

Jasani Centre for Social Entrepreneurship & Sustainability Management

Annual Report June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025

**Jasani Centre for Social Entrepreneurship & Sustainability Management
School of Business Management**

Annual Report Academic Year 2025-26

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Foreword

As a social arm of the SVKM's NMIMS University, the Jasani Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Management conducts various social activities. Committed to its mission of nurturing social entrepreneurs capable of building sustainable development organizations, the Centre offers two key academic programs in Social Entrepreneurship.

The field action projects undertaken by the Social Responsibility Forum (SRF) of students enhance the Centre's activities. The SRF students, as part of the ESG Research activity, organized Samadhaan 2026, a National Case Study Competition from January to February 2026. In all, 70 teams across India registered for the competition. Students were expected to analyze ESG gaps, evaluate financial and sustainability trade-offs, and propose a practical approach that balances responsible lending with financial viability and operational feasibility.

The Jasnai Centre was instrumental in establishing MAF-SVKM's ESG Research Chair. An MoU between Mirae Asset Foundation and Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal (SVKM) was signed on January 12, 2026, for the 2025-2026 academic year. Under the aegis of the ESG Research Chair, 18 projects, including academic conventions, training programs, a research report, and more, were undertaken by various schools across six NMIMS campuses. The Centre completed two key projects: Research Understanding Early Generative Artificial Intelligence (GENAI) Trends in Municipal Schools of Mumbai and a Round Table Conference on Nurturing the Next Wave: Grassroot Entrepreneurship for a Changing World.

Through the We Care: Civic Engagement Internship, the Centre makes efforts to sensitize future leaders to gain first-hand experience of unmet social needs. The three-week field immersion across PAN India provides FTMBA students with an opportunity to utilize management skills and develop critical thinking to address social issues.

Based on our students' field experiences, the Centre also published Volume XII of the We Care Anthology, Ujjivanam: An Anthology of Empowerment and Inclusion, in January 2026.

Strengthening our collaboration with Salaam Bombay Foundation, the Centre co-organized the Dolphin Tanki event for the fifth consecutive year. In all, 36 adolescent entrepreneurs from multiple cities participated and were awarded seed funding of ₹12 lakhs.

The flagship We Care: Civic Engagement Internship of the School of Business Management, NMIMS, Mumbai, secured fourth place among the Global Finalists from the Asia-Pacific region in the Community Engagement Initiative of the Year category at the ACEEU Triple E Awards. Mirae Asset Foundation (MAF) has also acknowledged the association with the Centre and SVKM's NMIMS since 2019.

Jasani Centre team and I take great pride in presenting the Centre's Annual report for the Academic Year 2025-26.

Acknowledgement

On behalf of the Jasani Center for Social Entrepreneurship & Sustainability Management, SBM, NMIMS, I take this opportunity to thank SVKM Trust and the NMIMS Management Team for their support in undertaking various activities.

Dr. Veena Vohra, Dean - Accreditation and Strategic Initiatives; Prof. Chandrima Sikdar, Dean – Academics and Learning Experience; all the Area Chairpersons, and the faculty members of SBM extended their unstinted support for the Center’s activities and academic programs. Mr. Tejash Somaiya, Deputy Registrar, the Academic Admin Team, and the staff of the Jasani Centre of SBM provided support for the academic execution and the Centre’s activities. We are thankful to each one of them.

Our special thanks are due to Mirae Asset Foundation (MAF) for establishing the MAF-SVKM ESG Research Chair and for continued need-based scholarship support for students in the MBA (Part-time) in Social Entrepreneurship and full-Time MBA programs.

I want to express our gratitude to Salaam Bombay Foundation for its continued association with us for the Dolphin Tanki program, research study, and roundtable conference.

We highly appreciate the support from all our stakeholders, especially our NGO and corporate partners, for accommodating our FTMBA students for the field-based We Care: Civic Engagement Internships. We are thankful to them, too, for their immense contribution.

Last but not least, our thanks are due to the Social Responsibility Forum (SRF) students for conducting social engagement activities and for their support in executing the We Care internships.

Dr. Meena Galliara
Director
Jasani Centre for Social Entrepreneurship
& Sustainability Management
School of Business Management, NMIMS, Mumbai

About Us

To undertake short- and long-term academic programs and field action projects for the social sector, the School of Business Management (SBM) at NMIMS, Mumbai, established the Social Entrepreneurship Cell in 2003. The next milestone was marked on October 1, 2011, when the Cell was upgraded to the Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Management. Subsequently, on January 12, 2013, the Centre was renamed as 'Jasani Centre for Social Entrepreneurship & Sustainability Management' in recognition of the generous endowment from Mr. Uday Indukumar Jasani & Mr. Suresh Kantilal Jasani.

As part of NMIMS's commitment to nurturing the social entrepreneurs of tomorrow and strengthening the social entrepreneurs of today, the Jasani Centre has been offering two weekend programs: the MBA Part-Time (Social Entrepreneurship) and the Diploma Program in Social Entrepreneurship. The Centre also provides knowledge support to other educational institutions affiliated with NMIMS, thereby strengthening their social footprint.

As the vibrant social arm of SBM, NMIMS, the 'Jasani Centre' fosters social sensitivity among full-time MBA students through the three-week Civic Engagement internship and volunteering activities undertaken by the members of the Social Responsibility Forum.

To support students from resource-poor backgrounds in completing their MBA program, the Centre liaises with donor agencies to seek need-based scholarships.

The vision, mission, and objectives of the Centre are elucidated below:

Vision:

To sensitize students, faculty members, alumni, corporations, and human service organizations to continuously respond to changing social realities by developing and applying knowledge to create a sustainable society that protects and promotes dignity, equality, social justice, and human rights for all.

Mission:

To create a new generation of business leaders and social entrepreneurs who are knowledgeable about and committed to building a sustainable society

The research and teaching strengths, combined with the Centre's experiential learning approach and guiding principles, connect sustainability-focused knowledge and research with students, businesses, and civil society organizations.

The Jasani Centre's work is in the following areas:

1. Developing academic programs in Social Entrepreneurship (Diploma in Social Entrepreneurship / MBA Part Time (SE))
2. Knowledge development and dissemination
3. MBA involvement in the social sector
4. Facilitating Social Innovations
5. Research & Documentation

1. Academic Programs

1.1 Programs in Social Entrepreneurship

The Jasani Centre for Social Entrepreneurship & Sustainability Management has been offering two weekend programs in Social Entrepreneurship since 2006:-

- 1) **Diploma in Social Entrepreneurship** (Diploma (SE): [Three Trimesters – Ten months]
Provides managerial inputs to aspirants to develop their career in the development sector, having less than two years of work experience in the social development sector or other organizations, or no work/volunteering experience.
- 2) **MBA Part-Time in Social Entrepreneurship** (MBA Part-Time (SE): Six Trimesters – Two years]
A comprehensive programme for professionals with two years or more work experience who aspire to excel in an increasingly complex and competitive scenario in the development sector.

