



हिंदू स्वयंसेवक संघ यूके

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh UK

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Sangh Mail

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Sanghmail is sent to Karyakartas and well-wishers to keep them informed and is not for public distribution. Send your news and views related to your shakhas/Swayamsevaks/Sevikas/local community for wider sharing and inspiring.

Other Attachments to this Sanghmail

1. Samvad 16October2017

These attachments are views/news from Independent sources or from individuals, and do not necessarily represent view or stated policy of HSS UK.

Condolences

Shri Hirjibhai Naran Chhabhadiya, father of Shri Kantibhai Chhabhadiya (South London Vibhag Karyawaha) passed away.

You may convey your condolences to Shri Kantibhai at kantihc@gmail.com or mob: 07817 544302

On behalf of Sangh Pariwar, we pray for the eternal peace and sadgati of the departed soul.

Om Shanti, Shanti Shantih!

News from Around the UK

Shri Adi Shankara Parivar Shibir For Sangh Swayamsevaks from Kerala



On 7th October 2017, HSS(UK) organised an one day family Shibir at Hampstead Hall Community Centre, Birmingham with an aim to mobilise Swayamsevaks

29th October 2017
9 Kartik Yugabda 5119

from Kerala who are settled in United Kingdom. The Shibir was inaugurated by Dhirajbhai Shah, UK Sanghachalak and Smt. Vidulaji Ambekar, UK Karyawahika, Hindu Sevika Samiti.

More than 80 attendees from various parts of UK attended. Events varying from Khel to bauddhik for different age groups were scheduled for the event. Interactive sessions to discuss about Hindu culture and its importance in UK received good participation. An interactive quiz and a presentation on 50 years of HSS activities in UK was very informative. Information on HSS shakhas and contact details were passed to attendees to encourage them to join the shakhas in their area. Swayamsevaks from Birmingham nagar ran the kitchen for the event.

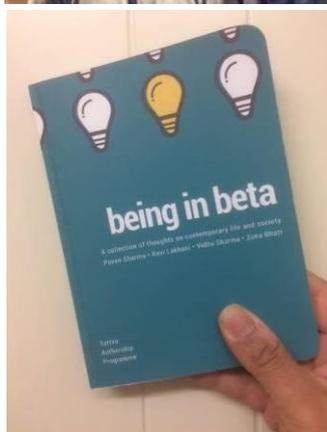


The Shibir has brought back the nostalgia of shakhas days in Kerala. This has inspired the attendees to bring back those days in UK through HSS activities. It was also appreciated by many that it is our responsibility to practice the values Sangh has embedded upon us and transfer the great heritage to our next generation who are born and brought up in UK.

Tattva – Authorship Programme

On 7th October, four months long structured approach of workshops and mentoring to four aspiring writers came to a samarop event in London. Paven Sharma, Ravi Lakhani, Vidhu Sharma and Zima Bhatt undertook this well designed medium backed by four abled reputed mentors and a Tattva team

lead by Dr. Rajiv Chandegra (Sangh Sandesh Editor), Shri Sumit Joshi, Shri Raghav Chandegra and supported by Shri Ajeet Tailor (Kendriya bauddhik pramukh).



The complete effort culminated in a publication and launch of a book 'being in beta', will be on sale soon. The samarop was attended by special invitation of writers, who appreciated the value of this effort.

2018 will see 2 rounds of similar programme.

More details of this year's

programme are at www.tattva.org.uk

Anyone interested in this should contact Shri Rajiv on r.chandegra@gmail.com

Sewa day in Sale, Manchester

BG members of this recently established branch in Manchester went planting tulip Bulbs with the Friends of Moor Nook Park Sale in Manchester.



Rugby Nagar Sewa Day at Rugby Hospital

People of all ages and abilities put on their overalls and got busy with paintbrushes to give the corridors of the blood department a much-needed makeover.

Volunteers were aged between seven and 65.

Shri Rajendra Mistry, East Midlands Vibhag karyawaha, explained to press: "Every year Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (UK) organise Sewa Day where the local communities can volunteer their time on a day set aside primarily to make difference to people around us. Numerous projects are undertaken locally, nationally and internationally. This year, the Rugby branch set their focus after a plea from the Friends of St Cross. "Thirty volunteers gave up two days of their time during the last weekend of September."

She said volunteers enjoyed their time making a difference.



