



PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING THROUGH TRAVEL AND HOSTING

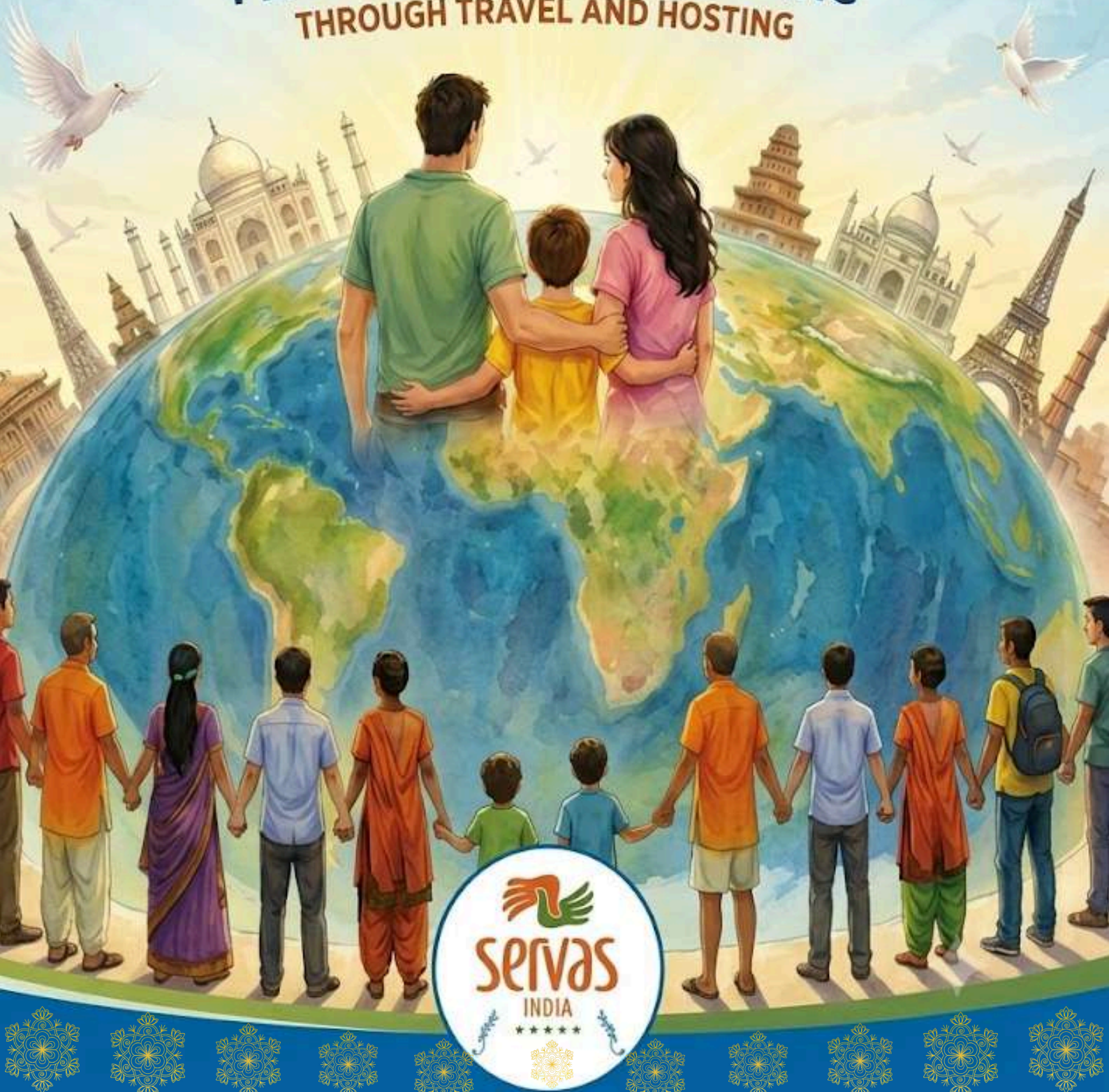


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2026

AUG 2026 TO NOV 2026

7-9
AUG

US SERVAS 2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

17-23
AUG

SERVAS PORTUGAL YOUTH & FAMILIES
PEACE CAMP

22-27
AUG

SERVAS PYRENEES TREK 2026

26-30
AUG

PEACE SCHOOL IN ARGENTINA

4-6
SEPT

5TH INTERNATIONAL SERVAS RUHR AREA
MEETING

4-7
SEPT

YOUTH GATHERING IN THE UK

19-20
SEPT

INDONESIA ANNUAL MEETING AND TRIP

21-26
SEPT

INTERNATIONAL CREATIVE AND
COLLABORATIVE MEETING

21-30
SEPT

SERVAS INDIA CULTURAL GATHERING 2026

25-28
SEPT

33D ALPE-ADRIA MEETING

05-10
OCT

EAST AFRICA REGIONAL MEETING

12-19
NOV

SERVAS CHINA 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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SERVAS INDIA

A Powerful way to build meaningful connections





In Loving Memory of
Mr. Akhilesh Kumar Ram ...!!
Hamara “SHER”....!!

It is with profound sorrow that the Servas India family mourns the untimely passing of our friend and fellow member, Mr. Akhilesh Kumar Ram (57), who passed away suddenly due to cardiac arrest.

Joining Servas India in 2023, Mr. Ram quickly became a respected and cherished member of our community. His warmth, energy, determination, and unwavering commitment earned him the admiration of everyone who knew him. Through our Annual General Meetings and various interactions, he built meaningful relationships across the Servas India.

His sudden departure has left a void that will be difficult to fill. We will always remember him with affection and gratitude, and continue to uphold the positive values and spirit he brought to Servas.

At this difficult time, the entire Servas India family extends its heartfelt condolences, support, and solidarity to his wife, son, and daughter. We pray that God grants them strength, courage, and peace.

