

SERVE HAPPINESS FOUNDATION



SABARMATI PRERNA YATRA 2016 REPORT

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SERVE HAPPINESS FOUNDATION

Serve Happiness Foundation is a not for profit organization registered under section 8 of Company's Act 2013 with an international mission to implore, invite and inspire youth to work towards humanity & nation building.

Perna Yatras- Social Impact Journeys

We aim to direct today's youth towards a platform specific to their interest. Our approach is to take youth on an inspirational journey of awakening and help them foster relationships by building network along the spectrum of role models working in the ecosystem. Narmada Perna Yatra, Sabarmati Perna Yatra, Tapi Perna Yatra, Jaipur Perna Yatra are our initiatives - an inspirational region specific journeys of its kind to inspire youth by connecting them with real life heroes from varied sectors like health, education, agriculture etc.

Social Entrepreneurship Programs

We also organize entrepreneurship programs based on our grass root experiments that empowers youth across the country to kick start social entrepreneurship activities in rural India.

Rural Youth/Women Entrepreneurship Development Programs

We have also designed special programs like Startup Village to promote entrepreneurship among rural youth and women to start their own enterprise and livelihood projects to generate employment in rural India.

Crowd Funding Campaigns For Social Projects

We are running crowd campaigns to support different social causes. So far we have successfully generated funds for Kerala Flood Relief Campaign, Nepal Earth quack campaign , Help to Tribal School in Narmada, Eco friendly Paper Bag campaign and many more.

FOUNDER'S LIFE JOURNEY



Nitin Tailor (CEO & Founder)
Serve Happiness Foundation

In a tale as romantic and cinematic as it can get, Nitin Tailor was born and brought up near the banks of the Narmada river in Gujarat. From the spirituality and natural charm of the small town of Bharuch, Tailor eventually found his way into a multi-national company in Bangalore, earning a comfortable salary. With an educational stint in Sweden and entrepreneur of the year award at IIIT Bangalore, Tailor was always ambitious.

Once the charm of the big city faded, the call to return to his roots overwhelmed him. Determined to be a more positive influence in society, Tailor left his cushy job in Bangalore, and took the first train to Bharuch. Once there, he set up an NGO to address health and educational needs of the poor in Bharuch- Narmada rural areas. With the mission to serve happiness and bring positive change in the society Nitin Tailor has founded Serve Happiness Foundation in the year 2013. The only motivation that keeps Tailor pumping and jumping for the poor, underprivileged and rural is the need to inspire the youth in more nation-building activities that aren't simply directed at India's small ultra-urban strata of society. To pay tribute to his motherland Narmada, Nitin has decided to organise the Narmada Prerna Yatra to inspire youth across the nation by connecting them with real heroes who are bringing positive change at the grassroots in Narmada.

After getting success in Narmada Prerna Yatra, Nitin has replicated Prerna Yatras in different regions of Gujarat like Sabarmati Prerna Yatra in Ahmedabad region and Tapi Prerna Yatra in South Gujarat region. Working on major sectors of sustainable livelihood, rural tourism, agriculture and women empowerment, Prerna Yatras hopes to become a national movement that encourages social entrepreneurship and social impact projects that take every unique chunk of the country forward in its own way.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Pankaj Gangwani (Director)
Serve Happiness Foundation

Human life is itself a Journey (Yatra) and ultimate goal for every human is to be happy in the life. I firmly believe that the only way to get ultimate happiness in the life is by serving nature in a broader term which include entire universe and humanity. It is commonly seen across the globe that youngsters are spending most of the productive years from their life without

any purpose and my life's mission is connecting youth with the purpose of their life. Through Purna Yatras Serve Happiness Foundation is inspiring youth to bring positive change in the society and nation at large. My similar passion towards serving nature and bringing about a meaningful change in other's lives and nurture their innate natural abilities led me to join board of Serve Happiness Foundation and spread Purna Yatras to inspire the youth across the globe so that our mission can reach to the last mile.

