



14 Days. 150 College Students. 2 Routes. 13 Destinations.
31 Role Models. 1 Leadership Journey.

LEAD PRAYANA

Unleash your leadership potential

2017



LEAD Prayana, which began in 2012, is an annual leadership journey that takes over 120 passionate students aged between 18-26 from throughout India on a 15-day tour across Karnataka, and parts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Packed with role model sessions, hands-on activities, and site visits, LEAD Prayana inspires students by exposing them to individuals and institutions which have innovated and implemented solutions to major challenges. Through this leadership journey we aim to instill in the participants a need to bring change through effective leadership.

Through sessions with our specially selected role models and speakers, the participants are exposed to leaders across a variety of fields and not only learn more about topics including entrepreneurship, agriculture, technology, and the non-profit sector, but hear about the up and downs these accomplished leaders have gone through in their own leadership journeys. An emphasis on asking questions offers the participants the unique experience to interact with the role models and speakers, and makes their Prayana more personal and rewarding.

Hands-on activities and community break-out sessions take the participants out of the classroom to enhance and apply their leadership skills in the community. Conducting educational activities and interactions in villages along the route and team building activities amongst the participants are planned with the aim of experiential learning.

While ultimately a learning experience, LEAD Prayana is also an opportunity for fun and friendship. Group activities such as dancing, yoga, and games not only offer time to have fun and unwind during the journey, but help the participants to get to know each other. With participants from five different states across India, LEAD Prayana aims to offer a national networking opportunity for its participants and the possibility for lifelong friendships and connections

2017 Prayanee Testimonials

I enjoyed LEAD Prayana because I got a real exposure to world of Entrepreneurship, and I got to know about failures and how to overcome the problems. I am now able to become an good entrepreneur and serve society. -Srihari Vs

I enjoyed Prayana because all the days were like a roller coaster ride for me, each with new things ,new places, new faces and new stories. The only common thing was our he determination to learn and to achieve new goals. Prayana taught me to appreciate the little things, live in present and and allowed me to learn more about myself. Thank you LEAD Prayana for this support. -Suraj Nagare

I enjoyed LEAD Prayana because it gave me opportunities to explore myself. I cleared up many confusions I had related to my life and career, and I am now able to go forward with confidence. It was my first time go and do the activities in front of a crowd, and it boosted my energy and built an unending excitement to do something important. Thank you for the most amazing journey of my life. -Amarjeet Singh

The first and foremost thing I'd like to tell is that LEAD Prayana is the best thing to have ever happened to me. I was this introvert who have never had many friends, but after coming to Prayana I made 149 new friends. It's a platform to bring out the best in you, and inspire you to do something which can make a better society. -Chetana Kulkarni

In LEAD Prayana we can visit new places, meet new friends and explore the culture of India. I knew only the culture of Varanasi, but through Prayana I met different people and came to know about their culture, and traditions. This was the happiest moment of my life. -Sachin Verma

LEAD PRAYANA 2017 ROUTE 1

Unleash your leadership potential

Day 1

The journey to unleash participant's LEADership potential began at VTU Campus Belgavi. The Prayanees started as 110 strangers, but quickly bonded through team-building activities and a tour of the VTU campus. After former participants cheered on this year's Prayanees, the group left for Hubballi where they were greeted with performances at the Deshpande Foundation office. The journey was flagged off by the Foundation's founders Dr. Gururaj Deshpande and Jaishree Deshpande, and finished up the day by heading to Dharmasthala.



Day 2

Prayanees began their second day by visiting the Shri Kshethra Dharmasthala Rural Development Project office in Dharamastala, where they heard from the Executive Director, Dr. L. H. Manjunath and the Dharmadhikari of Dharmasthala, Dr. Veerendra Heggede. They also visited Annapoorna Kitchen, a mega kitchen sourcing its ingredients such as vegetables, spices, milk and grains from farmers partnered with SKDRDP. After lunch at the kitchen Prayanees visited SIRI headquarters, which provides linkages for rural women to generate income. They finished that day touring the SKDRDP Agriculture division, getting their hands dirty in the fields .