We also wish to acknowledge and support his close friend, Mr. Manish Jain, who shared a bond of deep friendship and affection with Akhilesh. The pain of this loss is equally profound for him, and we stand beside him with our compassion and support during this challenging period.

Om Shanti.
Nitin Wankhede
National Secretary,
Servas India

Executive Committee



De. C N N Raju
President



Mr Nitin Wankhede
National Secretary



Mr Manish Jain
Deputy National Secretary



Mr Pradeep Korde
Treasurer



Mr KKK Raju
Peace Secretary



Dr Vandana Tare
Newsletter Editor



Dr Rupali B Memane
Online Hostlist Coordinator



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President's Message

Dear Servas Friends,

Warm greetings to all members of the Servas family. As we approach the middle of 2026, I am filled with gratitude and optimism for the enthusiasm, commitment, and spirit of friendship demonstrated by our members across the country. The recent Executive Committee meeting in Pune was a significant milestone, where we collectively reviewed our progress and planned our future initiatives with renewed energy and purpose.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all Executive Committee members for their valuable contributions and dedication to Servas. The warm hospitality extended by our hosts in Pune truly reflected the essence of Servas friendship.

Our preparations for Ganesh Festival 2026 are progressing well, and I am encouraged by the active participation of volunteers and coordinators from different regions. This event presents a wonderful opportunity to showcase India's rich cultural heritage while strengthening bonds among Servas members.

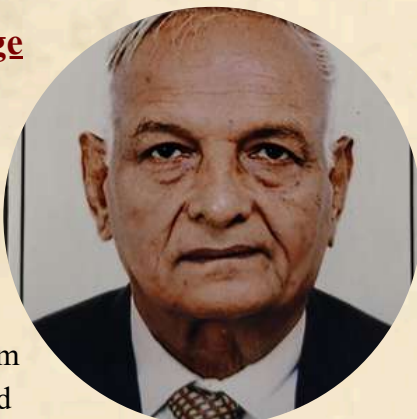
As we move forward, let us continue to focus on meaningful travel, intercultural dialogue, sustainability, and people-to-people connections. In a world that often faces division and uncertainty, Servas remains a beacon of friendship and trust.