Read more at:

<http://www.rugbyadvertiser.co.uk/news/hindus-help-brighten-rugby-hospital-1-8187642>

Hindus vow to help protect Community Rugby Nagar Makes local News!

<https://rugbyobserver.co.uk/news/rugby-firefighters-presented-with-ancient-hindu-symbol-of-protection/>

Local Hindu group, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh and Balgokulam, visited the Rugby Fire Station on Corporation Street to tie a Rakhee to the firemen on Friday. The Rakhee, a simple but colourful thread, is an ancient symbol of protection that is traditionally tied to the brother by the sister is today represents the community binding together and helping each other in times of need. Over the years, this group has been involved in many projects which include painting part of St Cross Hospital and raising money for a Vein Scanner. They meet weekly and the program consists of both physical and mental exercise mixed with cultural values and open for all to attend.

The children were treated to a tour of the fire station and learned about the risky work that the firemen have to do and then they all had a rakhee tied to their wrist, finally culminating in the distribution of chocolates! By doing this, the group acknowledge and respect the immense sacrifices the fire services make for our community and vowing to help if ever they are called upon. - *Ajeet Tailor (HSS Rugby)*

Cardiff BG at Gandhi Statue Unveiling



October 2nd 2017 was a memorable day in Wales witnessing the unveiling of the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Cardiff. Balagokulam children sang the Indian National Anthem and the Welsh National Anthem at the event. Cardiff Balagokulam thanks Hindu Council Wales for this wonderful opportunity for the children and to Shri

Dhaneshji for helping the children with the Welsh National Anthem.



Sewa Shop, Edgware Expanding!

Sewa Shop in Edgware marks the opening of the shop on Tuesday from 24/10/2017.

Sewa Shop is entirely run by volunteers and is now open four days a week-Mondays, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday. New volunteers always welcome.



Contact: 0208 952 0318 or 0748 124 8329 or email shah.kishor.n@gmail.com

Coventry Nagar Raises £3,100 for Charity

On the 24th September ninety Swayamsevaks and Sevikas participated for Coventry's Annual Sewa walk where those who were sponsored walked or ran a 10km challenge to help raise money for Sewa UK on a project called the Arunodaya Special School in Gadag. The event began at War Memorial Park with a breezy wind challenging the participants. The volunteers kept participants hydrated and refreshed with bananas and water bottles throughout the challenge! As much as it was a charity day, it was also an opportunity to make new friends and reignite old relationships which was evident once the walk was over.



Keep Wales Tidy, Cardiff BG helps out.

For #Sewaday2017, Cardiff Balagokulam liaised with Keep Wales Tidy to clean the coast and spent the afternoon on 15th October at Ogmores-by-Sea with a large refuse sack, each collecting litter, plastic, cans and bottles. A total of 12 bin bags were collected by the SEWA team at the end. Sowing the seeds of SEWA in children was a gratifying experience to parents. Children demonstrated the motto "Be the change". #everydayissewaday #sewaday2017



Vivekananda Shakha Birmingham Sewa Day

On Sunday October 16th, Swayamsevaks woke up really early, picked up their gardening gloves and equipment, to spend a few hours at Highfield Community Centre. Their task was to clean out the large pond in the new wildlife zone of the centre. Their efforts will breathe new life in the pond, attract wildlife activity and give pleasure to all the users of the centre.



Forthcoming Programmes

Varshik Pratinidhi Sabha 2017 Sunday 3rd December at Milton Keynes.

All office bearers (Shakha and BG karyawahas and above karyakartas are requested to attend). Please inform your vibhag karyawahas of the names attending.

VVIP Visit to UK Shakha – November 2017

Vibhags Samilit Shakha Gathering

In preparation for a visit of an important person, we will be holding Samalit Shakhas at 3 places in the UK. Dates and venues will be announced in your shakhas and Balagokulam in due course. Special pratiyogitas (competition) will be held.

All London Vibhags, West England & Wales

Sanchalan/Samata Pratiyogita

Saturday 25th November

South/East/West Midlands

Kabbadi Pratiyogita

Sunday morning 26th November, Rugby

North East/North West/Scotland & Nire

Geet Pratiyogita

Sunday afternoon 26th November, Ashton-U-Lyne

All Midlands Prauddh Milan

Tuesday Evening 28th November, Birmingham

Amrut Vachan

Ram Setu became a reality because everyone in the *Vanara sena* collaborated in building a

bridge. As a nation, we too have to collaborate and work together for the welfare of our society. - *Rashtrapati Ram Nath Kovind in one the Ramleelas in Delhi on Dushara*

Europe News

Even 14 German universities teaching India's ancient language fail to meet growing global demand, courses begin in Italy & Switzerland

SANSKRIT FEVER GRIPS GERMANY

EXCLUSIVE

By Aditya Ghosh in Heidelberg

WILL Germans be the eventual custodians of Sanskrit, its rich heritage and culture?

