

# NEWS UPDATE

January 2026



**"All social change comes from the passion of individuals"**

**– MARGARET MEAD**



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## INTRODUCTION

### HISTORY OF M S INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Manu and Rika Shah founded MSI in 1975, in the basement of their home in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. MSI is now the largest importer and distributor in the world of Premium Surfaces including granite, marble, porcelain and ceramic tiles, slate, travertine, limestone and other natural stone products from 37 countries. Most notably, MSI provided the granite for the Vietnam Memorial in DC.

Manu and Rika Shah established Sarva Mangal Family Trust (Sarva Mangal means 'let all be happy' in Sanskrit) over 20 years ago with compassion as their driving force for philanthropy. Manu's vision for SMFT is to act as a catalyst, challenge status quo, nurture passionate change-makers and support leapfrogging ideas that are scalable and sustainable. Today, all members from the Shah family are involved in social impact initiatives that are undertaken by SMFT. Manu supports VOSAP – Voice of Especially Abled People, which has created over 10,000 change makers and rated over 18,000 buildings rated for accessibility. He also supports Lend a hand India, which provides digital vocational training to over 300,000 students in 20,000 schools.

In 2007, Mr. Manu Shah was named Ernst & Young's national Entrepreneur of the Year in the distribution, manufacturing, and security category.

### 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 well-being 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



**Honouring Purpose-Driven Leadership Through Global Recognition**  
Manu and Rika Shah were conferred with the One World One Family Global Leadership Award on 11 January 2026 by Sri Madhusudan Sai, in recognition of their ethical leadership and sustained commitment to service-driven social impact. Anchored in the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – One World, One Family, the award honours leaders who connect business success with philanthropy, advancing initiatives across healthcare, education, nutrition, and community development.

**(Continued on page 5)**

## EVENT – ONE WORLD ONE FAMILY GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

**January 2026:** A proud and memorable moment unfolded as Manu and Rika Shah were honoured with the One World One Family Global Leadership Award at a distinguished ceremony held in association with the World Cultural Festival. The event brought together global leaders, visionaries, and changemakers from across sectors, creating an inspiring setting that celebrated leadership rooted in purpose, compassion, and service.

The recognition highlighted Manu and Rika Shah's sustained commitment to driving meaningful and measurable social impact. Their work across education, healthcare, nutrition, and women-led livelihood initiatives reflects a leadership approach that goes beyond enterprise, placing community well-being and long-term sustainability at the heart of progress.

The gathering was marked by moments of connection and reflection, as leaders from diverse backgrounds shared perspectives on the importance of ethical leadership and collective responsibility. The energy of the event reinforced the idea that meaningful change is best achieved through collaboration and shared values.

The ceremony served as a powerful reminder of the role leaders play in shaping inclusive and resilient communities. Reflections shared during the event emphasized how service-driven action and integrity can create lasting change across generations.

This recognition marks an important milestone in SMFT's journey, reaffirming their continued dedication to values-led initiatives that uplift underserved communities. The honour not only celebrates their contributions to date but also inspires a renewed commitment to advancing impact-driven leadership and building a more compassionate global future.



## EVENT – MEGA MEDICAL CAMP

**January 2026** – Dharampur emerged as a centre of large-scale community healthcare with the successful organisation of the Mega Multi-Speciality Medical Camp, held over five days from 2 to 6 January 2026. The initiative was aimed at addressing critical healthcare gaps among underserved rural communities by delivering comprehensive, high-quality medical services in an accessible and dignified setting.

The camp brought together over 60 experienced specialist doctors from across India and abroad, representing more than 20 medical specialties. Patients benefited from a wide range of services, including consultations, screenings, diagnostics, referrals, and follow-up guidance, enabling early detection and timely intervention for a variety of medical conditions. By offering multiple specialties under one roof, the camp significantly reduced barriers to care for patients who often face challenges related to distance, affordability, and access.

A defining feature of the camp was its ability to provide advanced and complex medical interventions, including cardiac procedures and cancer-related treatments. In addition to patient care, the initiative also served as a learning platform through live surgical training sessions, allowing young doctors and medical professionals to observe, learn, and build expertise. Special focus was placed on providing inclusive care for the specially-abled, ensuring personalized attention and support throughout the treatment process.

Over the course of five days, the camp successfully treated more than 25,000 patients, creating a profound and lasting impact across the region. The Mega Multi-Speciality Medical Camp stands as a powerful example of how collaborative medical expertise, compassion, and community outreach can come together to strengthen healthcare access, improve health outcomes, and uplift communities at scale.



