

GRAMAYAN PRATISHTHAN, NAGPUR

-Abhyuday Seva Exhibition – A Commendable Initiative of Gramayan Pratishthan 12,13,14 sep. 2025

Beginning

In 2012, the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda was celebrated across the country. Gramayan was one of the initiatives born during that time. “Gramayan began its journey by visiting various service organizations and facilitating visits for large groups of citizens from cities to these projects.

The Exhibition

Through these visits, the challenges faced by service organizations became evident. To support them, Gramayan started exhibitions to help in the sale of products made by these organizations. “Soon, these exhibitions gained recognition for showcasing swadeshi, handmade, healthy, and eco-friendly products. Also the work of social organisations.



Gramayan Pratishthan, Nagpur

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Abhyuday

So far, Gramayan has successfully organized seven exhibitions. “Since last year, Gramayan has been hosting an exclusive exhibition dedicated to service organizations, under the name Abhyuday Seva Exhibition.

The Role of Abhyuday

The Abhyuday platform provides a rightful stage for social organizations across Maharashtra. It brings their work, challenges, and needs before society. “Many of these organizations prefer to work silently, away from fame, but still need financial aid, skilled volunteers, and support systems. Abhyuday creates this essential connection.



Abhyuday 2025

Last year, 41 organizations from across Maharashtra participated.

- After the success of that pilot, this year marked the second Abhyuday Seva Exhibition, held on 12th, 13th, and 14th September 2025.
- The exhibition was free of cost for all participating NGOs.
- It was jointly organized with Friends Co-operative Housing Society at their Tatya Tope Hall, Tatya Tope Nagar, West High Court Road, Nagpur.
- This year, 62 organizations from all over Maharashtra took part.



Satpatri Daan (Meaningful Donation)

Our scriptures speak of satpatri daan—donating to the right recipient. This exhibition brings many deserving organizations under one roof, making it easier to identify the right cause. This is why it is held during Pitru Paksha. “Through supporting these institutions, one finds not only a way to help society but perhaps also a deeper meaning to one’s own life

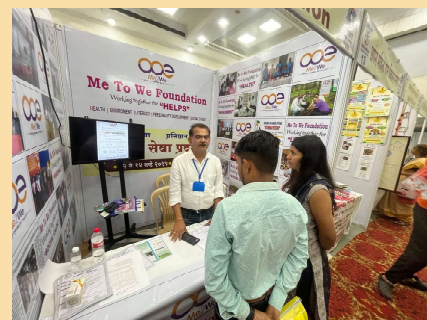


Purpose

The goal of the exhibition was not ,to sell products, but to create awareness among citizens about for whom and how these organizations work. “Items displayed were made by differently-abled persons, homeless people, nomadic women, men, and children who had been trained in various skills.

Management & Organization

- By the 12th, stalls were fully prepared with banners of each institution.
- From 10 am onwards, representatives and volunteers began arriving.
- Registration was simplified through a Google Form entry system.



Partner Organizations

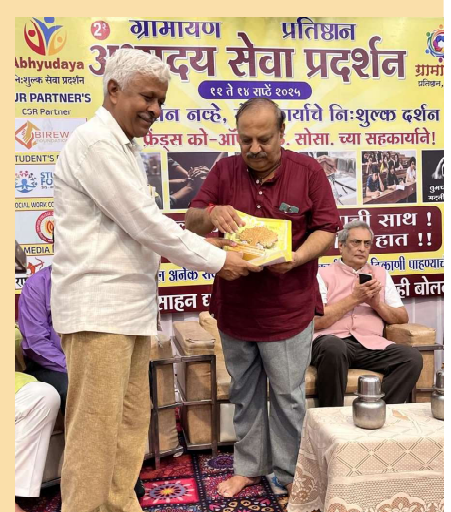
Several individuals and institutions supported the initiative:

- Birewar Foundation (Nagpur) – known for financial contributions to many NGOs.
- NSS, the social service wing of ABVP.
- Nashikrao Tirpude College of Social Work – brought together social work colleges, with principals, professors, and students participating.
- Friends Co-operative Housing Society, Nagpur – co-hosted the event.

Inauguration

The exhibition was inaugurated at 1.00 pm by entrepreneur and venture capitalist Shri Shashikant Chaudhary. "He remarked: "Service organizations working for society do not need applause or bouquets, for their work is not for fame but for the marginalized and neglected sections. The true gratitude we can show them is through real support." Other dignitaries present:

- Shri Nandkishor Dandhare (Vice President, VHP) He emphasised that we should not only support the NGOs but should also get motivated to do some social work.
- Prof. Nitin Kharche (Chairman, Yavatmal Co-op Bank) He and all others praised the noble initiative and extended their good wishes. After that the dignitaries visited each and every stall of exhibition.



