

# Shanti Hastkala

Empowering Women as Peaceful Agents of Social Change

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www.shantihastkala.org

JAI GURUDEV

**WELCOME** to the first 2010 Shanti Hastkala newsletter.

SHK seems to be really taking off in India. The number of villagers working for SHK has jumped from fifty-six people to ninety-five in the past couple of years. The number of exhibitions is increasing rapidly, keeping the devotees very busy.



## Profiles of some members of the SHK team

### STORIES FROM CHIDESHWARI



**BHANA BHAI** is sixty-five years of age and resides in a village called Motha Surwadha. He has been stitching since he was a little boy and has worked all of his life as an employee. Eight years ago Bhana set up his own workshop in his village. He had very little work and was finding it difficult in making ends meet. His daughter works for

SHK and asked if we had some work for him. He has been working for SHK for the last year. Bhana is one of our most eager and willing workers. He comes to SHK every day for more work. He is now starting to make drafts for the different kurtis.



**GEETA BEN** is from village Haria. She came to Shanti Mandir ashram during a Bhagwat sapta and instantly liked the ashram and satsang. Geeta started working with SHK about three years ago. She already knew how to stitch and embroider before starting work with SHK. Beginning with making single pouches and bags, Geeta moved on to making

skirts and blouses. Her stitching and embroidery skills are very good. Geeta's parents-in-law and husband are very happy that she works for SHK.



**RAMILA, TEJAL, FALGUNI AND TANVI BEN AND FAMILY** live in village Bhagod. Ramila first heard of SHK at a satsang so she came to the ashram to meet us and asked for work. Ramila and her daughters have been associated with SHK for almost four years. Falguni and Tejal embroider. Tanvi and Ramila are involved in stitching. They make small pouches and bags.

## Delhi News

### FROM CHIDESHWARI

*We are getting ready to open another outlet in India, this one is in Delhi. Before the opening Shalini held some exhibitions around her area. Here is her experience of the first exhibition SHK held in Delhi.*

### FIRST DELHI EXHIBITION

#### STORY FROM SHALINI

It's hard to find the words to express exactly how I felt once the exhibition was over. It was like people walking into our stall from all corners of earth!!!

After giving some final touches to the stall, Indu and I decided to hand-make a SHK banner. Just as we finished, Sachdeva Aunty and Uncle came to assist us with the stall. For the first few hours the pace was slow. About five p.m. Indu didi decided to leave as she had a two-hour travel journey home.

Shortly after six p.m. the magic began. People started swarming around the stall. Suddenly we realized sales were happening. One lady bought nine pouches, two ladies wanted to buy the same white gents kurta and

at the same time a school girl was interested in getting a Jill Jhola bag. She took out every penny from her pocket to see if she had enough money to buy it. Everything was happening all at once. People were leaving their phone numbers with us for other orders. I totally lost count of the money that was pouring in. Sales amounted to over 6000.00 RS. It felt like Gurudev was there guiding us through. The whole experience felt very magical.

I would like to thank Chideshwari, Ravish Bhaiya, Indu and Sachdeva Aunty and Uncle for all their support and motivation. Sachdeva Aunty was on painkillers at the time for a frozen shoulder. But here she was out on a winters evening excitedly showing items to people, opening and displaying kurtis and dupattas and then folding them. It was great watching Sachdeva uncle helping ladies choose kurtis. The whole experience was simply intoxicating. Very importantly, I would like to thank Gurudev. I cannot wait to see Gurudev to share with him what a great experience it was to be involved with a SHK exhibition.

## Australia SHK news update from 2009

### REPORT FROM KAILAS EDWARDS

Some devotees have been trialing various ways to market SHK products in the different states of Australia.

Vanya Cullen from Margaret River in Western Australia first held an "Indian Indulgence and Curry Day" selling SHK products at her family vineyard restaurant in November 2008. The event proved so popular she held another event in November 2009.

As a result of Vanya's events a distributor came forward and has commenced distributing SHK products into some retail outlets in Western Australia. Slowly SHK

products have been seeping into the stores. Devotees can still purchase products from SHK direct to sell in centres and markets.

Sue Casey from Busselton in Western Australia has been selling SHK products at the local Margaret River markets. Sue works in aged care, so now when we walk the streets of Margaret River we see some very stylish elderly people parading SHK products.

Sadhana and Claude from South Australia have been holding SHK exhibitions in Adelaide. They also buy from SHK regularly and sell the products through their Yoga School.

Jill Gould and John Brien (pictured here) have had their own clothing label in Melbourne for many years. In 2009 they both travelled to Shanti Mandir Magod and spent many hours giving their valued assistance in different areas of manufacturing including holding pattern drafting workshops with the SHK workers.