Free of Cost Eyeglasses Distribution



Rika & Manu Shah Lighting the Diyas with Gurudev Rakeshji



Manu Shah Interacting with Doctor

## EVENT – SHAH HAPPINESS URGENT CARE CENTRE INAUGURATION

**January 2026:** Strengthening access to timely and community-based healthcare, the Shah Happiness Foundation inaugurated two Shah Happiness Urgent Care Centres in early January, expanding essential medical services across Dharampur and Surendranagar, Gujarat. These centres are designed to address routine healthcare needs and urgent medical concerns, bringing dependable and accessible care closer to underserved communities.

The Shah Happiness Urgent Care Centre at Tiskari Talat, Dharampur, inaugurated on 3 January 2026, was established in partnership with the Shrimad Rajchandra Mission, Dharampur. Located in the tribal belt of South Gujarat, the centre plays a vital role in supporting prompt medical consultations, basic diagnostics, and structured referral services, helping reduce delays in treatment and easing the burden of long-distance travel for patients.

Following this, on 4 January 2026, another Shah Happiness Urgent Care Centre was inaugurated in Gala, Surendranagar, further strengthening primary and urgent healthcare access for surrounding rural communities. Supported by a dedicated on-ground medical team, the centre focuses on early intervention, continuity of care, and reliable medical support for local communities.

Together, these inaugurations reflect the Shah Happiness Foundation's commitment to building robust grassroots healthcare infrastructure through strategic partnerships and thoughtful expansion. By establishing Urgent Care Centres in both Dharampur and Surendranagar, the Foundation continues to enhance healthcare accessibility, improve patient outcomes, and reinforce a people-centric approach to community well-being across the region.

These Urgent Care Centres serve as critical touchpoints for community health, offering timely support and reassurance to families in need. Their presence strengthens local healthcare systems while promoting early intervention and preventive care.



Rika & Manu Shah Inaugurating Shah Happiness Urgent Care Centre, Dharampur



Mobile X-Ray in Shah Happiness Urgent Care Centre, Dharampur



Consultation Room in Shah Happiness Urgent Care Centre, Surendranagar



Inauguration of Shah Happiness Urgent Care Centre, Surendranagar

## EVENT – SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRA SARVAMANGAL HOSPITAL INAUGURATION

**January 2026** – A significant milestone in community healthcare was marked on 4 January 2026 with the inauguration of Shrimad Rajchandra Sarvamangal Hospital in Surendranagar, Gujarat. Formerly known as CU Shah Medical College & Hospital, the hospital's new identity reflects a renewed commitment to compassionate care, service, and community well-being.

The inauguration symbolized a meaningful collaboration between the Sarva Mangal Family Trust and the Shrimad Rajchandra Mission, Dharampur, bringing together shared values of selfless service and social responsibility. The event was attended by members of both institutions, healthcare professionals, and well-wishers, who gathered to witness the beginning of a new chapter in the hospital's journey.

The occasion highlighted the hospital's ongoing role in serving rural and semi-urban communities and reaffirmed its focus on patient-centered care rooted in empathy and dignity. The transition to Shrimad Rajchandra Sarvamangal Hospital builds on a strong legacy while embracing a renewed vision aligned with community needs and inclusive healthcare delivery.

The inauguration also served as a moment of reflection on the power of collaboration in strengthening healthcare ecosystems. It underscored how partnerships driven by shared purpose can enhance access to quality care and create lasting social impact.

As Shrimad Rajchandra Sarvamangal Hospital embarks on this next phase, the collaboration between Sarva Mangal Family Trust and Shrimad Rajchandra Mission, Dharampur, stands as a testament to their collective commitment to improving health outcomes and supporting communities with compassion, continuity, and care.



## EVENT – SHAH HAPPINESS FOUNDATION – PROJECT LIFE

**January 2026** – A series of impactful initiatives reflecting the Shah Happiness Foundation's commitment to healthcare, education, and sustainability were marked through multiple inaugurations carried out in collaboration with Project Life, Rajkot. Together, these efforts highlight a holistic approach to community development, addressing critical healthcare needs, learning environments, and environmental awareness.

On 9 January 2026, advanced critical equipment for the Life Blood Centre was inaugurated through a collaboration between Project Life, Rajkot, funded by SMFT. The inauguration was led by Nirav Doshi, Vice President, MSI Services Pvt. Ltd. The addition of specialised equipment strengthens the Centre's capacity to process safe, reliable, and high-quality blood, supporting timely and life-saving care for patients across the region.

