati Hetal Acharya
 Taruni Deepti Mistry
 Kishori Harsha Solanki
 Balika Payal Chheda

Shishu Vahini

Coordination Depan Patel
 Vahini Pramukh Kalpesh Parekh
 Umesh Champaneri
 Nisha Shah
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 Meeta Champaneri

Bauddhik

Bauddhik Pramukh Vishal Shah
 Sah Bauddhik Pramukh Baiju Shah
 Sah Bauddhik Pramukh Kalyani Peshave
 Sah Bauddhik Pramukh Yogesh Bhide

Vahini Pramukh

Praudh Anil Shah
 Yuva Divakar Shikotra
 Tarun Khilan Shah
 Kishor Arun Tailor
 Bal Ashish Channawar

Praudha Saroj Mistry
 Yuvati Swati Apte
 Taruni Puja Chandegra
 Kishori Pruthvi Shah
 Balika Reena Rabadia

Ratri Karyakram Pramukh Ravindra Surange
 Sankhya team Pramukh Amrat Chandegra
 Sampark Prachar Pramukh Nilesh Solanki
 Nidhi Pramukh Akshay Pota
 SKV Pramukh Ajeet Tailor
 Europe zone Pramukh Prakash Nandha
 Sangh Sandesh Pramukh Yogish Joshi
 Samarop Pramukh Hariom Bhatt
 Kalpana Varsani

Vyavस्था Pramukh
 Vyavस्था Pramukh
 Vyavस्था Pramukh
 Vyavस्था Pramukh
 Vyavस्था Pramukh
 Prabandhak Pramukh
 Prabandhak Sah Pramukh

Site Pramukh
 Adhikari Avas Pramukh
 Bhojanalaya Pramukh
 Vitaran Pramukh
 Swachata (cleaning) Pramukh
 Campus Experience Pramukh
 Exhibition Pramukh
 Hindu Sahitya Kendra Pramukh
 Audio Visual Pramukh
 Photo video Pramukh
 Karyalaya Pramukh
 Supplies Pramukh
 Parking Pramukh
 Public Transport Pramukh
 Goods Transport Pramukh
 Rakshak Pramukh
 Medical Pramukh

Nikesh Patel
 Sachin Nandha
 Abbasali Abdeali Kapasi
 Falguni Bhatt
 Kanti Hirji Chhabhadiya
 Ravi Solanki
 Binal Rabadia

Kamlesh Mistry
 Kedar Vasudev Shukla
 Velji Rabadia
 Pravin Patel
 Girish Mistry
 Rajen Shah
 Jitesh Sevani
 Zima Bhatt
 Navin Mistry
 Tushar Shah
 Sharad Mistry
 Anisha Rathod
 Ishwarlal Chhagan
 Hitesh Lad
 Ramji Vekria
 Pritesh Mistry
 Kishan Shikotra

Not forgetting the additional 400 karyakartas

Pack up and departure



After 50 years of contribution, the question arises, “What Next?”

Mission and Methodology

Our time-tested methodology of shakha has helped to cultivate character in our swayamsevaks and sevikas, and we aspire to further create a positive atmosphere in society where universal values can flourish. These universal values, or ‘Vishwa Dharma’, will ensure a peaceful future, and create the feeling of ‘Vasudhaiva Kumubhakam’ – the whole world being of one family.

On this 50th anniversary occasion, when the question arises in one’s mind as to what to do next, the first answer is to continue our existing efforts with more

energy, enthusiasm and faith. Whenever we see challenges or a need of the society, swayamsevaks and sevikas should proactively start initiatives that seek to resolve these.

Wherever there was a need, we were there. In the past, karyakartas have addressed these challenges in incredible ways. Examples of these initiatives have included:

- VHP in the religious field, NHSF for students, HSK in the literature arena, service through Sewa UK, Balagokulam for those young families who have migrated from Bharat etc. Recent contributions

have included Samskrit Bharati, Hindu Lawyer’s Association and National Hindu Welfare Support – all making significant presence in their respective fields.

What now?

Over the last year, much discussion has centred around the present need of Sangh, Hindu Samaj and the wider British society. Through this, many thoughts and ideas have arisen. The key ones are highlighted here:

During last whole year and Mahashibir, a lot of discussion happened about what the present need of the Sangh, Hindu



Samaj and broader British society, many thoughts aroused. - Shakha Karya :In Shakha Karya, we need more focused efforts for Bauddhik, Sewa and Abhyas Vargas. This will help improve our individual capacities to best serve the public interest.

For Samaj Karya, we hope to setup new initiatives in specific areas:

- **Happy Families:** Broken families are a big challenge in our country. Through workshops, consultations and other innovative ideas we can make a positive contribution in rebuilding a strong family system.

- **Yoga:** Thousands of Yoga institutions are already serving the society in their own ways but it seems that the true meaning of Yoga is missing. It is time to go into mainstream society to manifest authentic Yoga, especially for the younger generation.

- **Temples:** Many Hindu temples find it difficult to engage with the younger generation and spaces are under-utilised. Let us drive to help these temples and transform them from places of ritual to places of Sanskaar (value-giving) that are relatable to the young generation.

- **Education:** Swami Vivekananda says, “Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man.” The aim of education therefore, is just not to fill the young minds with lots of information. There is a need to introduce a more holistic approach. This may include early-education centres like Nurseries.

In this great future of Sangh, we must all individually find our role within it. Sri Krishna, in the concluding chapter of the Gita extols to Arjuna, “I have now explained all that there is to know; it is now up to you”