I invite every member to actively participate in our forthcoming programs, host travelers, engage with local initiatives, and contribute ideas that help strengthen our organization.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months and working together to make 2026 a memorable year for Servas India.

Wishing you and your families good health, happiness, and peace.

Dr.C.N.N. Raju
President



Secretary's Message

Strengthen our vibrant community.

Dear Servas Friends,

Warm greetings to the Servas India family.

As I begin my term as National Secretary, I sincerely thank all our

members, volunteers, coordinators, and office bearers for their trust and support. Together, we continue to strengthen Servas India and promote peace, friendship, and cultural exchange.

Open Door – Strengthening Bonds Across India

I encourage members to first open their homes to fellow Servas friends from different parts of India. By sharing our diverse cultures, traditions, and experiences, we can build stronger friendships and deepen our understanding of one another.

I am delighted to announce the Servas India International Ganesh Festival Experience Programme from 21–30 September 2026 in Pune, Nashik, and Mumbai. The overwhelming response from international members reflects the growing interest in experiencing India through Servas.

Your hospitality will help visitors experience the true spirit of India and Servas.

Please reserve 30–31 January 2027 for the proposed Servas India AGM in Visakhapatnam. We are also planning cultural programmes in Surat and Indore during 2027.

I encourage members to involve more young people in Servas, whose enthusiasm and fresh ideas will strengthen our future.

My heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Vandana Tare, our Bulletin Editor, President Shri C. N. Raju, the National Executive Committee, all past Presidents, National Secretaries, volunteers, and every Servas India member for their continued dedication. Let us continue working together to promote friendship and peace through Servas. With best wishes,

Nitin Wankhede
National Secretary, Servas India



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Editor's Note

Dear Servas Friends,

Greetings to all members, hosts, travelers, and volunteers who continue to keep the spirit of Servas alive.

One of the greatest strengths of our organization is the opportunity to connect with people from different cultures, backgrounds, and experiences through friendship, hospitality, and meaningful dialogue.

In a world that often feels divided, Servas reminds us that understanding begins with simple human connections. Every visit, conversation, and shared meal helps build bridges across borders and promotes the values of peace, respect, and global citizenship that are at the heart of our mission.

This newsletter reflects the energy and dedication of our members who contribute their stories, experiences, and ideas. I encourage everyone to continue participating actively, sharing travel experiences, hosting guests, and supporting local and international Servas initiatives. Your contributions enrich our community and inspire others to engage more deeply with the Servas movement.

Thank you to all volunteers and members whose time, enthusiasm, and commitment make our organization thrive. May we continue to learn from one another, celebrate our diversity, and strengthen the bonds of friendship that unite us.

With Warm Regards,

Dr. Vandana Tare

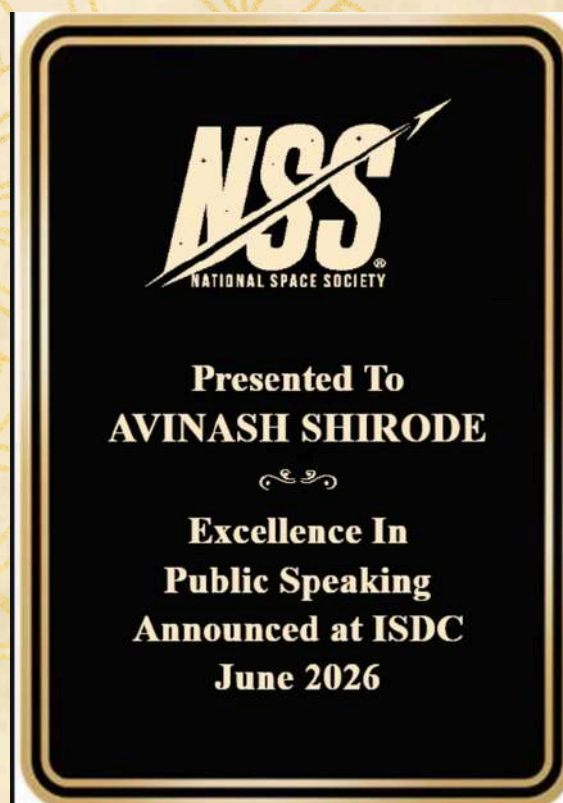


Celebrating Excellence

Servas India proudly congratulates Er. Avinash Shirole on receiving yet another prestigious international honour!

