



MAR 2023

# SEWA SANDESH

**Namaskar,**

“The path from dreams to success does exist. May you have the vision to find it, the courage to get on it and the perseverance to follow it” - Kalpana Chawala

Women are reaching new heights across the world. Recently, India has bagged four gold medals at the women’s world boxing. Nitu Ganghas, one of the boxers plans to use the prize money to pay off the debt his father has incurred over a long period to support her career. India has also won an Oscar for the documentary “The Elephant whisperers” directed and produced by women. The past month witnessed several dreams coming true, showcasing the strength of the women and giving the message that a strong will is all you need to fight all the barriers that come your way.

At the ground level, several unknown stories of inspiration are breaking the preconceived notions and redefining the meaning of “empowerment”. For Sewa International, women have always been the changemakers; be it Himsampada where 4000 women are the stakeholders of a producers company or aarogya preraks of mission Niramayah who went door to door with medical kits. We respect and salute the women who are actively participating in bringing the change. Fyunli (a flower) Kauthig (festival) which is celebrated at the onset of spring, is one such event on the occasion of International women’s day where we acknowledge the contribution of women toward society.

Dhanyawaad !

**Abhishek Kumar**

(Executive Director, Sewa International)

## Celebrating womanhood

Empowering, Encouraging, and Emotional – our month-long celebration of womanhood was a huge success! From cancer screenings to block printing to sharing stories of resilience through art and craft, we have reached the masses with a day dedicated to highlighting issues related to women. Fyunli Kauthig brings us all under one umbrella, as we celebrate it across 7 states in India.

Honouring the countless sacrifices of women everywhere, Fyunli Kauthig provided a platform to share the unique transformational journeys of women.



## Women achievers

It is said that if you are determined, nothing is impossible in the world. Today no field is left untouched by women.

Whenever we talk about successful women, we count women leaders etc., who are a source of inspiration for many people and today we consider them role models. Similarly, girls and women in the border areas of Uttarakhand are doing a top job in various fields and have become a source of inspiration for everyone with their work.

Similarly, Kumari Chandrika Maithani from the border area of village Makkumath, district Rudraprayag, who is a student of class 5 is the first girl in her development block to pass the Sainik School examination at the All India Base Level and has set an example for other girls.



## Capacity building through craft

Samben Bijal is a resident of Jamkunaria Village in Kutch, Gujarat who lived a normal life until the devastating earthquake hit her village on January 26th, 2001. Within seconds, her home was destroyed, and she and her family were left with nothing.

But that was not the end, but the beginning of a new journey. Now, she has been working with Sewa International for more than 9 years in Kutch Kala. This program has been successful in reaching 250+ women encouraging skill development to earn a living for a better future. Today, she is leading a happy life with her family.



## Serving God's own country

A week-long trip in the remotest areas of Kerala provided the opportunity to engage with the most deprived sections of the community, and concerned stakeholders and understand the existing best models of women empowerment. Starting with attending the SHG meeting of Kudumbashree in Athirappilly which was formed 25 years ago, the team overviewed the working of the special care centre for orphans and destitute in Mayannur to interact with the tribals of Palakad and Wayanad districts. The key observations were the alarming mental health issues, consistent rise in sickle cell disease and hygiene concerns among the tribal population.



# Civil 20: Sense of Service, Philanthropy, and Volunteerism

Civil society organisations and human values take centre stage at C20 Inception Conference in Mumbai chaired by Sewa International Secretary Shri Shyam Parande. A dynamic and insightful discussion on shaping a better world for all.

In another C20 Chaupal event in Delhi, a panel discussion was held on the role of global civil society in tackling disasters.

The goal of C20 is to create a platform for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) to express the aspirations of the people to the leaders of the world's 20 biggest economies.



## Padyatra: A walk to remember

Sewa fellows traversed through rural India to understand the ground realities better. Walking across 10 villages and 4 districts in four days, our fellows spend quality time with and within the community, breaking away from the routine and digging deep to better understand their needs and challenges.



# Unleashed: Diaspora, Disaster, Development report

Launching our disaster report “Diaspora, Disaster and Development”, a blueprint for understanding, responding and preparing for future disastrous events. After seeing this report, it is evident that the country and the world are affected by disasters and that social organizations play a crucial role in dealing with them. It is emphasized that the work we do during disaster management may seem small, but its impact is far-reaching.

Let's get ready to lend a hand and join forces! We believe in harnessing the power of our community to make a disaster-resilient world! Let's make a difference together!

