

December, 2024



Sewa Sandesh

*December: A Month of
New beginnings*



Editor's Note

Namaskar,

As we step into 2025, we continue our unwavering commitment to serve the underserved, reaching those in the remotest corners of our nation. This year, Sewa International deepens its resolve to extend the essence of "sewa" to places where it is most needed. From the border villages of Rajasthan to the untouched districts of Uttarakhand, and further strengthening our initiatives in the north-eastern states, our journey is guided by the spirit of service and inclusivity.

The changing Georgian calendar is not merely a marker of time but a reminder of our enduring mission—to bring hope, uplift communities, and create meaningful impact. Anchored in the timeless Indian ethos of "vasudhaiva kutumbakam," we strive to embrace every opportunity to serve humanity, grounded in our values and traditions.

Our mission thrives on the unwavering support of individuals who walk with us on this path of "sewa bhav," dedicating their hearts and efforts to transforming lives. As we move forward, we carry this collective spirit of compassion into every initiative, aiming to inspire change and light the way for those in need.

With gratitude for the journey thus far and renewed determination for what lies ahead, we promise to approach every challenge with resolve, humility, and purpose. Together, let us continue to build bridges of hope and service, ensuring that no one remains untouched by the light of sewa.

Let us make 2025 a year of transformative actions and enduring impact, guided by the spirit of India's rich tradition of selfless service.

Dhanyawaad!



R.K Anil
Executive Director
Sewa International





Inspiring Change: Ladli Mahotsav 2024 Empowering Adolescent Girls

As we step into 2025 with renewed hope and commitment, Sewa International continues its mission of creating lasting change with the Ladli Mahotsav 2024, held in Tapovan village, Chamoli district, Uttarakhand. This initiative aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on improving access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) through community-driven efforts.

Themed "स्वच्छ जल, स्वच्छ शौचालय, स्वच्छता हो, हर गाँव-विद्यालय," the Mahotsav aimed to instill good hygiene practices among adolescent girls through interactive sessions, cultural activities, and creative competitions. Over 30 girls were empowered with critical knowledge about Menstrual Health Management (MHM), nutrition, and environmentally friendly hygiene practices. With more than 1,000 participants, the event became a platform for promoting awareness and driving meaningful behavior change.

Workshops led by experts highlighted essential topics, including school sanitation, health risks of poor hygiene, and gender-sensitive WASH practices. Hygiene kits were distributed to ensure access to essential resources, and creative activities like essay writing and poster-making allowed the girls to express their understanding of these themes.

A cleanliness rally involving 500 adolescents amplified the event's message, while 30 trained WASH ambassadors pledged to continue promoting hygiene within their communities. Cultural performances and competitions infused local relevance and vibrancy into the event, ensuring its impact extended beyond awareness to tangible action.

The Ladli Mahotsav 2024 serves as a shining example of how innovative initiatives can bring sustainable change. As we move into the new year, Sewa International remains steadfast in its commitment to empowering communities, fostering leadership, and building healthier futures for all. Together, let's continue to champion initiatives that inspire progress and hope.





Planting Seeds of Change: Empowering Communities in Rajasthan's Border Districts

As the year ends and moves towards a new beginning, Sewa International, in collaboration with Yusen Logistics, has brought hope and transformation to the border districts of Jaisalmer and Barmer in Rajasthan. These initiatives, carried out in December, symbolise the spirit of renewal and commitment to a brighter future for the communities in these remote regions.

The tree plantation drive stands out as a remarkable step toward sustainability and environmental restoration. A total of 450 trees were planted across Barmer and Jaisalmer, breathing life into barren landscapes and promising a greener tomorrow. In Barmer's Kahu Ka Kheda Gram Panchayat, 200 saplings found new homes at the Government Higher Secondary School, the Gram Panchayat campus, and the local temple premises. Meanwhile, in Jaisalmer's Lawan Gram Panchayat, 250 trees were planted at key locations, including the Government Higher Secondary School, Police Station, Temple, and Crematorium. These efforts, supported by community leaders and enthusiastic participants, demonstrate the power of collective action.

For many students in these districts, the journey to education is a literal uphill climb, with distances ranging from 4 to 19 kilometres between their homes and schools. To ease this challenge, Sewa

International distributed 50 bicycles to deserving students. In Barmer, bicycles were provided to students from Government Higher Secondary Schools in Kahu Ka Kheda, Bhimra, and Hudo Ki Dhani, while students from the Government Higher Secondary School in Lawan, Jaisalmer, also received this much-needed support. These bicycles are more than a convenience—they are a bridge to education, empowerment, and new opportunities for these young learners.

The events were marked by the active involvement of community leaders, educators, and locals, transforming them into celebrations of unity and progress. Leaders like Additional District Education Officer Bhagwan Das Barupal and Sarpanch Rajendra Paliwal played a vital role in these efforts, inspiring others to join the mission of development and empowerment.

