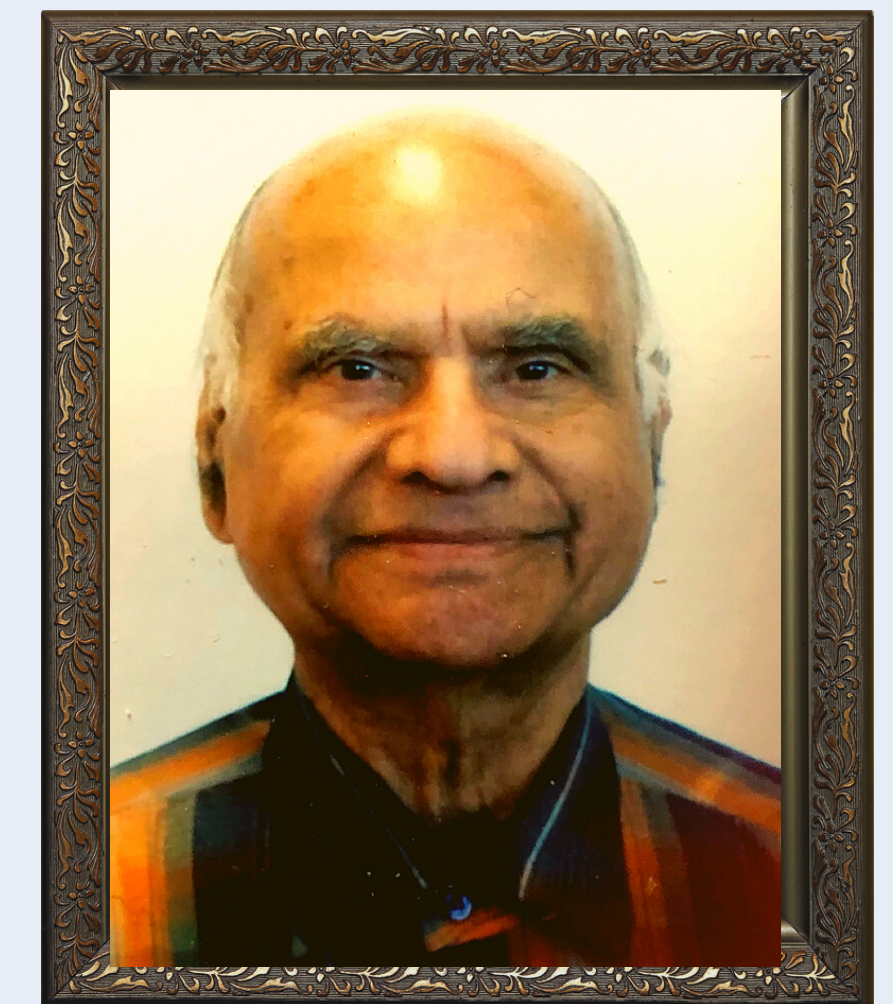


Ram Gehani Center for Nature Cure: Will Serve India's Northeast

The Ram Gehani Center for Nature Cure, a healthcare center built to provide medical facilities in Northeast India, was inaugurated on April 10, 2022. Located in Roing village in Arunachal Pradesh, it will offer much needed medical facilities, especially to those involved in charitable, social, and voluntary work. Construction of the center was supported by an endowment fund established in memory of Prof. Ram Gehani, who passed away in 2020.

Prof. Gehani donated all his wealth to Sewa International, USA, to establish the endowment fund. Dr. Gehani's wife Mohini Gehani, son Mahesh Gehani, and daughter Dr. Arti Gehani fully supported his dream of establishing a healthcare center for volunteers of nonprofit organizations in India. This medical center is now a reality.



A tribute to
Late Shri Ram Gehani

The Deputy Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Chowna Mein, inaugurated the center which is built on the premises of the Research Institute of World's Ancient Traditions, Cultures, and Heritage (RIWATCH). The Health and Family Welfare Minister of the state, Alo Libang, former Chief Minister Mukut Mithi, and the Commissioner, Planning and Investment, Prashant Lokhande participated in the event.

Sridhar Talanki, a member of the Board of Directors of Sewa International, USA, attended the event with his family and other Sewa volunteers. The Global Coordinator of Sewa International, Shyam Parande, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Namsai, Chau Zingnu Namchoom, and Padma Shri Awardee Satyanarayanan Mundayoor were present at the inauguration.



Healthcare to Social Workers

The center is named 'AROGYA' and is established under the Sewa Swasthya Sahyog Nidhi project which aims to provide healthcare to fulltime and part-time volunteers of nonprofit organizations. Assisting in emergencies such as illnesses or injuries, and helping families manage unforeseen healthcare expenses are the primary goals of this project.

The center houses facilities to treat people suffering from trauma, stress disorders, and various other ailments using traditional Ayurvedic approaches and treatment. On this occasion, health kits were distributed to those working under the government's ASHA program. Information kits for mothers and children and Dibang recipe books on the local delicacies of Adi and Idu Mishmi tribes, published by the Lower Dibang Valley District Administration, were also distributed.

Shyam Parande, Global Coordinator of Sewa International, briefly sketched the life story of Ram Gehani and thanked the family members for supporting the medical care center.

The Newark School Educator Applauds Bay Area ASPIRE Team

Dr. Wendy Castaneda Leal, Director of Whole Child, Roseland Unified School District, Santa Rosa, in a letter of appreciation to Sewa International's Bay Area ASPIRE Team commended Sewa's spirited for helping underserved communities improve their educational offerings and students in those communities achieve success and improve their career and life potential. Dr. Leal complimented Sewa for the tutoring sessions and valuable homework help offered by the volunteers, as well as for its well-managed program, and mentorship offered to students.

