

October, 2024



Sewa Sandesh

October: A Month of Festivities, Joy and Aspirations for a Better Tomorrow



Editors Note

Namaskar,

The month of October is a time of rich celebration and deep significance across India, with festivals like Navratri, Dussehra, Diwali, and Bhai Dooj reminding us of timeless values—resilience, unity, and hope. These celebrations, rooted in our diverse cultural heritage, bring families and communities together and serve as a reminder of our shared commitment to a brighter, more inclusive future. For Sewa International, this festive season also reflects our ongoing work to empower communities, honour resilience, and nurture aspirations.

At the heart of Diwali is the triumph of light over darkness, hope over despair. It's a message that aligns seamlessly with Sewa's mission to uplift those in need, create opportunities, and ignite potential. Just as every diya in Diwali illuminates its surroundings, every initiative by Sewa, from entrepreneurship training to disaster crisis education, seeks to brighten lives, empower individuals, and foster a sense of community. This year, as we celebrated across our regional offices, we experienced firsthand the power of coming together, reminding us that our strength lies in unity, mutual support, and a shared vision.

Navratri, with its celebration of feminine strength and resilience, resonates with our efforts to empower marginalised communities, especially women, who are the backbones of their families and communities. By supporting these women in their journey toward self-sufficiency, we honour the enduring strength symbolised by Goddess Durga, reflecting the transformative power each individual holds within.

Dussehra's lesson of good overcoming evil inspires our work with underserved communities, urging us to champion justice, compassion, and equality in all that we do. And as Bhai Dooj celebrates the bond between siblings, it reinforces the value of support networks and relationships, which are central to our programs that connect communities and build foundations of mutual aid.

As we move forward, we aim to carry these messages from October's festivals into our work, fostering environments where individuals and communities can flourish. Sewa International remains committed to nurturing an inclusive society where everyone's light can shine and everyone's potential can be realized. May this festive season be a beacon, inspiring us to deepen our resolve, uplift others, and continue building a future grounded in unity, compassion, and resilience.

In this spirit, let us take the warmth, unity, and purpose of this month forward into every effort, every initiative, and every life we touch. Together, we can create a tapestry of hope, progress, and celebration that extends beyond the festivals—lighting up lives throughout the year.

Dhanyawaad!

*R.K Anil
Executive Director
Sewa International*





As the warmth of Diwali lights up your hearts and homes, may Sewa International continue to bring happiness and hope to every corner of the community.

Sewa International celebrated Diwali with joy and togetherness across all regional offices, bringing the entire Sewa Parivaar closer. Here's a glimpse of those cherished moments.





Empowering Dreams: Sewa International's Micro-Entrepreneurship Training for a Better Tomorrow

Last month, we embarked on a transformative journey with 80 passionate individuals from Delhi NCR, each bringing a unique story and a powerful vision. These participants, many of whom are women and individuals with disabilities, joined our five-day micro-entrepreneurship training program with hopes of fortifying their small businesses and creating a sustainable future for themselves and their families.

Some run tea stalls, some have beauty parlours, while others manage local shops- ventures born out of necessity, creativity, and resilience. Recognizing their courage and potential, Sewa International, with generous support from Oracle, designed this program to offer hands-on training, equipping them with essential business skills, financial management insights, and growth strategies tailored to micro-enterprises.

At Sewa, we believe in supporting each participant's vision, and our journey doesn't end here. Moving forward, we'll be standing by them, helping bring their aspirations to life.

Together, we're not just building businesses; we're creating empowered communities.



[Click here to check out our story](#)



contact@sewainternational.org

SEWA SANDESH





illuminating Voices: Deepotsav 3.0 Unites Journalists for Change

In the spirit of Diwali, Sewa International proudly organized Deepotsav 3.0 this year, bringing together over a hundred national journalists under one roof to spotlight on issues deeply affecting our nation. The gathering, held amidst Diwali's promise of light over darkness, was a unique opportunity for journalists to join forces in addressing urgent challenges through collective dialogue.

This year, the theme for Deepotsav 3.0 was "Unheard Voices: Media's Role in Amplifying Women and Children's Plight During Global Crises." Through this theme, Deepotsav 3.0 was able to hold Discussion, Dialogue, and Dissent, inviting participants to share their perspectives on how media, with an "Indianised" lens of empathy, compassion, and shared responsibility, can bring transformative change to critical narratives. By examining the often-overlooked stories of women and children during global crises, the gathering sought to inspire journalists to become torchbearers of these important stories.

We were honoured to have Sh. Kanchan Gupta ji (Senior Advisor, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting) and Smt. Madhu Kishwar ji (Former National Professor, ICSSR), who shared their profound insights into the struggles of women and children and the essential role of media in their representation. Their presence added depth to the event, leaving us with both knowledge and renewed responsibility.

