

NEWS UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2025



"When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully,
everyone is blessed."

– MAYA ANGELOU



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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 Specially 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 the health, education and they 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



EPISODE OF EMPOWERMENT : VOSAP GALA 2025 IN CERRITOS, LOS ANGELES

SMFT-funded organization VOSAP held its Annual Gala 2025 on September 4 in Cerritos, California, bringing together over 200 changemakers and donors. The event raised \$2.3 million to advance inclusion for specially abled individuals. VOSAP leverages technology and innovation to create impactful opportunities for people with disabilities. Highlights included Omi Vaidya as emcee, a keynote by Jessica Cox, and a Certificate of Recognition from Artesia's Mayor Ali Ta, celebrating VOSAP's community impact.

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EVENT – VOICE OF SPECIALLY ABLED PEOPLE GALA

September 2025: Los Angeles recently hosted an extraordinary celebration of purpose and compassion as SMFT funded Voice of Specially Abled People (VOSAP) held its highly anticipated Fundraising Gala 2025 in Cerritos, California. The event showcased how the intersection of technology and empathy can drive meaningful transformation.

Over 200 changemakers and enablers gathered under one roof, united by a shared mission to accelerate inclusion and empower specially abled individuals worldwide. The evening proved remarkable, raising an impressive \$2.3 million in a single night — a new milestone for the organization and a testament to the resonance of its cause.

VOSAP's mission leverages innovation, technology, data, and scalable models to create opportunities for people with disabilities. The Gala highlighted the organization's capacity to translate these programs into measurable impact. Contributions reflected not only generosity but also trust in VOSAP's credibility, execution, and long-term outcomes.

Strategic donors significantly increased their support this year through higher contributions and multi-year pledges, while several new donors joined the initiative, bringing renewed energy to the cause. This expanding circle of supporters is accelerating the scale and depth of change VOSAP can deliver.

The evening also included notable recognition from the Mayor of Artesia, Ali Ta, who presented VOSAP with a Certificate of Recognition for its profound community-level impact, underscoring the growing acknowledgment of its approach to disability inclusion at scale.



EVENT – SHAH HAPPINESS URGENT CARE CENTRE INAUGURATION

September 2025 – The Shah Happiness Urgent Care – Sai Swasthya Wellness Centre was inaugurated on 1st of September 2025, in Bhagyanagara (formerly Bagepalli), Chikkaballapur District, Karnataka, near the Andhra Pradesh border.

Established by Shah Happiness Foundation (SHF) in partnership with Sri Madhusudan Sai Institute of Medical Sciences & Research (SMSIMSR), the centre is part of the One World One Family (OWOF) Sai Swasthya Clinics network, dedicated to providing accessible and quality healthcare to underserved rural communities. Serving six talukas and a population of over 1.3 million people, the centre ensures both local care and emergency referrals to Sri Sathya Sai Sarla Memorial Hospital.

The centre offers a wide range of services, including urgent care for routine illnesses, specialty clinics in fields such as cardiology, orthopaedics, obstetrics, and paediatrics, chronic disease management, diagnostics, and telemedicine consultations with SMSIMSR specialists. Patients also benefit from coordinated referral support for advanced care when required. Daily operations are managed by a dedicated core team of six, supported by visiting specialists, ensuring that expert medical care is available to the community without interruption.

Since opening, the centre has welcomed an initial 15 patients per day, with projections reaching 50 daily by the end of the first year. The centre's presence reduces the need for long commutes for treatment, the traffic in the emergency ward of the Sri Sathya Sai Sarala Memorial Hospital and provides timely, professional care, improving health outcomes and bringing peace of mind to families.

The wellness centre stands as a shining example of the SHF and OWOF's commitment to community welfare, showing how thoughtful initiatives can create meaningful impact, bringing both health and hope to those who need it most.



EVENT – AKSHAYA PATRA KITCHEN GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

September 2025: On September 4, the Sarva Mangal Family Trust (SMFT) and Akshaya Patra Foundation marked a significant milestone in their ongoing efforts to address nutritional poverty in India with the groundbreaking ceremony of their third joint kitchen.

The ceremony was graced by MSIS Chairman Mr. Jivan Bhatt along with his family. The new kitchen will be named in memory of Manu Shah's late cousins.

The event commenced with a customary *aarti*, attended by the Akshaya Patra and SMFT teams alongside the Bhatt family. This was followed by a tour of the existing kitchen facilities and an interactive session with the staff of the Akshaya Patra Foundation.

The new kitchen will serve as an extension of the existing Avalahalli facility in Bengaluru. With this expansion, the kitchen's capacity will increase significantly, enabling it to provide midday meals to 33,000 children per day, up from the current 5,000.