Building on this momentum, 10 January 2026 marked two meaningful initiatives focused on education and sustainability. An important milestone in community education was celebrated with the dedication of the Shah Happiness Foundation Primary School in Ghuntu, Morbi District, inaugurated by Nirav Doshi in the presence of students, teachers, and community members. Developed in partnership with Project Life, the school offers an improved, child-friendly learning environment designed to support holistic development and encourage curiosity and confidence among young learners.

On the same day, the Model Project of the Shah Happiness Foundation–Life Vertical Gardening Initiative was inaugurated at Navnat UK Primary School, Jabalpur, Morbi District. The initiative promotes environmental awareness and sustainable development by introducing vertical gardening as a practical, space-efficient solution. Designed to boost greenery and biodiversity within rural school campuses, the project also serves as a hands-on learning tool for students and the wider community.



Shah Happiness Foundation Primary School



Nirav Doshi with Project Life Team



Inauguration of Vertical Gardening Project



Inauguration of Advanced Critical Equipment for the Life Blood Centre

## EVENT – SHAH HAPPINESS URGENT CARE CENTRE

**January 2026** – Continuing its efforts to strengthen access to quality healthcare in rural Karnataka, inaugurated a new Shah Happiness Urgent Care Centre – Sai Swasthya Wellness Centre in Madhugiri, Tumkur district. The centre has been established in collaboration with the Sri Madhusudan Sai Institute of Medical Sciences & Research and forms part of the One World One Family (OWOF) Sai Swasthya Clinics network, which focuses on delivering compassionate and accessible healthcare to underserved communities.

The Urgent Care Centre is designed to address both routine medical needs and urgent health concerns within the community. It offers 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.

Day-to-day operations at the centre are managed by a dedicated on-site medical team, supported by visiting specialists, ensuring consistent and dependable care. By reducing the need for long-distance travel to urban hospitals, the centre helps ease financial and logistical burdens for families while encouraging early medical intervention and regular follow-up.

The inauguration of the Shah Happiness Urgent Care Centre marks an important step in expanding community-focused healthcare infrastructure across the region. The collaboration between Shah Happiness Foundation and Sri Madhusudan Sai Institute of Medical Sciences & Research reflects a shared commitment to service, dignity, and long-term well-being. Through this initiative, the partners continue to build a sustainable healthcare model that brings essential medical services closer to communities and improves health outcomes for those who need it most.



Inauguration of Shah Happiness Urgent Care Centre



Rika & Manu Shah Lighting the Diyas with Sri Madhusudan Sai



SMFT Team with Sri Madhusudan Sai



Consultation Room in Shah Happiness Urgent Care Centre

## EVENT – SHAH HAPPINESS CARDIAC CARE CENTRE INAGURATION

**January 2026** A significant advancement in specialized healthcare was marked on 11 January 2026 with the inauguration of the Shah Happiness Cardiac Care Centre at the Sri Madhusudan Sai Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Muddenahalli, Karnataka. The inauguration reflected a shared commitment to strengthening access to advanced cardiac care while reinforcing a patient-first, service-driven approach to healthcare delivery.

The newly inaugurated Cardiac Care Centre has been envisioned as a dedicated facility to support the diagnosis, treatment, and long-term management of heart-related conditions. By integrating specialized expertise, modern medical infrastructure, and compassionate care, the centre aims to address the growing need for timely and high-quality cardiac services for patients from both rural and urban communities.

The inauguration brought together members of the medical fraternity, institutional leadership, and stakeholders who gathered to witness this important milestone. The occasion underscored the importance of focused investments in specialized healthcare services that can significantly improve clinical outcomes and patient experiences.

The establishment of the Shah Happiness Cardiac Care Centre further strengthens the healthcare ecosystem at the Sri Madhusudan Sai Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, enhancing its ability to provide comprehensive and advanced care under one roof.

This milestone stands as a testament to the Shah Happiness Foundation's continued dedication to improving healthcare access and outcomes. Through initiatives such as the Cardiac Care Centre, the Foundation continues to support infrastructure and services that bring life-saving care closer to communities, reinforcing its commitment to health, dignity, and hope.



SMFT Team with Sri Madhusudan Sai



Rika & Manu Shah Inaugurating Shah Happiness Cardiac Care Centre



Launch of Shah Happiness Cardiac Care Centre



Shah Happiness Cardiac Care Centre

## EVENT – SHAH HAPPINESS FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL INAUGURATION

**January 2026** – A meaningful step toward strengthening education and preventive healthcare was marked with the inauguration of the Shah Happiness Foundation Primary School in Nichi Mandal, Morbi, Gujarat, in collaboration with Project Life on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026. This inauguration represents the fourth school in Morbi developed under the partnership, reinforcing a shared commitment to creating better learning environments for children in underserved communities.