Thanks to the efforts and enthusiasm of over one hundred dedicated journalists, Deepotsav 3.0 was a resounding success. Sewa International is excited to carry this legacy forward, and we eagerly look ahead to Deepotsav 2025, where we will once again come together to address emerging issues and uplift voices that must be heard.



[Click here to check out our story](#)



contact@sewainternational.org

SEWA SANDESH



Empowering Resilience: SCODE Training Builds a Safer Tomorrow in Uttarakhand

In the remote and breathtaking landscapes of Uttarakhand, where natural beauty meets unpredictability, preparing for the unexpected becomes a community's strength. Sewa International has embraced this challenge, introducing the School Crisis Orientation and Disaster Education (SCODE) program in the Chamoli and Rudraprayag districts.

Recently, our team's efforts were recognised by News India, a trusted voice in Indian media, for bringing vital skills to communities that are often most affected by natural disasters. This heartening coverage brings renewed energy to our team, affirming that the steps we're taking with SCODE have the potential to make a real difference.

The School Crisis Orientation and Disaster Education (SCODE) program, introduced in the Chamoli and Rudraprayag districts, is designed to help communities in Uttarakhand build resilience and readiness in the face of emergencies. Through SCODE, we aim to equip school students and local community members with crucial skills and knowledge to act swiftly and efficiently when disasters strike.

Watching young students and community members engage, learn, and grow through this program fills us with hope and pride, especially as they take proactive steps toward building a safer and more resilient future. For us, this recognition is a powerful reminder of the importance of empowering local communities, and it encourages us to continue our journey towards a more secure tomorrow.





Embracing Inclusivity and Empowerment: A Navratri to Remember

As Navratri festivities bring people together in celebration, this sacred tradition takes on a deeper meaning this year. On the ninth day of Navratri, a day of reverence and community, the transgender community is honoured in a beautiful act of inclusion—leading the aarti to mark the festival's culmination. Inspired by this gesture, Sewa International is taking a step forward in supporting this spirit of unity.

In collaboration with our SHE-CAF team, this initiative is dedicated to creating dignified livelihoods for marginalised communities. This Navratri, we're proud to support five transgender individuals in Nagpur by introducing a mobile food truck venture. Through this project, fresh meals and snacks are now being served in the Jafar Nagar and Civil Lines areas, turning a vision of self-reliance into reality.

The inauguration, graced by Honourable Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari, highlighted the importance of empowerment and inclusivity. This initiative not only creates a path for sustainable income but also embodies the essence of Goddess Durga, who stands for justice and equality. At Sewa International, we are

committed to fostering an environment where every individual, regardless of their background, can thrive with dignity and pride.

This Navratri has become more than a festival—it's a step toward a more inclusive, compassionate society. We are deeply honoured to share this journey with the community and celebrate the promise of a brighter future for all.



[Click here to check out our story](#)



contact@sewainternational.org

SEWA SANDESH





Empowering Change Through Clean Habits: Sewa International's Mission for Health and Hygiene

In a heartfelt commitment to promote health and hygiene, Sewa International in Uttarakhand recently celebrated Global Handwashing Day on October 15th, dedicating this complete month to raising awareness about hand hygiene under its Adolescent Holistic Development Program. Aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.2, which emphasizes equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, this program aimed at over 1,200 adolescent girls across 200+ villages in Chamoli and Rudraprayag districts.

Under the Adolescent Holistic Development Program, Sewa organized engaging activities that combined awareness with hands-on learning. Through captivating video sessions and a specially designed pamphlet, "Clean Hands, Healthy Body," the girls explored the significance of hand hygiene and the vital role it plays in their health. This pamphlet, with clear steps and guidance, became a foundation for learning and sharing knowledge within their communities.

The girls embraced interactive activities, creating "MY REMINDER" charts to prompt regular handwashing and participating in an imaginative exercise, "I AM MY EVERYDAY HERO," where they envisioned themselves as advocates for hygiene in their neighborhoods.

Their creativity shone as they took to social media with a "See and Repeat Reel," demonstrating handwashing techniques to broaden their reach and inspire others to adopt clean habits.

To deepen this learning, Sewa also held a webinar, "Clean Habits, Healthy Life: Small Changes, Big Impact," led by health experts, where the girls engaged in storytelling exercises and took a hygiene pledge, promising to spread their newfound awareness.

Through these efforts, Sewa International has fostered a culture of health consciousness, empowering young girls to become agents of change in their communities, embodying the essence of Global Handwashing Day by taking small, meaningful steps toward a healthier tomorrow.

[Click here to check out our story](#)



contact@sewainternational.org

SEWA SANDESH





*Together, we've sketched stories of change,
etching hope into hearts. We want to express
our sincere gratitude for your continued support
and readership.*



Follow us on



Subscribe our newsletter on
www.sewainternational.org

Published by:

Sewa International
First Floor, Plot 8,
Site 11, Near SD Public School,
West Patel Nagar, New Delhi - 110008