

**SERVAS INDIA  
NEWSLETTER  
1<sup>ST</sup> Issue  
September,  
2017**



**66<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SERVAS INDIA  
16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2017  
AT JALNA, NEAR AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA**



## **SERVAS INDIA NEWSLETTER**

**1<sup>ST</sup> Issue September, 2017**

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## Message from Newsletter Editor SERVAS India



**Dear SERVAS International India members**  
**CONGRATULATIONS.** We are celebrating the 66th Anniversary of SERVAS India this year. 66 years is indeed a long innings and there are many people without whose contribution this journey would not have been possible. We all are aware that the foundation stone of SERVAS India was laid down by our beloved Bhai ji (Shri. Harivallabh Parikh) and the founder member Mr. Bob Luitweiler in 1950-51.

Since then there have been many meetings, conferences, youth camps and visits attended by Indian as well as members from abroad. In the last seven decades SERVAS India has spread its wings and made its presence felt on every occasion.

For the growth of any organization change and healthy environment is a must. The recently elected EXCO members under the guidance of Chairman Mr. Shirode and Mr. Shaha felt the need of an online Newsletter. A thought that has been enduring in mind and when it becomes real, it is truly an interesting and exciting experience. This Newsletter for me is one such cherished work that had its roots in the persuasion.

We intend to publish the Newsletter twice a year. In this inaugural issue a brief history of SERVAS India is portrayed. It is expected that wide support will be provided by the members of SERVAS by regular contributions and valuable suggestions and comments. This is a small step towards a long journey. This first issue of SERVAS Newsletter should inspire all of us for a new beginning enlightened with hope, faith in each other in the road ahead.

Let me conclude by offering my sincere thanks to all the member who have already started sharing their experiences in the form of articles and looking forward to more such interesting contributions for the forth coming issues as well. Happy Reading.

**Prof. Hamsavahini Singh**

## **PREFACE NOTE FROM NATIONAL SECRETARY SERVAS INDIA**



**I hope and wish that you all are doing well.**

**I am very happy to launch the publication of the e-newsletter at the upcoming Jalna monsoon gathering.**

**Thanks to Mr. Vijaybhai Bagadia who has invited some dignitaries for this publication.**

**I also wish to thank Prof. Hamsavahini Singh for taking on this task of creating the newsletter and wish her the best for this work.**

**Initially we will publish the newsletter quarterly for the Servas India news as well International Servas updates.**

**I am happy that the newsletter is being launched on the occasion of Servas International 69th week and in remembrance of the founder Bob Luitweiler as well as Servas India first national secretary: Mr. Harivallabh bhai Parikh.**

**In Feb 2017 along with another Executive Members, I have taken charge from Mr. Pramod kumar as national secretary of Servas India.**

**From that period, with the help and support from you all, we are trying to take Servas forward by putting in lot of efforts, communicating through emails, phones, whatsapp messages and we are receiving very good response from most of the Servas members for these efforts.**

**Today we are also launching our new web site with information about Servas India, how to join Servas and other things. We will reach out to the world through web site.**

**I also wish to thank Ms. Rupali Memane for taking the initiative on this task of Developing the website [www.servasindia.org.in](http://www.servasindia.org.in) and wish her the best for this work.**

**We are also making a well-organized credible Host List of Servas India members. It will be published in next few months. Mr. Ulhas Joshi working hard on this.**

**We are in regular contact with International Servas office bearers. Once we finalize our India Host List, it will be added online to Servas International through our Coordinator Hiren Bhai Goradia.**

**At the Karwar conference after the unanimous suggestions by members, we, the executive committee decided to make all our members responsive and responsible to Indian Servas as well as to the International Servas community. We took into consideration suggestions from the members and the exco decided to keep the continuation membership charges to be very minimal.**

**I am very happy to announce that most of the people are very positive, encouraging and have paid their continuation fees.**

**There are many international Servas events taking place all over the world. Recently, some have taken part in Indonesian meeting, few went to China, some of them recently came from Rawanda having had amazing experiences. Some of the members are visiting Israel for Servas meeting.**

