

January, 2026



# Sewa Sandesh

January: A Month of Joy, Journeys & Jansewa

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## Editors Note

*From Dignity to Self-Reliance: Building Confident Communities through Service and Opportunity*

*Namaskar ,*

This edition of Sewa Sandesh reflects a powerful truth: lasting change begins when dignity is protected, voices are heard, and opportunities are placed within reach.

Across geographies and communities, Sewa International's work this month highlights a seamless journey from ensuring safe sanitation for adolescent girls, nurturing hygiene leadership among children, and amplifying dialogue on girl-child empowerment, to enabling women, artisans, and youth to step confidently into livelihoods and leadership. Whether through entrepreneurship training, market exposure, institutional convergence, or recognition of service, each initiative strengthens the foundation of self-reliance rooted in dignity.

What stands out is not just the diversity of interventions, but their shared intent- to move beyond short-term support and build ecosystems where individuals can sustain, grow, and lead. Girls staying in school, women transforming skills into enterprises, artisans connecting tradition with markets, and youth being recognised for service- all reflect communities steadily shaping their own futures.

As we move forward, Sewa International remains committed to this integrated approach, where service is purposeful, partnerships are meaningful, and impact is measured not only in numbers, but in confidence restored and aspirations realised. Together, we continue working towards stronger communities and a more self-reliant nation.

*Dhanyawaad!*



*Jineshlal R.V.*  
Executive Director  
Sewa International



### Running for a Cause, Creating Real Impact: Sewa International at Tata Mumbai Marathon

The Tata Mumbai Marathon (TMM) stands as one of Asia's most prestigious marathon events and for Sewa International, it is a powerful platform where purpose meets participation. Beyond the spirit of sport, TMM brings together individuals, corporates, and organisations to drive meaningful social change across health, education, and livelihood initiatives.

Through this collective effort, **₹1,90,52,807** has been raised so far- transforming every step taken into tangible impact on the ground.

With continued support and shared commitment, Sewa International remains dedicated to mobilising resources, building awareness, and strengthening communities through service and action.



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## Celebrating the Spirit of the Republic, Together: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Republic Day was marked with pride and unity across Sewa International's regional offices, where teams came together to hoist the national flag and honour the values enshrined in our Constitution. The gatherings reflected a shared commitment to service, responsibility, and nation-building- values that guide Sewa's work every day.

As we celebrated the tricolour, we renewed our resolve to serve the nation with integrity, compassion, and collective strength.

Warm Republic Day wishes from the Sewa International parivaar.



## A door to dignity opens with every step she takes: Sewa SHE Initiative

On National Girl Child Day, Sewa International marked the occasion with purposeful action by handing over 40 newly constructed toilet blocks across government schools in Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, and Karnataka, creating safer spaces for adolescent girls.

In Mandya district, Karnataka, 12 toilet blocks were inaugurated across three schools, directly addressing a critical but often overlooked barrier to girls' education.

Designed to uphold dignity, health, and continuity in learning, these facilities strengthen school sanitation infrastructure where it matters most.

The presence and appreciation of Panchayat leaders, school committees, and local communities reflected a shared resolve to support the girl child.



## When dialogue is rooted in service, impact travels far: Sewa Family at Hanol Mahotsav



The first day of the three-day Atmanirbhar Hanol Mahotsav (January 13-15), held in Palitana Taluka of Bhavnagar district, unfolded in a dignified and inspiring atmosphere, setting the tone for meaningful engagement. The Mahotsav, inaugurated by Hon'ble Sh. Mansukh L. Mandaviya (Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports) along with Hon'ble Sh. Shivraj Singh Chouhan (Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development), celebrates Hanol village as a living embodiment of Mahatma Gandhi's vision of 'Gram Swaraj' and the Hon'ble Prime Minister's resolve for 'Adarsh Gram'.

