

# NEWS UPDATE

JULY 2026



"Cultivation of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence."

– Dr. B. R. AMBEDKAR



# Table of Contents:

**03**

## **Introduction**

History of M S International, Inc.  
About Sarva Mangal Family Trust  
Monthly Highlights

**05**

## **Event**

MSIS Donation Drive  
Shah Happiness Urgent Care Centre  
Wheels Global Foundation  
Africa Health Mission

**09**

## **NGO Visit**

Vaani Deaf Children's Foundation  
Rocket Learning  
One World One Family  
Dava Cana  
Shree Pragnachakshu Mahila Seva Kunj  
Shah Happiness Urgent Care Center  
Vision & Anemia Screening Camp  
Shrimad Rajchandra Sarvamangal Hospital  
Matruchhaya Kanya Vidhyalaya

**18**

**NGO in Focus for July'2026**

Lend A Hand India

**24**

**Success Story**

Lend A Hand India

## INTRODUCTION

### HISTORY OF M S INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Rika and Manu Shah founded MSI in 1975 in the basement of their home in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Today, MSI is the America's largest importer and distributor of premium surfaces, offering a vast portfolio of natural stone and tile sourced from 37 countries worldwide, serving residential, commercial, and hospitality markets with high-quality products.

About 30 years ago, they began their philanthropic journey with the Sarva Mangal Family Trust and later founded the Shah Happiness Foundation in 2022. Together, the Shah Family Philanthropies support over 70 million people across 9 countries through 51+ nonprofit partners, serving individuals across diverse communities from prenatal care and maternal health initiatives to compassionate end-of-life support and palliative care services.

Their vision is to drive scalable, sustainable innovation and empower changemakers who challenge the status quo and create long-term social impact. Rika and Manu Shah have received numerous honors, including Ernst & Young's National Entrepreneur of the Year (2007), The Migliore Award (2024), and induction into the Asian Hall of Fame (2025). MSI also proudly supplied the granite for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., reflecting its enduring legacy, global leadership, and lasting impact across generations.

### ABOUT SARVA MANGAL FAMILY TRUST

Established in 1994 by the Founders of M S International, Inc. The mission of the Sarva Mangal Family Trust is to improve and strengthen health, education and the illness of communities and help them prepare for global jobs of the 21st century. Sarva Mangal is a Sanskrit word which means Goodness to All.

To advance this mission, the Sarva Mangal Family Trust has donated to and is continuing to work with various organizations and programs in health promotion and prevention, assisting victims of domestic violence, empowering seniors, entrepreneurship, technological literacy, community activism, and children's education.

### MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



#### EMPOWERING LIVES THROUGH EMPLOYEE-LED GIVING

Encouraging collective action through employee engagement, MSI Services Pvt Ltd (MSIS) organized a Donation Drive from 13–17 July 2026 to support specially abled children and school students in need. The initiative encouraged employees to contribute clothing, books and stationery, personal care essentials, and non-perishable food items, fostering a spirit of giving and Social responsibility while extending meaningful support to beneficiaries across different age groups and needs.

(Continued on page 5)

## EVENT – MSIS EMPLOYEE DONATION DRIVE



**July 2026:** Creating meaningful social impact begins with collective action and a shared commitment to giving. Bringing this spirit to life, MSIS organized an employee-led Donation Drive from 13–17 July 2026, providing employees with an opportunity to come together and contribute essential items in support of underprivileged people.

Employees contributed clothing for children and adults, books and stationery, personal care essentials, and sealed non-perishable food items. The collected donations were directed toward supporting the everyday needs, learning, and well-being of beneficiaries served by the two organizations.

Beyond the contributions themselves, the initiative created an opportunity for employees to participate directly in MSI's social impact efforts. By transforming individual contributions into a collective act of giving, the Donation Drive fostered a culture of compassion, inclusion, and shared responsibility while extending meaningful support to children and specially abled individuals.