He was selected to receive an award from the National Space Society (USA), which was presented at the International Space Development Conference (ISDC) in McLean, Washington, USA, on 4 June 2026.

This marks his sixth consecutive international award, recognizing his outstanding contributions and continued excellence in the field of Space Technology. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and wish him continued success in his remarkable journey.



Heartfelt welcome to the 11 new members who have joined the Servas India family.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1.Mranali joshi - Indore -MP | 6.Indrajeet and deepali Kothadiya- Pune -Maharashtra |
| 2.Ishita Doshi - Pune -Maharashtra | 7.Ram Jivan - Jodhpur -Rajasthan |
| 3.Dr. Chalumuri Avantharmuna - Visakapur- Andhra Pradesh | 8.Ujwal Dodmani- Hubli -Karnataka |
| 4.Ramdayal Prajapati - Jamshedpur -Jharkhand | 9.Sundeep Pawar - Pune - Maharashtra |
| 5.Mahadevji Varsha- Mysore-Karnataka | 10.Reeves Rodrigues - Pune - Maharashtra |
| | 11.Ravichandran - Madurai - Tamil Nadu |



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Ganesh Festival – India 2026

Dear Servas Friends,

With the objective of introducing India's rich culture, traditions, and vibrant festivals to people from around the world, Servas India has organised the Ganesh Festival – India 2026 programme.

For this special cultural event, we invited international Servas friends from across the globe. Initially, the programme was planned for only 20 participants. However, the overwhelming response, with 58 applications received from different countries, encouraged us to increase the number of places. We're delighted to welcome 26 international Servas members from South Korea, Taiwan, Italy, Iceland, Belgium, France, Spain, Africa, South America, Israel, and other countries to India for this unique experience. This outstanding Ganesh festival programme will definitely enhance the global image of India among other countries.

Tentative Programme Schedule

- 21st to 24th September: Pune
- 25th September (Morning): Travel from Pune to Nashik
- 25th, 26th & 27th September: Stay in Nashik
- 28th September (Morning): Travel from Nashik to Mumbai
- 28th & 29th September: Mumbai
- 30th September (Afternoon): Official conclusion

This festival is not only a celebration of Lord Ganesha but also an opportunity to promote friendship, cultural exchange and mutual understanding among people from different countries and cultures.

We also invite all Servas India members to participate in this spirit of hospitality. If any member would like to host our international guests before or after the official programme, or invite them to visit their city and stay with their family, kindly inform Servas India at the earliest. This will allow us to offer our guests a deeper experience of Indian life, traditions and the warmth of our Servas family.

Let us come together and make this Ganesh Festival a memorable celebration of Indian culture and international friendship.

Warm Regards,

Servas India – Ganesh Festival Organising Team



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Attended by Dr. Anjana Jain in Virtual mode

Dr. Anjana Jain had the privilege to attend the seventieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70) was held at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 9–19 March 2026 in online mode. The session brought together representatives of Member States, UN agencies, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from across the globe to discuss critical issues concerning gender equality and women's empowerment.

The major themes of CSW70 were:

- Priority Theme: Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls through inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers.
- Review Theme: Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, along with the elimination of violence against women and girls to achieve gender equality.