Day 3

The third day started with Yoga, and continued with a visit to the Arboretum, where Prayanees learned about the dangers of deforestation and environmental degradation. From there we visited the SDM College in Ujire which was established in 1966 and is known for academic excellence in rural locations. Later, we went to Manjusha Museum Dakshina Kannada and saw various antique collections. Lastly, they went to Dharmasthala Temple where we were informed locals about the bhim app.



Day 4

The Prayanees explored Manipal University. After looking around the campus we visited the Manipal Museum of Anatomy and Pathology. The University also showcased their advanced sports facilities. The gym equipment is imported from Italian manufacturers and Technogym, an official supplier of the Olympics. To finish off the day participants relaxed at Malpe Beach, Udupi.



Day 5

After a long night journey Prayanees reached Mysore where they had the opportunity to tour the Infosys IT company. Students had an interactive session with Mr. Sundar KS, Associate VP and Head, IMS academy at Infosys. After visiting and having lunch at Infosys they started their journey towards Mandya. Here they had the opportunity to talk with Prajwal who is currently pursuing his MSc and has created a mobile planetarium. Mr. Madhuchandan SC, founder of Organic Mandya concluded the day by discussing how left his job to work with farmers to develop organic farming practices.



Day 6

The day began travelling to the Bengaluru Microsoft Office where Prayanees met with Bala Girisaballa, CEO in residence of the Microsoft Accelerator in India about the need to take risks and push yourself. They then heard from Malathi Holla, international para athlete about her work with physically disabled children. Malathi wants to ensure that physical disabilities do not restrict others and her foundation provides aid to physically-disabled children by taking care of their education, medical as well as providing them with food and shelter. Mr. Phanindra, Sama Co-Founder of redbus.in and Kakatiya Sandbox, who is the last speaker of the day and discussed his entrepreneurial journey.





Day 7

Participants admired the Vishveshwarya Institute of Advanced Technology (VTU) before heading towards Marenahalli to meet Dr. Narayan Reddy. Shri Narayana Reddy is a legendary organic farmer, that believes a healthy farm should be based on a self-sustaining system, that stays independent from external inputs. Students engaged in community activities and worked on the farm to experience organic agriculture firsthand.



Day 8

After breakfast the Prayanees made their way towards Muddenahalli the birthplace of M. Visvesvaraya, one of the India's most accomplished engineers. His house has now been converted into museum where awards, titles and personal belongings are showcased. Later, we heard from Sri Satya Sai trust established by Sri Sathya Sai Baba in 1972. The trust is responsible for the operation of spiritual centres called Ashrams. They have been running various service projects in the fields of health and education completely free of charge.





Route 2



Day 1

The ROUTE-2 journey with the Prayanees from Nizamabad was inaugurated with Mr. Ram Reddy (mentor, Kakatiya Sandbox), Veeresh Pani (Program Manager, DET KS) and Mr. Sridhar Neelam (Program Manager Kakatiya Sandbox). The formal function included interactive sessions while incorporating team building activities for the participants. The session continued with a role model interaction with Ms. Malavath Purna, a mountaineer who climbed Mount Everest at the age of 13. We continued the journey with a visit to Gajanan rice mill, India's only FSSC 22000 certified, non-basmati category. The day ended with an interactive session at Nagarpalli.



Day 2



The morning started with activities at a temple in Narasingpalli. After the breakfast, they visited the Kakatiya Sandbox where Mr. Veeresh Pani discussed the Deshpande Educational Trust program and they learned about the Agastya Foundation from Mr. Chandrashekhar. Then the Prayanees visited the Bollant industry where they were educated on the manufacturing of eco-friendly paper plates and cups. The second day of Telangana journey ended with the preparation of Nukkad Natak for the next morning.

Day 3

The Prayanees participated in Nukkad Natak, India's oldest form of entertainment used to spread awareness about social issues. Next, the Prayanees packed their bags for IIIT-Basar, the only institution in the state of Telangana under MHRD government of India. The Prayanees visited the Bangaru Drip Irrigation Systems in Nandipet where techniques used in Drip Irrigation to promote environmental sustainability were explained. After this session, the Prayanees started their journey towards Warangal to visit the Balvikas Organization and the Model village.



