



US secretary of state Hillary Clinton with members of Gujarat-based Self-Employed Women's Association, including SEWA founder Ela Bhatt (L) and director (rural and economic development) Reema Nanavaty, in Mumbai on Saturday | **Hillary talks to rural artisans, P 5**

Clinton then met craftswomen from Kutch, Gujarat, at Hansiba Creations' Napean Sea Road store where products manufactured by members of SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association) are retailed.

Clinton has been associated with SEWA for over a decade. Visiting Gujarat as the First Lady of the US in 1995, she had met Ela Bhatt, the founder of the 1.1 million-member NGO working for women's empowerment in Gujarat.

At the store, she chatted briefly with the women who are shareholders of STFC (SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre), a not-for-profit company jointly owned and managed by over 3,200 rural artisans. Bhatt said, "We are extremely honoured to extend a welcome to Ms Clinton today and thank her for her support to SEWA over the years. She has demonstrated a keen interest in the progress of SEWA and has brought forth the issues of the poor, informal sector workers to global policy debates."

The SEWA members and artisans also sang the Gujarati version of *We Shall Overcome* before Clinton bade goodbye.



Clinton with a Self Employed Women's Association in Mumbai. - PHOTOS: VIVEK BENDRE, PTI

it was important to use technology effectively. "Let's be creative."

PTI reports:

Ms. Clinton visited a trade outlet of the Gujarat-based NGO, Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), in South Mumbai and interacted with its 1,000 shareholders through 'Skype' (an Internet visual communication mode).

Ms. Clinton emphasised the role of women for inclusive and sustainable economic progress of the world.

The world could not pro-

gress if women were left behind in development, as they were key to economic progress and social stability. "If we leave women behind, we will simply not progress," she said.

"At this time of global economic turmoil, we see disproportionate impact on women and the SEWA represents the innovative and successful approach to sustainable and inclusive development."

Ms. Clinton lauded the skilled artisans of the NGO for using communication technology effectively.

Hillary hobnobs with SEWA artisans



Hillary at SEWA's Mumbai centre on Saturday

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: It was a very special moment for rural artisans working under the umbrella of city-based Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA). Something they'd never thought of in their wildest dreams.

US secretary of state Hillary Clinton spoke to them on her visit to Hansiba, SEWA's trade facilitation centre (STFC) and retail shop in Mumbai on Saturday. Clinton was shown the 'Hansiba' collection, an exquisite array of hand-embroidery skills. Brand Hansiba belongs to 3,200 rural artisans who are also shareholders of STFC, a not-for-profit company, they joint-

ly own and manage.

"We are honoured to welcome Hillary Clinton and thank her for her support to SEWA over the years. She has been a friend, supporter and guide to SEWA for more than a decade now," said SEWA founder Ela Bhatt.

Since she first visited SEWA in 1995 as the first lady of the US, she has demonstrated keen interest in its progress and has highlighted issues faced by poor, informal sector workers at global policy debates, continued Bhatt.

"SEWA is trying to create market access," said director of rural and economic development at SEWA, Reema Nanavaty.

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US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with artisans at a SEWA centre in Mumbai on Saturday

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1. EXPRESS

Hillary lauds SEWA's effort

US Secretary of State Hillary visited SEWA in Mumbai on Saturday

AHMEDABAD MIRROR BUREAU

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre, Hansiba, in Mumbai on Saturday. Impressed by its women's embroidery skills, Clinton praised the grassroots organisation and its aim of helping rural women find a way out of poverty.

Clinton also had a dialogue with the artisans — shareholders — of SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre, a non-profit company jointly owned and managed by over 3,200 rural artisans.

"At this time of global economic turmoil, we see a disproportionate impact on women, and SEWA represents the innovative and successful approach to sustainable and inclusive development," said the US secretary of state.

"Hillary, who has been associated with SEWA since 1995, has demonstrated a keen interest in its progress and brought the key issues of the poor informal sector workers to the fore at global policy debates," SEWA founder Ela Bhatt said. Clinton interacted with 1,000 STFC shareholders through internet visual communication mode 'Skype'. She also lauded the artisans' ability to use communication technologically effectively.



US Secretary of State Hillary with SEWA Founder Ela Bhatt (L) and other members during her visit to the Hansiba SEWA Trade Facilitation Centre in Mumbai