## EVENT – WHEELS GLOBAL FOUNDATION

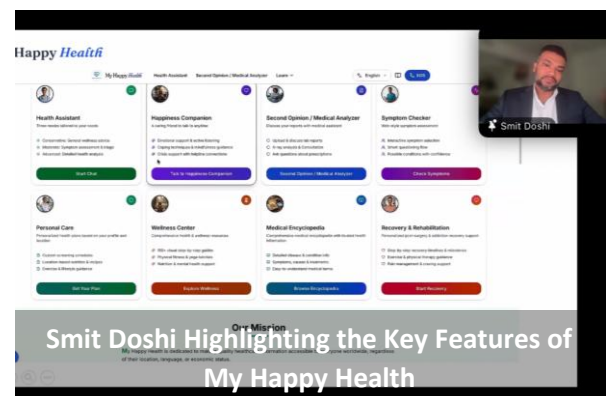
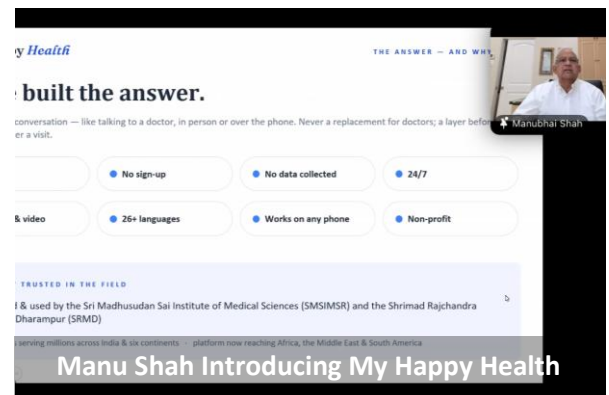
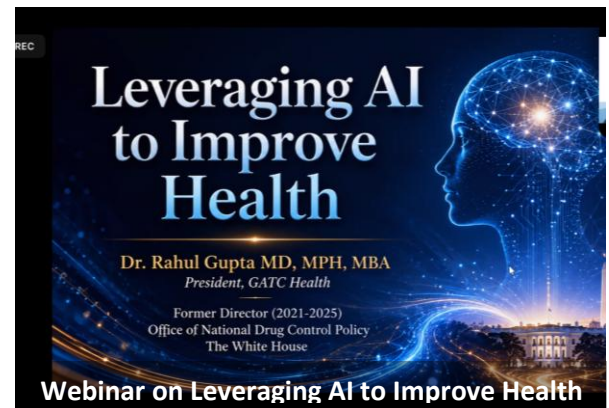
**July 2026** – Exploring the potential of Artificial Intelligence to support healthier lives, Manu Shah, Co-founder and CEO Emeritus of M S International, Inc. (MSI), and Smit Doshi, AI Developer for My Happy Health, introduced the My Happy Health platform during the WHEELS Health Council Knowledge Series webinar, *“Leveraging AI to Improve Health,”* held on 25 July 2026. The webinar explored how AI is transforming healthcare across areas such as prevention, diagnosis, health and wellness, and public health.

During the session, Manu Shah and Smit Doshi presented My Happy Health and shared how AI and technology can support individuals in better understanding and managing their health. The presentation offered insights into how digital tools can complement existing healthcare approaches by making personalized health guidance more accessible and encouraging individuals to become more engaged in their own health and well-being.

My Happy Health, a nonprofit initiative of the Shah Happiness Foundation, leverages AI to provide personalized health guidance and empower individuals to take a more informed and proactive approach to their well-being. By bringing together healthcare information and technology through an accessible digital platform, the initiative seeks to help individuals better navigate their health needs and make informed decisions.

The session also provided an opportunity to demonstrate the broader possibilities of AI-enabled healthcare solutions and how technology can extend health support beyond traditional healthcare settings.

The webinar provided a meaningful platform to showcase My Happy Health at the intersection of AI, healthcare, and social impact, reflecting the Shah Happiness Foundation’s focus on leveraging innovative solutions to support more informed, accessible, and proactive approaches to health and well-being.



## EVENT –AFRICA HEALTH MISSION

**July 2026** – Extending essential healthcare to communities across Kenya, the Africa Health Mission funded by Sarva Mangal Family Trust, held from 28 June to 12 July 2026, brought together vision care, medical services, surgical support, and health awareness through a coordinated outreach effort. The mission reached children, adults, inmates, patients, and underserved communities across schools, correctional facilities, Swaminarayan Hospital, and community centres.

Vision care formed a major component of the mission, with trained optometrists, healthcare professionals, and volunteers supporting screenings, eyeglass distribution, identification of prescription needs, and referrals for further medical evaluation. During the mission, 270,497 vision screenings were conducted, 4,246 eyeglasses were provided, 1,997 prescription glasses were identified, and 3,371 beneficiaries were referred for further eye care.

The mission also addressed broader healthcare needs, reaching 270,608 patients through 280,222 clinic visits. In addition, 111 surgeries were completed at Swaminarayan Hospital, providing medical intervention for beneficiaries requiring surgical care across a range of conditions. By delivering services across multiple community settings, the mission helped bring preventive and specialized healthcare closer to diverse beneficiary groups.

Health awareness was another important component of the mission. At the Swaminarayan Temple in Nairobi, Dr. Nitin Shah introduced My Happy Health and conducted a session on understanding heart disease, highlighting preventive healthcare, early identification of health risks, timely medical consultation, and the role of technology in improving access to reliable health information.

