

Samp, Suhradbhav, Ekta : Sahebdada ni Prasannata ! Sahebdada ni Prasannata: Samp, Suhradbhav, Ekta !

~ Rutvik Rana, USA

Seva means selfless service, i.e., you do something for someone without any expectations.

International Youth Retreat (IYR) 2023–2024 took place in India with attendees from India, USA, UK, Australia, Canada, Kenya and other countries. 200+ attendees of varied ages participated alongside Sants, including Sant Bhagwant Sahebdada and Sadguru Sant P.P. Ashvindada. Organizing an event of this magnitude takes meticulous planning, outstanding organization, exceptional execution, and sevabhavi sevaks. The essence of this article is an effort to provide a window into some of the amazing sevas completed by the unsung heroes of IYR.

It all began with the initial idea or *aagna* given by Sahebdada to three youth leaders: P. Maharshi, P. Mihir and P. Trushil from USA after LAMPM. They took upon the *aagna* and spearheaded the effort, collaborating with both youth leaders and sants in India. Planning the retreat entailed numerous *sevas*: the creation of a robust yet adaptable schedule, meals to be served, accommodations, transportation, activities, souvenirs, logo design, and even more *sevas* that were unplanned. Meanwhile, Sadhu P. Pankajdasji started creating a schedule for IYR, and, at the same time, P. Divyangbhai and P. Anupambhai–started planning logistical details for IYR under the guidance of Sadhu P. Pareshdasji. This team would later grow and add other members: P. Parasbhai, P. Dhananjaybhai, Sadhu P. Anildasji, Sadhu P. Yagneshdasji and other members of Gurusabha youth.

Once the schedule was finalized and hotels were nominated, the logistics planning team thought: *The schedule has been made, but is it really feasible?* At the same time, Sahebdada suggested, “Please make sure the hotels you have selected are appropriate for the youth's accommodation, go and check them personally.” The logistics team made the entire journey to make sure it was feasible, and they personally checked all hotels for the *Saurashtra yatra*. Similarly, when it came to deciding on the hotel in Delhi, Sadhu P. Arpitdasji, P. Brijbhai, P.

Anupambhai and P. Divyangbhai went all the way to Delhi to select the hotel in person. The logistics team also needed to assign yattris into rooms, P. Vivek, P. Moulik, P. Yashvi and P. Bansari ensured it was done appropriately and then reviewed by Sadhu P. Arpitdasji. According to the guidance of Pujya Sahebdada P. Anupambhai and Sadhu P. Peterdasji reached out to BAPS and informed their management team about our yatra. The management team instructed every *mandir* which we were to visit and asked respective administrative person to receive our group and arrange a special tour of each *mandir*. In addition to the logistics team, how can you forget about the video and photography team? This team captured the entire *yatra* so everyone can reminisce the memories for years to come. P. Jayesh, P. Smit, P. Chinmay, P. Aarsh, P. Kabir, P. Ved, P. Janvi, and P. Priyenka worked tirelessly. Finally, the first Aid team that kept everyone safe throughout entire yatra included Sadhu P. Pankajdasji, P. Maharshi, P. Bhumika and P. Bansari.

Starting from the arrival of all the *yattris*, which included pickups from the airport, Sadhu P. Anildasji, Sadhu P. Shreyasdasji, P. Anupambhai, P. Gaurangbhai, P. Divyangbhai and P. Rohanbhai arranged for everyone's safe transport. Upon arriving, everyone was provided with a snack bag to enjoy during their stay at Brahmajyoti. Along with a snack bag, a wonderful souvenir notebook, pen, t-shirt, and ID badge were also prepared under the guidance of P. Dhananjaybhai and Gurusabha youth. Similarly, for the second part of the yatra, a souvenir bag consisting of scriptures, a coffee tumbler, and another pen was presented. In addition to these arrival sevas, P. Bhakti and P. Satvi prepared a detailed packing list for the yatra