1.2 Convocation

We are happy to share that the convocation of our Batch XVIII (2023-25) was held on September 27, 2025. The batch comprised 14 students (eight Male, six Female) who were conferred with the MBA Part-time (Social Entrepreneurship) Degree. (*See Annexure I*)



Dean's List:

The following students, based on the CGPA, figured in the Dean's List:

1. Nayak Ajay (3.9)

Special Awards:

1. Academic Performance Award: Nayak Ajay
2. Best Student Award: Zaveri Disha.

In the 2024-25 academic year, one student completed the Diploma in Social Entrepreneurship. The result was declared on May 2, 2025, and the Certificate was awarded to the student on September 27, 2025.

1. Ms. Farheen Ahmad

1.3 Current Students

Table 1 summarises the number of students studying during the Academic Year 2025-26.

Table 1: Total Students - Academic Year 2025-26

Particulars	Male	Female	Total
MBA Part Time (SE) I year (Batch 2025-26)	5	4	9
MBA Part Time (SE) II year (Batch 2024-26)	11	8	19
Diploma in SE (Batch 2025-26)	0	1	1
Total	16	13	29

1.4 Scholarships

To support social sector professionals in achieving their higher education aspirations, the Jasani Centre seeks to secure need-cum-merit-based scholarships. Currently, the following two scholarships are offered:

a) Mirae Asset Foundation (MAF) Scholarship

Since 2019-20, Mirae Asset Foundation (MAF) has been extending scholarship support for MBA (Part-time) in Social Entrepreneurship students from the Economically Weaker Section (family income below Eight Lakhs per annum). In FY 2025-26, MAF granted seven scholarships of one lakh each for MBA Part-time in Social Entrepreneurship students, Batch 2025-27. The MAF scholarship of rupees Five Lakhs per student for FTMBA was awarded to five students (three from the first year and two from the second year).

b) NMIMS Scholarship

NMIMS granted 7 merit-cum-need based scholarships to MBA Part Time (SE) Batch 2025-27 students based on the scrutiny of applications. The total amount disbursed as the scholarship was ₹ 9 Lakhs 50 Thousand.

Please refer to Annexure II for the List of MAF & NMIMS Scholars.

2. Special Activities for Students

2.1 Value-added workshops

Three value-added workshops were conducted in the AY 2025-26. The Fundraising Workshop (in Trimester I) and the Social Impact Workshop (in Trimester II) were conducted for first-year students. The Disaster Management Workshop (in Trimester V) was conducted for the second-year students.

A) Fundraising Workshop:

This workshop provided students with an overview of various funding sources for social enterprises. Sources of funding covered include incubators, impact investors, grants, in-kind support, fellowships, impact bonds, blended finance, crowdfunding, state funding, and business competitions.

B) Social Impact Workshop:

This workshop provided students with an understanding of social impact in the context of community well-being and how organizations can create and enhance social impact through systematic planning and delivery of social development projects.

C) Disaster Management Workshop:

This workshop enabled students to gain a comprehensive understanding of disaster management in India and its cycle, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and development. The workshop elucidated the role of various stakeholders, disaster management systems, and multistakeholder partnerships for disaster management.

2.2 Seminar Paper / B-Plan / Case Study

Students of the final year MBA Part Time (SE), Batch 2024-26, Trimester V, submitted 19 Seminar Papers in social development (Refer to Annexure III for the list).

In Trimester VI, five teams submitted their business plans for social entrepreneurship (See Annexure-IV).

3. Knowledge Development & Dissemination

3.1 ESG Session for MBA (Core) and MBA (HR)

Topic: *Why ESG Matters for MBAs – Building the Next Generation of Responsible Leaders*

Date: June 5, 2025

Venue: Mukesh Patel Auditorium, NMIMS Mumbai

As part of the Foundation Program for the incoming MBA cohort, a panel discussion on “*Why ESG Matters for MBAs: Building the Next Generation of Responsible Leaders*” was organized at the Mukesh Patel Auditorium, NMIMS Mumbai, on June 5, 2025.

The objective of the session was to introduce students to the relevance of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) principles in shaping future-ready and responsible business leaders. The panel comprised industry experts who brought diverse perspectives and insights from their respective fields:

- Mr. Anand Krishnamurthy, Co-founder & Partner, Envint
- Mr. Alok Shrivastava, Vice President & Corporate Head – Health, Safety & Environment, Shapoorji & Pallonji Company Ltd
- Ms. Gazala Shaikh, Head – ESG & Sustainability, L&T Financial Services

Prof Meena Galliara moderated the session.

Dr. Galliara welcomed the panel members and set the context for the discussion. Mr. Sumit Sharma, our senior student, briefly introduced the panel members. The session commenced with Mr. Anand Krishnamurthy providing conceptual clarity of the terms ‘Sustainability’ and ESG. He highlighted the relevance of ESG in enhancing the objectivity of sustainability frameworks, thereby enabling meaningful comparisons across industries. He also reflected on Milton Friedman’s Profit Maximization theory, noting its limitations in today’s complex, interdependent world. Building on this critique, he discussed the boundaries of sustainable business, from initiation to impact, and underscored that integrating environmental and social considerations is essential for responsible and resilient businesses.

Building on this, Mr. Alok Shrivastava shared the unique environmental challenges faced by the construction industry and the need to adopt practical ESG strategies to address them. Framing his views within the context of Shapoorji Pallonji’s 160-year legacy, he provided substantial clarity on how the company navigates environmental and social dimensions of ESG. Citing examples of aligning ESG across the company’s supply chain spanning diverse geographies in India, he emphasized worker safety and environmental protection, as well as adherence to both national and international safety standards. To uphold the highest ESG standards, he emphasized the Board’s crucial role and the support of top management in fostering responsible business practices and embedding them in the company’s core operations.

