

aarohan

SAMVAAD

July to September 2026



In Memoriam
Shashi Sir



1959-2026

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Rani Patel
President, Aarohan

With a heavy heart and with more gratitude than words can express, I dedicate this edition of Aarohan's newsletter to our beloved Shashi Sir. For almost twenty years, he was more than just part of Aarohan. He was a part of our lives, our struggles, our hopes, and our journey. From our work with the transgender community to the remote tribal villages of Araku, from children of manual scavengers and ragpickers to migrant families at Bhatti Mines, Shashi Sir was always there. Sometimes in person, sometimes through his guidance, a phone call, an idea, or simply the quiet assurance that we were not alone.

His support was like moonlight - gentle, silent, and always there. He never wanted the spotlight. He was happiest when he helped others move forward. He saw possibilities where others saw difficulties, and his patience, strength, and ideas helped us through many challenges. Yet, despite everything he did, he remained deeply humble. He loved children, respected every colleague, and could never look away from someone in pain. Recognition never mattered to him. Seeing someone smile, a child move forward, or a family receive help was enough.

The last three years of his life were difficult. His body became weaker, but his concern for others never did. Even when he needed care himself, he continued to show concern for Aarohan, the children, and the people around him. I will never forget his compassion during the COVID-19 pandemic. While people were afraid to leave their homes, Shashi Sir was out helping families and reached out to support those who needed it. While the world was shutting its doors, he was opening his heart. For him, humanity was never a duty. It was simply his lifestyle.

It is difficult to write, How do you thank someone for twenty years of friendship, trust, shared struggles, laughter, and countless acts of kindness?

Aarohan will never be quite the same without him. His chair may be empty, but his presence is everywhere. It is there in the work he helped us build, in the children he believed in, and in every life he touched.

Shashi Sir, you never asked to be remembered, but you have left us with so much that we could never forget you. You will always remain a part of Aarohan, and you will always remain a part of us.

With profound respect, love, and gratitude.

WE MISS YOU!



A thoughtful friend and compassionate soul who touched every life he met. Travel well, Shashi, until we meet again."

-Esha Guha, Joint Secretary, Aarohan



More than a friend, you were my baby brother; your kindness, compassion, and beautiful heart will live forever in my memories.

-Aarti Sud - Secretary, Aarohan



With Rajesh Verma Sir



AT A GLANCE

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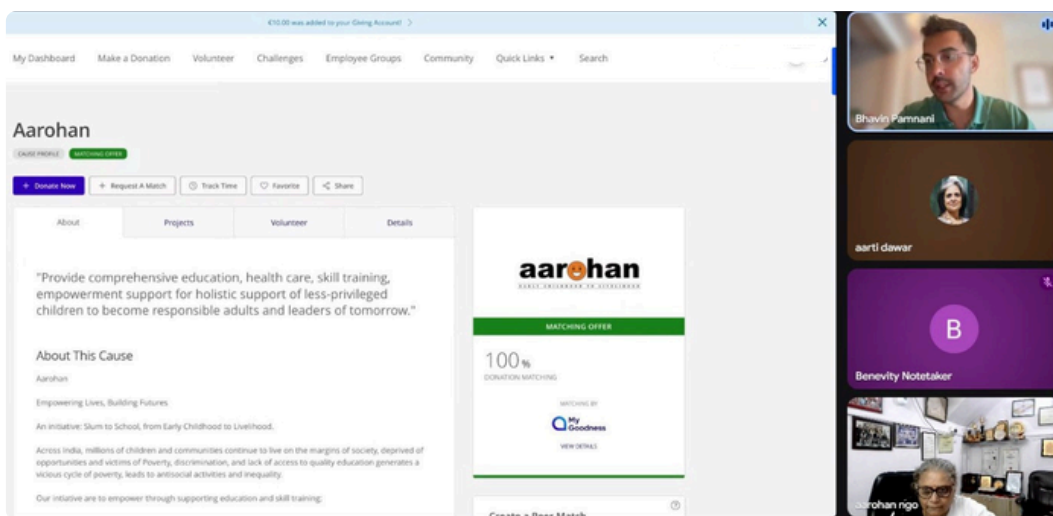


HIGHLIGHTS

EXPANDING OUR SCOPE

To respond to immediate supply-chain needs, Aarohan has expanded the scope of its work and initiated the next phase of engagement. A virtual meeting was held with the Benevity team to discuss their support and explore opportunities for further collaboration.

This marks the beginning of a new chapter of collaboration and expanded support, strengthening Aarohan's efforts to address emerging needs effectively.



UDYAM SHAKTI – EMPOWERING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS



WASME organized the Udyam Shakti programme for women-led MSMEs in Delhi NCR, focusing on finance, market access, mentorship, MSME registration and business support. Aarohan's Founder & President, Rani Patel, graced the programme and interacted with women entrepreneurs, sharing experiences and insights on strengthening women-led businesses.

The programme brought together women entrepreneurs and stakeholders to learn, connect and explore opportunities for business growth.

A step towards stronger businesses, greater economic independence and empowered women.