Beyond increasing meal quantities, the extension will also enhance the Foundation's ability to diversify its offerings. Upon completion, the kitchen will be equipped to process milk and implement a nutritional breakfast program, providing schoolchildren within a 20 km radius with milk-based beverages fortified with essential vitamins and minerals. This initiative aims to address health concerns associated with vitamin D and calcium deficiencies among children.

The facility is also being designed with sustainability in mind, incorporating eco-friendly technologies such as a gravity transfer system and a water treatment plant, significantly reducing the kitchen's carbon footprint.

This expansion reaffirms SMFT and Akshaya Patra Foundation's shared commitment to improving the health and well-being of children and creating lasting impact in the community.



VISIT – DAVA CANA

September 2025 – On September 15, SMFT team visited the SMFT funded NGO Dava Cana in Naranpet district of Telangana.

Dava Cana has been making remarkable strides in improving access to healthcare since its operations began in March 2022. The organization operates three medical mobile units, or *Arogya Vahini* buses, which serve a total of 30 villages across three mandals in Narayanpet district.

Each bus team consists of a doctor, a driver, and a manager. In total, for three buses they have a dedicated staff of ten full-time employees and five health workers known as *Arogya Sakhi*. The buses operate in two shifts of approximately 4.5 hours each, visiting six villages daily and attending to an average of 35–40 patients per day, in each location. In some cases, the number of patients served reaches as high as 60.

Dava Cana offers a comprehensive range of services, including free consultations, hospital referrals, discounted medicines, and basic diagnostic tests such as blood pressure and BMI checks. Since its inception, the mobile units have conducted over 3,300 visits and provided nearly 50,000 consultations, including assistance for 185 cataract surgeries.

The program has become a vital resource for rural communities where access to district hospitals is limited and public health centers are often understaffed. By bringing healthcare directly to villages, Dava Cana ensures timely medical attention for populations that would otherwise face significant barriers.

The organization continues to strengthen its outreach, collaborating closely with village leaders and local health workers to identify communities in need. With a strong and dedicated team, Dava Cana is steadily expanding its impact, improving the health and well-being of rural families across the region.



About the Nonprofit

Pratham is an innovative learning organization that works to improve the quality of education in India. Founded over 30 years ago in Mumbai to provide preschool education to children in urban slums, Pratham has steadily grown over the years in scope and geographical coverage. Today, it is one of the largest non-profit organizations in education in India. Focusing on high-quality, low-cost, and replicable interventions, Pratham has reached millions of children across 25+ states and union territories in both rural and urban areas of India.

Over the years, Pratham has expanded its work to include youth skilling programs that promote economic self-sufficiency through training and job placement, along with digital learning initiatives and educational opportunities for girls and women.



About the SMFT Funded Project

- Builds strong foundations skills of children in language and math, along with strong physical and social-emotional skills
- Enhances skills and knowledge of Anganwadi workers in age-appropriate pedagogy for effective delivery of early childhood education.
- Builds the capacity of the government system to implement effective early childhood education practices.



NGO IN FOCUS SEPTEMBER'25 – PRATHAM EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Pratham's interventions in early childhood education, includes innovative teaching-learning methodologies, community-based preschool initiatives and supporting the NEP's vision of a robust ECCE framework.

Pratham's Early Years programs follow a "Leap Forward" approach and aim to build strong foundational abilities among children during their foundational years (ages 3-8) so that they do not fall behind as they enter school. This is done through a combination of classroom- and community-based initiatives.

Project Location/Geography

- Delhi
- Haryana



Recent Project Updates

Pratham worked with the Delhi government to improve early childhood education. They trained local teams through workshops and practice sessions. This helped Delhi to start better learning in Anganwadi centers.

They also held fun learning events called ECCE Melas in four districts. Parents and children came together to play and learn. More events are planned in other districts too. Pratham also started two digital programs to help mothers teach their children at home and talk about gender equality.

In Haryana, Pratham organized over 6,500 School Readiness Melas. These reached more than 1.1 lakh children and 1.26 lakh parents. The events encouraged parents to be part of their children's learning. On the International Day of Play, special events showed how play helps children grow.

To support learning at home, Pratham sends daily messages to Anganwadi workers. These are shared with parents to keep children engaged and learning regularly.

PRATHAM'S EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES



IN DELHI

-  Strengthened district-level committees
-  ECCE Melas in four districts
-  Two digital interventions





IN HARYANA

-  Over 6,500 School Readiness Melas
-  Play Melas held
-  Remote learning messages



Overall Impact

Overall, Pratham Early years Government partnership programs reach approximately **4.45 million** children annually.

With support from SMFT Pratham reaches 5,173 Anganwadis and ~51,730 children in Delhi.