Complementing this industry-specific perspective, Ms. Gazala Shaikh presented the financial sector’s perspective. According to her, the growing relevance of ESG signals a shift toward market-based mechanisms to advance sustainability objectives. She emphasized that ESG

constitutes a core strategic pillar at L&T. Elaborating on the same, she briefly spoke about ‘Lakshya 2026’ strategy, which aims to create a sustainable, responsible, and future-ready organization. Under this strategy, the company focuses on strengthening its ESG framework by setting clear, measurable goals across environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and governance excellence. Key initiatives include promoting green financing, enhancing financial inclusion, ensuring gender diversity, maintaining high standards of corporate governance, and aligning business practices with SDGs to create long-term value creation and resilience.

After the speakers shared their ESG perspectives, the floor was opened to audience questions. The interactive Q&A session reflected the audience’s deep engagement with the subject. Students posed insightful questions around the practical challenges of implementing ESG in the construction industry, the metrics used to assess ESG performance, and how companies balance profit with sustainability goals. One student asked how mid-sized companies, which may lack the resources of large corporations, can realistically embed ESG into their operations. In response, Mr. Krishnamurthy emphasized the importance of leadership commitment and a phased approach, beginning with compliance and gradually moving towards innovation-driven sustainability. He stressed the need for companies to walk the talk by integrating ESG into decision-making at all levels rather than treating it as a reporting formality.

Another pertinent question revolved around greenwashing and the credibility of ESG disclosures. Mr. Srivastava acknowledged the concern and explained that regulatory oversight, third-party audits, and transparent reporting frameworks, such as the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR), are helping improve trust and accountability.

To balance social and commercial goals, Ms. Gazala noted that the company is guided by its Lakshya Strategy. The company employs inclusion and exclusion criteria, clearly defining the negotiable and non-negotiable aspects of the business to support responsible, well-informed decision-making. She also mentioned stakeholder engagement through double materiality, which means that companies must report not only on how sustainability issues might create financial risks for the company (financial materiality), but also on the company’s own impacts on people and the environment (impact materiality). The most thought-provoking question centered on the challenges currently facing the ESG space and whether they could serve as a foundation for building innovative, sustainable business models. To this, Ms. Gazala shared an example of how a real estate aggregator could support NBFCs and banks in India by helping them identify leased office spaces and data centers that are powered by green or renewable energy sources.

The session concluded with Dr. Galliara summarizing the key takeaways and emphasizing that Corporations are artificial entities, and that it is the human beings who manage them who behave responsibly or irresponsibly. She underscored that irresponsible behavior by these decision-makers has far-reaching consequences for both people and the planet. Dr. Galliara urged students to view responsible behaviour as part of our DNA. Only if it happens will ESG not be treated merely as a compliance requirement but as a strategic lens for building inclusive, ethical, and resilient organizations.



Panel Members Sharing Their Views on Why ESG Matters for MBAs

Ms. Neha Nair, Secretary, SRF, thanked all the panel members for sharing their valuable insights, real-world experiences, and strategic perspectives on ESG. She emphasized that holding this discussion on World Environment Day is a powerful reminder to integrate ESG principles into our personal and professional lives as we strive to build resilient, ethical, and sustainable organizations. In her closing remarks, she mentioned that the thought-provoking inputs have helped the audience to move beyond textbook definitions to understand the operational, ethical, and leadership dimensions of sustainability and governance in business.

3.2 Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace

Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2025
Venue: Mukesh Patel Auditorium
Speaker: Advocate Mallika Verma

Schedule:

02:10 PM to 03:11 PM – MBA Core & HR

03:32 PM to 04:32 PM – MBA Business Analytics & MBA Digital Transformation

A session on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace was held in two batches on June 11, 2025, at the Mukesh Patel Auditorium as part of the foundation program for first-year MBA students. Dr. Meena Galliara began with a welcome note and spoke about the importance of addressing such topics early in a student's journey. She said that harassment can happen both on campus and online and may affect not only women but also individuals of all gender identities, including those who identify as LGBTQIA+. She shared data from surveys showing how harassment leads to emotional stress, forces many women to leave their jobs, and affects the economy. She stressed that the POSH Act, 2013, should be seen not just as a

legal requirement but as an essential step toward becoming respectful and responsible professionals.

Dr. Galliara then introduced the guest speaker, Advocate Mallika Verma from Majlis, who has been working in the field of women and child laws since 2016. Advocate Verma began the session by asking students what they understood by sexual harassment. Students responded with terms like inappropriate behaviour, comments, and touching. She clarified that any unwelcome behaviour of a sexual nature qualifies as harassment and gave real-life examples such as cyberbullying, objectifying remarks, and inappropriate physical contact. She explained that many people hesitate to report such incidents due to fear, shame, or family pressure.

Advocate Mallika discussed the legal definition of harassment and explained related constitutional rights such as equality and protection from discrimination. Other laws, such as POCSO and laws protecting senior citizens and people with disabilities, were also briefly explained. She highlighted that the impact of the action matters more than the intention. Advocate Verma also discussed the structure and role of the Internal Committee (IC) at NMIMS, how complaints can be submitted orally or in writing, and how confidentiality is maintained. She walked students through the enquiry process, timelines, and possible outcomes, including a written apology, suspension, or expulsion, depending on the severity of the case.

The session ended with a Q&A round where students asked questions about online harassment, past consent, and legal guidelines. It was an interactive and informative discussion that helped students understand their rights and responsibilities. Dr. Galliara concluded by reminding students that the institute follows a zero-tolerance policy against harassment. That, as future managers and leaders, they should act as responsible citizens who uphold the values of respect and accountability in all professional spaces.

Refer to Annexure V for the highlights of the session.

4. MBA Involvement in the Social Sector

4.1 Mirae Asset Foundation Project Report

Across the globe, ESG has become a defining lens through which business performance and societal impact are assessed. Investors are increasingly directing capital toward companies with strong ESG credentials. Regulators are tightening compliance expectations, and consumers are rewarding businesses that demonstrate responsibility and resilience. In India, this shift has gained momentum with SEBI's Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) mandate. The mandate positions sustainability and governance at the heart of corporate accountability.

Despite these positive developments, India faces a critical challenge in advancing ESG in a meaningful way. There is a shortage of context-specific research, skilled professionals, and locally relevant frameworks to guide implementation. Most existing ESG models are designed for developed economies and do not fully account for India's complex realities, including its growth priorities, energy transitions, and social diversity. Without rigorous research and thought leadership, ESG may remain a compliance exercise rather than a driver of long-term value creation. Establishing an ESG Research Chair at SVKM's NMIMS aims to bridge this gap by generating actionable insights, informing policy, and preparing leaders to integrate ESG into core business strategy.