The dedication ceremony was inaugurated by Mr. Lokesh Mehta, Senior Vice President, MSI Services Pvt. Ltd, in the presence of local educators, students, and community members. Mr. Manu Shah joined the occasion virtually, sharing words of encouragement and reaffirming his belief in education as a powerful driver of long-term social change.

Alongside the school inauguration, the event also marked the launch of the Shah Happiness Foundation – Life Thalassemia Control & Prevention Programme, further expanding the Foundation's holistic approach to community well-being. The programme focuses on awareness, early screening, and prevention, complementing educational initiatives with proactive healthcare support for families in the region.

Developed in line with Project Life's mission to transform dilapidated schools into vibrant, modern campuses, the newly inaugurated primary school offers a child-friendly learning environment designed to support holistic student growth. Improved infrastructure and engaging spaces aim to foster curiosity, confidence, and a love for learning among young students.

Through this integrated focus on education and preventive healthcare, the Shah Happiness Foundation and Project Life continue to create sustainable, people-centric impact empowering children and families to build healthier, more hopeful futures.



Inauguration of Shah Happiness Primary School



Lokesh Mehta with Meetal Koticha Shah



Classroom in Shah Happiness Primary School



Launch of SHF-Life Thalassemia Control & Prevention Programme

## VISIT – ARHAM YUVA SEVA GROUP

**January 2026** – In January, the MSI Social Impact Team visited the Arham Yuva Seva Group, a values-driven organization committed to fostering selfless service, social harmony, and holistic well-being within communities. Rooted in spiritual inspiration and community engagement, the organization works across social, educational, and humanitarian initiatives aimed at nurturing compassion, responsibility, and dignity.

During the visit, Rika and Manu Shah met with Gurudev Namramuni, engaging in thoughtful conversations on service-led development, ethical leadership, and the role of value-based initiatives in strengthening society. The interaction reflected a shared philosophy of combining inner well-being with outward social impact, reinforcing the importance of compassion and mindfulness in community work.

The Rika and Manu Shah also interacted with community members and beneficiaries associated with Arham Yuva Seva Group, gaining insights into the organization's grassroots efforts and the positive influence of its programs on everyday lives. These interactions highlighted the importance of trust-based engagement and people-centric approaches in creating sustainable social change.

As part of the visit, Manu Shah presented the AI Health Happiness Platform to Gurudev Namramuni, demonstrating how technology can be thoughtfully leveraged to support holistic health, happiness, and well-being at scale. The demonstration sparked meaningful dialogue around integrating innovation with spiritual and community-led initiatives to enhance outreach and impact.

Through such engagements, both organizations continue to explore collaborative pathways that combine compassion, innovation, and purpose to create lasting positive impact.



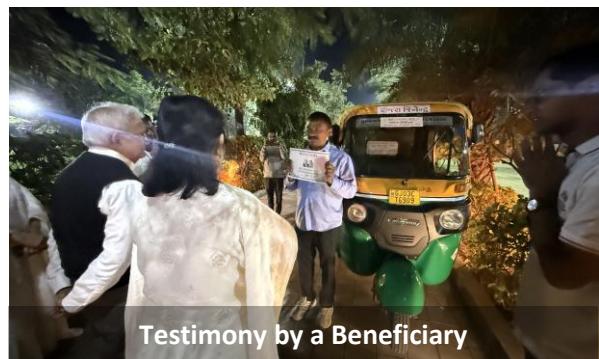
Manu Shah with Gurudev Namramuni



Manu Shah Presenting AI Health Happiness



Rika Shah Interacting with Beneficiaries



Testimony by a Beneficiary

## VISIT – SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRA AATMA TATVA RESEARCH CENTRE

**January 2026-** In January, the MSI Social Impact Team visited the Shrimad Rajchandra Aatma Tatva Research Centre in Nanose, Maharashtra, a well-established charitable trust dedicated to community upliftment through education, healthcare, and holistic social initiatives. The organisation operates with a mission to spread compassion, inner well-being, and self-realisation while addressing practical needs across rural and tribal populations.

During the visit, Manu Shah engaged with the leadership of the centre and spent time understanding its multifaceted efforts to support underserved communities. The centre's initiatives include quality schooling for children through the Shree Raj Educational Centre, which provides long-term educational opportunities in areas with limited access to formal education.