**We may also be planning an international art work shop in the near future, with the initiative of our artist member Mr. Ravi Verma.**

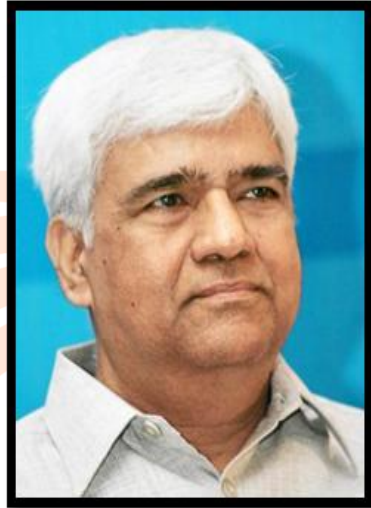
**International servas community is working for connecting people, they have many initiatives in which we can take part. And all of us are responding positively in taking this meaningful work forward in a creative way.**

**Together we can make change happen!**

**With best wishes and peace,**

**Abhay Shaha**

## **BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF PRESENT EXCO MEMBERS OF SERVAS INDIA**



**MR. AVINASH SHIRODE  
CHAIRMAN**

### **ACADEMICS:**

- ❖ Civil Engineer , College of Engineering Pune - 1970
- ❖ Post graduation - Structural Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore- 1972

### **CAREER**

- Aerospace Engineer, Vikram Sarabhai Space Center, ISRO, Trivandrum
- Architectural Engineer , Sugar, Textile & industrial projects, WORLD BANK projects, Software Engineer by developing various computer software packages for R.C.C. & structural designs, estimates, construction management etc, an Electrical & Mechanical Engineer by Research in "Low RPM Low Wind velocity aero-generator" for Domestic Windmill to generate electricity for household purpose.
- Recipient of several awards and felicitations & Patent by Govt. of India.
- An Automobile Engineer by research & experiments on running a car by wind energy.
- An Agricultural Engineer by research & experiments in developing agricultural equipments and also achieving highest yield of wheat per acre just by observations & little experiments at absolutely no extra expenses.

- A Pharmaceutical Engineer by research & experiments on the medicinal properties of Rudraksha fruit skin, leaves, flowers & scalp for diabetic patients.
- Giving spiritual lectures on “Theory of Karma – you are the author of your own Destiny”.
- A winner of several prestigious national and international awards and felicitations.
- Published several technical papers & reports in national and international journals
- A member of several technical, educational and social institutions as Office bearer.
- Is a Poet, Writer, Thinker, Traveler, Visionary, Orator, Spiritual Meditator and Donor.

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**ABHAY SHAHA  
NATIONAL SECRETARY**

- **Currently serving as NS. Member since 1992.**
- **Delegate in Rome, Italy International Conference in 2006**
- **Attended 5 international conferences**
- **Attended more than 10 national conferences.**
- **Served as state coordinator for six years.**
- **Travelled and stayed with Servas families almost in about 40 families**
- **Hosted more than 50 SERVAS Traveler families**
- **Architect, staying in rural India .**
- **Member of IOFC , Farmers Dialogue , Friends of France, Giants international organizations.**
- **Member of SERVAS International Fund Committee 2001-2004**

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**Dr. MAHESH SHARMA  
DY. NATIONAL SECRETARY**

**Academics:**

- MBA
- MSW
- LL.B.
- Ph.D. (Management Practices in NGOs)
- MA Socio.
- M. Phil.
- Diploma in Development Leadership from Coady International Institute, St. Francis .Xavier University, Canada.