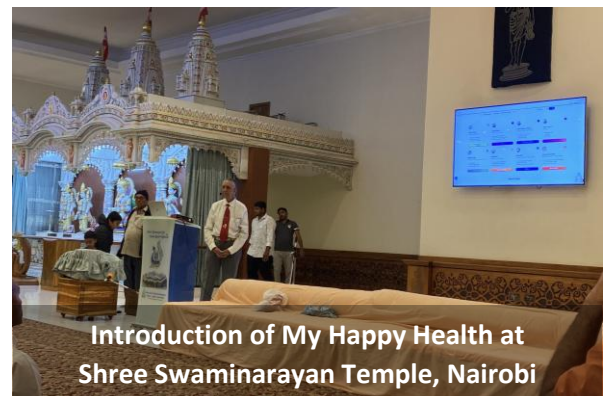
Africa Health Mission demonstrated how coordinated healthcare outreach can help address diverse medical needs while expanding access to essential care across communities.



Subjective Vision Screenings



Vision Screening Through Visual Acuity (VA)

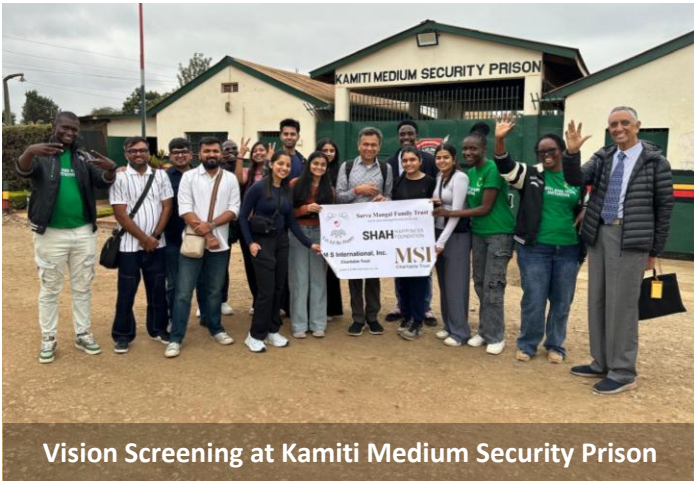


Introduction of My Happy Health at Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Nairobi



Beneficiary Receiving Eyeglasses

## EVENT – AFRICA HEALTH MISSION (Cont.)



Vision Screening at Kamiti Medium Security Prison



Vision Screenings Using Welch Allyn Vision Screener



Vision Screening Using a Pediatric Trial Lens Set



Felicitation of Volunteers



School Staff Receiving Free Eyeglasses



Vision Screening For Students with Special Needs

## NGO VISIT – VAANI DEAF CHILDREN’S FOUNDATION

**July 2026** – Supporting children with hearing impairment requires an ecosystem that extends beyond education to include communication, family engagement, and individualized support. On 9 July 2026, the Social Impact Team visited the VAANI Sadhan Resource Centre and the Residential School for Speech-Hearing Impaired in Tumkur, Karnataka, gaining insights into approaches that support the learning, development, and inclusion of children with hearing impairment.

The Sadhan Resource Centre provides a supportive learning environment where children and their parents receive individualized guidance focused on communication and language development. The model recognizes the important role of parents in a child’s development and equips families with the knowledge and skills needed to support communication and learning beyond the centre.

VAANI’s approach also extends to customized educational support for children with hearing impairment, helping address learning barriers while strengthening academic and essential life skills. Its broader programs integrate health, education, skill-building, and training to support children at different stages of their development.

The visit to the Residential School for Speech-Hearing Impaired further provided the team with an opportunity to understand the role of specialized educational environments in supporting children with hearing and communication needs.

A key strength of VAANI’s model is its focus on building the capacity of parents, educators, and community professionals alongside direct support for children. This creates a stronger support system around each child and promotes greater participation and inclusion across home, school, and community settings.



Interactive Learning Session



Students Engaged in a Hands-on Educational Activity



Students Engaging in Classroom Session



Healthcare Support For a Child With Hearing Impairment

## NGO VISIT – ROCKET LEARNING

**July 2026** – Play, interaction, and technology came together during the Social Impact Team’s visit to an Anganwadi Kendra in Siddhipuram, Telangana, on 17 July 2026. In partnership with Rocket Learning, the visit provided insights into how technology and AI-enabled learning tools are supporting engaging, activity-based early childhood education during children’s formative years.

Rocket Learning works closely with government systems and frontline workers to strengthen early childhood education at scale. By integrating AI-enabled tools with structured learning prompts and interactive activities, the approach supports foundational literacy, numeracy, cognitive development, and social skills in an age-appropriate and engaging manner.