Prof. Anjana Jain, along with her spouse Mr. Rajkumar Jain, had the privilege of participating virtually as representatives of Servas India, with the approval of Servas International. Although we had initially planned to attend in person, the prevailing political situation made virtual participation necessary. We sincerely thank Ms. Paige LaCombe and the CSW Women's Team for their timely guidance and continuous support. With over 30 years of experience as a professor and more than 20 years as Warden of a Girls' Hostel, I have always worked towards promoting dignity, equality, and empowerment among students and society. My involvement with various professional and social organizations, along with participation in several international conferences on gender-related issues,

motivated me to attend CSW70 to learn from global experiences and understand effective practices adopted by different countries.

Some of the sessions that left a lasting impression included:

- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)
- Systemic Inclusion, Dignity, and Sustainable Economic Empowerment for Widows
- Water, Women & Girls
- Dignity and Equality in Action: Values-Based Leadership
- Justice on Domestic Violence and Child Custody
- Reimagining Care in India: Engaging Men, Advancing Equity
- Women's Experiences of War: From Sudan to Ukraine
- Homeless Women – Gaps for Justice & Rights
- Justice at Work: Eliminating Violence and Structural Barriers

The discussions throughout the conference highlighted the growing challenges faced by women across different regions while also presenting inspiring examples of legal reforms, community initiatives, and collaborative efforts.

A recurring message was the importance of strengthening legal systems, supporting grassroots organizations, encouraging civic dialogue, and engaging younger generations in promoting gender equality. Servas members from different countries shared valuable experiences that reinforced the organization's commitment to peace, justice, and human dignity.

Overall, CSW70 reaffirmed that ensuring justice, equality, and empowerment for all women and girls requires sustained commitment, inclusive policies, legal reforms, and active participation from individuals and organizations worldwide.

प्रोफेसर अंजना जैन और राजकुमार जैन ने रखी बात
यूएन के सम्मेलन में रही शहर की भागीदारी

मिडि रिचर्ड्स • डोहर

संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ (यूएन) द्वारा न्यूयॉर्क में आयोजित 'एडवोकेट्स ऑफ द ट्रेडिंग ऑफ़ फ़ूड' के १०वें शहर में इंडियन को भी भागीदारी दी। सम्मेलन (यूएन) के सदस्य थे, अंजना जैन और राजकुमार जैन। राजकुमार जैन, विश्व बैंक द्वारा के पाराना न्यूयॉर्क जो जा का, लैंडिंग

रिजिस्ट्रेशन के बाद में इंडियन थे। इस दौरान अंजना न्यूयॉर्क और शहर के निवासे में रहें। यूएन न्यूयॉर्क को न्यूयॉर्क में जाने दिया। इस बात में पाराना का न्यूयॉर्क निवासे का निवास करने में मदद मिली। अंजना जैन और राजकुमार जैन ने 'मिडि रिचर्ड्स' (यूएन) में भागीदारी के लिए जा का, लैंडिंग



Over a six-week journey across New Zealand and Australia, my most lasting impressions came not just from the extraordinary landscapes, but from the deep, human connections made through SERVAS.

By staying with host families who welcomed me as a friend rather than a tourist, this trip transformed from mere sightseeing into a profound experience of shared values, proving that true travel is about relationship rather than consumption.

Every stop brought a unique perspective through the lives I was welcomed into: in Auckland, a bushwalk with Deborah sparked conversations on indigenous wisdom, followed by a peaceful meditation evening with Daniel and Sarah; in Wellington, Paul and Gaylene opened up their intentional world of Waldorf education, contemplative writing, and urban conservation.

Moving on to Tasmania, Amanda's stories of environmental activism brought themes of belonging to life, while in Castlemaine, Jane Dunstan and artist Roger McKindley showed the transformative power of community and recycled sculpture.

Finally, near Bendigo, Nita and Aaron shared the beauty of a creative, off-grid lifestyle and introduced me to the interfaith peace of the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion.

In the world that often feels fragmented, this entire journey reminded me that

Travel has shaped my life in ways I could never have imagined since leaving my village in central-west India at age 15 for a cultural exchange in the US.

Stepping from a Marathi-medium school into Minneapolis was like entering a different universe, yet the warmth of my host families transformed that initial shock into a lifelong journey of becoming a cultural bridge. Growing up, my family hosted Servas travelers, planting the seeds of global connection early on; later, traveling to over 20 countries turned these experiences into a profound inner practice.

