

Sewa Installs 32 Oxygen Plants in India's Tribal and Rural Areas



A picture of an Oxygen (O2) Generation Plant installed in a rural hospital by Sewa International in India

Sewa International, as part of its Oxygen Plant (O2) Initiative, installed 32 oxygen plants in India. Sewa launched this project to help India fight the COVID-19 pandemic after the COVID second wave hit the country in early 2021.

The installation of oxygen generation plants across the country is a major step in Sewa International's efforts to focus on building resilience in the health care system in rural and tribal India.

Out of 32 plants installed, Sewa USA funded 18 plants, Sewa Canada funded eight, Sewa Australia four, and Sewa UK funded two plants. Lauding Sewa's initiative, one of the beneficiaries from a hospital in Tamil Nadu said, "Sewa International is providing Prana Vayu (breath of life) to Covid patients".

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Executive's Corner

Dear Sewa Friends,

Sewa International has achieved many milestones in the last couple of years. To truly succeed, a non-profit needs to be financially stable, have a passionate volunteer base, and committed and strong leadership, among other things. Building a high-performing, successful nonprofit organization is never easy. Sustaining one is even harder.

How to utilize the power of young people has always been a top focus for Sewa. Youth not only represent the future, they are one of society's main agents of change and progress. Sewa has developed many programs to engage youth by providing them opportunities to give their time and talent to improve their communities and the world.

Here in the USA, more than 800 high schoolers have joined Sewa USA's LEAD program representing 20 chapters. Many chapters are engaging college students through "Get Inspired" internship programs as well as ASPIRE, an after-school mentoring and education program.

Sewa's upcoming five-year strategic planning meeting is mostly facilitated by young, second-generation volunteers. The core decision making national team of Sewa USA now has a couple of second generation leaders.

In India, Sewa International Bharat launched a new 100-week Sewa fellowship program to equip young, bright minds with knowledge, skills, and a mindset to serve. In my recent visit to India this year, I got an opportunity to interact with many medical students from the Sevankur Project.

I have been watching this program develop over the past many years. Hundreds of students have joined Sevankur's "One week for nation" program. During that one week, students stay in villages, eat local food, interact with the villagers, arrange medical check-up camps, and conduct health awareness camps.

Young people are vital and integral to an organization's growth & sustenance. Apart from the abundance of energy, they provide fresh perspectives, challenge the status quo, and bring a disruptive, creative, innovative mind that is willing to experiment. Swami Vivekananda's adage about the youth is very relevant here "Never say no, never say I cannot, for you are infinite. All the power is within you. You can do anything".

Sincerely,



Sandeep Khadkekar, Vice President
(Marketing & Fund Development)



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MISSION O₂ PLANT

Sewa International's initiative to build
LONG-TERM OXYGEN SOLUTION FOR INDIA
MY VILLAGE, MY SUPPORT

Releasing the Sewa O₂ plant report, Sewa International's President, Arun Kankani, thanked the donors, and Sewa's partners and volunteers for making these plants a reality.

"Majority of these plants have been installed in India's rural and tribal areas, especially in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. They play a significant role in improving the rural health infrastructure of India," he said.

Explaining the significance of the report, Sewa's Director for Disaster Relief, Achalesh Amar said that "Sewa's mission is to serve humanity in distress, run developmental projects for the underserved, and help people transform their lives.

The O₂ plants Sewa installed in India are a great example of what Sewa stands for". He requested Sewa volunteers to share the O₂ plant report with Sewa's donors and partners and thank them for their generosity.



Oxygen generation plants have been installed across India to build resilience in the health care system of rural and tribal India

Pakistan's Flood Victims Receive Help from Sewa's Partner Organizations



Sewa International partner organizations on the ground are distributing groceries and essential supplies kits to people in flood-affected regions of Pakistan.

Each kit contains 10kg of rice, wheat flour, sugar, cooking oil, pulses, tea, potato, salt, medicine, and hygiene supplies. Initially, Sewa is targeting to distribute these kits to 5000 families to help them get through for a month.