On this occasion, Sh. Jineshlal R.V. (Executive Director, Sewa International) formally introduced the organisation and its ethos to Hon'ble Sh. Mansukh L. Mandaviya. This was followed by a thoughtful exchange highlighting the programme's vision, structure, and its role in strengthening villages and public welfare. The interaction reflected a shared commitment to self-reliance, community-led development, and sustainable rural transformation. 5 Sewa Fellows also attended the event, gaining valuable exposure to grassroots-led development models, while exploring the model village development

## When Fellows Lead, Collective Learning Grows: Fellowship Digital Meet-up



### Sewa Fellowship Program Digital Meet-up

16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026

 Venkatesha Murthy Founder and Chief Mentor Youth For Seva	 Dadasaheb Galkwad Director Gramshiksha Foundation	 Girish Degaonkar Chief Executive Officer Sevacharitra	 Ashwani Tiwari Co-founder and Director Vidhyarthi Vidhyarthi Association
 TarakRam T.S. Senior Manager, Programs Sewa International	 Anurag Kulkarni Co-Founder, Seva Surajya Foundation Director, Panchayat Vidyayatra	 Swathi Ram Sewa International	 Nilesh Mantri Director, Leadership and Capacity Building Sewa International

**A virtual meet-up led & organized by Sewa Fellows Batch 2024-26**

The Sewa Fellowship Program hosted a three-day Digital Meet-up (16- 18 January 2025) - conceptualised, led, and anchored by Sewa Fellows (Batch 2024- 26) themselves.

Designed as a peer-led learning space, the meet-up brought together fellows, practitioners, and sector leaders for meaningful conversations on programme planning, organisational development, collaboration, leadership, and career pathways in the social sector. What emerged was more than dialogue- it was shared reflection, collective growth, and the strengthening of a community committed to service and impact.

Sewa International continues to nurture young leaders who learn together, lead together, and grow together.



## When service becomes a way of life, recognition naturally follows

Sumit, an alumnus of the Sewa Fellowship (Batch 2) from Haridwar, was honoured for his outstanding service on the occasion of National Youth Day. The recognition was conferred at the National Youth Conference held in Haridwar under the aegis of Divya Prem Seva Mission. The event was graced by the presence of Acharya Balkrishna Ji, General Secretary of Patanjali Yogpeeth, and the honour was presented by Anurag Thakur Ji. This recognition reflects Sumit's unwavering commitment to service and his meaningful contribution to society.

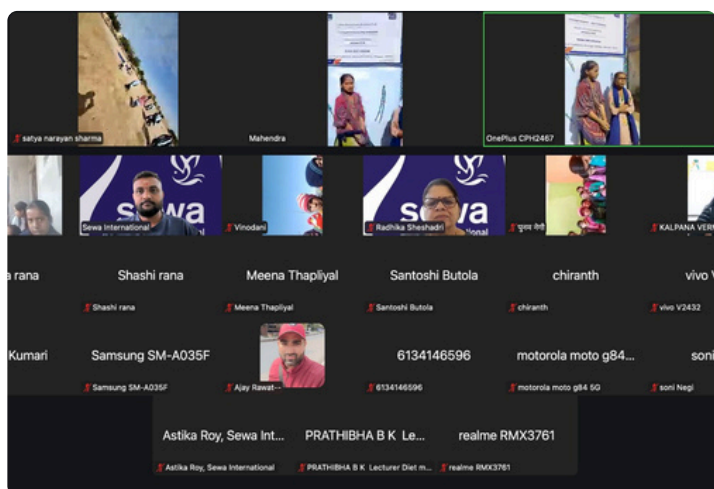
Sewa International takes pride in nurturing such service-driven youth who lead by example in nation-building.



## When girls are heard, societies begin to change: SHE Speaks- An Online Webinar

On National Girl Child Day, SHE Speaks brought together voices and ideas through a focused webinar on empowering the girl child through education, health, and dignity. The dialogue highlighted critical themes- sanitation, menstrual hygiene, healthcare, education, and the collective responsibility of communities in shaping equitable futures. Aligned with Sewa International's SHE Project, the session reinforced that true empowerment demands a multi-dimensional, system-driven approach. Participants echoed a shared belief: investing in girls creates ripple effects that strengthen families, communities, and the nation.

Sewa International continues to champion advocacy and action, ensuring every girl grows with confidence, dignity, and equal opportunity.



## When tradition meets the market, livelihoods find new strength

Under the Oracle Project, a Buyer-Seller Meet opened doors for 60 traditional artisans, connecting their skills with sustainable market opportunities. The artisans visited the Khamir Craft Centre, including its shop and workshops, gaining hands-on exposure to five traditional crafts- Mud Work, Bela Print, Weaving, Tailoring, and Wooden Craft. Through practical learning, they developed a deeper understanding of quality standards, product diversification, pricing, and buyer expectations. The programme strengthened market linkages, enabling artisans to position their craft with confidence and explore new income avenues.