If the demand for Sanskrit and Indology courses in Germany is any indication, that's what the future looks like. Unable to cope with the flood of applications from around the world, the South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, had to start a summer

Reading original texts in Sanskrit is essential as these are some of the earliest thoughts and discoveries.

—PROF. AXEL MICHAELS

Head of Classical Indology, University of Heidelberg



school in spoken Sanskrit in Switzerland, Italy and — believe it or not — India too. "When we started it 15 years ago, we were almost ready to shut it after a couple of years. Instead, we had to

increase strength and take the course to other European countries," said Professor Dr. Axel Michaels, head of classical Indology at the university. In Germany, 14 of the top universities

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MAIL TODAY Wed, 15 April 2015
http://www.mailtoday.in/c/3804680

America News

HOW BHARATIYA-AMERICANS SHOULDERED HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF EFFORTS

Excerpts from reporting by Ramesh N Rao

Hurricane Harvey, the costliest natural disaster in US history, slammed the Greater Houston area on 25 August 2017 inundating homes, roads, and buildings, and affected one in four Houstonians, as rain poured in a deluge for almost a week. Thirty-three trillion gallons of water got dumped on the region! The damage was so severe that more than 200,000 homes were destroyed (50,000 in Houston alone), a million cars wrecked, and metro stations, schools, highways and other public facilities flooded.

Caught in the hurricane were 150,000 people of Bharatiya origin, with one in six marooned, evacuated or needing rescue. Among them were 247 students from Bharat studying at the University of Houston. Many of these students, motivated by the rescue efforts by Bharatiya-American teams, joined as volunteers, making their first American experience a truly life-affirming experience.

Sewa International coordinated efforts to bring together over 800 volunteers for the critical rescue

effort, which has now transitioned into a relief effort. Sewa is active in 20 countries, and has been involved in disaster relief and development work in countries around the world including Colombia, Guyana, Sri Lanka, India, Kenya, and Pakistan. Twenty-five national and local Bharatiya-American organisations have partnered with Sewa as it was the only Indian-American organisation first off the starting block and working on the ground at this scale. Sewa volunteers sprung into action even though some of their own homes had been flooded and they and their families had to move into friends' homes and hotels.

Sewa International raised \$250,000 in the first 10 days. In many areas of the city, volunteers reached distressed people much earlier than a big organisation like the Red Cross did. Volunteers worked shoulder-to-shoulder with the US Coast Guard and other agencies in rescue and relief. With a 24/7 telephone hotline, and a band of dedicated volunteers monitoring social media, Sewa International pitched in with more than its expected weight.

Volunteers served hot meals; provided food, water, supplies and medical support; arranged temporary housing; and began helping in cleaning up homes of the underserved and economically-challenged minorities - Hispanics, African Americans, Cambodian Americans, senior citizens, and single mothers. Sewa International received support from 17 local Bharatiya organisations which collaborated with, supported and guided the important work of rescue and relief.

Speaking to Kavita Tewary, project coordinator, Houston Chapter, who herself had to be evacuated with her family, and who spent a week in a friend's home, it became clear about how much emotional and physical energy have gone into these rescue and relief efforts. Many of Sewa Houston's volunteers were evacuated from their own homes but continued

to work even though their families were in hotels, or staying with relatives or friends. Motivated by the work of Sewa, garba events in this season of Navratri around the US have turned into self-inspired fundraisers. Each of these teams is going around Houston to help homeowners clean up.

Sewa International has started counselling services and opened medical clinics to help families cope with the disaster. To ensure that the families are not forgotten in this time of stress and worry, the volunteers organised activities to keep children engaged as the parents struggled to put their homes and lives back in order.

In times of crises, people can do amazing work. Shailaja Dixit, living in California, shared her experience on Facebook: "I am sharing this because I am grateful this happened. And I am grateful to the people who made this happen.

Ramesh Rao, professor, Department of Communication, Columbus State University, is a member of the Sewa media team.