"Festival of Globe Hero Award Conferred on Arun Kankani"



Sewa's President Arun Kankani (standing, third from the right) is seen with Volunteers from the Federation of Indo-Americans of Northern California and Sewa

The Federation of Indo-Americans of Northern California honored Arun Kankani, President, Sewa International, on Sunday, August 21, with the "Festival of Globe Hero Award" recognizing Sewa International's work during the Covid-19 pandemic in the US, India, and worldwide.

Arun Kankani, receiving the prestigious award in Fremont, California, said "Many community members through Sewa International's platform served the community risking their own well-being during the pandemic. We were able to serve all without discrimination as we believe the world is one family".

The "Festival of Globe Hero" award is a prestigious community award recognizing an individual's or institution's major and recognizable contribution to society. Sewa's president received the prize in a grand event celebrating 75 years of India's independence. Arun Kankani led Sewa volunteers wearing their popular and well-recognized yellow Sewa T-shirts in the parade.

Speaking at the event, Arun Kankani thanked the Indian American community for serving local US communities during the pandemic in 2020-2021 and supporting India and nine other nations when Covid infections were at their peak. "We were able to serve all without discrimination as we believe the world is one family.

Sewa International is now a well-known name in disaster relief. Many people in the Indian American community became Sewa volunteers in times of challenge, and the community rallied with the message of Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah (Let all be happy) during the pandemic just as they did during Hurricane Harvey in Houston, wildfires in California, and other disasters that have struck around the world over the past twenty-five years," Arun Kankani said.

Tribal and Rural Women Trained



Over 100 tribal women from Kaiyari, Rata Tadav, and Naredo villages have benefited from a training program in making products like agarbatti and dhupbatti (incense sticks), etc. Sewa International's SHE-CAF team has also initiated a program to train 150 tribal and rural women in embroidery, stitching, making pearl ornaments, and Bandhej wear in villages across Khavda and Lakhpat region in Kutch District, in the Indian state of Gujarat.

Doctors for Sewa invites Medical Students to Apply for the mentorship program

Sewa International's "Doctors for Sewa" group has invited applications for its mentorship program from foreign medical students. This program helps qualified professionals to join the US Healthcare workforce through one-to-one discussions and workshops.

The program named EVOLVE (Explore Virtue of Obeisance towards Life by Volunteering and Educating) is a free program that is open to foreign medical graduates or current medical students preparing for United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) or US Residency Program. Interested candidates can submit their applications on the Sewa website -- <https://sewausea.org/event-4924855> before September 30, 2022.

Sewa's "Doctors For Sewa" Associate Director Pranjali Dani has also requested licensed medical professionals and academicians in the US to guide and mentor these young professionals. They can fill out a mentor registration form using this link <https://tinyurl.com/dfsmentoringprogram>.

SHE Project to Construct 98 Toilets in India As Schools Reopen After COVID



The 'SHE' Project -- Sanitation, Hygiene, and Empowerment -- focuses on building toilets in government and non-profit schools in India.

Sewa International has started constructing nearly 98 toilets in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh under the Sanitation, Hygiene and Empowerment Project for the Girl Child (SHE) program as schools in India reopened in June after a long and intermittent gap due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Supported by funds from the Sewa International Central New Jersey Chapter and a few individual donors from the North Jersey LEAD internship program, Sewa has started toilet construction or repair work in public schools across the Indian towns of Kanpur, Ayodhya, Gadag, and Sangli. In all these schools, Sewa is planning to organize menstrual health and awareness workshops as well as offer "Yoga for Mental Wellness" sessions this school year. Over 518 children have already benefited from the menstrual hygiene workshops.

Thanking donors for their continued support, Rajini Hodigere, Program Manager, SHE Program said Sewa has been working on integrating SHE & Covid Affected Families (CAF) programs. A few women trained under the CAF program will volunteer in the menstrual awareness program and also conduct workshops in schools on art and craft, and yoga. These women are also trained to provide regular project updates and reports on the Sewa project website at <https://she.sewausea.org/pages/donor-reports>.



Sewa International

DOCTORS FOR SEWA



- Are you a current medical student?
- Are you aspiring to join USA Medical Practitioner workforce?
- Are you looking for some mentorship for furthering this journey to US?

DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Register Now



<https://sewausea.org/event-4924855>

If your answer is YES,
Join EVOLVE

For any questions dfs@sewausea.org

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Transgender Community Members Get Training in Micro Entrepreneurship



SHE-CAF celebrated the 75th Anniversary of Independence on August 15 with the transgender community at Karisandra in South Bengaluru

Sewa International launched a microenterprise training program to help transgender people set up small businesses. Sewa launched this program on August 15, in an event organized to celebrate India's 75th Independence Day with the transgender community in Bengaluru, India.

Sewa is training 20 transgender individuals to set up garlic peeling facilities. It prepares them to use peeling machines, run the enterprise, and link them with grocery outlets and urban markets to supply peeled garlic cloves.

Serving the Elderly

Sewa's SHE-CAF volunteers also celebrated India's 75th Independence Day with senior citizens at Amruthavani Vridh Seva Trust (Amruthavani Elderly Service Trust) in J P Nagar, Bengaluru. Sewa volunteers provided foot massages to 40 senior citizens and prepared them for the event.

Quotes & Quips

Even the least work done for others awakens the power within; even thinking the least good of others graually instills into the heart the strength of a lion.

--Swami Vivekananda

Volunteers from Sewa's Sanitation, Hygiene, and Empowerment for the Girl Child (SHE) and Covid Affected Families (CAF) projects organized the event. Senior Nodal Officer of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), R.P. Rathore, who participated in the celebration, promised to process voter ID applications from the transgender community expeditiously.

These much-needed identity cards help the community members establish a business and conduct other financial transactions.



SHE-CAF celebrated the 75th Anniversary of Independence on August 15 with Senior Citizens in South Bengaluru

First Batch of Yoga Students Graduate from Vivekananda Yoga University



Graduating Students from VaYU debut MS (Yoga) with Dr. H.R. Nagendra (third in the front row from right), Prof. N Sreenath, President (fourth in second row from right).

The first batch of 23 students specializing in Yoga Philosophy, Yoga Therapy, and Yoga Research graduated from the Vivekananda Yoga University (VaYU) in an event held on June 12, in Los Angeles, CA.

"Vivekananda Yoga University is the first institution outside India that focuses on yoga education and research. It has taken 25 years to realize the dream of graduating students from a Yoga University based in the US," Dr. H.R. Nagendra, Chairman, VaYU, said while speaking at the gathering. He remembered two Los Angeles residents, Babulal Gandhi (Founding Trustee and Secretary, VaYU) and Bhikhubhai Patel Tarsadia, (Founding Trustee) for making VaYU a reality.

"We envisioned a university with a blend of 'Best of the East and the Best of the West' with an evidence-based scientific approach at its foundation," Dr. Nagendra said. He is also the Chancellor of SVYASA, the first Yoga University in India, founded in 2002 in Bengaluru in the Indian state of Karnataka.

Prof. Sree N. Sreenath, President of VaYU and former president of Sewa International, said, "People will remember this debut batch of 23 Yoga graduates as pioneers in Yoga graduate education that breached geographical, ethnic, and age barriers. VaYU's success in inspiring our graduates is that half of the graduates have expressed interest in continuing with VaYU for our Ph.D. Program starting Fall 2022."

VaYU's online graduate programs provide an evidence-based, modern, scientific approach to the traditional and ancient Indian practice of yoga. VaYU offers a two-semester-long diploma, a four-semester-long graduate program of MS (Yoga), and a doctoral program of 3-5 years. VaYU is headquartered in Los Angeles, California.

Vivekananda Yoga University (VaYU) joins a list of organizations that have their roots in Hindu civilization. A few other significant institutions based on Hindu ethos in America include the Hindu University of America (HUA), Aum Ashram, and Vivekananda House, which provide residential facilities to students from dharmic communities attending US universities.

Aum Ashram is a unique institute in the heart of the city of San Antonio which promotes knowledge of the invaluable spiritual treasure of Vedic culture and ancient Indian science of Yoga. It has added unique opportunities for pre-K school children.

These unique institutions grow to educate Indians and American aspirants about Indian culture, philosophy, and holistic approach to life and spread the message of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world as one family) and Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah (may all live well).