It also supports affordable and subsidised medical services through the Shree Raj Medical Centre, alongside regular outreach camps aimed at preventive and curative care.

The interactions emphasised the organisation's deep commitment to empowering lives through coordinated welfare efforts that blend spiritual values with practical action.

Manu Shah's conversations with SR Aatma Tatva Research Centre team and beneficiaries highlighted shared aspirations for inclusive development and reinforced the importance of collaborative partnerships in creating sustainable impact.

The visit offered valuable insights into how integrated efforts in education and healthcare can contribute to long-term community well-being. It reaffirmed a shared commitment to service-driven development, highlighting the role of compassion, collaboration, and purpose in creating meaningful and lasting impact for rural and tribal communities.



Manu Shah with SRATRC Team



Shree Raj Education Centre



Women Empowerment Initiative



Manu Shah Receiving a Warm Welcome

## VISIT – ROCKET LEARNING

**January 2026** – In January, the MSI Social Impact Team visited Anganwadi Centre in Panvel, Maharashtra, in partnership with Rocket Learning, a non-profit organisation focused on strengthening early childhood education at scale. Rocket Learning works closely with government systems to transform Anganwadis into engaging learning spaces by leveraging technology, including AI-enabled tools, to catalyse cognitive development during the formative early years.

During the visit, Manu Shah interacted with Anganwadi workers, caregivers, and young children, gaining firsthand insight into how Rocket Learning's approach supports joyful, play-based learning. He spent time engaging with children through simple activities and observed how structured learning prompts and interactive methods help build early literacy, numeracy, and social skills in an age-appropriate and engaging manner.

The visit also provided an opportunity to understand Rocket Learning's use of AI-driven content and community engagement models, which equip educators and parents with easy-to-use resources that reinforce daily learning at home and in Anganwadi centres. Anganwadi workers shared how these tools have enhanced their confidence and ability to create stimulating learning environments for young learners.

The interaction highlighted Rocket Learning's broader mission to partner with governments and frontline workers to strengthen early education systems in a scalable and sustainable way. By integrating innovation with community-led delivery, the organisation aims to improve school readiness and long-term learning outcomes for children from underserved communities.



Students welcoming Manu Shah



Manu Shah Interacting with Anganwadi Workers



Manu Shah with Children & Anganwadi Workers



Manu Shah with Azeez Gupta

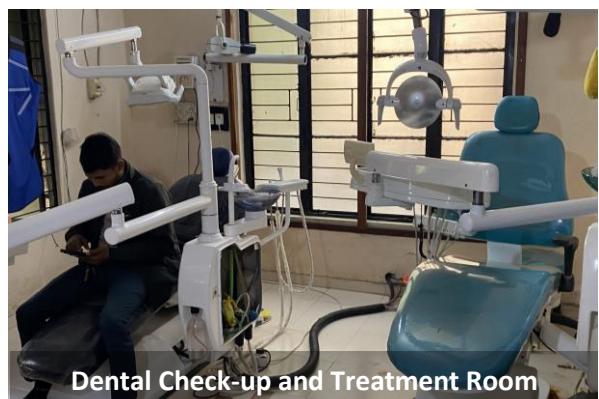
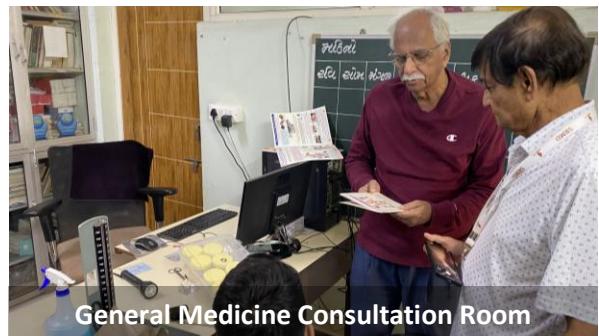
## VISIT – ARCH HOSPITAL

**January 2026** - In January, the MSI Social Impact Team visited ARCH Hospital in Dharampur, Gujarat, a community health facility operated by ARCH (Action Research in Community Health and Development), serving tribal and surrounding rural communities of South Gujarat. Located approximately six kilometres from the Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital and Research Centre, ARCH Hospital functions as an important access point for primary healthcare, preventive services, and community-based health education.