A key aspect of the intervention is equipping Anganwadi workers with accessible digital and AI-enabled resources that support everyday teaching and help create joyful, stimulating learning environments. These tools complement play-based methods and enable educators to engage young children through structured and interactive learning activities.

The model also engages parents and caregivers through easy-to-use resources that help reinforce daily learning at home. This connection between Anganwadi workers, families, and children creates a supportive learning ecosystem that extends beyond the Anganwadi centre.

By combining AI-enabled innovation with community-led delivery and existing government systems, Rocket Learning is strengthening the reach of early learning resources and supporting frontline workers in delivering engaging educational experiences.

The visit highlighted the potential of technology and AI-enabled learning to complement play-based education and strengthen early childhood development and school readiness.



## NGO VISIT – ONE WORLD ONE FAMILY

**July 2026** – On 19 July 2026, the Social Impact Team visited the Shah Happiness Urgent Care Centre in Jagtial, Telangana, established in collaboration with the Sri Madhusudan Sai Institute of Medical Sciences & Research as part of the One World One Family (OWOF) Sai Swasthya Clinics network. The visit provided insights into the centre's community-based approach to making essential healthcare services more accessible to underserved communities.

The Urgent Care Centre is designed to address routine medical needs as well as health concerns requiring timely attention. Services include primary medical consultations, treatment for common illnesses, chronic disease management, basic diagnostic services, and telemedicine consultations with specialists from the Sri Madhusudan Sai medical network.

The centre is supported by an on-site medical team, complemented by specialist support, helping patients access appropriate medical guidance and continuity of care. The integration of telemedicine further strengthens the model by connecting communities with specialist consultations without requiring patients to travel long distances for certain healthcare needs.

By providing essential medical services closer to communities, the centre supports early intervention, regular follow-up, and timely access to care while helping reduce geographical and logistical barriers for families.

The collaborative model also strengthens the connection between community-level care and the wider medical network, enabling patients to access additional clinical expertise when required. This integrated approach supports a more responsive and coordinated healthcare experience for local communities.

The visit highlighted how community-based healthcare strengthens access to timely and dependable care closer to home..



Consultation Room



Pathology Laboratory



Observation Room for Day Care Patients



Ophthalmology Consultation Room

## NGO VISIT – DAVA CANA

**July 2026** – The Social Impact Team’s visit to SMFT-funded Dava Cana in Narayanapet district, Telangana, on 20 July 2026. The visit provided insights into the organization’s community-based healthcare model and its efforts to reduce barriers to essential medical services in areas where access to healthcare facilities can be limited.

A key component of Dava Cana’s approach is its Arogya Vahini mobile medical units, which bring healthcare services directly to villages. Supported by dedicated on-ground teams, these mobile units enable communities to access medical support closer to where they live, reducing the need to travel longer distances for basic healthcare services.

Through its mobile healthcare services, Dava Cana provides consultations, hospital referrals, access to medicines, and basic health assessments, including blood pressure and BMI checks. This combination of primary care, screening, and referral support helps address immediate healthcare needs while connecting individuals requiring further medical attention with appropriate hospital-based care.

The mobile model is particularly relevant for rural communities where geographical distance and limited availability of healthcare services can create barriers to timely care. By taking healthcare directly into villages, Dava Cana creates an accessible community-level touchpoint for individuals and families seeking medical guidance and support.

The organization also works closely with village leaders and local health workers to strengthen community outreach and identify areas where healthcare support is needed. This grassroots engagement plays an important role in connecting communities with available healthcare services and encouraging timely access to medical attention.



Arogya Vahini Mobile Medical Unit



Interaction With The Medical Team



Medical Consultation Inside Arogya Vahini



Patient Receiving Care Inside Arogya Vahini

## NGO VISIT – SHREE PRAGNACHAKSHU MAHILA SEVA KUNJ

**July 2026** – Creating pathways to education, skills, and economic independence can expand opportunities for individuals with visual impairment. The Social Impact Team witnessed this approach during its visit to Shree Pragnachakshu Mahila Seva Kunj in Surendranagar on 27 July 2026, where education, residential support, rehabilitation, and vocational training come together to empower visually impaired women and girls.

The organization serves approximately 800 visually impaired beneficiaries across four centres in Gujarat. The Surendranagar centre accommodates 150 female beneficiaries aged 3 to 85 years, including 100 students, 35 specially abled beneficiaries, and 15 elderly visually impaired women. The campus provides residential, educational, and vocational training facilities to support their diverse needs.