We welcome you all to join our global happiness family to bring like minded individuals and organizations on one platform to bring positive social change in the society.

BIRTH OF SABARMATI PRERNA YATRA

Sabarmati Prerna Yatra, Journey To Evolve

After getting success and positive response of Narmada Prerna Yatra, Nitin Tailor has decided to replicate yatra model in different regions of the nation. Starting from Gujarat he has planned to explore Sabarmati region.

The river Sabarmati has been historically significant to the people of the world's largest democracy viz. India. The Father Of The Nation - Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, spent a considerable amount of time (1917-1930) along its banks at Sabarmati Ashram. It was here that he developed the Gandhian concept of the Charkha (a symbol of self-entrepreneurship), which alone, he believed could help the nation protect its bio-diversity and provide sustenance to the poorest of the poor! His movement for charkha was aimed at building a new economic and social order based on self-sufficient non-exploitative village communities of the past.

In line with the Mahatma's vision as above, Serve Happiness Foundation launched a one-of-a-kind revolutionary yatra - Sabarmati Prerna Yatra - a journey to evolve and inspire the youth by connecting them with the real heroes of Sabarmati region.

200+

Yatirs since 2014



YATRA INAUGURATION

The day is finally here!!

It couldn't have been more memorable moment for us to start Sabarmati Prerna Yatra from the same place where Mahatma Gandhiji started freedom movement of our nation. Jayeshbhai inaugurated the yatra with Sarv Dharm prayer at Safai Vidyalaya with all change makers.

We all are really enlightened with his inspirational sharing about sanitation and cleanliness. According to him we all can't do great things but we all can do small things in a great way.



SAFAI VIDYALAYA

Safai Vidyalaya is the original branch of the Harijan Sevak Sangh, an initiative established by Gandhi in 1932 to bring greater sanitation through instilling a sensitivity and removal of untouchability, as well as fostering the engineering and designing of toilets and sanitation technologies to suit diverse populations and needs across the state and nation.

Today, Safai Vidyalaya resides in a corner of the Gandhi Sabarmati Ashram. It offers health and nutrition-specific two-day trainings for Anganwadi teachers, one-day trainings for Sanitation Inspectors, and various workshops for individuals from the villages. Through these trainings, Safai Vidyalaya serves 5,000 teachers each year.

In addition, this space offers opportunities for “inner sanitation”. Outside the offices resides a “Toilet Café,” where various members of the Gandhi Ashram ecosystem host events and hold space for gatherings that allow for inner reflection, receptive listening, and genuine sharing of stories. In addition, a much-loved “Toilet Garden” sits in front of the building, offering visitors and guests a visual display of the various ways in which toilets can be designed to suit different needs.



MANAV SADHNA

Manav Sadhna is a nonprofit organization based in a quiet corner of Mahatma Gandhi's Ashram, Ahmedabad. Our mission is simply to serve the underprivileged. At Manav Sadhna, we navigate with the philosophy of love all, serve all. By seeing God in every individual (Manav), mere service is transformed into worship (Sadhna). To this end, Manav Sadhna is engaged in constructive humanitarian projects that cut across barriers of class and religion while addressing issues faced by socio-economically neglected segments of society. In executing this mission, Manav Sadhna is guided by Mahatma Gandhi's unshakable beliefs in love, peace, truth, non-violence and compassion.

In 1990, a team of young volunteers, inspired by Gandhian values, began gathering under the branches of a tree in the Gandhi Ashram every Saturday to play with street children. They provided the children with a nutritional meal and taught them about basic hygiene by cutting their nails and bathing them. This activity quickly came together into a full time endeavor working to brighten the future of underprivileged children. Under the guidance of Gujarat Harijan Sevak Sangh, Safai Vidyalaya and Environmental Sanitation Institute (ESI), Manav Sadhna was established both in India and in the United States. Today, from a quiet corner in the Gandhi Ashram, Manav Sadhna serves more than 8000 children and women through more than 35 projects. They also indirectly touch the lives of many more individuals through our healthcare and educational support projects. The projects are created based on the needs and participation of the community.