WORLD YOUTH SKILLS DAY 2026 | CONNECTING SKILLS & OPPORTUNITIES

Moving Ahead, Aarohan participated in World Youth Skills Day 2026, hosted by UN Women India on 17 July 2026 in New Delhi.

The event focused on skills, employment and opportunities for young women, bringing together stakeholders from government, industry and the development sector. The launch of WeSTEM 2.0 highlighted the importance of creating pathways for young women in STEM and emerging sectors. The event reaffirmed Aarohan's "Early Childhood to Livelihood" approach and our commitment to building a future where young women are skilled, confident, and economically empowered.



EYE CHECK-UP CAMP FOR CHILDREN

As part of Aarohan's commitment to the health and well-being of children, Aarohan organised an Eye Check-up Camp to promote early detection and awareness of vision-related issues among children. total of 56 children were examined during the camp. Ensuring that children receive timely attention for any vision-related concerns, enabling them to participate more confidently and effectively in their learning and daily activities.

Aarohan continues to support the holistic development of children by integrating education with essential healthcare and well-being initiatives.



EXTENDING A HELPING HAND: RATION KIT DISTRIBUTION

Recognising the challenges faced by families living in the Bhatti community of Sanjay Colony, Aarohan organised a ration kit distribution drive to provide essential food support to families in need.

As observed many families in the community are migrant workers who have moved from different states in search of livelihood opportunities. Due to limited and irregular sources of income, they often face difficulties in meeting their daily household expenses and basic food requirements. As part of the initiative, essential ration kits were distributed to help ease their immediate financial burden and strengthen household food security.

The initiative also extended support to families who had migrated from Pakistan and are currently residing in the community.

Aarohan continues to stand with underserved communities, providing timely support and working towards improving their dignity, food security and overall well-being.



EDUCATION



Shashi Sir, nurturing curiosity, sharing wisdom, and inspiring young minds through the joy of learning.

EDUCATION

EDUCATION: BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE



Education remains at the heart of Aarohan's efforts to create meaningful and lasting change. Through the Aarohan PASS **Primary Academic Support System Programme**, more **than 260 children** are currently enrolled and receiving regular academic support across various project locations.

The programme reaches children from diverse and underserved backgrounds, **including communities affected by manual scavenging, economically disadvantaged families and migrant communities** who have moved from different states in search of livelihood opportunities. The Programme focuses on strengthening children's foundational learning, academic skills, confidence, and overall development, while creating a supportive learning environment where every child gets an opportunity to learn and grow.

By bringing education closer to children who face social and economic barriers, Aarohan continues to work towards making quality education more accessible and inclusive, helping children build the knowledge, confidence, and skills they need for a brighter future.

NUTRITION

NUTRITION & WELL-BEING: NOURISHING CHILDREN FOR BETTER LEARNING

Aarohan believes that good nutrition is an essential part of a child's healthy growth and learning. As part of its child well-being initiatives, nutritious meals are provided to children at the project centres.

These efforts aim to support children's health, energy, concentration and overall development, enabling them to participate more actively in learning and daily activities.

Along with providing nutritious food, Aarohan promotes awareness about healthy eating habits, hygiene and the importance of a balanced diet among children and families.

Through these initiatives, Aarohan continues to combine education, nutrition, and care to support the holistic development of children.



COMMUNITY VISITS & OUTREACH

Community Visits: Aarohan believes in reaching every community, including hard-to-reach areas, to identify individuals in need and connect them with essential support and services.





COMPUTER COURSE AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

SKILL DEVELOPMENT:

STITCHING & GARMENT MAKING

Empowering individuals with practical skills and opportunities for sustainable livelihoods, Aarohan continues to provide skill development training in stitching, tailoring and garment making.

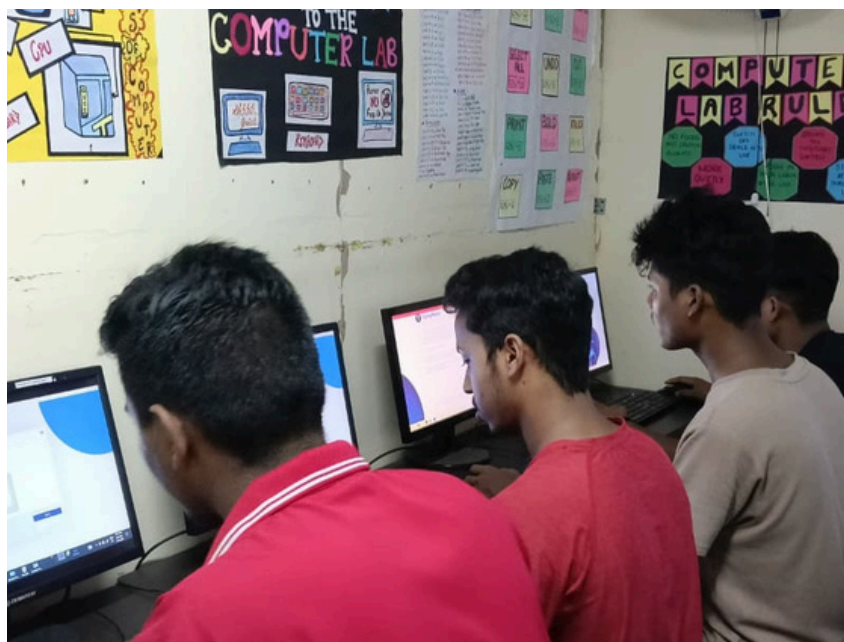
During this quarter, more than 70 beneficiaries participated in regular training sessions aimed at improving their stitching, tailoring, garment-making and finishing skills. The sessions provide hands-on learning and practical knowledge to enhance participants confidence and create opportunities for employment and income generation.