In Haryana, Pratham reaches 25,963 Angwadis and also conducted 6507 School Readiness Melas reaching 1,10,335 children and 1,26,329 parents.



Highlight of the Month

Pratham facilitated ECCE Melas across four districts of **Delhi**—New Delhi, Central, SouthEast, and Shahdara—mobilizing government officials and training 112 Anganwadi workers and helpers to organize melas in 44 centres, engaging 301 children and 286 parents. The success has led to discussions on expanding to all 11 districts.

The “Pehla Kadam” curriculum, which will be used in all Anganwadis across the states was launched by the Chief Minister in Delhi on 18th September.

Meanwhile, in **Haryana**, Pratham conducted a moral values pilot in Kaithal that was well received by parents and officials, and showcased its Early Years work at the ‘Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan’ event in Kurukshetra.



Awards

Pratham has been selected as a Laureate of the **Yashraj Bharati Samman 2025** in the category of Transforming People's Lives. Instituted by the Yashraj Research Foundation (YRF), the Yashraj Bharati Award recognises and honours social leadership working towards the holistic development of the people of this country.



In the News



The “Pehla Kadam” curriculum launch along with Palna inauguration in Delhi gathered attention with its objective to ensure quality education for children on the Anganwadis.



करनाल भास्कर 11-04-2025

पाढ़ा में प्ले स्कूल रेडीनेस मेला लगा, अभिभावकों को नई शिक्षा नीति के बारे में जानकारी दी

भास्कर न्यूज़ | घाँडा

महिला एवं बाल विकास विभाग ने गांव पाढ़ा में प्ले स्कूल रेडीनेस मेले का आयोजन किया। कार्यक्रम



Pratham Early Childhood Education project's School Readiness Mela in Dainik Bhaskar Newspaper

सिंघड़ा के सरकारी प्ले स्कूल में मेले का हुआ आयोजन ग्रामीणों और अभिभावकों ने बढ़-चढ़कर लिया भाग पानी को बचाया जा सकता है, बनाया नहीं जा सकता : नवनीत सिंह

फास्ट मीडिया/संवाददाता/निसिंग। कस्बे के गांव सिंघड़ा के सरकारी प्ले स्कूल में मेले का आयोजन किया गया। जिसमें ग्रामीणों और अभिभावकों ने बढ़-चढ़ कर भाग लिया। इस मौके पर गांव के सरपंच लखविंदर सिंह, स्कूल हेड मास्टर नारायण दत्त सहित



स्कूल के अन्य अध्यापक, सीडीपीओ संतोष गिरधर, सुपरवाइजर अनीता, डिस्ट्रिक्ट कोऑर्डिनेटर अरविंद (प्रथम टीम), नवनीत, एमपीएचडब्ल्यू मुख्ती देवी और सलिलंदर उपस्थित रहे। मेले का उद्देश्य ग्रामीणों को यह जानकारी देना था कि सरकार द्वारा संचालित प्ले स्कूलों में खेल-खेल में बच्चों का सर्वांगीण विकास किया जाता है। जिससे उनके भविष्य की नींव मजबूत होती है। प्ले स्कूल की कार्यकर्ता निशा ने बताया कि उनके केंद्र में पिछले वर्ष 24 बच्चे रजिस्टर थे। वे लगातार ग्रामीणों को प्रोत्साहित करती हैं कि वे अपने बच्चों की प्राथमिक शिक्षा की शुरुआत सरकारी प्ले स्कूल से करें। मेले में लगभग 60 बच्चों और उनके अभिभावकों ने भाग लिया। जिसमें अभिभावकों ने अपने अनुभव साझा करते हुए बताया कि प्ले स्कूल में आने के बाद उनके बच्चों का व्यवहार सकारात्मक रूप से बदला है और वे अन्य बच्चों के साथ मिल-जुलकर रहना और सीखना सीख रहे हैं। इसमें स्कूल के अध्यापकों

ने भी रुचि दिखाई और उन्होंने अपने स्कूल के बच्चों को भी प्ले स्कूल रेडिनेस मेले का दौरा करवाया। इस अवसर पर सरपंच लखविंदर सिंह ने भी अभिभावकों से आग्रह किया कि वे अपने बच्चों को नियमित रूप से प्ले स्कूल भेजें और अन्य लोगों को भी इसके लिए प्रेरित करें। सीडीपीओ संतोष गिरधर ने प्ले स्कूलों में दी जा रही शिक्षा के महत्व पर प्रकाश