VISIT TO PARYAVARAN MITRA

We all had time learning about Paryavaran Mitra and Gift of Change project by Manav Sadhna. We all were deeply inspired meeting Ashish Agrawal who is running this project by providing platform with love and dignity for the ragpicker women from slum area of Ahmedabad. Ashish graduated from IRMA, Anand, left his World Bank job and now working for the community. We all had spent great time with them sitting in a prayer and learned about their work.



VISIT TO SEVA CAFE

Imagine a restaurant where there are no prices on the menu and where the check reads Rs.0 with only this footnote: "Your meal was a gift from someone who came before you. To keep the chain of gifts alive, we invite you to pay it forward for those dine after you."

That's Seva Cafe, a experiment in 'peer to peer' generosity.

Driven by volunteers and operated by modest staff, our meals are cooked and served with love, and offered to the guest as a genuine gift. To complete the full circle of giving and sustain this experiment, guests make contributions in the spirit of pay-it-forward to those who will come after them. In keeping this chain going, the generosity of both guests and volunteers helps to create a future that moves from transaction to trust, from self-oriented isolation to shared commitment, and from fear of scarcity to celebration of abundance.

We all had great time spending time and enjoying delicious food made by love.



VISIT TO PUNSARI VILLAGE

Eight years, Rs 14 crore and a determined sarpanch is what took Punsari to gift itself a stunning makeover. Today it boasts of beautiful roads, RO water plant, waste collection system, closed-circuit television cameras, air-conditioned schools, WiFi network and biometric attendance for office-bearers. Cut to the late 1990s, Punsari grappled with power cuts, water crisis and bad roads. The miraculous transformation can be credited to Himanshu Patel, 31, the village sarpanch. An alumnus of North Gujarat University, he won the panchayat polls in 2006. And then on Patel has been working overtime to make Punsari a model village. In the past eight years, he has utilized funds from 12th finance commission, self-help group yojana, district planning commission and others to develop Punsari as it is today. Himanshubhai proudly said " We have only utilised government funds to develop this village and didn't take any other support". Punsari clearly demonstrates that if the government can come up with developmental schemes that are futuristic, plug the leakages in the system effectively, these schemes alone can be used to transform systems. In fact, Punsari is guiding a number of villages through its own examples in becoming self-sustained."



VILLAGE VISIT AND INTERACTION WITH MR. HIMANSHU PATEL

Had amazing time visiting Punsari - A Clean Village and learned valuable lessons on rural development and true leadership from Himanshu Patel, Sarpanch Punsari. The way he has transformed his village to a village with values and technology is learning lesson to all the people of our nation who are working in rural development.



MEETING WITH AN AGRIPRENEUR RAJ SHAH

It was really an inspirational visit to Raj Shah and his team who are doing amazing work in agriculture field. Raj has developed stevia plantation and its value chain. He has created amazing stevia products which can be used as natural sweetener instead of sugar and provide lots of health benefits. The most important thing Raj has given employment to the people with disabilities as well. Raj felt really proud introducing his products under the brand name of his village "The Royal Gabat" saying i want to create value for my people and my mother land in the world. We had really great learning about stevia farming at his beautiful farm located at the bank of river Vatrak. The youth like Raj is really a role model for our nation's youth who left his cushy corporate career and despite of facing all uncertainties and difficulties now working in agriculture field and bringing positive change in the society and nation at large.



VISIT TO CRAFTROOTS

Craftroots, an initiative of Gramshree, is touching the lives of over 17000 artisans. It is a unique platform that showcases and brings into spotlight the best of craftsmanship from Gujarat. It aims to empower artisans by connecting them to our resources, tools and network of partner members. Our mission is to revive, preserve and share the craft traditions of Gujarat and develop a sustainable and scalable model for craft development.