As we embrace the possibilities of a new year, these initiatives remind us of the power of hope, collaboration, and the drive to reach new horizons. Sewa International's work in Rajasthan reflects its unwavering commitment to creating lasting impacts in even the most remote corners of the nation. Together, we continue to sow the seeds of change and nurture dreams, stepping into the future with renewed determination and purpose.





Empowering Northeast India: A Story of Collaboration and Change

Sewa International's unwavering commitment to fostering partnerships has taken us to the vibrant and culturally rich lands of Northeast India, where we strive to empower communities and strengthen regional ties. At the heart of this effort is our collaboration with Seva Bharati Purbanchal (SBP), an organisation deeply rooted in the region's ethos and development. Together, we are making strides to uplift lives, support livelihoods, and build a brighter future.

Under the aegis of our Sewa SHE initiative, this partnership has become a beacon of hope for many women in Meghalaya, Manipur, and Assam. In Meghalaya and Manipur, over 50 women have embraced self-reliance through tailoring programs, equipping them with skills that pave the way for financial independence. Meanwhile, in Assam, women have found empowerment through livestock rearing and weaving initiatives, preserving traditional crafts while creating sustainable income opportunities.

On December 15 workshops were conducted for these beneficiaries by RSB karyakartas. These interactive sessions brought together the SHE team and local community members, fostering a spirit of collective growth and shared learning. The enthusiasm and dedication displayed during the workshops underscored the transformative power of collaboration and the resilience of the women we serve.

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Through partnerships like these, Sewa International continues to extend its reach, aligning with its mission to serve humanity selflessly. Each step forward not only bridges geographical distances but also strengthens the bonds of solidarity and shared purpose.

Together with organisations like SBP, we are writing a new chapter of hope and empowerment for Northeast India, one life at a time.





Expanding Horizons: Sewa International Reaches Kumaon

With the dawn of a new year, Sewa International is charting new paths to extend its mission of service and empowerment. After years of dedicated work in Chamoli and Rudrapur districts, we have expanded our reach to the remote and underserved Almora district in the Kumaon region. This step marks our commitment to broadening horizons and bringing essential services to communities in need.

In this new chapter, Sewa International recently organised health camps tailored to address critical healthcare challenges while promoting preventive health practices. An eye checkup camp in Badeth village, Block Dwarahat, benefitted 67 individuals, offering much-needed ophthalmological care. Simultaneously, a school health program at Kalyanika Ved Vedang School, Kanara Dol Village, Lamgarha Block, provided dental checkups and oral hygiene education to 64 students. This included 17 root canal procedures, highlighting the depth of care extended to young learners.

These initiatives were carefully crafted in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental health, ensuring their relevance and effectiveness. With active support from the Department of Ophthalmology and Dentistry, we brought quality healthcare to the doorsteps of remote communities, empowering them with knowledge to lead healthier lives.

Collaboration has been a cornerstone of these efforts, with key partnerships among local communities, medical institutions, and other stakeholders. By addressing specific health concerns identified in the region, these camps delivered targeted solutions, emphasising the importance of preventive care and sustainable health practices.

This expansion into Almora represents not just growth but a renewed commitment to serve the underserved. As we embrace this new year, Sewa International looks forward to organising more such impactful initiatives, fostering partnerships, and addressing the healthcare needs of vulnerable populations. Together, we strive to reach new heights, touching more lives and transforming communities with every step forward.





Empowering Communities Through Skill Development: Stories of Transformation and Hope

At Sewa International, we believe in the transformative power of skill development as a means to uplift marginalised communities and foster inclusive growth. Our journey of empowering women and transgender individuals from rural, urban, and tribal backgrounds, as well as other marginalised communities, is unfolding across the country, creating ripples of change that inspire hope and resilience.

Sewa International's SHE-CAF team is working across Assam, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Kerala, Meghalaya, Manipur, Odisha, and West Bengal. A total of 296 beneficiaries are undergoing specialised training programs tailored to their unique contexts.

Moreover, the story of five transgender beneficiaries in Nagpur, Maharashtra, is truly remarkable. Armed with training and determination, they are now successfully running a mobile food truck, serving daily snacks in bustling areas like Jafar Nagar and Civil Lines. Their venture is more than a business; it is a testament to their courage and the support that empowers them to reclaim their dignity and independence.

In Raipur, Chhattisgarh, 25 women beneficiaries are mastering the art of tailoring and embroidery through a partnership with the Chhattisgarh Mitwa Sankalp Samiti. Their progress reflects not just skill acquisition but the promise of a self-sustained future. Meanwhile, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, 50 beneficiaries are advancing their computer skills in collaboration with SAKHA. Recently, they attended an enlightening session by industry experts, where they gained valuable insights into market demands for computer literacy. This exposure is equipping them to navigate the job market confidently and seize new opportunities.