**Professional Expertise (25 years):**

- ❖ Project Officer in Indian Social Institute, Lodi Road, New Delhi.
- ❖ Research Assignments for Care-India, USAID etc.
- ❖ Probation Officer/Welfare Officer in Deptt. of Social Welfare, Govt. of Delhi.
- ❖ Currently Chief Probation Officer/Dy. Commissioner (Disability) in Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

**Achievements / Exposure**

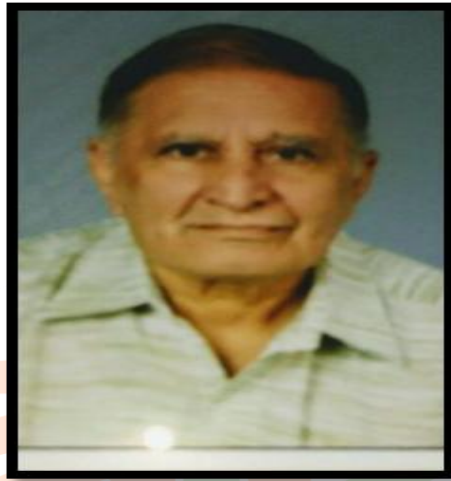
- ❖ Delivered talks on national TV channels/Radio
- ❖ Presented papers on social work related subjects in Ukraine, Canada, USA, Australia, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, Thailand, Russia and many more countries.

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**DR. ULHAS JOSHI**  
**HOSTLIST CO-ORDINATOR**

**My association with Servas**

- ❖ **Servas Member for more than 15 years**
- ❖ **Host List Coordinator : from 2014**
- ❖ **Visited Countries for Servas Meetings: UK, France, Israel, Turkey, Shree Lanka, Vietnam**
- ❖ **Attended Servas International EXCO: 2014 Poland**
- ❖ **Other Organization like Servas**
- ❖ **Vice President of Friends of France**
- ❖ **Rotary Club of Poona**



**PROF. HAMSAVAHINI SINGH**  
**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**ACADEMICS:**

- ❖ B.A. Lady Shri College for Women (DU)
- ❖ M.A (Political Science)
- ❖ M.Ed
- ❖ M.A. (German)
- ❖ Ph. D. (German)

**CAREER**

- Teaching in a women's University in Rajasthan since last 32 years. Presently working as Professor and heading the German Section, Department of English and Modern European Languages, Banasthali University, Rajasthan 304022.
- Translator (German-Tamil-Hindi)

**Awards & Achievements:**

- Reva King fellowship by Serves Headquarters in New York for her mission in 1999.
- Undertook World Cycle Tour to promote love, peace, non violence and non hoarding from Jan1999 to Jan 2001 with husband Mr.Rajpal Singh Chouhan and then 8 years old daughter Ms. Aditya Divya Singh and travelled in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, The U.S. and from Portugal to many countries in Europe, Caucasian countries and Asia. Covered more than 25000 kilometers on bicycle.
- Felicitated by H.E. Anshuman Singh, Governor of Rajasthan and Mr. Ashok Gehlot, Former Chief Minister of Rajasthan in 2001 for promoting Peace through World Cycle Tour in 2001.
- Heading District Women Empowerment Committee of Lions Club, Tonk, Rajasthan.

**Association with SERVAS India**

- My husband is associated with Serves since 1972. But we were members since 1995. I along with my husband and daughter was invited to attend SERVAS International Conference in San Francisco in July 1999 where we met the founder member of

**SERVAS Mr. Bob Luitweiler and we were invited to address and to share our experiences SERVAS members from the US and other parts of the world.**

- **State Coordinator, SERVAS India , Rajasthan 2008 and in 2010**
- **I am an avid traveler and I have had the opportunity to meet and stay with many SERVAS families in Europe, Japan and the US.**
- **Every year my family is hosting more than 3 to 4 family members of SERVAS members from abroad since last almost 20 years.**
- **We have attended National SERVAS meetings at New Delhi and Jodhpur.**
- **Helped the former National Secretary Mr. Pramod Kumar to organize National meeting at Mount Abu, Rajasthan.**

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**SERVAS**  
**INTERNATIONAL**

# **CERLEBRATION OF 69<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL SERVAS WEEK**

**AND**

## **66<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SERVAS INDIA**

**16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2017**

**AT JALNA, NEAR AURANGABAD, MAHARASHTRA**

SERVAS International is celebrating 69 Years sharing, travelling and hosting for Peace and friendship and SERVAS India is celebrating its 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. On this occasion it is proposed to celebrate and by making connections all over the world during the same week from 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2017. To coincide the SERVAS International programme the Indian Chapter of SERVAS aims to focus on simultaneous activities that spreads SERVAS values, such as Peace, Solidarity, Service, Hospitality and Understanding.