With continued partner support, Sewa International remains committed to preserving traditional crafts while building sustainable, market-driven livelihoods.



## When institutions come together, women step forward with confidence



Sewa International, in collaboration with Uttarakhand Gramin Bank, organized 5 events 'a one-day Convergence Workshop' in Pokhri, Agastyamuni, Ukhimath, Naryanbaghar and Karnaprayadg, bringing together 144 women entrepreneurs to strengthen their entrepreneurial journey. The workshop created awareness on key government schemes such as Mukhya Mantri Swa-Rojgar Yojana 2.0, Lakhpati Didi, and Ekal Mahila Swa-Rojgar Yojana, with guidance from bank officials and block-level departments. A total of 5 workshops were conducted in Pokhri and Rudraprayag districts, in partnership with the District Industries Department. The session led to 15 women being screened for loans worth ₹31 lakh, opening pathways for rural enterprises in dairy processing, tailoring units, and street-food ventures.

Sewa International continues to build bridges between women, institutions, and opportunities- turning aspirations into sustainable livelihoods.



## Recognition is the first step toward empowerment

Under the ORACLE 6.0 Project, 59 artisans received Handicraft Identity Cards issued by the Handicrafts Service Centre, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India. These identity cards formally recognize their skills and open doors to wider opportunities.

With this support, artisans can now participate in handicraft fairs and access financial assistance through loan facilities.

For many, it marks a shift from informal effort to acknowledged enterprise.

Sewa International continues to enable artisans to gain identity, opportunity, and a stronger foothold in sustainable livelihoods.



## Exposure to the market turns learning into vision



In Manu (Tripura), 41 trainees from the Sewa Mahila Jyoti Tailoring Training Centre visited the district-level Saras Fair in Dhalai, gaining first-hand insights into garment pricing, design costs, and emerging market trends. The experience helped them connect classroom skills with real-world demand and business possibilities.

Similarly, 33 trainees from Kamalpur explored a local mela and nearby cloth shops, understanding ready-made garment pricing and identifying new product ideas.

These exposure visits broadened perspectives and sharpened entrepreneurial thinking among the women.

Sewa International continues to create learning beyond classrooms, preparing women to confidently navigate markets and livelihoods.

## Small habits today shape confident leaders tomorrow: Formation of WASH Club



Under the SHE Project, WASH Clubs were successfully formed at GHPS Taggahalli, GHPS Kallahalli Badavane, and GHPS Yelechackanaahalli in Mandya district, Karnataka. The sessions focused on cleanliness, hygiene, leadership, and the importance of positive daily practices. Students were encouraged to take ownership of their surroundings and become role models within their schools. These clubs aim to nurture confidence, responsibility, and dignity from a young age.

Sewa International continues to empower children with life skills that build healthier schools and stronger futures.

## Seeing the market firsthand sparks new confidence: Sewa Mahila Jyoti Market Exposure

Under the Oracle-supported Women Entrepreneurship Development Unit, women beneficiaries from the Sewa Mahila Jyoti Kendra, Delhi took part in an exposure visit to Noida Haat. The visit offered practical insights into market dynamics, pricing, product presentation, and customer preferences. Through real-time observation and interaction, the women gained valuable knowledge to strengthen their entrepreneurial journeys. For many, it was a step closer to turning ideas into viable businesses.

With continued support from partners like Oracle, Sewa International remains committed to nurturing informed, confident women entrepreneurs.





## Sharing Warmth, Restoring Dignity: Winter Blanket Distribution



As a humanitarian response to harsh winter conditions in Delhi NCR, Sewa International conducted a Winter Clothes Distribution Drive to support the most vulnerable. With the generous support of donor Mr. Jitendra Kumar and the dedication of Sewa volunteers, the initiative reached 350 beneficiaries, distributing 250 blankets and 100 winter clothing sets.

More than relief, the drive was an expression of care- ensuring warmth, dignity, and compassion during the coldest days. Sewa International continues to stand beside communities in times of need, turning service into solace.

## From skilled hands to confident business owners, a new journey begins

At the Sewa Mahila Jyoti Tailoring Training Centre in Kamalpur (Tripura) 37 women trainees and 36 women from Manu centre, took a decisive step forward through an Entrepreneurship Development Programme designed to turn learning into livelihood. Facilitated by Mr. Sajal Deb from VHAT, Agartala, the sessions unpacked the realities of entrepreneurship- from market surveys and risk management to licensing, SWOT analysis, and government schemes. The women participated with energy and curiosity, asking questions, sharing ideas, and envisioning their own ventures. What emerged was not just knowledge, but confidence- the belief that they can shape their own economic future.