A strategic intent was formalized through an MoU between Mirae Asset Foundation and Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal (SVKM) on January 12, 2026, for the 2025-2026 academic year. (See Annexure VI)

Under this, 19 projects are funded across six campuses, totaling ₹ 95,00,000. These projects range from hackathons, workshops, and conferences to a research study on the penetration of AI in Municipal schools. Table 2 below provides information on campus-wide events.

Table 2. Campus-wise Events

Sr. No	Campus	School	Event	Budget
1.	Indore	School of Business Management	"Nature Prints: Let Nature Print Your Fabric, Health and Livelihood"	5,00,000
2.		School of Commerce	Consultancy Assignment on ESG Requirements for MSME Units in and around Indore (Including CII Member Units)	9,00,000
3.		School of Law	International Summit on Sustainability, Digital Transformation, and E-Governance	5,00,000
4.			Inter University Mediation Competition 2026	2,00,000
5.		School of Pharmacy and Technology Management	"Green Hackathon: Exponential Technologies for Clean Energy"	2,00,000
6.			Development of an AI Model for Non-Destructive Crop Yield Forecasting	1,70,000

Sr. No	Campus	School	Event	Budget
7.	Mumbai	School of Business Management	International Conference on Climate Risk and Sustainable Finance: Pathways to Resilient and Responsible Growth - The Role of Banks and Financial Institutions (Subject to Modify/Change)	7,00,000
8.			Policy Book titled “Enabling Equity for Disability Inclusion – An ESG Perspective.”	21,45,000
9.			Research on "A Study on Awareness and Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by Municipal Schools of Mumbai"	13,70,475
10.			Inter School Case Study Analysis Competition by ESG to be conducted by SRF	4,00,000
11.			Round Table on Nurturing the Next Wave: Grassroots Entrepreneurship for a Changing World	2,00,000
12.	Chandigarh	School of Law	Embedding ESG in MSME Growth: A Pathway to Responsible and Sustainable Leadership	3,50,000
13.		School of Technology, Management & Engineering	Understanding ESG: Building a Responsible Future -Workshop	2,50,000
14.			Empowering Women and Girls in Science: Breaking Barriers and Building Futures	70,000
15.			Two-day National Symposium on Strengthening National Security through Mathematics and Physics in Engineering	2,20,000
16.	Hyderabad	School of Pharmacy and Technology Management	Circular Entrepreneurship in Action — Case Study Workshop on ESG, Producer Responsibility, and Sustainable Innovation	1,15,000
17.	Bengaluru	School of Business Management	Enhancing Financial and Digital Literacy among Women Employees in the Social Sector: Pre–Post Intervention Study	7,17,600
18.	Shirpur	School of Pharmacy and Technology Management	Transforming Environmental Health: A Community Awareness Initiative on Health, Hygiene, Education, and Farming in Shirpur Taluka	4,91,925
Total Budget				95,00,000

4.2 We Care: Civic Engagement Internship

Since its inception in 2010, the We Care: Civic Engagement Internship at SBM NMIMS, Mumbai, has been instrumental in shaping socially responsible managers. The internship familiarizes students with grassroots realities and encourages them to design management-driven solutions to address complex societal challenges.

The We Care: Civic Engagement Internship was conducted from Tuesday, January 27, to Friday, February 20, 2026. In all, 793 students from the full-time MBA Core and HR program completed the internship and contributed 1,18,807 work hours to the social sector. Students were placed with 315 organizations in 171 cities across 20 States and four Union Territories. During the internship, students were expected to contribute 7-8 hours per day to social sector organizations.

During the internship, students were actively engaged in executing projects aligned with multiple SDGs. In particular, there was a strong focus on SDG 4: Quality Education (77 per cent), which is reflected in projects related to education and learning support, including teaching assistance programs, academic mentoring, AI curriculum development, and tutoring initiatives for school and NIOS students. Students also undertook projects focused on community development, entrepreneurship, youth startup programs, and livelihood development to improve economic opportunities and social inclusion. Hence, high engagement was also observed in projects aligned with SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities (60 per cent) and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth (57 per cent),

Similarly, projects aligned with SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being (53 per cent) were supported through projects promoting health awareness, such as menstrual health campaigns, anaemia awareness drives, and child healthcare education. The alignment between SDG 5: Gender Equality (43 per cent) and SDG 1: No Poverty (35 per cent) was evident in initiatives supporting women's empowerment, youth rehabilitation, and programs assisting vulnerable and underserved groups.

To support NGO projects, 62 students successfully mobilized ₹20,99,133/- through CSR funds, crowdfunding, individual donations, and product sales. These funds supported 29 NGOs spread across 15 States and one Union Territory. Besides, six students placed in two NGOs contributed in-kind support worth ₹1,00,00/-. Ms. Cheryl, a mentor at Bangalore Rural Educational and Development Society (BREADS), Bengaluru, in her email, appreciated Mr. Nirag Soans's resource mobilization efforts for the TCS Marathon. She informed that he individually brought in the CSR lead from the Digio company during the internship. It was successfully converted into a donation of ₹13,82,000/- on March 31, 2026, toward computer literacy for underprivileged children at our Don Bosco Social Action Centre in Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru.

Students worked under the guidance of the respective Organizational Mentors and 58 Faculty Mentors from the institute. Feedback analysis reveals that 94 per cent of organizations expressed high satisfaction with the interns' conduct. The experiential learning was rated as highly satisfactory by 90 per cent of students.

On February 28, 2026, students presented their key learnings through 328 Posters, which were adjudged by 61 judges from the Development and Corporate sector. Based on the judges' assessment, 39 teams were awarded prize money of ₹ 3,69,000/-.

Refer to Annexure VII for glimpses of We Care: Civic Engagement Internship field execution and Poster Presentation.

4.3 Social Responsibility Forum (SRF) Activities

a) DKMS-BMST Stem Cell Awareness Workshop

Date: Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Venue: Classroom 701, SBM, NMIMS, Mumbai

Number of Participants: 76 first-year MBA students and 15 SRF Senior Committee Members



The Social Responsibility Forum (SRF) of SBM, NMIMS, Mumbai, launched its annual activities with a Stem Cell Awareness Workshop on July 8, 2025, partnering with Deutsche Knochenmarkspenderdatei-Bangalore Medical Services Trust (DKMS-BMST). Distinguished speakers Mr. Om Kore, Medical Social Worker, with global humanitarian experience, and Mr. Ayush Singh from DKMS-BMST led the session “Blood Cancer & Need for Lifesavers.” The workshop was attended by 76 first-year students of the MBA (Core, HR, DT, Pharma, BA, HCM) program at SBM, Mumbai. Fifteen senior SRF members were involved in organizing the workshop.



