

Special Events and Achievements in 2006

Within the SEWA family, there were several noteworthy events and achievements in 2006. Both individual members and colleagues were recognized and obtained awards for their contributions to the workers' movement, and also SEWA and its sister organizations' contributions were recognized. While recognition is only given to a few, we gratefully and humbly acknowledge the continuing support and contributions of thousands of women workers, their families, our well-wishers and friends. It truly has been and is a team effort to further the SEWA movement.

1. SEWA's new Executive Committee was elected on January 26th, 2006 for a three-year term.
2. SEWA became an affiliate of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), now called the International Trade Union Congress (ITUC).
3. SEWA became an affiliate of the International Federation of Building and Woodworkers (IFBWW).
4. Construction workers obtained recognition as workers eligible for welfare and social security measures.
5. In November, the Gujarat High Court stayed the eviction of streetvendors. They can now sell their wares in marketplaces and streets of the city. This judgement was in response to a SEWA's petition in the High Court.
6. A rally of 400 workers was organised on the occasion of Literacy Day in September.
7. Lok Swasthya cooperative opened a low cost medicines-cum-medical advice centre, its fourth such centre, in the Chamanpura area of Ahmedabad.
8. Sangini Childcare cooperative's crèche "graduates" gave testimony at a national convention on child care and child nutrition.
9. The Finance Minister of India inaugurated SEWA Bank's new pension programme for women workers in partnership with the Unit Trust of India (UTI).
10. SEWA Bank opened a new extension counter in the Chandkheda area of the city.
11. 1200 artisan women from Kutch and Patan districts assembled at our "Banas na Aana" premises in Radhanpur, Patan district to collectively embroider 1000 metres of cloth. This dawn-to-dusk feat was covered in a special programme by Z TV.
12. The Commerce Minister of India visited Gram Haat and Unnat Bazaar, our national and international marketing organisations.
13. A new outlet for artisans world-wide was inaugurated in Washington D.C. by the former President of the World Bank. SEWA's products were also on sale, and our representatives were present.
14. Unnat Bazaar entered into a partnership with Exim Bank of India for expanding artisans production and marketing.
15. A SEWA team visited Afghanistan for two weeks to suggest how livelihood promotion for women could be further developed, at the invitation of the Afghani and Indian governments.

16. SEWA was one of the awardees at Business Today's "Most Powerful Women in Business" awards ceremony in Mumbai.
17. SEWA's founder, Ela Bhatt, was awarded the French Legion of Honour by the government of France.
18. The AFL-CIO (the largest American Labour Federation) awarded Elaben their Human Rights Award in Washington D.C. The award was conferred by Senator Hilary Clinton.
19. The Queen of Spain and the Mayor of Madrid gave Elaben a special "Festive Madrid" award.