Dialogue & Engagement

- Videos of each participating organization were played continuously on a large LED screen.
- Representatives interacted with each other, sharing experiences and ideas.
- Many eminent personalities visited the exhibition across the three days.

Institutional Participation

- 62 organizations participated, from across Maharashtra – including Pune, Thane, Beed, Sambhajinagar, Gadchiroli, and Sironcha.
- One organization even came from Jaipur, Rajasthan.



Diversity of Organizations

- * The participating organizations worked in diverse fields:
- * Children living at railway stations.
- * Families of prisoners
- * Transgender communities
- * Rescuing and rehabilitating injured animals
- * Unwed mothers, orphans, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities
- * Pardhi community children and families
- * Mental health and reintegration of psychiatric patients
- * Education support for underprivileged children
- * Women empowerment and livelihood generation
- * Tribal women's employment programs
- * Bamboo-based livelihoods in Melghat
- * Nutrition initiatives for malnourished children



Why Service Work Matters

These organizations dedicate their lives so that India becomes prosperous, the oppressed receive justice, and every citizen gets equal opportunities. Gramayan family bows with respect to such noble souls. It also helps them in their needs. It's really inspirational to meet people who show us the real meaning of life.

Workshops

Post-exhibition, Gramayan also continues workshops on NGO challenges, social audits, and practical guidance for organizations, across Nagpur, Chandrapur, and Yavatmal.

On-the-Spot Expert Guidance

A special “one-to-one guidance cell” was set up at the venue. NGO leaders could directly consult experts about their challenges and receive practical solutions.

Fast Track Assessment

Gramayan also offers continuous support through fast track assessments and social audits, ensuring NGOs receive proper direction and impact validation.



Students' Contribution

- Social Work students were specially invited on 13th September. They got the unique opportunity to interact with 62 NGOs under one roof.“
- NGOs also interviewed students as potential social workers, and collected their resumes.“
- Engineering and Women's College students also visited in large numbers.“

Students' Competitions

Two competitions were organized:

1. Essay – “The NGO I Liked the Most”
2. Short reel-making on the exhibition.

Both saw enthusiastic participation. Prizes included cash awards and certificates.

All participants received certificates.



Report Competition

All participating NGOs submitted their annual reports. Experts will review them, and three best reports will be awarded.

Booklet on Social Reformers

A booklet highlighting the lives and work of late social reformers of Maharashtra is being prepared by Gramayan. Citizens can contribute information for this.

Valedictory Function

The closing ceremony was graced by Padma Shri Dr. Ravindra Kolhe, Padma Shri Dr. Smita Kolhe, VIA President Shri Prashant Mohta and Shri Vijay Phanshikar (Chief editor 'The Hitavada')

- Dr. Kolhe praised Gramayan for giving NGOs across Maharashtra a voice and predicted that soon this initiative will spread across India.
- Shri Mohta promised VIA's collaboration in channeling CSR funds to deserving NGOs through Gramayan.“
- Senior journalist Shri Vijay Phanshikar lauded Gramayan for giving citizens a glimpse into so many inspiring service initiatives.





Response from Nagpur Citizens

- Around 5000 citizens and dignitaries visited over the three days.
- Corporate leaders, youth, and families showed keen interest.

Media Coverage

The event received wide and positive coverage in local media.



TheHitavada
Nagpur City Line | 2021-09-15 | Page 8
thehitavada.com

Gramayan's Seva Exhibition gives call for nationwide expansion

■ Staff Reporter

THE three-day Vidarbha Abhinav Gramayan Abhyudaya Seva Exhibition 2025, which began on September 12, concluded on Sunday evening with a strong call to recognise the work of service organisations and extend their reach across the country.

The closing ceremony was held in the presence of Padma Sri awardees Dr Ravindra Kolhe and Dr Smita Kolhe, VIA President Prashant Mohite, VIA S R Forum Head Kaushal Mohite and Editor *The Hitavada*, Vijay Phanshikar.

The event included distribution of prizes to students, speeches from dignitaries and social workers, and cultural performances.

Dr Ravindra Kolhe shared his reflections on the journey of Gramayan and the value of such initiatives. He said, "Negativity is visible everywhere in society today, but undeterred people continue to contribute in their own way." Reflecting on his journey that began with visits to village with friends as a young Doctor, Dr Kolhe said, "A small group later became what we know as Gramayan. Whatever I learned in those years, I felt others should also learn. That is why we decided to bring this initiative to Nagpur. In my view, more than financial resources, what is truly important are human resources."