Craftroots promote 27 wide varieties of craft forms and products ranging from Apparels, home decor, accessories, gift articles --both textile and non textile. Our craft forms include applique , embroidery, weaving , patolla, sujni mashru, khadi, bandhni, block printing, batik, painting, bead work, wood, lacquer, metal, paper and more. Craftroots creates awareness in the market about the skills, time and creativity that artisans invest into their craft.

Craftroots connect Artisans, NGOs, Self-Help Groups, Cooperatives, Businesses, Corporations, Design & Management Institutes, Individuals and Experts such as designers, educators, students, and customers so that they can interrelate in a better and productive way. Craftroots' five main objectives are Survey and Documentation, Education and awareness, Design Development, Sales and Marketing and Social Services.

Live Interactive Exhibitions, Retail Outlets, Corporate Gifting, Cross Sales and E-store are some of the best ways of closing the gap between artisans and customers.



VISIT TO GRAMSHREE

By a single thread, Gramshree weaves lives through craft. With one mission in mind, to empower women artisans in Gujarat, we serve as a platform to enable women and artisans who are victims of poverty and abuse to make fair wage and create healthy family dynamics in their homes. Currently, the organization employs nearly two thousand women residing primarily in slums of Gujarat and surrounding regions. Both rural and urban dwelling women are home-based workers which allow them the ability to balance both personal and professional lives. While upholding daily living responsibilities, these women execute intricate traditional techniques in contemporary styles. We provide the necessary skill-based training that will sustain self-employment and which allows them to work with dignity and integrity.



VISIT TO LILAPUR VILLAGE

It couldn't have been more memorable day for Sabarmati Prerna Yatra to launch Kalam mobile library project to inspire and keep alive memory of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Sir.

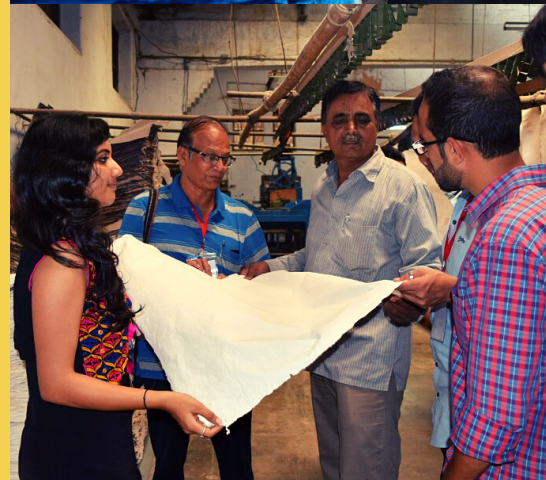
We are really thankful to Saurav Singh project coordinator to give us honor to gift mobile library box to village kids which consist of inspirational books who will act as a reader and they will teach illiterate old age people of their village.



VISIT TO KALAMKHUSH

Whatever we speak and write it should provoke emotions and happiness not anger and jealousy. But nowadays we can only find negativity in most of the print media. But what if we create papers which make pen happy to Serve Happiness in this world.

KalamKhush paper factory, a quaint unit in a lush green compound right opposite Gandhi Ashram. Kalam Khush is the first place where Gandhiji introduced paper made from khadi, and it continues to be made in the traditional method till date. Everything used in the paper making process is natural, including the dye. I took a small tour of the processing unit, watching how the rags are turned into pulp; the pulp is treated and washed several times, strained, pressed and dried to create the final product. It's Gujarat's sole khadi paper manufacturing unit and retail outlet. It was Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of self-reliance and self-sustainability that lies at the foundation of Kalamkhush.