During the visit, the team observed the hospital's clinical infrastructure and service delivery model. ARCH Hospital operates through an eight-room facility, providing services in general medicine, non-communicable disease (NCD) management, diabetes care, blood pressure management, infertility counselling, and dental care. The hospital serves an average of around 100 patients daily, with approximately 800 registered patients annually, reflecting its consistent role in meeting local healthcare needs.

A strong focus of the visit was ARCH's emphasis on preventive and chronic care, with NCD and diabetes programmes collectively reaching nearly 40,000 beneficiaries. The team also reviewed the hospital's in-house diagnostic laboratory, which supports timely clinical decision-making, along with the on-site pharmacy that ensures continuity of care for patients.

Beyond clinical services, the visit highlighted ARCH's commitment to health education and community engagement. The hospital houses a digital medical education model, a training room for conducting regular awareness sessions for school students, and an on-site preschool supporting early childhood learning. Dedicated spaces for counselling and group activities further reflect ARCH's holistic, people-centred approach to healthcare.



## VISIT – KEDI THE PATH

**January 2026** – In January, the MSI Social Impact Team visited KEDI The Path School in Dharampur, Gujarat, an educational initiative dedicated to the holistic development of tribal children through innovative learning, life skills, and community engagement. KEDI, meaning “an uncharted path,” offers a unique residential learning environment where education extends far beyond the classroom, nurturing intellectual curiosity, emotional resilience, and social competence among first-generation learners.

During the visit, the team observed how KEDI supports students from economically marginalised tribal backgrounds with free education, boarding, meals, clothing, and medical care, creating a supportive and inclusive community where each girl arrives by choice and learns at her own pace. The centre’s learning model emphasises experiential education, encouraging students to explore academics through real-world projects, peer collaboration, and hands-on activities that strengthen both intellect and life skills.

A key focus of the visit was understanding how the institution fosters emotional, social, and cognitive growth through structured programmes that blend academics with skill development and interpersonal learning. Students are regularly engaged in activities such as organic farming, animal care, creative arts, and nature-based experiences, helping them build self-confidence, independence, and a deep connection with their surroundings.

The team also interacted with mentors and volunteers to learn about KEDI’s participatory learning environment, where collaborative decision-making, group problem-solving, and expressive communication are integral to daily lives.



### ***About the Nonprofit***

Rocket Learning is an India-based nonprofit dedicated to transforming early childhood education across the country. Founded to strengthen the capabilities of Anganwadi Educators and caregivers, Rocket Learning delivers high-impact interventions that combine training, community engagement, and technology-driven support.

The organization's mission is to impact 75 million underserved children by 2030 by building a top-tier, community-led Early Childhood Education system that ensures full brain and body development by age six, regardless of income or background. Rocket Learning leverages simple technology to equip parents and Anganwadi educators with personalized learning support, currently enabling 18 million children across India to build strong foundations for learning and life.



### ***About the SMFT Funded Project***

SMFT's partnership with Rocket Learning, through the Shah Lab for ECD, is strengthening the quality of early childhood education for India's youngest learners. By combining system-level partnerships with continuous engagement and capacity building for caregivers and Anganwadi Educators, Rocket Learning works to strengthen India's government-run early childhood education system.

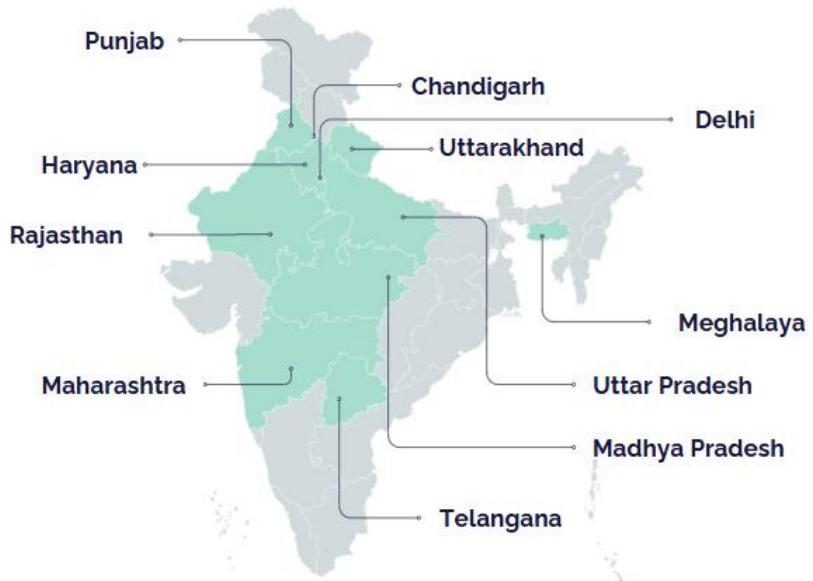




Through educator training, content aligned with national priorities, and institutionalization of effective early learning practices, the program drives sustained behavior change in low-income communities, embedding simple, positive learning actions into everyday routines.