Dr. Leal says, "You have established a positive PBIS (positive behavioral interventions and supports) system in your classroom, resulting in a calmer indoor atmosphere and a better learning environment reflective of Schilling's values. You have always taken timely approaches towards conflict resolution and problem-solving approaches with all stakeholders. You have maintained a steady volunteer flow within the program and have never appeared to be short-staffed. Your team, easily identifiable by their yellow T-shirts, has always (put) their best foot (forward) towards this program. You have implemented Covid measures and other general safety protocols during your sessions. I am happy to see the students engage in active learning. I wish the Sewa Bay-Area ASPIRE team all the best, and (that) you grow more and help students ASPIRE for a better life!"

Arun Kankani, President of Sewa International, said, "This appreciation reflects the great efforts of the Bay Area ASPIRE team. Thanks to the leaders and all the volunteers of ASPIRE, for it is only with your support that we can run such programs successfully".

Operation Ganga: Indian Government Lauds Sewa

The Government of India acknowledged Sewa International's help in evacuating Indian students stuck in war-torn Ukraine. The government launched Operation Ganga to bring back stranded Indian nationals from Ukraine as the war started. Sewa International volunteers in Europe quickly organized to help people cross the Ukrainian border at checkpoints in Poland, Romania, and Hungary. Within six days of the commencement of the war, Sewa volunteers helped more than 3,200 people cross to safety.

Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, wrote a letter of appreciation to Ashok Goyal, Chairman, Sewa International, New Delhi, commending Sewa volunteers for their assistance in facilitating the successful repatriation of over 6,000 Indian students from Hungary as part of Operation Ganga. In his letter, the minister said Sewa's work was "heartwarming" and applauded Sewa volunteers for playing a crucial role in bringing many Indian citizens home.

The minister said the Indian official machinery was not equipped to handle such a large volume of work at the time of national need and several organizations like Sewa International displayed remarkable selflessness to help in the relief and rescue efforts. He said that the contribution of Sewa was essential in making Operation Ganga a resounding success. "With poise and dignity, Sewa volunteers personified the philosophy of Vasudaiva Kutumbakam (the World is one family). I express my gratitude and appreciation for Sewa Internationals' kind support," Minister Puri said.

The Indian Government evacuated as many as 18,000 Indian nationals between February 24 and March 10 as the conflict between Ukraine and Russia escalated into war.

Sewa Hosts Disaster Management Conference

Sewa International organized a three-day conference on Disaster Management March 28-30 at the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi. Officials from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Research India Foundation (RIF), Center of Excellence (COE), and several other experts participated in the event. Sewa hosted the event to encourage innovative and multilateral solutions to contemporary challenges to disaster management.

Addressing the gathering, Lt General Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd) said that the government and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) are equipped to deal with any adversity. He said that civil society organizations are decisive in responding to any calamities competently, and appreciated the manner in which civil society organizations come forward in times of crises, including during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shyam Parande, National Advisor of Sewa International, India, stated that people should be observant and ready, and that Sewa International's mission is to train people about managing life in times of disasters and focus on preserving life. "We must recognize that nature is one of our most important responsibilities," he said.

Former Union Minister Santosh Gangwar said, "When organizations work together they can do wonders in preventing calamities".

Ashok Goel, Chairman, Sewa International, said, that India is prepared to face any problem but the only requirement is that people must be made aware of any tragedy quickly. He mentioned that Sewa International is working relentlessly to serve in twenty-six countries around the world. "Sewa International always helps everyone irrespective of their caste, creed, color, or religion and has helped in "parivartan" (change and transition)," he said. He said that Sewa International served in all 28 states last year responding to the COVID crisis.

Narendra Bundela, Inspector General, NDRF said that government personnel are not sufficient to respond to every circumstance and should therefore take the help of NGOs and volunteers in these crises and emergencies. He gave a brief summary on how the NDRF operates and how the rescue operations and evacuation plans are carried out during epidemics. He offered an overview of how different army battalions work on the ground in the times of crises.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, RIS, highlighted the financial losses that victims face during a disaster. He said that the public should be included in the process of decision making so that they can be well trained to respond to disasters and crises.

Sewa International has engaged in disaster management in about 90 disasters in more than twenty-five countries in rescue, relief, and rehabilitation efforts. Ultimately, combined efforts of thought leaders, professionals, policymakers, grassroots volunteers, and intellectuals are needed to strengthen the idea of a new India. The conference offered an important platform to scholars, students, and professionals working and studying Disaster Management and Environmental Studies.

Sewa International Celebrates Earth Day in Partnership with Save Soil Movement

Sewa International supports the Save Soil initiative, a global movement organized and led by the Isha Foundation, to address the soil crisis by bringing from around the world to stand up for "soil health". All 43 chapters of Sewa International USA, with their youth cohorts (LEAD and Get Inspired interns) and other Sewa volunteers who have undertaken many awareness campaigns and events in this regard attended the virtual event on April 23, 2022, that featured eminent environmentalists and other speakers.

Sewa's Director of Projects and Programs, Prem Pusuloori, said that the Earth Day event motivated people, and while more people wanted to join in the event, given the limited "virtual space" about 100 to 150 volunteers could not join the meeting.

The event was managed by Get Involved Houston and LEAD interns. Addressing Sewa volunteers and attendees, the visionary yogi, Sadhguru, described his plan for upgrading the quality of the soil around the world.

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