NEWS UPDATE

MARCH 2025

"To care for those who once cared for us is one of the highest honors."

– TIA WALKER



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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 wellness 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



BUILDING FUTURES: SMFT UNVEILS NEW SCHOOLS TO EMPOWER GUJARAT'S YOUTH

The Sarva Mangal Family Trust inaugurated its Gundakhada primary school on March 10, 2025, marking the 113th Project Life school. With 222 students enrolled, the school features modern amenities. Foundation stones were also laid for two more schools, reinforcing SMFT's commitment to empowering Gujarat's communities through quality education.

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EVENT – SCHOOLS INAUGURATION & GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES

March 2025 – The Sarva Mangal Family Trust Primary School in Gundakhada, funded by SMFT, was officially inaugurated on March 10, 2025, by Mr. Lokesh Mehta (Senior Vice President, MSIS, Bangalore) and Mr. Kaushal Gandhi (Manager, MSIS, Bangalore) in the presence of MSI vendors from Morbi. The inauguration event drew an impressive crowd of 500 attendees, during which school educational kits were also distributed by both SMFT and Project Life Teams. SMFT has committed to develop 10 primary schools in Gujarat, out of which two are completed and two are under construction.

This marks the 113th school established under the Project Life initiative. Currently, the school serves 222 students, including 109 boys and 113 girls, and aims to directly or indirectly impact around 13,000 individuals in the community.

The new infrastructure includes smart classrooms, computer room, RO purified drinking water, and separate sanitation facilities for boys and girls ensuring a safe, modern, and conducive learning environment.

Later on the same day, the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Shah Happiness Foundation Primary School, Ghuntu and Nichi Mandal took place, marking a significant milestone as the 116th and 117th school respectively under the banner of Project Life.

The ceremony at Ghuntu was attended by Mr. Kaushal Gandhi and MSI Vendors in Morbi. The ceremony at Nichi Mandal was graced by Mr. Lokesh Mehta and Mr. Vipul Kundariya (MSI Vendor), who led the proceedings with visionary leadership, supported by Mr. Mohan Kundariya and Mr. Khimji Kundariya (MSI Vendors). Their dedication, along with the enthusiasm of the community, made the event a celebration of progress. With every foundation stone laid, SMFT continues to shape not only structures, but empowering generations through education, opportunity, and dignity.



Sarva Mangal Family Trust School, Gundakhada


SHF School Bhoomi Poojan



Felicitation Ceremony


Village People at the Ceremony

EVENT – SMFT-PRATHAM-SRH TRIPARTITE TRAINING

March 2025 – Sarva Mangal Family Trust (SMFT) is scaling its vision screening project with the goal of reaching up to 20 million people globally and providing up to 5 million free eyeglasses. The initiative leverages portable autorefractor technology to conduct quick, accurate eye exams and aims to screen up to 40 million eyes through its network of nonprofit partners. By equipping these partners with the right tools and training, SMFT hopes to bring accessible, affordable vision care to some of the most underserved communities.

To implement the project across different regions, SMFT is now involving its existing nonprofit partners. One of the first to join is Pratham, a leading organization in the field of education. Pratham recently began its involvement by sending a team to Dharampur, where SMFT's lead partner, Shrimad Rajchandra Mission, has already been running the project. A joint training program was held from March 24th to 29th at Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital, supported by SMFT and conducted in collaboration with SRH and Pratham.

The training, led by Dr. Bijal Mehta, was attended by over 25 members of the SRMD Vision Screening team, 7 participants from Pratham, and SMFT representatives. It covered the goals of the project, refractive errors, and the vision screening methods used. Dr. Mehta demonstrated the QuickSee Autorefractor and explained how to use trial lenses for accurate prescriptions. The Pratham team practiced using the device on each other to build familiarity and confidence before starting fieldwork.