As a result, caregivers consistently support children's early learning, and public early learning systems show improved quality while delivering lasting impact for millions of children at scale.

### ***Project Location/Geography***



### Recent Project Updates

Rocket Learning continues to strengthen early learning across India by supporting Anganwadi Educators and caregivers with practical tools, training, and guidance. Over the past year, one million educators have participated in the *Poshan Bhi, Padhai Bhi* ("Nutrition as well as Education") initiative, delivered in partnership with the Savitribai Phule National Institute of Women and Child Development. These sessions are helping Anganwadi Centers become more engaging learning spaces, where children's foundational skills in language, numeracy, and social-emotional development are nurtured every day.

In one in four Anganwadi Centers nationwide, educators are now applying these practices consistently. Digital support through the *Shiksha Saathi* ("Learning Companion") pilot—a voice-first, WhatsApp-based AI chatbot—has helped over 700 educators plan lessons, track progress, and manage administrative tasks more efficiently. Educators report that this guidance makes daily interactions with children more focused and meaningful, turning routine classroom activities into powerful learning experiences.



The initiative is not just about numbers; it is driving practical, on-the-ground improvements. Educators are embedding positive daily learning routines into their classrooms, while caregivers are increasingly supporting children's early learning at home. By combining system-level partnerships with hands-on support, Rocket Learning is strengthening India's government-run early childhood education system and laying strong foundations for millions of children across low-income communities.

### Overall Impact

Overall, SMFT's support of Rocket Learning is strengthening early childhood education and building strong learning foundations for millions of children across India. In one in four Anganwadi Centers nationwide, trained educators are transforming classrooms into engaging, child-friendly spaces, helping 80% of children achieve 'school readiness' well above the national average of 50%.



Among the 400,000 Anganwadi Educators reached, over 60% have received certifications recognizing their performance and engagement, while digital tools like the Shiksha Saathi voice-first chatbot are supporting classroom delivery and administrative tasks. Rocket Learning's content is now available in seven Indian languages, including Bengali and Telugu, with AI-supported translation and localization enabling expansion while keeping content age-appropriate and meaningful.

In addition to on-the-ground impact, Rocket Learning has advanced India's Early Childhood Education agenda in 2025 through national and international advocacy, including co-hosting the first-ever government-led ECE conference, and participating in UNGA 2025, the ECDAN Summit, and Their World's Act for Early Years event. These efforts are creating measurable improvements in early learning outcomes, strengthening educators, and embedding positive routines in communities, at a scale.

### ***Highlight of the Month***

December marked a significant step forward in strengthening the policy landscape for Early Childhood Development (ECD) at scale. Rocket Learning facilitated high-level briefings with Parliamentarians and senior bureaucrats ahead of two key policy milestones: the recent Parliamentary discussions and the Chief Secretaries' Conference. The Parliamentary discussions demonstrated strong bipartisan support, with Ms. Sudha Murty (Member of Parliament) moving a Resolution on free and compulsory ECD, and senior leaders underscoring Anganwadis as a strategic investment in India's human capital.

This momentum was reinforced at the Chief Secretaries' Conference, chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, where ECD was recognized as a national priority, highlighting the critical role of early learning in shaping India's future.

In early January, Rocket Learning hosted Manu Shah for a field visit to the program in Panvel, Maharashtra, where they provided insights and guidance, encouraging continued innovation and impactful implementation on the ground.



### Awards

Rocket Learning was honored with the Marico Innovation Foundation's 'Indian Innovation Icons 2025' award, recognizing its transformative approach to early childhood education.

In addition, Rocket Learning's Co-founder, Azeez Gupta, joined the Steering Committee of ACT, reflecting his leadership in advancing education and innovation at a national level.

Further strengthening the organization's global presence, Co-founder Namya Mahajan was appointed to the Governing Board of the Elevate Prize Foundation, contributing her expertise to an international platform supporting social impact initiatives.

These milestones highlight Rocket Learning's growing influence in shaping early learning policies, driving innovation, and building capacity both in India and globally.