During IYR's interstate travel, the *yattris* were divided into multiple flights due to capacity and booking. The first flight was going to depart as early as 5 am, so it wasn't possible for them to be able to have a snack that early. Under the guidance of P. Divyangbhai, Amdavad Mandal gathered and prepared food packets in a nice bag to give to

all the yattris. They passed food packets starting 2:00 am until the last *yattris* departed at 6:00 am. On the return journey, a similar issue arose; in addition to staggered flight arrival times, it was also *Ekadashi*. Amdavad Mandal rose to the occasion by not only providing food packets, but they were also *Ekadashi*-approved. At Lucknow airport, all the yattris were served fresh subway sandwiches under the guidance of P. Anupambhai, P. Gaurangbhai, P. Rohanbhai even with flight delays. Once everyone started on their journey to *Ayodhya*, about halfway at a rest area, Gurusabha youth hand packed food packets and delivered them under the guidance of Sadhu P. Pareshdasji and P. Dhananjaybhai. One might wonder how they managed to make these food packets – well, that's because Gurusabha youth travelled by train for 2 days (38 hours) with barely any room to sit! They were sleeping in between pillars of boxes filled with ice cream, *shrikhand* and other food items for the comfort of all *yattris*.

In phase 1 of the yatra, local mandals also took upon the opportunity to do seva. In *Laxmiwadi Jasdan* and *Bhingrad* Mandal prepared delicious food, arranged for sabha, did everyone's puja and presented souvenirs. The schedule was very delayed, but they still did seva with a smile. Similarly, in *Rajkot*, the *Morbi* and *Rajkot* Mandal arranged for an amazing sabha and presented all yattris with a tea mug. The next day when all the *yattris* arrived at *Fareni* in the scorching heat, *Manavadar* Mandal was present there with delicious coconut water. They did the same seva in *Loej*. In addition to this, they prepared mouthwatering food items, such as pizza, noodles, soup, quesadillas, homemade ice cream and many more items so *yattris* feel at home. I don't know about others, but I definitely looked forward to dinners at *Manavadar* mandir. According to the schedule, we were planning to go to *Manavadar* mandir for morning breakfast but then it was changed, and breakfast was to be arranged at *Sorath* resort. The entire *Manavadar Mandal* arranged everything without complaining and got a hot breakfast ready for everyone. They had to transport all the food materials and cook as well. On the first night at the resort, a lot of yattris informed the sevaks that they don't have a towel, and the *mandal* arranged for the towels by 5 am. On the way to *Somnath mandir*, P. Ajitbhai Mori and P.

Jayshreeben asked Ashvindada for seva, and he requested to serve ice cream to everyone, so they took this opportunity. When everyone arrived, both uncle and aunty personally served ice cream to everyone.

Sahebdada's love attracts everyone towards him. Our *Sadhak bhaiyos* have already dedicated their lives to him, but during IYR we got to see their true dedication for him. Sadhu P. Pankajdasji is the heart of Samanvay office, and his attention to detail truly made this yatra possible. Sadhu P. Pareshdasji, Sadhu P. Yagneshdasji and Sadhu P. Shreyasdasji took on the responsibility for food while everyone was at Brahmajyoti e.g., food packets, snacks, water, etc. for the entire *Saurashtra yatra*. Their primary responsibility is gurusabha youth; yet they took on this massive seva without a question. Sadhu P. Anildasji arranged vehicular transportation for the entire yatra. Before the yatra, they went to the bus owner and asked for a tour of the buses and then ensured that those buses were sent. Sadhu P. Arpitdasji, while being engrossed in Sahebdada's seva, personally arranged everyone's accommodation and transport distribution to ensure everyone has fun while travelling. Sadguru Sant–P.P. Manojdasji arranged detailed plans for yattris while they were in Delhi, and he stayed with everyone the entire day. He planned the food menu and came to receive and drop off Sahebdada at the airport. Finally, our young sadhus P. Harmitdasji, P. Sarjudasji, and P. Hardikdasji took extreme care of everyone in *Bhaktiprasad* regardless of their age. They made sure everyone's stay was comfortable and provided everything that was needed.

These are just some of the glimpses of all the inspiring seva done by everyone. Most of the time, the planners get the limelight, but these are the true unsung heroes. Remember all the seva done for the *yattris* was not to please us or that we deserve it. The *Mandals* performing seva didn't even know any of the *yattris*; the only thing that connected us was our *sambandh* with Sahebdada. They saw Sahebdada in everyone. Sahebdada has love for them, so we should as well. Isn't this in a sense why Sahebdada arranges such events, so we can build that *sambandh* with everyone, forge respect, and foster friendship and lifelong relationships!

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