VALEDICTORY CEREMONY AT (ENVIRONMENT SANITATION INSTITUTE)

The Environmental Sanitation Institute (ESI) is a non-governmental organization based on the Gandhian values of environmentalism that strives to provide a better quality of life to rural peoples and the urban poor of India by improving their sanitation situation. The Institute was born in 1985 out of its mother NGO, Safai Vidyalaya ("sanitation institute"), under the leadership of Padmashri Ishwarbhai Patel. The Environmental Sanitation Institute tackles the problem of sanitation with the holistic mindset that the issue affects the environment, health, education and economy of the whole country.

We all had great learning from amazing role models during Sabarmati Prerna Yatra. Yatra valedictory ceremony has been done by great words of wisdom by Jayeshbhai Patel in the peaceful and serene environment of Environment Sanitation Institute (ESI).



YATRI REFLECTIONS

Meet our change makers and their reflections from Yatra



AMIT JAIN

Yatra is a lifetime journey for everyone who wants to bring some social change in society entrepreneurial way, so i did same and took part in journey of four glorious days and believe me it fills me with immense strength and motivation to work towards my future goal.

It was great learning experience to visit rural role models and see how they overcome their daily challenges push me to work hard towards my target

JANKI GADHVI



Yatra was the journey of moments to be cherished and of inspiration, Inspiration to Live rather than to just exist. The Yatra was a unique learning experience given that the yatris belonged to variety of profession, each with bundles of knowledge. New dimensions of thinking were added by interactions with our peers and role models. Brainstorming included finding solutions and the use of them efficiently and economically. Everyone grew intellectually with exchange of ideas



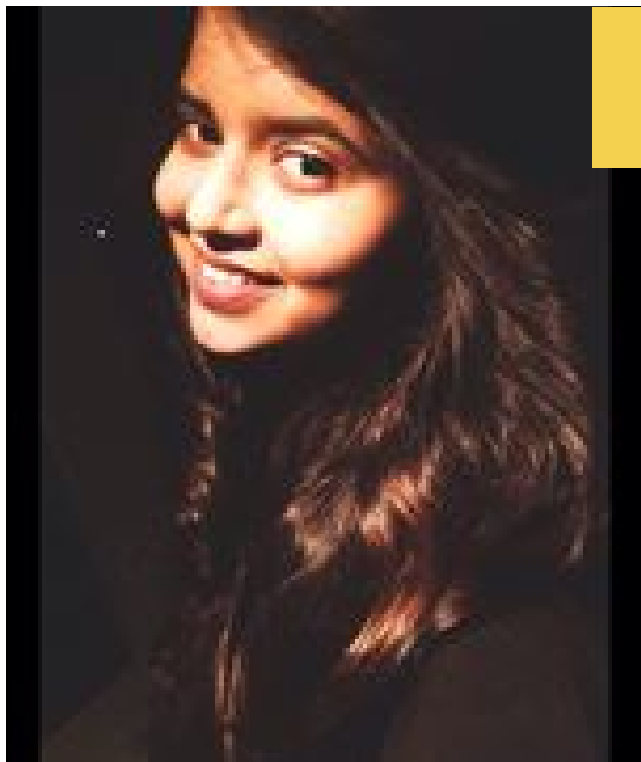
RUPAK SOM

Sabarmati Prerna Yatra is a journey to find yourself. You would get opportunity to meet amazing yatris from all walks of life. Every yatris has their own story which helps you to learn a lot during yatra. Yatra helps you to identify your actual strengths and inspire you to pursue your goals of life by seeing role models who are working for their passion and bringing happiness in society.



PRADIP SHAH

Sabarmati Prerna Yatra was a really an amazing learning experience by meeting role models and social organizations located the bank of Sabarmati River who are working selflessly towards bringing positive change in the society.



JAHNVI PATEL

Yatra is an awesome experience in my life. It was my first expedition to this type of social and educational yatra. This yatra is an interaction between rural & urban society.

Visiting social enterprises, meeting and group discussion with NGO founders, staff and workers, social entrepreneurs was major part of this yatra that has created a flow of new ideas and energy within the all yatris



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