Dr Kolhe added, "The spirit of service, selflessness, and community support is what drives real change. I feel encouraged seeing the youth participate in such large numbers, because their involvement is as essential as the air we breathe. Without them, this movement cannot grow."

Dr Smita Kolhe emphasised the responsibility of the younger generation to carry the work forward. She said, "What we saw here through these stalls is proof of how much can be achieved when people give their best efforts within their own capacity. Every exhibitor has done something meaningful, and that is the true strength of our society. I believe that while guidance from seniors is important, it is the younger brigade that must now step forward and shoulder this responsibility."

The highlight of the exhibition was the Career Dialogue and Opportunities Initiative for social work students, organised with the support of Tirpude College of Social Work and Matru Seva Sangh. A total of 257 students from three colleges participated. Thirty-five students took part in an essay competition on "My Favourite NGO" and 20 joined a reel-making contest. The programme, compiled by Dr Shilpa Purank, concluded with prize distribution and felicitation of students.

Exhibitors also shared their journeys. Social worker Shubha Joshi spoke about forming women's groups, supporting them financially, and running a clinic for transgenders at AIMS Nagpur. Animal welfare activist Garani Jain, who runs Pankhava, a shelter for partially blind and disabled animals including cats, dogs, and cows, described his efforts to protect vulnerable creatures.

VIA President Prashant Mohite pledged stronger support from industry. He said, "Vidarbha Industries Association will ensure that the CSIR funds of local industries reach right service organisations through Gramayan platform. If the country is to grow, then every step matters, and we must grow together. This is our responsibility, and we will work collectively towards it."

Vijay Phanshikar described the event as deeply inspiring. He said, "The work that Kolhe couple have been doing for decades is nothing short of extraordinary. The initiatives of NGOs showcased here are both eye-opening and heartening. Gramayan, by bringing all these efforts together on one platform, has done something very significant. People have come here from far-off villages and smaller districts, and their work deserves equal recognition. The message we must give the younger generation is clear: do not live only for yourself, but live for others too. That is how society will progress."

Other speakers, including Sanjay Saral, underlined Gramayan's role in fostering co-operation, lifestyle changes and social transformation.

The programme concluded with a soulful rendition of Vasundhara Parivar by singer Sakur Deshpande, followed by a collective Pasyadan.

The exhibition showcased the work of several organisations from across Vidarbha and offered Nagpur citizens an opportunity to witness innovative and compassionate initiatives. It left participants with a renewed sense of collective responsibility and a belief in the power of service.

Padma Sri Dr Ravindra Kolhe addressing the gathering. Also seen in the picture are (from left) Vijay Phanshikar, Anil Sambre, Dr Smita Kolhe, Supriya Kelkar and Vijay Khatri. (Pic by Satish Flaut)

Donations & CSR

- Many NGOs received direct financial donations.
- CSR representatives visited stalls and promised long-term support.

Special Achievements

Representatives of 5 organizations shared their (Manogat), expressing gratitude. Examples:

- * The Banjara community, traditionally engaged in broom-making, received a direct order for 100 brooms.
- * Swami Vivekananda Vidya Pratishthan, Ahmednagar – received donations and potential volunteers.

- * Snehlanchal Palliative Care, Nagpur – found a platform to spread their message.
- * Varhad, Amravati – supporting prisoners’ families, could connect with new people.



Awards & Recognition

Winners of the student competitions were awarded by dignitaries. All participating students received certificates of participation.

A Case of Hope

Support to a Mentally ill Woman

A mentally ill woman was spotted by police in Ganeshpeth. With the help of Nanddeep Foundation, Yavatmal, she was brought to the exhibition and later taken to Yavatmal for care. Within a month, she is expected to reunite with her family.



Gratitude

All participants expressed deep appreciation to Gramayan for organizing such a meaningful platform. The exhibition concluded with acknowledgments to all who contributed, directly or indirectly. The program ended with a recitation of Pasaydan.

A Sense of Responsibility

The Gramayan team received high praise throughout the three-day event. Gramayan reaffirmed its commitment to creating more such impactful opportunities for NGOs and citizens.



My Duty... ..

In today's competitive world, one must look beyond oneself. This exhibition urged people to ask: "What can I give – my time, my wealth, or my skills?" Such sensitivity opens doors to supporting social organizations. Every contribution matters.



Call for Responsibility

The stories of these institutions show that sensitivity leads to creation.

We warmly invite all well-wishers, dignitaries, and citizens to continue supporting Abhyuday and Gramayan initiatives. Together, let us create compassion and meaningful change.



**For those who lost the sky,
we become their companions.
For those who lost their way,
we become their guides.**

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-Thanking You -