As part of the International Week two days conference is organised on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of September at Jalna, Near Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

Active and fruitful participation is expected from the members of SERVAS International India. Hope SERVAS India will reach greater heights and more and more members will join in the coming years.

**SERVAS**  
**INTERNATIONAL**



## **Brief History of SERVAS India**

### **Mr. Harivallabh Parikh (Bhai)**

In 1951 the Founder Member Mr. Bob Luitweiler of SERVAS International visited Mr. Harivallabh Parikh (popularly known as Bhai) and he asked him to start SERVAS India Chapter.

- ❖ 1951-1952 was the beginning of SERVAS in India under the presidentship of Bhai and for 50 long years till 2001 he served as National Secretary (President) of India. In the beginning there 75 Open door hosts and 6 Gandhian Organisation.
- ❖ 1951-1958 Printing of SERVAS India Hostlist with good number of members all over India.
- ❖ First SERVAS National Conference at Anand Niketan Ashram, Rangpur in which 65 members from 16 States of India participated.
- ❖ Second SERVAS National Conference was again held at Rangpur in 1968 and 80 hosts attended the meeting.
- ❖ 1969 was Gandhi Centenary Year and 36 SERVAS members from Austria participated. They were headed by SERVAS Secretary Mr. Kurt Schmidt.
- ❖ In 1970 Bhai attended SERVAS International Conference in Vienna, Austria.
- ❖ A group of 22 USA SERVAS travelers visited India in 1971.
- ❖ In 1973 Bhai ji was invited by Community Aid Abroad and Freedom Hunger Movement, Australia and he spent 1 month meeting SERVAS members.
- ❖ Bhai ji attended SERVAS International Conference in Los Angeles, USA in 1976.
- ❖ SERVAS International Conference was held at Denmark in 1978 and Bhai ji along with some Indian SERVAS members attended the meeting.
- ❖ 1980-1981 International Conference was held at the Head Quarters of India at Rangpur.
- ❖ 1983 Bhai ji along with Nagender Patel ji and Suman ji attended an International Conference in Israel.
- ❖ In 1985 Indian SERVAS conducted 100 Youth Campus across on the occasion of International Youth Year.
- ❖ Bhai ji attended SERVAS International Conference at Rome, Italy.

- ❖ Between 1990-1992 around 567 Travellers from abroad visited Bhai ji at his ashram.
- ❖ In 2001 Bhai ji received award in SERVAS International Conference at Bangkok for his outstanding performance.
- ❖ Bhai ji was National Secretary of SERVAS India for more than 5 decades and he stepped down from his post and his son in law Mr. Nagendra Patel was elected as his successor.
- ❖ Bhai ji helped in extending SERVAS to neighbouring countries like Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Glimpses of some rare pictures of founder member of SERVAS India Chapter Mr. Harivallabh Parikh (Popularly known as Bhai)





Bhai along with SERVAS Members from Abroad and India with Mrs. Indira Gandhi.



Bhai with Nagender Patel





## **2. Mr. Nagender Patel**

**Servas India National Secretary from 2001 to 2003**

## **3. Dr. Ramesh Sharma**

**SERVAS India National Secretary from 2003 to 2013**

## **4. Mr. Pramod Kumar**



- ❖ **Host List Coordinator 2004-2006**
- ❖ **General Secretary, SERVAS International 2006-2009**
- ❖ **Vice President, SERVAS International 2009-2012**
- ❖ **2012 Acting President of SERVAS International**
- ❖ **SERVAS India National Secretary from 2013 to 2017**

## **5. Mr. Abhay Shaha**

**SERVAS India National Secretary from February, 2017 till date.**