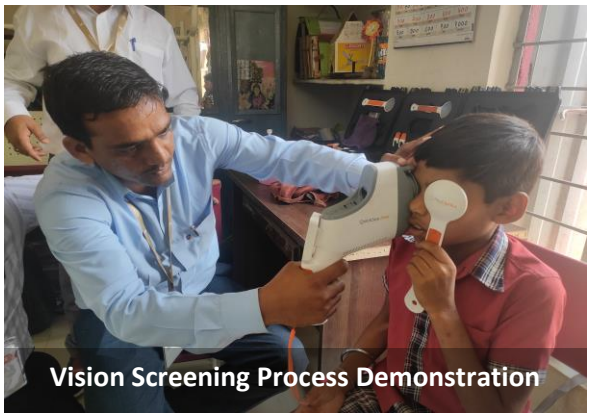
Following the training, the Pratham and SRH teams jointly screened 1,925 students and several older patients from underserved communities, resulting in the distribution of 96 eyeglasses. The process involved student registration, vision tests using the QuickSee device and manual refraction, and visual acuity checks using the Snellen chart. Each screening took just 3 to 5 minutes. The Pratham team's hands-on involvement not only enhanced their technical skills but also marked a significant step in SMFT's broader mission to expand vision care access throughout India.



Overview Session by Dr. Bijal Mehta



Kids at the Vision Screening Camp


Vision Screening Process Demonstration


Vision Screening Training for Pratham Team

NGO VISIT – PROJECT LIFE HEADQUARTERS AND BLOOD CENTRE

March 2025 – Mr. Lokesh Mehta visited the SMFT-funded Project Life Headquarters in Rajkot on March 10, 2025, where he was warmly received by Chief Operating and Development Officer Mr. Rushikesh Pandya.

The visit aimed to provide him with insights into the organization's key initiatives and view the facility. The headquarters spans 45,000 sq. ft. across seven levels and provides administrative oversight and coordination for various initiatives in healthcare, skill development, women's empowerment, and education.

Mr. Rushikesh Pandya explained the significance of Project Life and its various interventions, highlighting the positive changes it has brought to the community. He emphasized its impact on diverse beneficiaries, including school students, villagers, women in rural areas, etc.

Later, Mr. Lokesh Mehta, along with Mr. Rushikesh Pandya, visited the Life Blood Centre (LBC) in Rajkot to understand its role in addressing the need for safe, tested blood. The blood centre team explained the blood collection, storage processes, and advanced technology are used to ensure high standards of blood safety. LBC operates from a 15,000 sq. ft. facility and serves over 439,000 patients, supported by 12,000 voluntary donors annually.

The Project Life team then accompanied Mr. Lokesh Mehta to the Life Thalassemia Prevention Centre (LTPC), where they briefed him on Project Life's efforts to combat thalassemia through screening, awareness, and counseling sessions. By promoting testing among marriageable youth and raising awareness, Project Life plays a vital role in preventing high-risk marriages and reducing the prevalence of thalassemia in the community.

Supported by SMFT, Project Life advances health, education, livelihood, and well-being through volunteer efforts and donor generosity, driving sustainable humanitarian programs.



Lokesh Mehta at Project Life HQ



Lokesh in Conversation with Rushikesh



Lokesh at Project Life Blood Centre



Project Life HQ

NGO VISIT – LIFE WOMEN EMPOWERMENT CENTRE

March 2025 – Mr. Lokesh Mehta recently visited the SMFT-funded Life Women Empowerment Centre in Junagadh on March 11, 2025, to observe the on-ground implementation of Project Life's women empowerment training program. The centre focuses on empowering women aged 18 to 45, especially widows and those from Below Poverty Line (BPL).

SMFT-supported women empowerment training program offers vocational training in sewing, embroidery, and beauty therapy at the centre, helping underprivileged women and widows achieve self-reliance, social respect, and a better quality of life.

The program has empowered 250 women, including 92 trained in sewing, 60 in embroidery, and 98 in beauty parlor trades, through structured batches conducted in two shifts over a 90-day curriculum.

An event was held to celebrate the completion of the women empowerment training program for 250 women in Junagadh, where Mr. Lokesh Mehta distributed equipment for three courses. The beneficiaries received sewing machines, embroidery kits, and beauty kits to start their own businesses or work independently. The women also demonstrated the self-defense techniques they had learned.