Sewa International continues to empower women to move beyond skills, towards sustainable entrepreneurship and self-reliance.



## Meet Sewa Parivar



**Mr. Anurag Kumar**

**Associate- Accounts**

### From Student to Sewak: A Journey Rooted in Service

My journey with Sewa International began in 2008, when I first connected with the organisation as a student. Over the years, regular visits to the Sewa office quietly shaped my understanding of what service truly means. Those early experiences laid the foundation for a bond that only grew stronger with time.

Between 2018 and 2019, I had the privilege of serving as a volunteer, working closely on initiatives that deepened my sense of responsibility and teamwork. In December 2021, that long-standing association became a formal one when I joined Sewa International as Associate- Accounts. Today, through my role, I contribute to strengthening the organisation's financial systems, while continuing to grow both professionally and personally within the Sewa parivaar.

### What does 'Sewa' word means to you?

For me, Sewa means selfless service- serving without expectation, with humility and sincerity. True Sewa goes beyond desks and offices; it lives among the people. It is about stepping into communities, understanding their realities, and standing beside them with compassion.

### One recent moment of Joy

One moment that stayed with me this year was during a winter relief activity in a Delhi slum, where we distributed blankets and warm clothes. A little girl's radiant smile as she received her winter clothing filled my heart with indescribable joy. In that instant, I realised how even the smallest act of kindness can bring warmth, dignity, and hope. That smile became a reminder of why Sewa matters and why I wish to continue serving in every way I can.

## Sewa Aarogyam: MMU Reaching the Unreached Areas in Tripura



The Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) is one of the key flagship program of Sewa International, rooted in the belief that quality healthcare must reach even the most remote and underserved communities. Across many regions, distance, cost, and limited infrastructure continue to prevent timely medical access. To bridge this gap, Sewa International delivers doorstep healthcare through its Mobile Medical Units- bringing essential medical services directly to villages and hard-to-reach areas. Currently operational in Haryana, Manipur, Tripura, and Uttarakhand, the MMU initiative is creating meaningful impact, with the programme in Tripura being implemented in collaboration with REC Foundation. So far, the initiative has successfully conducted 81 health camps, delivered 3,3316+ OPD consultations, reflecting its growing reach and strong on-ground presence.

Behind these numbers are powerful stories of relief, hope, and dignity restored.

## Strengthening Shepherd Lives, One Health Camp at a Time in Rajasthan

For desert shepherd families, the health of their sheep and camels is the heartbeat of everyday life.

To support this bond, a veterinary health check-up camp was organised for the animals of 100 local shepherds in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. Along with medical care, veterinarians shared hands-on guidance on emergency response, early treatment, and recovery. With support from Oracle Solutions Services, modern and animal-friendly shearing tools are helping strengthen age-old livelihoods.

Because when animals thrive, communities grow stronger.



## From Street Vendor to Community Changemaker: The Inspiring Journey of Sewa Fellow Ravinder Kumar

Ravinder Kumar's journey is a powerful testament to how determination and service can transform not just one life, but hundreds more. Hailing from a landless family in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh, Ravinder Ji moved to Lucknow and earned his livelihood by selling clothes on the streets. Despite financial hardships, he ensured his own children received education under the RTE Act- an experience that opened his eyes to the struggles of countless children around him who remained deprived of schooling.

Driven by this reality, he founded Abhibhavak Manch (Parents' Forum), beginning a grassroots movement that has since helped over 600 children access education. A turning point came when he was selected as a Sewa Fellow, where structured mentorship, leadership training, and hands-on project exposure strengthened his vision for community transformation.

Today, through the Human Enlightenment Trust, Ravinder Ji works tirelessly in the slum communities of Lucknow- running learning centres for children, supporting women through Self-Help Groups, enabling school admissions, and spreading awareness on sanitation, safety, and government welfare schemes. From providing bicycles to girls walking long distances to ensuring families receive essential benefits, his work continues to create lasting change.

Ravinder Kumar's journey reflects the true spirit of Sewa where resilience meets purpose, and service becomes a lifelong mission to uplift communities and secure brighter futures for children.





***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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