Through these initiatives, Aarohan is helping community members develop market-oriented skills that can support home-based work, tailoring services, employment and small-scale entrepreneurship.

Aarohan remains committed to strengthening livelihoods by equipping individuals with the skills, confidence and knowledge needed to move towards greater economic independence.



DIGITAL LITERACY & COMPUTER SKILLS: PREPARING COMMUNITIES FOR A DIGITAL FUTURE



Aarohan continues to promote digital literacy and computer education among children and community members, helping them develop essential skills for education and employment.

During this quarter, 120 beneficiaries enrolled in computer skill development sessions covering basic computer operations, typing, MS Office, internet usage and other essential digital skills. Through these sessions, Aarohan aims to strengthen digital confidence, improve employability and bridge the digital divide among underserved communities.

Shashi Respected and motivated the Transgender



Shashi with Rudrani Chhetri - Managing Director · Mitr Trust, Transgender activist, Actor, Model, Artist, Human Rights activist, and LGBTI and Transgender Rights activist, Serving as managing director of a sexual health organization.

Together Against HIV: Awareness, Prevention & Care

REACHING COMMUNITIES, SPREADING AWARENESS, PREVENTING HIV

Under the DSACS Targeted Intervention (TG, TI) Programme, Aarohan conducted an HIV awareness session with the transgender community at Jalebi Chowk, New Delhi, on 10 September 2026. The session focused on prevention, testing, treatment, and access to health services, while encouraging open dialogue and addressing stigma and misconceptions around HIV.

"Awareness today leads to healthier choices tomorrow".



ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT: FACILITATING ACCESS TO RIGHTS

As part of Aarohan's continued work with the transgender community, a meeting was held with SDM Shri Vikram Singh to facilitate a dedicated documentation camp for transgender community members.

The initiative aimed to address documentation-related barriers that prevent community members from accessing government services, welfare schemes and their rightful entitlements. By bringing administrative support closer to the community, Aarohan is working to make inclusion more practical and accessible.

Access to identity documents is often the first step towards accessing rights, services and opportunities.

AS PREVENTION BEGINS WITH AWARENESS | HIV SCREENING & OUTREACH

Under the DSACS Targeted Intervention (TI) Programme, Aarohan regularly reaches out to the community through HIV prevention and screening camps, bringing testing, counselling and essential health information closer to those who need it.

These camps encourage timely testing, informed health choices and early access to care, while helping break the stigma and misconceptions surrounding HIV.

Know your status.

Protect your health.

End the stigma.



Embracing diversity, Empowering identities

PROMOTING LOCALLY MADE REUSABLE BAGS

Aarohan is promoting the use of locally made reusable cloth/jute bags and handmade bags as part of its community engagement and empowerment activities. The initiative encourages community members to appreciate and support local skills and products while adopting environmentally friendly alternatives to single-use plastic bags.

These activities provide an opportunity to showcase creativity, craftsmanship, and local talent, while also encouraging sustainable practices and livelihood opportunities. Through such initiatives, Aarohan continues to support self-reliance, dignity, and greater community participation.



EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS



Raksha Bandhan: Children made Rakhi



Teacher's Day: Children celebrated with creative activities and gestures of appreciation, expressing gratitude to their teachers.



Independence Day: Children participated in cultural performances and patriotic activities



International Literacy Day | Lighting the Lamp of Knowledge



**International Day of Peace
One Film. One Dialogue. One Step Toward Peace.**

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY



Lighting the Way with Hope, Unity & Peace

A moment of togetherness, reflection, and hope. As children and community members come together, every candle becomes a symbol of peace, dignity, and a brighter future. At Aarohan, we believe meaningful change begins when communities unite, raise their voices, and choose hope over silence, unity over division, and peace over conflict.

One light. One voice. One community. One step towards peace.

TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE LIVES

EVERY CONTRIBUTION CREATE LASTING IMPACTS

For over two decades, Aarohan has been transforming lives through education, health, livelihoods, and community empowerment. Your support helps us reach more children, empower more women, and create lasting change where it is needed most.



OUR IMPACT

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

65⁺ Youth in
Digital Skills
Program

864⁺ Transgender
members
tested for HIV

56⁺ Women in
Tailoring
Program

850⁺ Reached
Through Drug
Awareness

87⁺ Women in
Digital Naari
Workshop

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES THIS POSSIBLE

Scan to Donate



 **Education**

 **Livelihood**

 **Digital Inclusion**

 **Community Development**

**Be the Reason a Child
Dreams Again.**