A key focus is building practical skills that promote greater independence and livelihood opportunities. Beneficiaries receive training in computer operations, beauty services, hair care, and skincare, with livelihood opportunities enabling individuals to earn approximately ₹400–500 per day at Umargam and ₹300 per day at Morbi.

The team also observed the SMFT-funded rehabilitation building, comprising 12 residential flats for beneficiaries' families and staff accommodation. In addition, a 152,500 sq. ft. residential and educational campus is under development in Ahmedabad to support approximately 1,000 visually impaired beneficiaries.

The visit highlighted how an integrated approach combining education, rehabilitation, skill development, and supportive infrastructure can create meaningful pathways toward greater independence, inclusion, economic empowerment, and improved quality of life for visually impaired beneficiaries.



Music Learning Session



Residents Participating in Meal Preparation



Computer Skills Training Room



Hair & Skincare Vocational Training

## NGO VISIT – SHAH HAPPINESS URGENT CARE CENTRE

**July 2026** – On 27 July 2026, the Social Impact Team spent the day across the Shah Happiness Urgent Care Centres (UCCs) at Gala and Lakhtar in Surendranagar, observing how the centres are bringing healthcare services closer to local communities. From consultations and diagnostics to medicines, referrals, and patient transfers, the visit highlighted the role of community-level healthcare in enabling patients to receive timely care closer to where they live.

At Gala, the UCC currently serves approximately 70 patients each day and provides medical consultations, laboratory testing, pharmacy, X-ray, procedures, observation, and ambulance services. The laboratory supports approximately 23 patients daily, while the X-ray unit serves around 2 patients per day, enabling patients to access essential diagnostic services within the community.

The centre also serves as an important link between community-based and advanced healthcare. Approximately 6 patients each day are referred from Gala UCC to Shrimad Rajchandra Sarvamangal Hospital for further care, while the centre's ambulance undertakes approximately 10 patient transfers per month. This referral pathway helps connect patients requiring advanced medical attention with higher-level care.

The team also visited the newly operational Lakhtar UCC, which is already serving approximately 25 patients each day through Outpatient Department (OPD) consultations and pharmacy services. Located within the Adarsh Shala premises, the centre has created an additional healthcare access point for communities in and around Lakhtar.

Healthcare delivery across the two centres is supported by dedicated teams, with 7 staff members at Gala and 5 clinical and support staff at Lakhtar. Together, the centres are strengthening the availability of community-based medical support and helping create stronger connections between local healthcare services and hospital-based care.



Doctor Consultation Room in UCC, Gala



Doctor Consultation Room in UCC, Lakhtar



Observation Room for Day Care Patients



Pathology Laboratory

## NGO VISIT – VISION & ANEMIA SCREENING CAMP

**July 2026** – The Social Impact Team’s visit to the Vision and Anemia Screening Camp at Kadba Patidar College, Surendranagar, on 28 July 2026 provided an opportunity to observe the delivery of preventive healthcare services and their reach within the community. During the camp, 216 beneficiaries underwent vision and anemia screening, supporting the early identification of health needs and access to appropriate care.

A five-member Vision Screening team, comprising three optometrists and two operators, conducted vision assessments for beneficiaries. As part of the intervention, 33 eyeglasses were provided to individuals requiring corrective support, while one beneficiary was referred for further eye care. A dedicated team currently implements the Vision Screening Project across Surendranagar, extending the reach of vision care services within the region.

Alongside vision screening, a three-member Anemia Screening team, supported by one registration staff member, conducted anemia assessments for beneficiaries. Bringing both screening services together at a single location enabled beneficiaries to access multiple preventive health assessments through a coordinated camp.

The visit also provided insights into the on-ground coordination required to deliver screening services efficiently, from beneficiary registration to assessments and follow-up support. The presence of dedicated teams for both interventions helped facilitate a structured screening process for beneficiaries attending the camp.

The field engagement highlighted the role of community-based screening in making preventive healthcare more accessible. Through early identification, corrective support, and referrals where required, such initiatives help connect beneficiaries with timely care and contribute to strengthening preventive health outreach.



Objective Vision Screenings



Hemoglobin Screening Using the Finger-Prick Method



Beneficiary Receiving Free Eyeglasses



Subjective Vision Screenings

## NGO VISIT – SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRA SARVAMANGAL HOSPITAL

**July 2026** – Access to comprehensive and affordable healthcare plays a critical role in strengthening the well-being of communities and ensuring that patients receive timely care across a range of medical needs. On 28 July 2026, the Social Impact Team visited Shrimad Rajchandra Sarvamangal Hospital in Surendranagar to observe its healthcare services, infrastructure, and growing capacity to serve patients.

