

[View this email in your browser](#)



Welcome !

Hello,

Welcome to Sahakarita - SEWA Cooperative Federation's bi-monthly digital publication. We work as a Women's Enterprise Support System, promoting and supporting grassroots women's enterprises. Through this digital publication, we bring to you our work, stories of our grassroots women's collective enterprises, their needs, and their contribution to the economy.

As we celebrate Gandhi's birth anniversary this month, the third volume of the newsletter celebrates his continued relevance in a changing world, the idea of self-reliance for women's cooperatives and his values that are deeply embedded in our women's collective enterprises.

We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we have enjoyed putting this together!

If you would like to support or partner with us, do get in touch. And if you found this volume valuable, please share it on social media.



“

There is power in the collective. When a collective speaks together, it can no longer be ignored. These are remarkable lessons to be had from the Champaran Satyagraha.

”

- Megha Todi

We had a conversation with Megha Todi, an archival researcher, on Gandhi and his role in organising women workers.

Megha Todi has been engaged with archival research for the past decade, centred around M.K. Gandhi, and the making of modern India. Most recently, she has co-published Volume 1 of **Thumb Printed**, an eight volume project pertaining to the Champaran Satyagraha of 1917 that looks at plantation economies and the struggles of the indigo growing peasantry of Bihar under a colonial government, co-edited with eminent scholars, Prof. Shahid Amin and Prof. Tridip Suvrud.

[Read The Full Interview](#)



*Doosri Azadi: Self-reliance
and a Call to Freedom*



Khadi has often been referred to as the 'fabric of Indian independence' and had a key role to play in the freedom struggle. For Mahatma Gandhi, *khadi* was the material embodiment of an ideal - that of self-reliance. And there was no actual freedom without self-reliance. The humble *charkha* (spinning wheel) became the tool that wove the warp and weft of *swaraj* (independence). *Khadi* became not only a means for self-reliance, but also a symbol, a reminder that freedom would be won only by mobilising on the ground and channelling the conscious intention of an entire nation.

[Read The Full Article](#)



The Pethapur Women's Dairy Cooperative
Enhancing cooperation through women's leadership

"We are women, and we are here to do something. If men go out, so should we. I want to tell all women: never take a step back; always put your foot forward. Only then will we go ahead in life," says Seetaben, a member of the Pethapur Women's Dairy Cooperative in Gandhinagar.

[Read The Full Article](#)



Haatha Paddhati is an old tradition of selling vegetables without a verbal declaration of the prices. A coded handshake takes place under the handkerchief between farmers and vendors. Holding the entire finger would mean 100 rupees, two fingers would be 200 rupees, and half a finger would amount to 50 rupees. Amongst varied rates offered by different vendors, farmers would deal with the one who has offered the highest. The final price is known only to the farmer and the highest-paying vendor.

Shop no. 40 at The Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) in Ahmedabad is a result of SEWA's efforts to ensure fair prices for women farmers' produce and good quality

produce for vendors. In 1999, an application was submitted by SEWA to the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) requesting an allocation of a shop for the produce of women's farmers and women's agriculture cooperatives. After Dinaben started running the shop, women farmers began visiting the market themselves, which was otherwise male dominated. Out of the 350 shops at the APMC, only shop no. 40 belongs to and is run by women.

Bulletin Board

- Mirai Chatterjee, Chairperson, Salonie Muralidhara Hiriyyur, Senior Coordinator, and Jigna Surkar, Senior Coordinator - Enterprise Development, SEWA Cooperative Federation, attended a workshop held on 24th August 2022 in Delhi on 'The Digital Ecosystem Opportunity for Indian Agriculture: Making the Right Choices' organised by IT for Change, Vrutti, and SEWA Cooperative Federation.
 - Salonie Muralidhara Hiriyyur, Senior Coordinator, SEWA Cooperative Federation attended a roundtable held on 25th August 2022 in Delhi on 'Unlocking the Platform Dividend for the Indian Economy - A Policy Roundtable on NITI Aayog' Roadmap for an Inclusive Future of Work' organised by IT for Change.
 - Ayushi Arora, Senior Research Associate, SEWA Cooperative Federation, published an article in September 2022 titled, 'Digital and Economic Inclusion of Women Cooperatives and Enterprises through GeM' in The Cooperator, an illustrative monthly of cooperative news and views by National Cooperative Union of India.
 - Mirai Chatterjee, Chairperson, SEWA Cooperative Federation was a panellist at the Global Innovation Coop Summit held in Paris on 26th & 27th September, 2022, to discuss the vision for how cooperatives can continue to overcome and adapt to challenges.
 - Mirai Chatterjee, Chairperson, SEWA Cooperative Federation spoke at a webinar on 28th September, 2022 organised by CICOPA (International Organisation of Cooperatives in Industry and Services) in collaboration with CICOPA AP (Asia-Pacific) to explore the opportunities for collaboration among worker cooperatives and trade unions in the Asia-Pacific region.
-



SEWA Lok Swasthya Health Cooperative's new haircare range, made with natural ingredients and a whole lot of love, available online now!

[amazon.in](https://www.amazon.in)

[Shop Now](#)



Episode 2.

CHANGING THE LENS: COMMUNICATING WOMEN'S LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS



“ If hard work makes you a billionaire, every woman in rural India and every woman in the continent of Africa would be a billionaire!

22 global billionaires own more wealth than all of the women of Africa put together.

”

P. Sainath
Founder Editor
People's Archive of Rural India



In Solidarity

30 year journey of SEWA Cooperative Federation

We partnered with Beacon TV to document the journey of SEWA Cooperative Federation and our women's collectives.

Watch now on YouTube 



If you would like to receive our newsletter in your inbox regularly, click here to [subscribe](#).

 Share  Tweet  Forward



Copyright © 2022 Gujarat State Women's Sewa Co-Operative Federation Limited *All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

21-22, Goyal Tower, Near Jhanvi Restaurant, University Rd, University Area, Ahmedabad, Gujarat 380015

Email: info@sewafederation.org

Website: www.sewafederation.org

Phone: +91-79-26301503

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

SEWA Cooperative Federation · University Area · 21-22, Goyal Tower, Near Jahanvee Restaurant · Ahmedabad, Gujarat 380015 · India