The visit concluded with the women sharing their success stories, feedback, and experiences from the training program. They expressed heartfelt gratitude to SMFT for the support and opportunities provided.

Project Life offers up to three years of handholding for graduates, equipping them with market linkages, financial literacy, self-defense training, and business skills to help build sustainable livelihoods.

This holistic approach empowers women with the tools and confidence to shape their futures and contribute to their communities.



Women Empowerment Project Beneficiaries



Women Empowerment Project Beneficiaries



Lokesh at Life Women Empowerment Centre



Distribution of Sewing Machine by Lokesh

NGO VISIT – SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRA LOVE AND CARE

March 2025 – The SMFT team visited the SMFT-supported Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care Initiatives between March 12 and 17, 2025, which provides essential care to underserved communities in South Gujarat. To bridge the healthcare gap in rural areas, initiatives such as mobile dispensary unit, vision screenings, and anemia detection are conducted through Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital, while veterinary services and animal shelter are provided through Shrimad Rajchandra Jivamaitridham.

On March 12th, the team visited Khanda and Karanjveri villages through SMFT supported SRH's Mobile Dispensary Unit, to treat villagers who can't visit the Hospital. Medical vans with doctors, paramedics, and staff visit 70 centers across 47 villages daily, offering free checkups and medicines.

On the second day of visit, the team visited Flair Writing Industries Ltd in Dungri, Valsad for a vision screening camp supported by SMFT. It was held for 142 factory employees, mostly from low-income backgrounds. Using the QuickSee Autorefractor, refractive errors were identified and eyeglasses provided on the spot.

The team visited Shrimad Rajchandra Jivamaitridham on March 14, 2025, which is a rural animal care center. With over 600 cows, 65 dogs, 120 rabbits, and 5 cats, the facility offers 24/7 care and advanced veterinary services, including surgeries and diagnostics for free for strays and subsidized for pets.

The team also visited Marothia and Kanya Vidhyamandir Schools in Vapi on March 17, 2025, where students were screened for anemia through anemia screening project supported by SMFT. Those affected received iron and folic acid supplements to improve hemoglobin levels and prevent long-term health issues.

These initiatives showcase SRLC's and SMFT's deep commitment to holistic healthcare with improving lives across communities, species, and age groups.


Heath Screening by Paramedical Worker


Anemia Screening


Vision Screening Using PlenOptika Autorefractor



Shrimad Rajchandra Jivamaitridham

NGO VISIT – AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION

March 2025 – SMFT funded Akshaya Patra Foundation's 76th kitchen in Avalahalli, Bengaluru was visited by the SMFT team. Spread across 26,576 sq. ft., the kitchen is strategically located to serve schools within a 12 km radius, reducing delays in mid-day meal delivery caused by traffic congestion in the city. It is currently catering to 7,500 children across 61 schools, despite being designed for a capacity of 5,000 meals per day.

The kitchen operates six days a week, preparing nearly 3,960 kg of rice daily and 1,890 kg of lentil soup when included in the menu. The team comprises 18 members, including three drivers. Distribution is managed using three non-electric vehicles, ensuring timely delivery while promoting environmental sustainability. These eco-friendly practices are part of the foundation's broader commitment to sustainable and efficient operations.

Phase 1 construction of the kitchen, funded by Canara Bank, has been completed. Looking ahead, the upcoming expansion—entirely funded by SMFT—will transform the current kitchen into a washing area, establish a milk packaging unit, enlarge the cooking space, and install an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP). The ETP will enable the reuse of treated water exclusively for outdoor cleaning, aligning with hygiene protocols and water conservation goals. Once completed, the upgraded facility will be capable of serving up to 30,000 children daily, a 300% increase in capacity. Construction is expected to begin in June 2025 and finish by December 2026.

This field visit highlighted the kitchen's critical role in supporting child nutrition and education through a well-structured, scalable model. It also emphasized the significance of partnerships in driving grassroots change—demonstrating how corporate philanthropy, innovation, and community involvement can come together to create sustainable social impact. The visit allowed SMFT team members to engage directly with operational staff, observe the systems in place, and reaffirm their commitment to long-term support for initiatives that uplift underprivileged communities.



