

Surya Namaskar Yajna demonstrates growth of Sangh work in Seattle

In Sangh, several events provide opportunities for all swayamsevaks to come together and work together in the true spirit of '*sangathan*'; but a few of them also demonstrate the power and influence of the sangathan. Such events are counted as milestones that provide further inspiration to the young and old alike (read '*Sangh-aayu*'). Surya Namaskar Yajna 2009 provided this opportunity to swayamsevaks in all shakhas to exhibit the progress of Sangh work in Seattle Nagar and Northwest Vibhag in general.

After last year's SNY, there was a good amount of prior awareness among all karyakartas, leading to enthusiasm about this year's SNY. Planning calls were brief and objective, and target-setting was done aggressively. Most karyakartas wanted to use SNY as a tool to bring maximum number of swayamsevaks to regular shakha (surprising?!). The first Sunday of SNY was planned as '*Adhikam Upasthiti Divas*' in all the four shakhas in the nagar, and the last Saturday of SNY was reserved for '*Surya Namaskar Leher*' across the vibhag. Kishors of Bellevue shakha also set up an individual target of 500 Surya Namaskar.

SNY started with 7 kishors and their parents coming together early morning of Jan 17th for Surya Namaskar. They performed 286 Surya Namaskar all together, and pledged to join the daily telethon on the weekdays. On Sunday, Jan 18th, three shakhas celebrated Makar Sankranti Utsav with good sankhya, and aligning with the theme of Surya Namaskar. This charged up the atmosphere across the nagar. The daily telethon in the first week drew 7-8 swayamsevaks, mostly kishors from Bellevue shakha. In the second week, swayamsevaks from Maple Valley shakha also started a telethon with an average sankhya of 5-6. Through these, and mini-marathons in the shakha, the counts started piling up.

All this led to excitement about the Tele-leher in NW Vibhag. The leher began at 11 AM on Jan 31st with Vancouver (Canada) Nagar. With 700 Surya Namaskar in one hour, it was a rocking start! Then one by one, Seattle shakhas took up the baton beginning with the northern-most Bothell shakha and progressing to the southern-most Maple Valley shakha. 54 swayamsevaks in the Nagar contributed 2,520 Surya Namaskar over 4 hours. The leher ended in Portland shakha, where 144 Surya Namaskar were performed in shakha.

The last day of the yajna saw tremendous enthusiasm across the nagar. Marathons in three of the four Seattle shakhas yielded over 7,000 Surya Namaskar in one day. In Yuva shakha, new records were set, where several yuva performed hundreds of Surya Namaskar in a span of two hours. Thus, the yajna ended with a spontaneous expression individual energy, mixed with a gradual bonding of hearts – like crunchy pecans in buttery ice-cream!!

Highlights of SNY 09 for Seattle Nagar –

- 1) Over 30,000 Surya Namaskar performed (Target: 25,000)
- 2) About 206 swayamsevaks from all the shakhas - this is higher than the sankhya for any past utsav
- 3) ALL shakhas set the highest ever individual targets and exceeded them handsomely
- 4) In Surya Namaskar Leher, 54 swayamsevaks did 2,520 Surya Namaskar
- 5) Surya Namaskar Workshop was held in two temples – Sanatan Dharm Temple in Maple Valley and Sanatan Dharm Mandir in Kent

Shakha-wise Tally –

Shakha	SNY 09 Target	SNY 09 Count	SNY 09 Participants
Bothell	1000	2489	35
Bellevue	10000	11822	90
Yuva	5000	6220	22
Maple Valley	9000	9536	59
TOTAL	25000	30067	206