Mr. Kore provided comprehensive insights to participants on blood cancers, Leukemia, Malignant Lymphoma, and Multiple Myeloma. He also discussed genetic disorders like Thalassemia, emphasizing their prevalence among children and their genetic origins. He highlighted India’s alarmingly low testing rates and bone marrow dysfunction issues. Detailing treatment progressions included conventional treatments like chemotherapy and radiation, and unconventional treatments like stem cell transplantation. The speakers explained the crucial role of hematopoietic stem cells and DKMS-BMST’s mission to facilitate life-saving donations.

Participants were informed about DKMS-BMST’s mission, as a collaboration between Bangalore Medical Services Trust and Germany’s DKMS, which maintains a robust Stem Cell Registry to expedite donor matching. Critical statistics revealed that while someone is diagnosed with blood cancer every 27 seconds globally (every 3 minutes in India), with 40 million carriers, only 30 per cent of patients find matches due to India’s ethnic diversity and limited HLA awareness.



The session covered the complete donation process from registration and HLA typing to PBSC donation, emphasizing donor privacy compliance with WMDA standards and the IT Act 2000. Mr.

Kore's anecdotes of a survivor from Jharkhand inspired all attendees to register and provide cheek swabs, taking their first steps toward this life-saving cause.

DKMS provided an oral swab kit for HLA testing, and attendees conducted a cheek swab test during the session.

The workshop was aligned with SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.



b) Blood Donation Drive & Thalassemia Test Camp Narrative Report

Date: Wednesday, August 6, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Venue: SRF Lounge, 6th Floor, SBM, NMIMS, Mumbai

Number of Participants: 241 MBA students. 55 SRF volunteers



On August 06, 2025, the Social Responsibility Forum (SRF) of SBM, NMIMS Mumbai, in partnership with the Dr. R.N. Cooper Hospital Blood Centre, held a blood drive and Thalassemia testing camp at the SRF Lounge on campus. The prestigious organization has been serving the community for many years, connecting with and serving society as a whole.

The drive received responses from 374 registrants, including 241 students, institute faculty, and staff. The event was organized by 55 SRF volunteers, who effectively handled registrations, facilitated attendees, and supported medical staff.

With assistance and direction from the Dr. R. N. Cooper Hospital Blood Centre on campus, 241 units of blood were collected. The campaign also raised awareness of Thalassemia and offered free testing to ensure early detection and management. Four participants provided blood samples for the Thalassemia test. Test results for Thalassemia were provided to participants, along with instructions for any necessary follow-up.



By addressing urgent medical needs and raising public awareness of hereditary diseases such as Thalassaemia, the event promoted SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being). The blood unit collection strengthened local reserves, and participants received the results of their Thalassaemia tests along with additional instructions if necessary. This beneficial partnership established a standard for upcoming health initiatives at NMIMS and demonstrated the effectiveness of community-driven efforts in tackling healthcare issues.

c) Joy of Giving Week - Orphanage Visit & Menstrual Awareness Drive

Date: Friday, October 4, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Venue: Community Hall, Lucky Mitra Mandal, Mulund (West), Mumbai

Number of Participants: 70 girls from Sakhi for Girls Education, 12 SRF Members.

Sponsors: Plush



On Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM, the Social Responsibility Forum (SRF) of the School of Business Management (SBM), NMIMS, Mumbai, organized a Menstrual Awareness Drive at Sakhi for Girls Education in Mulund. The event was conducted in collaboration with Plush, a brand recognized for its sustainable menstrual hygiene products, which were also donated for the initiative, and Sakhi for Girls Education, an NGO dedicated to empowering underprivileged girls through education. The drive aimed to break societal taboos surrounding menstruation by educating underprivileged women and girls about menstrual health, promoting hygienic practices, and encouraging the use of sustainable menstrual products.



The event took place in a community hall in Mulund and was attended by twelve SRF members, including both senior committee members and first-year students. The session began with an interactive discussion on menstrual hygiene. Key topics included healthy menstrual management, correct usage and disposal of sanitary pads, and the importance of maintaining personal hygiene during menstruation. The session was designed in simple, easy-to-understand language to ensure the seventy participating girls from the NGO could effectively grasp and apply the information in their daily lives.

As part of the campaign, each participant received biodegradable sanitary pads from Plush, ensuring access to safe and eco-friendly menstrual products. To make the session more engaging, fun games and activities were organized, encouraging participation and enthusiasm among the young attendees. Exciting prizes for game winners added an element of joy and energy to the program.

By raising awareness of menstrual health and promoting safe hygiene habits to enhance overall well-being, the campaign supported SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being). Additionally, it promoted SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by providing women and girls with access to vital information and tools, enabling them to live healthier and more self-assured lives.

The Menstrual Awareness Drive proved to be a meaningful and impactful initiative, addressing vital issues of menstrual health and hygiene while creating a safe environment for open discussion. The collaboration among SRF, Sakhi for Girls Education, and Plush highlighted the power of community partnerships to drive social change. The event not only educated participants but also equipped them with practical resources to improve their health and confidence, helping to break long-standing stigmas around menstruation.

d) NGO Mela

Date: Monday, October 14, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Venue: SRF Lounge and Refugee Area, 6th Floor, SBM, NMIMS, Mumbai

Number of Participants: 18 NGOs, 2000 students, faculty & staff

Organizers of the event: 30 SRF members.



On October 14, 2025, the Social Responsibility Forum (SRF) of NMIMS Mumbai hosted its annual NGO Mela. The event took place on the 6th and 7th floors of the SBM campus in Mumbai. The event brought together NGOs, students, and faculty to promote social causes through the display and sale of handmade, sustainable products.

A total of 18 NGOs participated, working across causes such as women's empowerment, education, animal welfare, sustainable living, and anti-human trafficking. Stalls featured eco-friendly products including jewelry, candles, bags, diaries, clothes, soaps, and healthy snacks. NGOs included Rustic Blends, Goonj Foundation, and Asha Handicrafts, highlighting various societal issues. Premdarshan showcased natural food and wellness products, Rustic Blends promoted sustainable fashion, and Asha Handicrafts, along with Aarambh Foundation, displayed intricate handmade jewelry. WSD (The Welfare of Stray Dogs) and AWH (Animals with Humanity) advocated for animal care and spread awareness about animal sensitivity. Apne Aap Women's Collective (AAWC)'s women-led craftwork highlighted their work against human trafficking. NGOs like Masoom Foundation showcased eco-friendly festive décor.