SMFT and Akshaya Patra Team



Gas Cylinder Bank at the Kitchen


Cooking Vessels at Akshaya Patra Kitchen


Beneficiaries During Lunch Break

NGO IN FOCUS MARCH'25 – AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION

About the Nonprofit



The Akshaya Patra Foundation envisions a hunger-free education for every child in India. It combats classroom hunger by providing nutritious midday meals, Anganwadi/ICDS feeding, and breakfast programs.

Additionally, Akshaya Patra supports students pursuing higher education or specialized skill training through scholarships.

With a mission to expand its reach, the foundation aims to serve 3 million children daily by 2025.

By addressing hunger, Akshaya Patra ensures better learning outcomes and a brighter future for children, empowering them to break the cycle of poverty and achieve their dreams through education.



NGO IN FOCUS MARCH'25 – AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION (Cont.)

About the SMFT Funded Project



SMFT has been a key supporter of the Akshaya Patra Foundation, playing a vital role in building kitchens in Bhuj and Panvel. Currently, SMFT is also supporting the KR Puram (Bangalore) kitchen project.

Through these kitchens, Akshaya Patra Foundation provides freshly cooked, nutritious midday meals to 35,000 children every school day. Once the KR Puram kitchen is completed, this number will rise to 70,000. These meals not only help improve children's health and academic performance but also encourage school attendance and reduce dropout rates.

Together with SMFT, Akshaya Patra strives to eliminate classroom hunger and create a brighter future for every child.



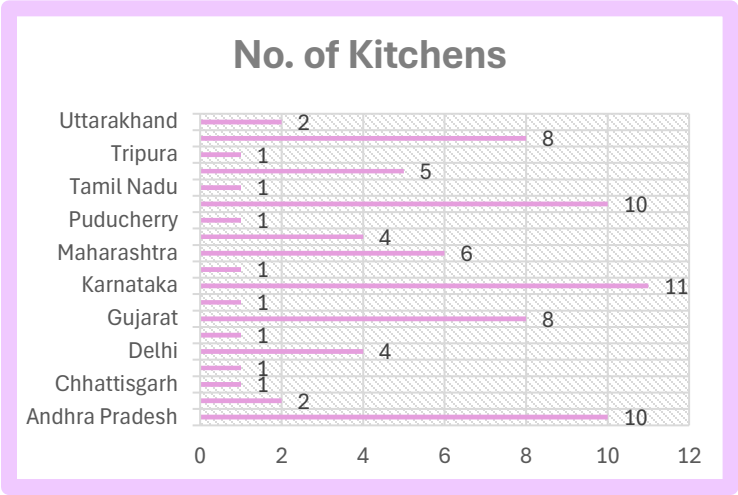
NGO IN FOCUS MARCH'25 – AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION (Cont.)

Project Location/Geography

SMFT has supported the Akshaya Patra Foundation to build 3 centralized kitchens.

- Bhuj, Gujarat
- Panvel, Maharashtra
- Bangalore, Karnataka

Through out India, they have 78 Kitchens.



Recent Project Updates

- The Akshaya Patra Foundation recently celebrated a significant milestone by serving its 5 billionth meal, marking one of the greatest achievements in the organization's journey toward eliminating classroom hunger. With the inauguration of its 78th kitchen, Akshaya Patra continues to expand its reach and impact across India.
- Among its upcoming projects, the KR Puram (Bangalore) kitchen is a major initiative. The Foundation has completed the project designs and submitted them for necessary government approvals. Once approved, construction is expected to commence in the upcoming quarter.
- Akshaya Patra is also in the process of finalizing detailed project plans and structural designs for KR Puram to ensure efficient operations and maximum meal output. Upon completion, this centralized kitchen will significantly boost meal capacity in the region, supporting the Foundation's mission to provide nutritious, hot meals to schoolchildren, improve academic outcomes, and encourage regular school attendance.



NGO IN FOCUS MARCH'25 – AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION (Cont.)