Day 4

The Prayanees began their morning visiting the Bala Vikas Organization where Mr. Shouri Reddy, CEO, educated the Prayanees on how the organization impacts the community with various training programs. Later, The Prayanees visited the beautiful village Ganga Devi Palli built by the Bala Vikas Organization. This village was a reflection of dedicated efforts to bring a modern approach into a village setting.

Day 5

Mr. Ajay Suman Shukla, Team Leader of LEAD, joined the LEADers on their journey towards the 'T-HUB'. The T-HUB in Hyderabad, is an 'Accelerator' and India's largest co-collaborating platform with 760+ seats and 25+ startups. Next was a visit to Indian School of Business, one of the most reputable business schools in India. The first employee of LEAD program, Ms. Annie, joined the Prayanees at T-Hub Hyderabad, where she shared her past experiences with LEAD and offered advice to the participants. The day ended at the Saraswati Vidhyapeetham, where the LEADers reflected their journey.



Day 6

The Prayanees learned about upgrades to the food processing industry, and how this adds value to agricultural products in collaboration with the brand "Pick Me". Pomegranate is their main product of for food processing, and students saw products which will be exported to 20 different countries. They then moved to GVK EMRI (Emergency Management and Research Institute), a system that coordinates every emergency through a single toll-free number 1-0-8. It Started with 5 ambulances and 40 employees in 2015 and has grown to 11,000 ambulances and 45,000 employees.



Day 7

The Prayanees visited the Nirmaan Organization, a renowned NGO set up by alumnus of BITS PILANI. This organization derives its inspiration from former president Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. The Nirmaan Organization provides free computer education among other programs. The Prayanees were then divided into three groups and sent to remote and rural areas to promote the importance of computer education at Nirmaan. The next visit was to the Care Hospitals where the Prayanees interacted with Founder Dr. Krishna Reddy who explained the motive behind constructing the hospital and the Prayanees received insights on how important maintaining their health is.

Day 8

The Prayanees visited Hitachi where they engaged in an informative session with the Vice President Mr. Firoz. Afterwards the Prayanees stopped by 50k ventures, which brings together reputable investors, experienced entrepreneurs and mentors at the early-stage of startups developing innovative technologies. Next the Prayanees visited the Google facility where they learned how the company operates through an interactive session. The day concluded travelling towards the next location, Agastya International Foundation.



Route Together



Day 9

The morning started with a hike that looked across three states. Prayanees then explored the Agastya International Foundation Kuppam Campus, an Indian education trust and non-profit organization. Agastya International Foundation's mission is to spark curiosity, and nurture creativity among disadvantaged children and teachers across 18 Indian states. Route 1 and 2 of Lead Prayana were joined together at Navrachana- Innovation Hub. Everyone concluded the day at the Guru Gruha Planetarium where the Prayanees brought awareness to the importance of education by participating in a street act.



Day 10

The day started with team building activities. Prayanees were then taken to watch Jallikattu, a traditional event where a Bos Indicus Bull, is released into a crowd. Participants try to hold onto the bull for as long as possible, while the bull tries to escape. After watching the spectacular show, they headed back to Agastya Foundation for some crafting activities, and to pack up and get ready for an industrial visit in Hospet.





Day 11

The morning in Hospet started with a visit to Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Ltd. KFIL was established in 1991 is one of the fastest growing company in the business of Pig Iron and Castings, with an annual turnover of Rs. 1114 crores for the year 2015-16. KFIL has strategically located manufacturing plants at Koppal and Solapur with highly advanced manufacturing facilities. It was an excellent opportunity for participants to see industry in action. Prayanees then had an interactive session with M.D of KFIL Mr. Ravindranath Gumaste.

Day 12

The morning started with a visit to Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya, a residential school that seeks to empower children from socially marginalized and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The program combines a rigorous academic curriculum with a musical training component. Prayanees then visited the Parle Factory which manufactures the famous biscuit brand Parle-G. After the visit to the factory we made our way towards Deshpande Foundation for a Development Talk with Sally NG (CEO and Founder of The Triple Effect), Israel Ganot (MD of MassChallenge Israel), Suhas Gopinath (CEO and Chairman of Globals Inc.), and Bhakti Sharma (Open Water Swimmer). The role models shared their journeys, and encouraged Prayanees to dream big.