### In the News

**The Indian EXPRESS**  
JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

# Childcare isn't just a social safety net. It's a lever for growth

*The drag on productivity is hiding in plain sight, in homes where millions of mothers scale back or exit work because childcare is unaffordable or inaccessible*

Written by:  
**I Ahuja, Utsav Kheria**

in read  
11, 2025 08:12 AM IST

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Enabling full-day childcare services through physical Anganwadi centres and crèches is critical, especially in industrial belts, service hubs, and urban wards with high female employment potential

Infrastructure has long been the backbone of India's growth story. Yet the 8-10 per cent growth ambition will stall if we ignore the “soft” infrastructure that frees up the time and talent of half the workforce. Childcare must shift from being seen as a “safety net” to a “springboard” for growth, productivity, and human capital.

## NGO IN FOCUS JANUARY'26 – ROCKET LEARNING (Cont.)

Hindustan Times

Home T20 World Cup E-Paper India News World News Entertainment Lifestyle SCO Vs ITA LIVE Cities Trending Astrology HTCity Horoscope 2026 HT Auto HT TECH US News HT Premium HT The Next Voice



### How venture-like philanthropic capital has the potential to unleash impact at scale

By Aakanksha Gulati

Published on: Jan 12, 2026 03:04 pm IST

This article is authored by Aakanksha Gulati, CEO, ACT.

Advertisement



Stock Market Question ?

*"I took a walk in the forest and came out taller than the trees."* Thoreau's quote rings true of both the incredible challenge, as well as the unprecedented opportunity, that India's social sector presents today. The sheer scale of India's challenges are well known, but it is also being met with a growing cadre of impact-focused founders. These are brave souls who have the courage to immerse deeply in our issues – be it in our learning and skilling gaps, lack of access to health care or the rapidly declining air quality and evaporating water – as a result of which our nation's universities and early-stage incubators are brimming with innovation and new technologies to address complex developmental issues. Combine this with increasing impact funding - The India Philanthropy Report 2025 forecasts a staggering ₹45 lakh crore in social sector funding over the next four years – and it would seem like the golden era of social innovation.

दैनिक दिव्यांग

The Tribune

दैनिक दिव्यांग

HOME / PREMIUM / INDIA SHOULD INVEST IN ITS YOUNGEST LEARNERS

### India should invest in its youngest learners

A rethink about early learning in anganwadis and play schools is needed.

AZEEZ GUPTA AND VASUDHA ARABANDI  
Updated At: 09:04 PM Nov 29, 2025 IST

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## SUCCESS STORIES – ROCKET LEARNING



**Name:** Seema, Angadwadi Educator  
**Location:** Raigad, Maharashtra  
**Project:** Brain, Body and Basics

When Seema first began working at her Anganwadi center, few in her village understood the importance of her role. Eleven years on, everything has changed. Today, when she steps out in her Anganwadi uniform, she is greeted with respect and appreciation. Children run to her with excitement, and parents look to her with trust and hope. In the community, she is simply known as Seema Madam as an educator, a guide, and a changemaker.

Seema credits the sustained training and structured support she has received over the past few years for transforming her confidence and sense of purpose. The digital support groups she participates in offer clarity and direction for her daily classroom activities, helping her focus on the right skills and choose meaningful learning experiences. Each interaction with a child is now intentional, nurturing, and impactful.

Her dream is to turn her Anganwadi center into a vibrant learning space, where parents feel proud to send their children every day. Seema's journey is a powerful example of how consistent, community-led support can empower frontline educators to spark real change and build strong foundations for India's youngest learners.

Through stories like Seema's, Rocket Learning continues to demonstrate that investing in educators is investing in the future of millions of children across India.



## SUCCESS STORIES – ROCKET LEARNING



**Name:** Tanu, Student

**Location:** Ashapur, Uttar Pradesh

**Project:** Brain, Body and Basics

Tanu dreams of becoming a teacher one day, inspired by the woman she calls her Madam at the Anganwadi. Every evening, she returns home eager to share with her mother all that she has learned during the day. Some nights are filled with exploring shapes and colors, while others spark conversations about seasons and the world around her.

Tanu blossomed into a curious and confident learner. She asks questions freely, engages joyfully with her peers, and approaches each day with a hunger for discovery. Supported

both at the Anganwadi and at home, Tanu's love for learning is growing strong, laying the groundwork for the bright future she envisions.

Tanu's journey is a testament to how nurturing early childhood education both inside the classroom and within the family—can ignite a lifelong passion for learning. Stories like hers illustrate how Rocket Learning's sustained support for educators and caregivers is helping millions of children across India build strong foundations for learning, growth, and opportunity.



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