Overall Impact

- The Akshaya Patra Foundation, with the invaluable support of SMFT, has made a transformative impact in addressing classroom hunger and promoting education. In the past year alone, the Bhuj kitchen has served 55,59,149 meals, while the Panvel kitchen has delivered 23,84,254 meals, ensuring that thousands of children receive hot, nutritious meals every school day. Through its Mid-Day Meal Program, Akshaya Patra has reached 346 schools in Bhuj and 113 in Panvel, contributing significantly to improved school attendance, enrollment, and overall student well-being.
- Beyond nutrition, the program enhances educational outcomes. By efficiently managing meal logistics, Akshaya Patra has helped each teacher to save 37 teaching hours monthly, allowing them to focus more on academics. For many children, the meal provided is often their first and only meal of the day, playing a vital role in their physical and cognitive development.
- The Foundation's efforts align with several UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to zero hunger, quality education, and good health and well-being. By bridging the gap between hunger and education, Akshaya Patra empowers children with the nourishment and opportunity they need to learn, grow, and ultimately break the cycle of poverty—building a brighter and more equitable future.



NGO IN FOCUS MARCH'25 – AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION (Cont.)

Highlight of the Month

- SMFT Team Visit: The SMFT team visited the KR Puram project site, reviewed the plans, and provided valuable inputs to support the project's successful execution.
- 78th Kitchen Inaugurated: Their newest kitchen was inaugurated this month, expanding our capacity to serve more children with nutritious mid-day meals.



- KR Puram Project Progress: Designs for the KR Puram (Bangalore) kitchen have been finalized and submitted for government approvals, with construction set to begin next quarter.

Awards



The Akshaya Patra Foundation was honored with the following awards.

- 'IRR NGO 1' grading for operational and financial excellence
- Best Civil Society Organisation Award at the 11th ACCGS
- Imagine Award 2024 in the "GoGiveHope" category at Imagine India.



SUCCESS STORY – AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION



Name: Piyush Santoshi
Location: Panvel, Maharashtra
Project: Akshaya Patra Panvel Kitchen

"My name is Piyush Santosh Bhoir. I'm 11 years old and study in Class 6 at Panvel Mahanagar Palika Koleshwar Vidyamandir. I live in Jarimari Mandir, Koliwada, Old Panvel with my parents and two elder brothers. My father is a fisherman, and my mother sells fish in the market. My brothers are in Classes 10 and 8.

I'm very close to both my parents, and they support my dream of becoming a businessman. I want to earn well and open a school for children who drop out due to poverty. I admire Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Sambhaji Maharaj. I practice drawing, read books, and try to understand people's emotions to become both a good businessman and an artist.

At school, I love eating the food served through Akshaya Patra—it's tasty and gives me lots of energy. My favorite is Chawli sabji. I haven't visited the kitchen, but I would love to someday.

My teacher, Darshana Ma'am, says I'm sincere and creative. I love Marathi, especially because the stories inspire me. I feel happy and full at school—and that gives me strength to dream big."



SUCCESS STORY – AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION



Name: Prachi Vinod Jadhav
Location: Panvel, Maharshtra
Project: Akshaya Patra Panvel Kitchen

"My name is Prachi Vinod Jadhav, and I am 10 years old, studying in Class 4 at R.Z.P Adivali School, Panvel. I live in Adivali village with my family of six – my parents, grandmother, and two sisters. My father works in a private company, and my mother is a homemaker. I am very close to both of them.

My dream is to become a doctor so I can help people who cannot afford medical care. One of my relatives is studying to be a doctor, and she inspires me. My parents support my dream, and I study hard every day to make it come true.

I love going to school and my favorite subject is Marathi, especially the stories we read. My favorite teacher is Nilesh Gavit Sir, who says I'm sincere and good at drawing and speeches. I also enjoy playing with kitchen toys and badminton in my free time.

The mid-day meal served at school is very tasty – I especially love the sambar. I don't know where the food comes from, but I would love to visit the kitchen someday! Thanks to this support, I can focus on learning and chasing my dream."



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