डालते हुए कहा कि यही प्रारंभिक शिक्षा बच्चों के आगे के स्कूल जीवन का आधार बनती है। हेड मास्टर नारायण दत्त ने बताया कि प्ले स्कूल से होकर आने वाले बच्चे सरकारी स्कूल में दाखिला लेने के बाद अन्य बच्चों की तुलना में बेहतर प्रदर्शन करते हैं। प्ले स्कूल में बच्चों की सक्रिय भागीदारी और माता-पिता की संतुष्टि इस बात का प्रमाण है कि गांव में शिक्षा की ओर जागरूकता बढ़ रही है। इस मौके पर पब्लिक हेल्थ विभाग से आए हुए नवनीत सिंह ने बताया कि हम लोगों को मिलाकर पानी को बचाना चाहिए पानी को बचाया जा सकता है, बनाया नहीं जा सकता। अभी आने वाले दिनों में गर्मियां बढ़ गई हैं तो हमारा यह पहला कर्तव्य बनता है कि जरूरत के अनुसार ही पानी का इस्तेमाल करें और पानी को व्यर्थ न बहने दें। जब हमारा पानी भर जाए तब अपनी मोटर को बंद कर दें, ताकि दूसरे हमारे पड़ोसियों को भी पानी मिल सके। उनको भी उतनी ही पानी की जरूरत होती है जितनी कि हमें।

Pratham Early Childhood Education project's School Readiness Mela in Fast Media Newspaper

SUCCESS STORY – PRATHAM EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Name: Shaily

Location: Delhi

Project: Pratham Early Childhood Education

Since 2017, Ms. Shaily has been serving as an Anganwadi Supervisor with the Department of Women and Child Development. The Pratham team first met her during a capacity-building session, where she participated quietly with limited engagement. However, her involvement grew stronger when the team interacted with her during practice classes. At that stage, she raised several questions and sought clarifications on the teaching-learning processes and activities introduced in training.

Through these individual conversations, Ms. Shaily began to show a keen interest in early education methods and expressed enthusiasm for conducting practice classes with Anganwadi children. She implemented the activities effectively, interacted warmly with children, and quickly built a rapport with them. Within just a few days, she had memorized the names of all children and regularly followed up with workers about absentees. Her clarity in giving instructions, ability to motivate participation, and confident classroom management created an engaging environment. Her approachable nature helped children feel comfortable and eager to join activities.

She also introduced consistent routines, such as open sharing sessions with children like the “Aao Baatein Karein” activity, which became a favorite among children. Over time, Ms. Shaily grew confident in adopting child-friendly practices, effective pedagogy, and systematic class management.

She soon emerged as a role model for other Anganwadi workers in her sector. During follow-up visits and review meetings, Ms. Shaily often shared her classroom experiences, innovative methods, and the positive impact of activity-based learning on children’s engagement. Her openness to feedback and willingness to experiment with new strategies demonstrated her commitment to continuous learning. Under her guidance, several Anganwadi centers began to display improved participation levels among children and more organized daily routines. Her proactive approach not only enhanced classroom quality but also strengthened teamwork among workers.

Her transition from a quiet participant to a confident leader stands as an inspiring example of how professional development, when combined with personal passion, can transform teaching practices at the grassroots level. Ms. Shaily continues to be a valued resource person, motivating others to adopt interactive and child-centered approaches in early education.

SUCCESS STORY – PRATHAM EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Name: Mamta

Location: Haryana

Project: Pratham Early Childhood Education

Mamta has been serving as an Anganwadi Worker in Hathin Block, Palwal District, since 2011. In her early years, the focus of her centre was mainly on health, nutrition, and immunization activities, with limited emphasis on children's early learning and development. The introduction of Haryana's Play School Initiative under the Department of Women and Child Development marked a turning point in her journey. Mamta was chosen to be part of the

program and received structured training and ongoing mentoring from the Pratham team. Through this, she was introduced to the principles of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), especially the importance of joyful, activity-based learning that focuses on children's holistic development.

Before this intervention, Mamta's centre struggled with low attendance—only about 7–8 children attended regularly—and there was little participation from parents. With the new approach and continuous guidance, she started applying play-based methods and interactive teaching techniques in her daily schedule. As a result, enrolment gradually increased to 27 children, and parents began showing keen interest in their children's learning. Mamta learned to create Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs) using locally available, low-cost resources such as stones, leaves, bottle caps, and sticks, turning them into playful tools for counting, sorting, and storytelling. These hands-on activities made learning more engaging and meaningful for children.

Mamta also became proactive in involving the community. She began organizing regular Parent-Teacher Meetings where she demonstrated simple home-based learning activities, such as identifying household items by color or counting fruits and vegetables. Her efforts helped parents understand their role in supporting children's development. Over time, her centre evolved into a lively, child-friendly environment filled with songs, games, and creativity. Mamta's transformation reflects how training, mentorship, and community engagement can empower Anganwadi workers to build strong foundations for lifelong learning.

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