Day 13

The started with a visit to Akshaya Patra, the world's largest kitchen that serves lunches to over 1.6 million children in 13,529 schools across 11 states in India. Next we listened to Aditya Iyer, Ted Talk speaker and author of *The Great Indian Obsession*. Later, an interactive panel session was held with faculty from Deshpande Foundations around the world that included; **Leon Sandler** (ED MIT Deshpande Center), LEAD Faculty **Dr. Veerana DK**, **Arun Kumar M.V**, and **Vasudev Parvati**, as well as **Nicholas Clermont** from the Pond Deshpande Center. The session was moderated by **Sally NG**. **Mahesh Jadhav** then shared his inspiring story on how he is working on looking after 55 HIV positive children **Ravi Gumaste**, MD at Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited, concluded Yuva Summit by recognizing leaders for their outstanding work which included **Dr. Desh Deshpande** (Indian American venture capitalist and entrepreneur), **Jaishree Deshpande** (Treasurer of Sparta Group LLC, and a founder of the Deshpande Foundation), **Raju Reddy** (CEO of Sierra Atlantic), **Bezwada Wilson** (Indian activist and one of the founders and National Convenor of the Safai Karmachari Andolan), and **Dilip Modi** (Managing Director at Spice).



Day 14

The final day began with Vivek Pawar, CEO of Sankalp Semiconductors where he educated the Prayanees with his experience in general management, operations, program management, customer relations, and design. The next presentation was from, Shrawani Pawar, a rural women who started her own social enterprise called Safe Hands. Her enterprise trains over 400 rural women and places them as security guards. Lastly, Venkatesh Iyer (Venky), Co-founder of Goli Vadapav, spoke on his fast food brand that is shipped across the country.

I've unleashed my leadership potential... now what?

After seeing each of your leadership potentials being unleashed during this extraordinary journey, we at LEAD would like to see you go on with hands-on leadership experience. To make real change, we would like you to get engaged in the following ways.

1. Stay connected! Follow LEAD on all social media platforms (@dcselead) to get regular inspiration and see what other LEADers are doing in their communities. You'll also never miss any LEAD events or updates! Keep in touch with fellow Prayanees to stay motivated, support each other, and build long-lasting friendships!
2. Haven't started a LEAD project yet? START NOW! During LEAD Prayana, you met many role models and speakers who made a big difference by addressing a small issue in their community. Now it's your turn! Don't have an idea? Start looking around you for issues you think you can help address. You can also check out the Idea Bank on our LEAD website (leadcampus.org), or get in touch with local LEADers to gain inspiration or join a group project.
3. Become a Master LEADer or LEAD Ambassador! Now that you have completed LEAD Prayana, you are eligible to apply to become a Master LEADer, and eventually a LEAD Ambassador. Master LEADers are on the front line, engaging with promising students and spreading the word about the benefits of joining LEAD. Ambassadors get the chance to represent LEAD on their campus and work closely with the LEAD associates and school administration to help LEAD grow at their college. Contact your local LEAD associate to discuss setting up an interview.
4. Attend a Valedictory! LEAD Valedictories occur in many LEAD centers across India in April, and it is where the stand-out projects and LEADers in that location are identified, showcased, and awarded. It is a great opportunity to reunite with your fellow Prayanees from your area and to network with other local LEADers. Visit our website (leadcampus.org) for more information.
5. Join the LEAD Leadership Program (LLP)! LLP is a unique 10-day residential camp that emphasizes practical exposure over classroom learning. LLP combines hands on learning experience in understanding practically leadership, team building, critical thinking, creativity and entrepreneurial mindset through inspiring guest speaker sessions, individual mentorship, engaging activities, and exposure visits to industries and community-based organizations in order to foster practical, critical and creative thinking ability within the students. LLPs take place in late May, June, and July, and you can find application information on our website, leadcampus.org.

Best of luck as you continue your leadership journey!

Ajay Suman Shukla & the LEAD Team

A Special Thank You to Our Loyal Partners!



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