Looking forward, our efforts are set to expand further. In January 2025, Sewa International, in partnership with the Pride Business Network Foundation (PBNF), will support the establishment of Transcave ventures in Mumbai and Pune. These initiatives will empower transgender individuals with skills and opportunities to foster financial independence and social inclusion, marking another milestone in our mission to create equitable spaces for all.

Through these programs, Sewa International continues to nurture dreams, build skills, and provide a platform for individuals to transform their lives.

Together, we are weaving a future where everyone has the skills and opportunities to thrive.





New Year, New Hope: A Story of Generosity and Transformation

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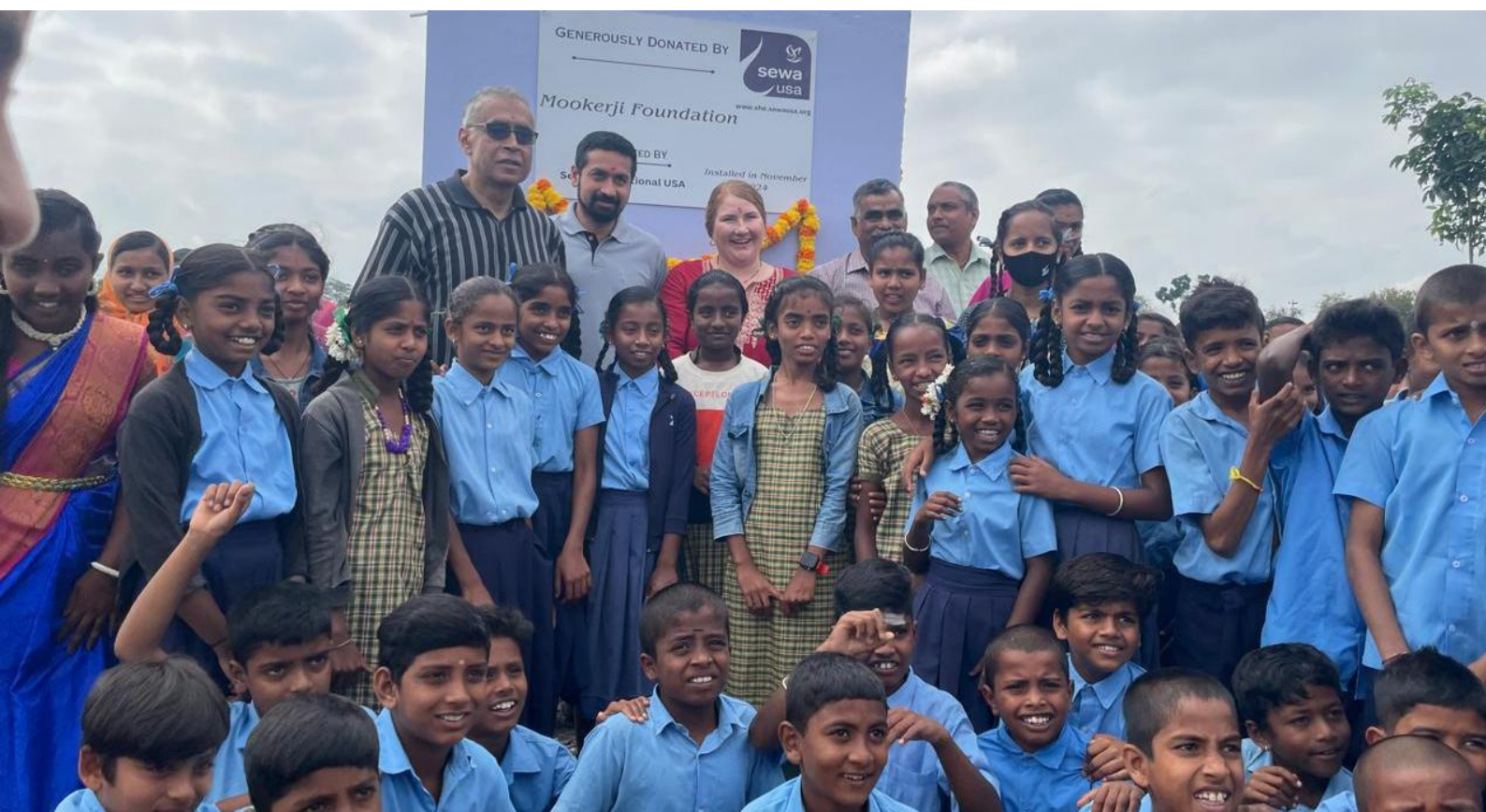
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*Together, we've sketched stories of change,
etching hope into hearts. We want to express
our sincere gratitude for your continued support
and readership.*



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