Attendees explored stalls showcasing handmade products like jewellery, clothing, and eco-friendly goods, supporting causes such as women's empowerment, rural development, and sustainability. The atmosphere was vibrant, filled with enthusiasm and purpose as attendees interacted with representatives, learning about their initiatives and supporting them through meaningful purchases. Each stall carried stories of resilience and impact, showcasing how small contributions can drive larger change.



The event recorded around 2,000 visitors and sales exceeding ₹2 lakhs, reflecting strong engagement from the NMIMS community. The NGO Mela 2025 was a reminder of how collaboration and compassion can unite people to create lasting social impact and inspire a culture of responsibility.

The Mela, aligned with SDGs 1 (No Poverty) and 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), created livelihood opportunities and promoted sustainable consumption. The event raised awareness about social responsibility while generating sales that supported these initiatives.

e) Business Conclave

Date: Friday, November 1, 2025

Time: 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Venue: Classroom 508, SBM, NMIMS, Mumbai

Number of Participants: 70 MBA students and 15 SRF senior committee members

Guests: Mr Kasturi Soundararajan, Mr. Prabhajit Kumar Sarkar, Dr. Srinivas Ainavolu



The Social Responsibility Forum organized the Business Conclave centered on the theme "Powering Tomorrow: Green Energy". The event took place on Saturday, November 1, 2025, from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM in Class 501, SBM, NMIMS, Mumbai.



The event brought together 70 MBA students of SBM, faculty, and senior industry leaders to explore how India’s clean energy transition is reshaping business strategy, innovation, and responsible leadership. Designed to deepen awareness of emerging opportunities in renewable energy, the conclave encouraged students to engage thoughtfully with the future of sustainable growth in India.

The session began with a keynote address by Mr. Kasturi Soundararajan, Chief - Treasury & Investor Relations, Tata Power. Drawing on more than three decades of experience across major power-sector organizations, Mr. Soundararajan outlined the rapid evolution of India's energy landscape and the increasing urgency of transitioning toward renewable sources. He emphasized the growing importance of integrating sustainability with long-term business strategy. He also explained how clean energy, technology adoption, and investor expectations are driving structural changes within the power sector. His insights helped students understand how businesses can balance profitability with responsible resource management as the economy steadily moves toward decarbonization.



Following the keynote, an in-depth conversation took place between Mr. Prabhajit Kumar Sarkar, Founder and CEO of Ampera Energy Pvt. Ltd., and Dr. Srinivas Ainalovu, Associate Professor at SBM, NMIMS, and a former senior leader at NTPC and Reliance Group. Their dialogue focused



on the future of green energy, highlighting advancements in storage technologies, market reform, and digital innovation. They discussed the challenges organizations face in adopting clean-energy solutions, from infrastructure gaps to financing constraints. They emphasized the critical role of collaboration, policy alignment, and strategic leadership in accelerating India's clean-energy transformation. The

speakers also addressed the realities for startups in the sustainability space, noting the tension between maintaining profitability and investing in innovation during the early stages of growth.

The event aligned closely with SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action), by focusing on the transition to renewable energy and the importance of climate-conscious decision-making. It also supported SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) through its emphasis on technological innovation and sustainable industrial processes.

f) **Wish Tree**

Date: Friday, December 18, 2025

Time: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM

Venue: Ashadeep Foundation, Andheri (E), Mumbai

Number of Participants: 80 underprivileged children from Ashadeep Foundation, 22 SRF Members

The Social Responsibility Forum (SRF), SBM, Mumbai, organized The Wish Tree event on Thursday, December 18, 2025, from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM. The event was organized in partnership with Ashadeep Foundation, a Mumbai-based NGO focused on child welfare and development.

The Wish Tree event aimed to bring joy to 80 underprivileged children during the Christmas festive season. In collaboration with the Ashadeep Foundation, SRF created a wish list based on the children's needs. A detailed wish list was compiled, featuring items such as jewelry-making kits, remote-control cars, frocks, fancy school bags, and more. The team then gathered quotations and procured gifts from both online and offline retailers to ensure timely delivery.



To bring these wishes to life, SRF launched a crowdfunding campaign among NMIMS students. With a price cap of ₹500 per gift, the initiative made it easy for students to participate. Students were eager to contribute in their own small way, and the campaign faced no difficulty in securing sponsors. Additionally, junior committee members personally sponsored four pairs of sports shoes, bringing the total fundraising amount to ₹25,955. Beyond raising funds, the campaign created awareness about the cause and encouraged community participation.

On event day, 22 SRF members visited the Ashadeep Foundation to personally distribute the gifts. The children welcomed them with warmth and gratitude, performing dances that set a joyful tone for the afternoon. Excitement filled the air as each child received their requested gift, resulting in genuine smiles and moments of pure happiness. The celebration also included interactive games and talent showcases, making the experience even more memorable for the children.



The Wish Tree event proved that simple acts of kindness can create profound connections and uplift spirits during the holiday season. The initiative reflected SRF's commitment to community service. The event aligned with SDG 10 by reducing inequalities and ensuring that underprivileged children feel valued and experience inclusive festive celebrations.