The hospital has expanded its capacity from 690 to 715 beds and records an average daily Outpatient Department (OPD) footfall of approximately 2,000 patients. With 23 clinical and support departments, the hospital provides a broad continuum of care spanning General Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Orthopaedics, General Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics, and other specialties, alongside super-specialty services including Cardiology, Neurology, Nephrology, Urology, Plastic Surgery, and Critical Care.

A key highlight of the visit was the scale of healthcare delivery across the facility. The hospital has 18 operation theatres and conducts approximately 200 surgeries each month, while the Obstetrics & Gynaecology Department supports approximately 200 deliveries per month. Diagnostic and support services, including Radiodiagnosis, Pathology, Microbiology, Blood Bank, Dentistry, and Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation, further enable patients to access multiple healthcare services within the same facility.

The hospital is supported by approximately 2,000 staff across medical, nursing, administrative, security, and housekeeping functions. Patient-focused infrastructure also includes three transport buggies equipped with stretchers and wheelchairs to support movement within the hospital, as well as a dedicated shelter with mattresses for relatives accompanying patients.



Pediatric General Ward



Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (ICU)



Patient Transport Buggy Equipped with Stretcher



Super-Specialty Consultation Room

## NGO VISIT – MATRUCHHAYA KANYA VIDHYALAYA

**July 2026** – Digital learning is creating new opportunities to make classroom education more interactive, engaging, and accessible for students. On 29 July 2026, the Social Impact Team visited Matruchhaya Kanya Shala and Matruchhaya English Medium School to observe the implementation of SMFT-supported Teachmint Smartboards and understand how technology is being integrated into everyday teaching and learning.

Through SMFT's support, 21 Teachmint 75-inch Smartboards have been provided across the schools, with 13 installed in the girls' primary section, 6 in the boys' section, and 2 at Matruchhaya English Medium School. The visit provided insights into how these digital resources are supporting teachers in creating technology-enabled learning environments for students.

Teachers shared positive feedback on the Smartboards, particularly the availability of digital textbooks, YouTube access, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) features. The Smartboards also provide digital whiteboards, drawing tools, grid layouts, magnetic pen storage, and USB connectivity, offering teachers multiple ways to complement classroom instruction with digital and interactive resources.

A key highlight of the visit was observing the potential of technology to enrich the classroom learning experience. By providing access to visual and interactive educational content, the Smartboards enable teachers to complement traditional teaching methods with digital resources and create opportunities for greater student engagement.

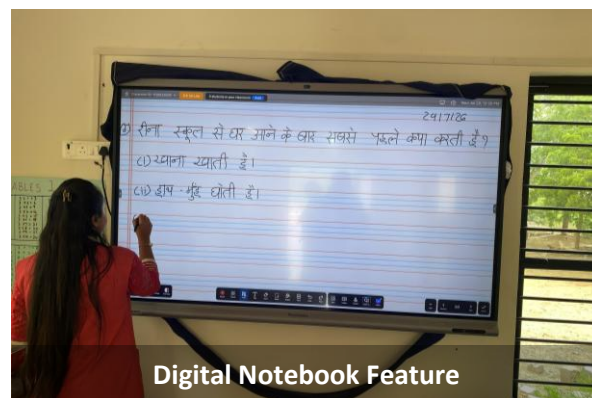
Overall, the visit highlighted the role of digital classroom infrastructure in strengthening teaching and learning experiences. Through the integration of Smartboards and technology-enabled resources, the initiative is supporting more engaging learning environments and expanding opportunities for students to benefit from digital education.



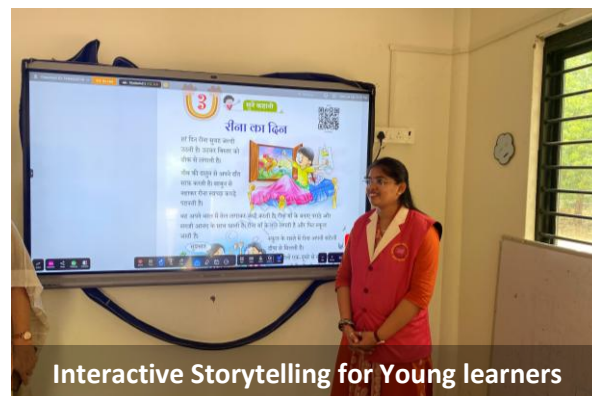
Science Learning Through the Smartboard



Interactive Drawing Activity



Digital Notebook Feature



Interactive Storytelling for Young learners

### *About the Nonprofit*

Lend A Hand India (LAHI) is a not-for-profit organisation committed to making education relevant, experiential, and future-ready. Since 2006, LAHI has partnered with Central and State Governments to integrate skill education into mainstream schooling, enabling young people to build practical skills, confidence, and career aspirations. Through experiential learning, vocational education, internships, entrepreneurship, and life skills, LAHI prepares students for higher education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

Today, LAHI's programmes have reached over 2 million students across 20,000+ schools in 25 States and Union Territories, strengthening education systems through sustainable government partnerships.



