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VOLUME #11



Our board, of grassroots leaders, celebrating the launch of International Year of Cooperatives

Women, Work And Peace

“My own experience in SEWA shows me that peace can be built by work, having income and livelihood.” – Late Elaben Bhatt

This Women’s Day, during the International Year of Cooperatives, holds deep significance for our work. Since 1992, we have witnessed the transformative power of cooperatives in empowering informal women workers, enabling them to achieve self-reliance and full employment. As Late Smt. Elaben Bhatt rightly said, women are at the heart of building strong and resilient communities.

This year, as we celebrate Women’s Day, we honor the essence of Women, Work, and Peace—also the title of a book by Elaben Bhatt, which you can explore [[here](#)]. With this spirit, we renew our commitment to creating a better and more peaceful future for all through the power of cooperatives.

Here’s a glimpse of our work over the past few months!



SEWA ni Aawaz

Episode 2 with Seetaben from the *Pethapur Women's Milk Cooperative*

In the second episode of SEWA Ni Aawaz (Voices of SEWA), we hear from Seetaben, Chairperson of Pethapur Women's Milk Cooperative in Gujarat. Through this podcast she shares vital insights from over 30 years of her experience empowering women dairy farmers through their milk cooperative.

Listen to her speak about how the *coop shattered existing notions around a women run, managed milk cooperative*. From not being allowed to open their own cooperative to having an annual turnover of INR 2,00,00,000 is truly a testament showing what women cooperatives can achieve for its members and its community.

[Listen here](#)



Follow the **IN SOLIDARITY** podcast on Spotify



In conversation with **DR. ADITI SURIE**

In this episode, Dr. Surie, Senior Researcher at IIHS, takes us deep into the Platform Economy, examining how quick commerce companies like Urban Company, Swiggy, Blinkit, and BluSmart generate employment and what that means for workers' rights, job security, and economic inclusion.

[Listen on Spotify](#)

Latest Research Report

Workspace Mapping | Mapping Vulnerabilities of Women Artisans during Extreme Heat



As temperatures rise, work slows down. For every degree above 25°C, productivity drops by 2%, adding to the daily challenges of home-based artisans. Our latest Workspace Mapping Report explores how artisans from Abodana Mahila Chaapkaam SEWA Sakhari Mandali in Ahmedabad navigate these conditions. Using spatial mapping, group discussions, and interviews, we examine the risks they face and how they adapt. How does heat shape their workspace?

[Read Our Insights](#)

REVIVAL OF KHEDA WOMEN FARMERS COOPERATIVE

Women farmers in India play a crucial role in agriculture, yet they remain largely unrecognized. The Kheda Women Farmers Cooperative, first established in the 1990s and revived in 2011 with SEWA Cooperative Federation's support, is changing this narrative.

Through education, leadership training, and business expansion, the cooperative is strengthening its membership while empowering women to take ownership of their agricultural enterprises. A four-step approach—mapping business opportunities, inducting new members, identifying grassroots leaders, and continuous learning—ensures long-term sustainability. By enabling family support, digital connectedness, and democratic participation, the cooperative is growing its business and also contributing to the larger SEWA movement for women's economic empowerment.

[Read Full Story](#)



Updates

- Our young team of women leaders of the Srujan Collective are on board in our communications team! Read the first Gujarati Edition of Sahakarita curated by them [here!](#)
- We participated in the Women's Day celebration organized by Gujarat State Federation of Cooperatives.
- Participated in International conference to commemorate International Year of Cooperatives 2025 by MAFCOCS (Maharashtra State Cooperative Credit Societies Federation).
- Presented our Digital Inclusion within Co-ops case study at an event organized by VAMNICOM.
- We signed an MoU with National Coalition for Natural Farming (NCNF) and Centre for Environment and Social Concerns (CESE) - with a focus on providing Soil Testing services for farmers and ensuring the effective use of the testing kits.





News from The Global Cooperative Movement

1 IRMA to Become India's First Cooperative University

In a landmark move for cooperative education, the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) is set to transform into the country's first national cooperative university. Announced on February 2, 2025, in Anand, Gujarat, this initiative aims to build a new generation of cooperative leaders and professionals, strengthening the sector's future.

2 Swavalambini: Empowering Young Women Entrepreneurs in the Northeast

The Indian government has launched Swavalambini, a program designed to foster entrepreneurship among young women in the northeastern region. Led by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in partnership with NITI Aayog, the initiative provides students in higher education with training, resources, and mentorship to develop an entrepreneurial mindset.

3 Time Use Survey Highlights Persistent Gender Gaps

The latest Time Use Survey factsheet, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, reveals stark gender disparities. Women continue to bear the brunt of unpaid domestic work while facing lower employment rates, underscoring the need for policies that promote equitable economic participation.

Our Recommendations Corner

5 plays on
power, protest,
and society!

SWIPE



Here's a peek at what we're reading, watching and listening to.

A curated list of theatre plays, books and films to binge on this month.

[Read Here](#)

“

“When we learn something new, we pass it on to other women in the community. Together, we grow and benefit.”

Meet **Bhartiben**, a farmer, leader and board member at Megha Indigenous Women Farmers' Cooperative. Her story goes to prove that with the right resources, care and collaboration, informal women workers cooperatives can make a difference beyond the lives of their women members and their families, they uplift communities at large!



[Read about her journey](#)

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Email: info@sewafederation.org

Website: www.sewafederation.org

Phone: +91-79-26301503

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