g) Conversations For Change

Date: Sunday, February 8, 2026

Time: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Venue: Online

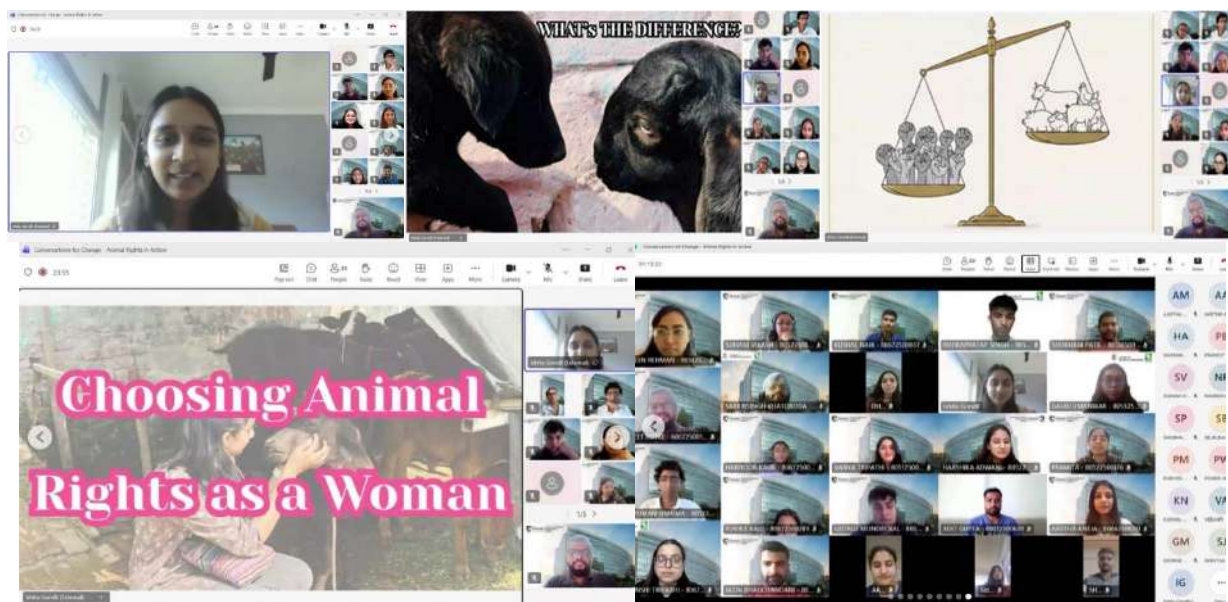
Number of Participants: 60

On February 08, 2026, the SRF of SBM, Mumbai, organized a Conversations for Change (C4C) session on Animal Rights, Advocacy, and Coexistence. The session was conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams from 12:00 PM to 1:00.



Ms. Ishita Gondli, a Humane Educator at STRAW India, was invited to speak. She is also an animal protection advocate and educator.

The session aimed to raise awareness of the ethical treatment of animals, the importance of advocacy, and the fostering of harmonious coexistence between humans and animals. Ms. Gondli shared valuable insights on grassroots activism, policy-level challenges, and practical ways individuals can contribute to animal welfare. She discussed the concept of animal rights and highlighted the issue of speciesism, where animals are often treated unequally. She encouraged students to question such mindsets and adopt a more ethical perspective.



The interactive session encouraged participants to reflect on their role in promoting compassion and responsible behavior towards animals, highlighting the significance of informed dialogue in driving meaningful social change.

The event aligned with SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 15 (Life on Land), focusing on ethical consumption, sustainability, and the protection of animals and ecosystems.

h) Samadhaan – Case Study Competition

Date: Sunday, February 15, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Venue: Mukesh R Patel Multipurpose Hall (Mini Auditorium), SBM, NMIMS, Mumbai.

Number of Participants: 69 students from various institutes across India, 23 SRF Members.



Samadhaan – Case Study Competition, the SRF’s flagship event, serves as a platform dedicated to embedding sustainability at the core of business strategy.

The case study competition, titled Samadhaan 2026, brought together 594 registrations from over 200 teams across India to present innovative solutions to real-world challenges. Participants represented 30+ prestigious institutes, including MDI Gurgaon, IIM Lucknow, and MICA Ahmedabad.

The first round was conducted from January 28, 2026, 10:00 AM to February 3, 2026, 11:59 PM. During this round, all registered teams were required to submit a two-slide PPT presenting a well-structured recommendation on the given case. The proposal was expected to analyze the identified ESG gaps, evaluate financial and sustainability trade-offs, and suggest a practical approach that balanced responsible lending with financial viability and operational feasibility.

The submissions were evaluated based on their innovation, practicality, social or environmental impact, and potential for sustainability and scalability.

Following a rigorous evaluation by the SRF Senior Committee members, the results of Round I were announced on the Unstop platform on February 3, 2026. The top 8 teams, comprising 32 students, advanced to the final round, where they presented their ideas before a distinguished panel of judges.



Winning teams with the judges



Esteemed judges for Samadhaan 2026 included Mrs. Aditi Kulkarni, Associate Director – Sustainability at Buro Happold, and Mrs. Divya Khemka, Director at Price Waterhouse Chartered Accountants LLP.

For the final round, participants were required to submit a detailed five-slide PPT based on the business idea presented in Round I. The presentation covered key aspects such as -

- Context and Core Problem Identification
- Recommended Lending Strategy (Immediate Decision)
- ESG Integration Framework and Transition Model
- Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy (Financial & ESG Risks)
- Short-Term and Medium-Term Action Plan for MSMEs
- Long-Term Strategic Role of the Bank in the ESG Ecosystem
- Financial Implications (Pricing, Profitability, Risk-Return Trade-off)
- Implementation Roadmap, Monitoring Mechanism, and Key Assumptions

This round was structured to allow each team 15 minutes for their presentation and 5 minutes for Q&A by the judges. The finalists then presented their solutions to the judges.

The evaluation was based on the following parameters-

- Innovation and Originality
- Feasibility and Business Viability
- Scalability and Growth Potential
- Sustainability and Social Impact
- Presentation Quality and Q&A Handling

The judges' feedback and guidance added significant value to the competition, helping the participants refine their ideas.

Samadhaan served as a dynamic platform where business strategy intersected with sustainability and social responsibility. It helped students strengthen their strategic thinking and problem-solving skills by challenging them to develop innovative, feasible, and scalable solutions to real-world issues.

Samadhaan 2026 aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goals 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), and 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

Samadhaan encouraged collaboration, knowledge exchange, and strategic thinking, effectively connecting academic concepts with real-world business challenges. Through this competition, nearly 240 participants from across India examined the intersection of business strategy and social impact, highlighting the growing significance of sustainability in contemporary enterprises.

By bringing together bright minds, industry experts, and real-world challenges, SRF created an engaging experience. The competition showcased how business growth and social impact can complement each other, shaping a future where organizations prioritize sustainability alongside profitability.

With a total prize pool of ₹ 1,20,000, the winners were awarded as follows:

1. Winners: Team Nova – National Insurance Academy (NIA), Pune - ₹ 60,000
2. 1st Runner Up: Team Quaestio – Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS), Mumbai- ₹ 36,000
2nd Runner Up: Team Nexus – WeSchool- ₹24,000

i) We Care Competitions

The We Care: Civic Engagement Internship Augmentation included three competitions organized by the Social Responsibility Forum (SRF) on Saturday, March 7, 2026.