### *About the SMFT Funded Project*

SMFT supports Lend A Hand India (LAHI) in expanding access to quality vocational education for students across government schools in India through the Skill for All project.

Through this partnership, Skill for All aims to make quality vocational education accessible to 1mn students, helping young people build practical, industry-relevant competencies, career awareness, confidence, and aspirations for meaningful livelihoods.





The project strengthens skill education in high-demand sectors such as Electrical, Automotive, and Healthcare, providing students with opportunities to develop skills that are relevant to a rapidly evolving economy.

In addition, the project leverages Artificial Intelligence (AI) through innovative learning solutions to expand the reach of skill education. Skill for All also focuses on enhancing teachers' capacity to effectively deliver experiential, future-ready education. Together, these efforts support young people in developing the skills, confidence, and aspirations needed for higher education, employment, entrepreneurship, and meaningful livelihoods

### Project Location/Geography



### Recent Project Updates

Lend A Hand India (LAHI) marked a significant milestone by celebrating 20 years of transforming education through commemorative events in Delhi, Mumbai, and Pune. The events were attended by distinguished leaders from the education, corporate, and development sectors, including the CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank, and reflected LAHI's journey of advancing skill education and preparing young people for future opportunities.

To strengthen the intersection of technology and education, LAHI organized the Nagpur Skill and AI Summit, bringing together educators, government representatives, industry leaders, and innovators to explore the role of Artificial Intelligence in making skill education more relevant, accessible, and future-ready. LAHI was also selected for the Listen at Scale initiative, receiving 500,000 minutes of conversational AI support to enhance student engagement, teacher support, and large-scale learning through AI-enabled interactions.

LAHI further expanded its partnerships by collaborating with the Nagaland State Board of School Education, SCERT Nagaland, and SCERT Jharkhand to strengthen the implementation of skill education in schools. At the national level, NCERT launched the Grade 9 Skill Education textbook, featuring Healthcare as one of the six vocational sectors, creating new opportunities for integrating skill education into mainstream schooling.



### Overall Impact

Through SMFT's support, the project has significantly strengthened skill education by providing over 1.15 million students with access to vocational learning across industry-relevant sectors, including Electrical Wiring and Electronics, Fabrication/CNC Machine Operation, Gardening, Plumbing, and Healthcare.

Beyond classroom-based skill education, the project has facilitated more than 85,000 student internships since April 2023, providing students with practical workplace exposure and helping improve their employability. The project's strong engagement with industry is further reflected in 65% of participating employers expressing willingness to offer employment opportunities to students.

Together, these efforts are contributing to the development of a skilled, confident, and future-ready workforce aligned with India's evolving economic and workforce needs.



### Highlight of the Month



Lend A Hand India (LAHI) further strengthened its collaboration with state governments by partnering with the Uttarakhand Board of School Education to expand access to quality skill education for school students. The partnership will support the integration of vocational education aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP 2020), further strengthening opportunities for students to gain practical and relevant skills through mainstream schooling.

In addition, LAHI team members commenced the development of the Grade 10 Skill Education curriculum in collaboration with NCERT, building on the successful launch of the Grade 9 textbook. The new curriculum will continue to provide experiential, industry-relevant learning designed to equip students with practical skills and career readiness.

## Awards

Lend A Hand India (LAHI) continues to be recognised for its leadership in skill education. The organisation contributes to NCERT's Skill Education Textbook Development Team and supports large-scale government initiatives aimed at strengthening vocational and experiential education across India.

## In the News

# रोजगारक्षम विद्यार्थ्यां कौशल्याधारित प्रशिक्षणाची गरज

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

पुणे : पारंपरिक



संदीप प्रताप सिंह

शिक्षण व्यवस्थेत काळासुरणा बदल अपेक्षित आहे. रोजगारक्षम आणि व्यवसायाभिमुख पिढी

घडवण्यासाठी, तसेच आधुनिक

विकसित भारताचे स्वतः स्वप्न साकारण्यासाठी साकारणासाठी आसकीय व खाजगी क्षेत्रात प्रात्यक्षिकांवर कौशल्य प्रशिक्षणाची गरज आहे, असे मत राज्याचे शिक्षण आयुक्त संदीप प्रताप सिंह यांनी व्यक्त केले. पदवीसह रोजगारक्षम कौशल्य आत्मसात करावीत आणि शालेय वयातच विद्यार्थ्यांना प्रात्यक्षिक कामाचा अनुभव मिळावा, यासाठी १० तासांची इंटरनशिप देण्याचा विचार राज्य सरकार करत आहे, अशीही त्यांनी नमूद केले.

