

SDG 5 – Gender Equality

NSS EKADASHI DAY EVENT REPORT

Date: 10th January 2025

Venue: ISKCON Temple, Rajajinagar

Organized by: Outreach and extension wing, REVA University on Founder's Day.

Time: 6.30 AM – 6:00 PM

Event overview

The ISKCON Ekadashi Day event was a well-organized spiritual gathering, made successful with the support of students from three colleges. These students played a vital role in maintaining a smooth environment by managing crowd flow, assisting with prasad distribution, and ensuring cleanliness across the temple premises. Their dedication and teamwork enhanced the experience for all devotees, allowing the event to run seamlessly. The ISKCON management appreciated their efforts, highlighting the importance of youth participation in such cultural and spiritual activities.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Linkage

- **SDG 5: Gender Equality**

This event aligns with SDG 5 by Gender bias is undermining our social fabric and devalues all of us. It is not just a human rights issue; it is a tremendous waste of the world's human potential. By denying women equal rights, we deny half the population a chance to live life at its fullest. Political, economic and social equality for women will benefit all the world's citizens. Together we can eradicate prejudice and work for equal rights and respect for all.

The outcome of NSS EKADASHI DAY EVENT

- **Community development:** Events can improve the quality of life and self-image of residents.
- **Health and wellbeing:** Events can improve physical and mental health.
- **Community cohesion:** Events can strengthen community cohesion and identity.
- **Cultural traditions:** Events can revitalize cultural traditions.
- **Social networks:** Events can help develop social networks and increase mutual understanding.
- **Social integration:** Events can help people feel more included and integrated

EVENT ACTIVITY SEQUENCE

- Students gathered at the college NSS office around 06:10 am
- Left to the temple at 06:15 am
- Reached ISKCON temple at 07:00 am
- Divided into multiple teams
- Served at the temple premises till 06 pm
- Collected certificates and prasadam at 06:10 pm
- Left for college at 06:12 pm through REVA bus

A total of 42 students showcased their commitment and dedication by actively participating in the ISKCON Ekadashi Day event. Among them, 37 students travelled to the temple together via a college-arranged bus, ensuring an organized and timely arrival. In addition, 5 students independently made their way to the venue using their own transport, reflecting their proactive approach and willingness to contribute. A few students, despite having exams earlier in the day, made the effort to join in the afternoon, demonstrating their enthusiasm and prioritization of the event. This diverse mode of participation not only showcased the students' flexibility but also highlighted their determination to ensure the event's success. Their collaborative efforts and willingness to adjust their schedules played a crucial role in maintaining a smooth and harmonious environment throughout the day, earning appreciation from the temple management and devotees alike.

The dress code was white color for both men and woman

The students from REVA University were first gathered at the amphitheatre, where they waited for the volunteers from the other two colleges to arrive. This initial assembly served as a meeting

point, ensuring all participants were accounted for before the event began. Once the students from all three colleges were present, the event coordinators addressed the group, providing a detailed introduction to the day's activities and highlighting the importance of their roles in ensuring the smooth functioning of the event. To maximize efficiency and promote teamwork, the coordinators divided the students into several smaller groups, each assigned specific responsibilities. This organized approach not only streamlined the workflow but also encouraged collaboration and interaction among students from different colleges, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose as they prepared to assist in the Ekadashi Day event.

The groups divided were put into multiple teams such as

- Queue management
- Senior citizen hospitality
- Prasadam distribution
- Statistics
- Narasimha swamy temple
- Venkateshwara temple
- Main temple
- Main entrance

The students were then divided into teams, each volunteer was provided with an ID card and a tag labeled "Help Team" to identify them as official event assistants. This step ensured better coordination and made it easier for devotees and temple staff to approach the volunteers for assistance. Following the distribution of ID cards and tags, the volunteers were directed to proceed for breakfast, allowing them to refresh and prepare for their responsibilities throughout the day. This organized approach set a positive tone for the volunteers, ensuring they were well-equipped and energized to carry out their duties effectively.

The temple thoughtfully catered to the diverse dietary preferences of the volunteers, recognizing that some were fasting while others were not. To accommodate everyone, the temple provided multiple food options, including with tokens for the each type.

- Fruits
- Grain food
- Non grain food
- Complete fast

This inclusive approach ensured that all volunteers felt respected and supported, allowing them to focus on their responsibilities during the Ekadashi Day event without any inconvenience.

After breakfast, the volunteers were promptly assigned to their designated areas, beginning their duties at 09:20 AM. Each team was carefully placed at specific locations within the temple to ensure smooth operations throughout the event, with responsibilities ranging from crowd management to assisting with spiritual activities. Throughout the day, volunteers were allowed to take short breaks as needed, with the condition that they informed their coordinators in advance. This ensured that the flow of work remained uninterrupted while also allowing the volunteers time to recharge.

At 2:00 PM, lunch coupons were distributed to all volunteers, giving them a much-needed opportunity to rest and enjoy their meal. This thoughtful arrangement not only ensured that the volunteers were well-nourished and energized but also allowed them to maintain focus and continue providing excellent service throughout the remainder of the event.

The food options were the same as the morning and the volunteers chose their own meal and went back to serve under the premises at 02:40

The volunteers continued their dedicated service until 6:00 PM, after which they were invited to collect their certificates and prasada as a token of appreciation for their hard work. The temple staff expressed their gratitude for the volunteers' efforts, acknowledging their commitment to making the event a success. Each volunteer was issued a certificate and prasadam as a gesture of thanks for their contribution. While most volunteers prepared to leave, a few chose to stay a bit longer to assist with any remaining tasks. Approximately 10 volunteers decided to extend their stay, demonstrating their continued enthusiasm and dedication to the temple and its activities. Their willingness to go the extra mile further highlighted the spirit of service and teamwork that defined the day's event.

Continuing their service until 10:45 PM, assisting with the final activities and preparations for the last arati of the day. Their commitment extended into the late hours, as they remained focused on their responsibilities to create a peaceful and organized environment for the devotees. After the arati, at around 11:00 PM, these volunteers were presented with certificates and prasadam as a recognition of their hard work. They collected their rewards and, after a long and fulfilling day, left the temple at 11:20 PM. However, a few volunteers chose to stay in the temple beyond this time, following their own itinerary and engaging in further spiritual activities. Their decision to remain, despite the late hour, reflected their deep commitment and devotion to the temple and its services. This group of volunteers displayed a continued spirit of dedication, marking the event with a strong sense of community and spiritual service.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the ISKCON Ekadashi Day event was a great success, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the volunteers from three colleges. Their teamwork, flexibility, and commitment ensured the smooth execution of the event, from early morning preparations to late-night services. The volunteers' willingness to adapt to various schedules, serve in different capacities, and remain engaged throughout the day highlighted their devotion to the cause. The temple staff's appreciation, along with the distribution of certificates and prasadam, reflected the volunteers' significant contributions. The day ended with a strong sense of fulfilment and community, leaving a lasting impact on both the volunteers and the devotees they served.









Coordinator:

Dr Madhu B P, Head outreach and extension wing

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