Fish Farmers Get Training in Animal Husbandry in Tripura



Sewa International distributed 300 piglets to 100 beneficiaries in Khowai and North Tripura districts in Tripura in Northeast India. Sewa is conducting an “Integrated Fish Farming Project” with support from the State Bank of India (SBI) Foundation in Tripura. Sewa also distributed 100 bags of pig feed to 100 beneficiaries, which can boost their incomes significantly. Integrated Fish Farming which combines fisheries and animal husbandry to help farmers increase their income is becoming increasingly popular in the state.

Sewa Collaborates with India's ONGC Foundation to Train Bhotia Tribal Women

Sewa International, in collaboration with the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Foundation, initiated the “Training for Livelihood and Entrepreneurship Development Project” for the Bhotiya Tribe in the state of Uttarakhand. The program provides skill training with modern tools to produce woollen items, especially carpets. A 30-day “Wool Craft Design and Development” training for 25 women from the Bhotiya community was completed recently. During that period, trainees learned to make new design carpets with innovative graphic designs and motifs. The next training will commence soon with a new batch of participants.



IIT-Delhi Volunteers Join Hands With Sewa to Fight Against Plastic Menace



Sewa organized this drive as part of its Participatory Rejuvenation, Afforestation & Waste Management along Himalayan-Springs (PRAWAH) Project. Sewa is trying to address the excess consumption of plastics and mismanagement that cause serious environmental problems by choking rivers, killing fish and other marine life, and making villages and cities dirty.



Sewa International organized a cleanliness drive in Guptkashi in the Indian state of Uttarakhand. Volunteers collected 40 large bags of plastic waste from schools, markets, and other public areas. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi volunteers joined in the cleanliness drive.

Over 650 Students Participate in the Second Sewa National Youth Convention

Over 650 high school and college students across the U.S. participated in Sewa International's National Youth Convention on Saturday, July 30, 2022. The convention's attendees included members of Sewa's LEAD (Leadership Development through Community Engagement), Youth Cohort, and Get Inspired (GI) internship programs.

In a four-hour virtual conference, students gave an overview of their work in LEAD and GI Programs. Four virtual halls and nine break-out sessions allowed students to choose the sessions and topics. The convention started with the singing of the American National Anthem. Sam Patel, CEO of Global Hotel Group, inaugurated the conference by lighting a lamp. In his talk, he spoke about how "Sewa Manobhav" (attitude of service) inspired individuals to serve people without expecting anything in return.

Participants played a game that helped create awareness of the "Save Soil Movement" that Sewa has taken up in partnership with the Isha Foundation. Later, the convention unanimously passed a resolution encouraging policymakers to prioritize soil conservation in government agricultural and related policies.

Ami Sharma, a youth leader, and House Speaker Designate, India's National Youth Parliament, delivered the keynote address. Anjali Patel from Houston conducted a session on "How to Raise a Harmonious Family."

Nilesh Solanki from Sewa International, UK, presented Sewa Europe's efforts in response to the war in Ukraine. Sai Patel, a community leader from Philadelphia, talked about the qualities of a good volunteer and praised participants for their accomplishments.

"Congratulations to all Sewa volunteers for planning and conducting the second national youth convention," Jyothsna Prasad, Associate Director - LEAD Program, said, speaking at the conference. She added that months of planning by volunteers from 20 Sewa chapters, who worked as one team, went into organizing the convention.

Volunteer Spotlight



Anita Rawat - Houston Chapter

Anita Rawat started her association with Sewa International in 2014 assisting her daughter set up the New Horizons Literacy program for Bhutanese Refugees. Since the Fall of 2015, she has played an active role as a Sewa volunteer leading fundraising activities including the Annual Fundraisers as well as the Sewa Dancing Stars for Sewa's Houston Chapter.

Anita also leads the Volunteer Management task for the Houston chapter, besides which she also frequently volunteers in Sewa's pop-up vaccine clinics and food drives.

Anita lives in Houston with her husband Sanjay, an avid golfer, and her daughter, Aishwarya, who recently completed a year of service with Sewa Houston and AmeriCorps on the topic of "Educational Opportunities in the US about Indian Holistic Approach to Life".

Sewa International

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