Travel has taught me adaptability in uncertainty, humility in relying on the kindness of strangers, and the liberation of minimalism. Whether enduring a week-long bicycle pilgrimage through rural Rajasthan without money or phones—relying entirely on the extraordinary generosity of people who had very little.

—or finding unexpected shelter with a local family when a ferry was delayed in New Zealand, I have learned that connection always arises in uncertainty.

Ultimately, networks like Servas and these global journeys have reinforced a singular truth: travel is not consumption, but relationship.

It is a transformative practice of presence and empathy that dissolves boundaries, reminding us that wherever we go, we are ultimately meeting ourselves in others.

There are no strangers only friends waiting to be discovered.

— Vipul Shaha

Psychotherapist | Educator | Mindfulness & Nature-Based Facilitator, Pune, India



Vipul Abhay Shah in with servas family



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Hosting of Lawrence and Guy

Hosting Friends from France

Saurabh Bhounik, a Servas member, had the pleasure of hosting Lawrence and Guy from France at his home for three days. Their visit was much more than a homestay—it was a wonderful opportunity to share cultures, traditions, and experiences while building lasting friendships.

During their stay, they enjoyed meaningful conversations, shared meals, and explored aspects of Indian life and hospitality. In return, Lawrence and Guy shared stories about their lives in France, making the exchange enriching and memorable for everyone.

The visit beautifully reflected the true spirit of Servas, where hospitality fosters understanding, friendship, and peace across cultures. What began as a hosting experience soon became a genuine friendship, leaving behind cherished memories and the hope of meeting again in the future.

— Saurabh Bhounik



SERVAS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AND FAMILIES COMMITTEE UPDATES

Hi all, here is a message regarding SYLE & a Youth Gathering!

UPDATE 1: SYLE PROGRAM
(SERVAS YOUTH LANGUAGE/LEARNING EXPERIENCE)

WANT TO LEARN MORE?
Book a meeting with our team to know more!
<https://cal.rustywendy.io/team/servas-syle-youth/syle...>

FOR APPLICANTS:
Interested in the SYLE Program?
Fill out the form for this year!
<https://forms.gle/FZ2ojpohokoMQCAG7>

FOR HOSTS:
Able to host a SYLE applicant this summer?
Fill out this survey for a perfect match!
<https://formbricks.rustywendy.io/s/cmmq1bbc001kuo01wvtsf1u>

UPDATE 2: UK YOUTH GATHERING

WE'RE READY TO MEET YOU IN THE UK!
Join our camp event, welcome all!

SEPTEMBER 4th - 7th

Servas Int... Follow
#servasyouth #servasintern...
<https://event.servas.org.uk/.../servas-youth-gathering...>

SERVAS PORTUGAL & Y&F Committee

YOUTH & FAMILIES CAMP

PEACE & DIVERSITY

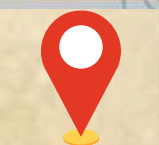
Exciting Activities for All Ages
Nature - Wildlife - Servas International Visits - Workshops

August 17-23
Apúlia, PORTUGAL

REGISTRATION FORM

from 170€ to 300€
(7 days with 4 meals a day; 6 nights accommodation; all activities and visits included)

Join us and bring a friend!



Cherished Moments from the AGM

Servas India AGM 2026 was successfully held from 27 February to 1 March 2026 at International Hostel, YCMO University, Nashik. The Annual General Meeting brought together Servas members from across India for discussions, planning, fellowship, and the strengthening of the Servas spirit of peace and understanding.





Celebrating the Voices, Journeys, and Spirit of Servas India

FIRST ISSUE OF NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026

**This Newsletter is Made Possible by the Enthusiasm and Contributions of
Our Servas Family. Thank You!**

**Thanks to Vedant Sharma (+91-9977732849)
from SGSITS, Indore for designing this newsletter**