कौशल्य विकास आणि प्रात्यक्षिकांवर आधारित शिक्षण देत विद्यार्थ्यांचे भवितव्य घडविणाऱ्या 'लेंड अ हॅंड इंडिया' (लाही) संस्थेच्या २० व्या

शिक्षण आयुक्त संदीप प्रताप सिंह : शालेय वयातच १० तासांची इंटरनशिप देण्याचा विचार.

सोहळ्यात ते बोलत होते. पाषाण येथील पुणे इंटरनेशनल सेंटरमध्ये आयोजित या सोहळ्यात उद्योगक प्रतापराव पवार, शिक्षणतज्ज्ञ डॉ. कमलादेवी आवटे, जिल्हा परिषदेचे मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी गजानन पाटील, 'लाही' संस्थेचे सहसंस्थापक सुनंदा माने व राज गिल्डा, अध्यक्ष मिलिंद माने आदी उपस्थित होते. 'लाही' संस्थेच्या वाटचालीचा आढावा घेणाऱ्या कॉफी टेबल बुकचे प्रकाशनही करण्यात आले.

कार्यक्रमाच्या पूर्वीर्धात विद्यार्थ्यांचे घर्चासत्र झाले. अथात पत्न्या आणि अनिता बोले या विद्यार्थिनींनी सुत्रसंचालन केले.

राज गिल्डा यांनी संस्थेचे पदाधिकारी, विश्वस्त, देणगीदार, हितचिंतक यांचा परिचय करून दिला. मिलिंद माने यांनीही मनोगत व्यक्त केले.

### In the News

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## SCERT, NBSE partner Lend A Hand India to strengthen vocational education



Officials pose for a photo after the signing of the MoUs between the SCERT, NBSE and Lend A Hand India on March 18.

NAGALAND 19th March 2026

**Kohima, March 19 (MExN):** Nagaland took a step towards strengthening skill education in schools with the signing of two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), the Nagaland Board of School Education (NBSE) and Lend A Hand India.

The partnership with SCERT will introduce the “Kaushal Bodh” textbook for students of Classes 6 to 8, aimed at providing early exposure to practical, hands-on learning aligned with the National Curriculum Framework.

## SUCCESS STORIES – LEND A HAND INDIA

### SKILL BEYOND CLASSROOM

**Location:** Pune, Maharashtra

**Project:** Skill Education

At Late Baburao Sanas Secondary & Higher Secondary School, vocational education has moved beyond the laboratory to become part of everyday school life. Through the Multi-Skill Foundation Course, students develop practical skills across electrical work,

construction, agriculture, food processing, and healthcare—and apply them to address real needs within their school.

Students have used their learning to repair electrical circuits, switches, and faulty connections, as well as install signboards and display boards. During a school farewell event, when the public address system unexpectedly stopped working, vocational students diagnosed the faulty circuit and restored the system, turning a technical challenge into a practical demonstration of their skills and confidence.

The learning extends beyond technical skills. On Engineers' Day, students transformed unused spaces into kitchen gardens and landscaped areas, preparing soil, planting vegetables and flowers, and developing a simple drip irrigation system. The initiative later evolved into a **“One Teacher, One Plant”** campaign, encouraging shared responsibility for the school environment.



## SUCCESS STORIES – LEND A HAND INDIA

### BREAKING BARRIERS

**Location:** Pune, Maharashtra

**Project:** Skill Education

At PMC Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Katraj, vocational trainer Prashant Shinde has transformed the learning experience for students through dedication, innovation, and a strong focus on practical education. Since joining as an Automobile trade trainer in 2020, he has worked to address gaps in learning materials, practical resources, and student engagement.

To make vocational education more relevant and engaging, Mr. Shinde redesigned automobile course books with information on school facilities and vocational career pathways, even supporting their printing through his personal funds. Despite limited practical resources, he strengthened the vocational lab and used his own vehicle to provide students with hands-on automobile training.

Supported by the school headmaster, these efforts contributed to increased student enrollment and strong academic performance, with students achieving 100 marks in Retail and 98–99 marks in Automobile trade. In addition, 13 students received scholarships of ₹51,000 each to support their higher education.

Mr. Shinde also introduced dedicated vocational education sessions during parent-teacher meetings, helping parents better understand students' learning and practical experiences.

His journey demonstrates how a committed educator can turn limited resources into meaningful learning opportunities, strengthening students' skills, confidence, academic performance, and pathways toward higher education and future careers.



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