Lenses of Care: We Care Documentary Film Fest

Lenses of Care: The We Care Documentary Film Fest 2026, organized by the Social Responsibility Forum (SRF) at SBM NMIMS Mumbai, provided a platform for students to showcase their grassroots fieldwork experience through a compelling visual narrative. The competition emphasized ethical storytelling, authenticity, and responsible representation of communities. Launched on February 21, 2026, the initiative saw registrations from 80 students comprising 29 Teams. From these, 16 teams submitted original short documentaries (3-5 minutes) highlighting grassroots challenges and social impact. Based on predefined criteria, six teams were shortlisted for their strong storytelling, adherence to ethical standards, and impactful portrayal of real-world issues (See Annexure VIII)

The final screening and presentation round was scheduled on March 7, 2026, at the NMIMS Mumbai campus. The event was evaluated by an esteemed panel comprising Mr. Ajinkya Mhadgut, writer, actor, and Director of various Marathi short films and Cinema, and Mr. Vishvanath Pendurkarr, Director of Photography at Jio Creative Labs, with experience in short films and music videos. Their expertise ensured a professional evaluation of the films, focusing on storytelling, technical quality, and impact.

The shortlisted documentaries were screened in an offline format, followed by an interactive discussion and Q&A session with the judges. After all screenings, the judges deliberated and finalized the results. (Refer to Table 3).

Table 3: We Care Documentary Film Fest 2026 – Winning Teams

Rank	Team (Organization)	Documentary	Students	Prize Money (₹)
Winner	Team Ophelia (Tata Chemicals Society for Rural Development (TCSRSD), Mithapur)	Pashu Sakhi: SHG and Livestock Support Programmes	1. Sejal Chopra 2. Purva Paun	25,000
1st Runner-up	Blitz (Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), Bokaro)	Skill se Swavalamban Tak: Journey of Dignity, Determination & Dreams	1. Argho Dutta 2. Md Nawaz Hussain	15,000
2nd Runner-up	Samriddhi Setu (Help & Helps Samiti, Raipur)	Samriddhi Setu: Bridge to Prosperity	1. Mohini Dey 2. Aditya Mishra	10,000

The event concluded with the felicitation of the judges and appreciation of all participants for their creativity and efforts.

Outcomes

The competition enabled students to create impactful documentaries that authentically captured grassroots realities, community voices, and NGO interventions. It enhanced students’ storytelling, critical thinking, and ethical representation skills. It provided NGOs with valuable communication assets to strengthen visibility, advocacy, and stakeholder engagement. The initiative further promoted awareness and inclusion, aligning with SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

Ignite: We Innovate for Good

Ignite: We Innovate for Good 2026 was organized by the Social Responsibility Forum (SRF) at SBM NMIMS Mumbai and served as a high-impact platform for fostering student-driven social innovation and entrepreneurial thinking. Designed as a multi-stage competition, the preliminary round launched on February 21, 2026, with 61 students registering through 20 teams. Each participating team was required to submit a practical, scalable solution to real-world challenges faced by NGOs by March 1, 2026. A total of 11 teams participated in the preliminary round. From these, 6 teams comprising 21 students were shortlisted by the SRF senior team based on innovation, feasibility, and social impact. (See Annexure IX)

On March 7, 2026, six teams presented their implementation-ready social business plans in the NMIMS Mumbai Campus to the jury- Ms. Pooja Yagnik, Director, Fundraising & Corporate Partnerships, Centre for Transforming India (CFTI), and Dr. Ronald Yesudhas, Head of

Department, Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, College of Social Work (Empowered Autonomous), Nirmala Niketan Institute, Mumbai. Each team was allotted a time slot for their presentation, followed by an interactive Q&A session with the judges. In addition to their preliminary submissions, teams were required to present detailed information on resource requirements, human skills, funding sources, financial plans, marketing strategies, growth and sustainability plans, risk mitigation strategies, and overall social impact. The judges evaluated the teams based on innovation and creativity, feasibility and execution strategy, scalability, and social impact. After all the presentations, the judges deliberated and finalized the results. (Refer to Table 4).

Table 4: Ignite: We Innovate for Good 2026 - Winning Teams

Rank	Team (Organization)	Business Idea	Students	Prize Money (₹)
Winner	DV (Saurashtra Medical & Educational Charitable Trust (SMECT))	Project Life Digital Ecosystem Platform- Instead of solving a single problem, we digitize the entire value chain	1. Dhrupal Vagadia 2. Vishwa Shah	25,000
1st Runner-up	AI Samarth (Salaam Bombay Foundation, Mumbai)	“Project UDAAN AI”, an initiative aimed at helping students from municipal and government schools learn the basics of Artificial Intelligence and digital skills.	1. Pradyuman Sharma 2. Vatsal Parikh 3. Siddhi Panchal 4. Riya Solanki 5. Saumil Joshi 6. Hemish Shah 7. Raksha Nayak 8. Harsh Shah	15,000
2nd Runner-up	The Innovator (Food Education and Economic Development Society (FEED))	“GaonRoots: A Tribal Experience & Rural Enterprise Hub” is a community-owned experiential tourism and rural commerce model designed to generate sustainable livelihoods for tribal communities while preserving indigenous culture and traditions.	Rishav Seth	10,000

The event concluded with the felicitation of the judges and appreciation of all participants for their enthusiastic involvement and contributions.

Outcomes

The initiative delivered dual impact. The quality of solutions demonstrated the students’ ability to move beyond theoretical understanding to develop actionable, impact-oriented models customized

to the needs of the social sector. It strengthened their critical competencies, including problem-solving, strategic thinking, financial planning, stakeholder orientation, and impact measurement. For NGOs, it generated innovative, scalable ideas that can enhance program effectiveness, resource mobilization, and long-term sustainability.

Ignite 2026 strengthened student capabilities through experiential learning. It generated implementable solutions to address social issues and create long-term impact that aligned with SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

We Digitize: Making Digital Difference

We Care: Making Digital Difference (WeDigitize) 2026 was organized by the Social Responsibility Forum (SRF) at SBM NMIMS Mumbai as a digital transformation competition to drive student-led, cost-effective technology solutions to *operational challenges faced by NGOs*.

Launched on February 21, 2026, the competition received registrations from 70 participants across 28 teams to submit a digital transformation proposal in the form of a PPT by March 01, 2026. A total of 15 teams participated in the preliminary round. The submissions focused on identifying key challenges NGOs faced during the We Care internship and on proposing relevant digital solutions to enhance efficiency, scalability, and impact. Based on the evaluation criteria, 8 teams were shortlisted for their idea's relevance, feasibility, and innovation. (For list participants, refer to Annexure X)

The final round of the competition was conducted on March 7, 2026, at the NMIMS Mumbai campus. In addition to their preliminary submissions, eight shortlisted teams were expected to present a comprehensive digital transformation plan, including detailed implementation steps, the required tools and technologies, monitoring and evaluation methods, and a clear budget and resource allocation plan.

The competition was judged by Mr. Sandesh Bhingarde, Founder of Team Vision Foundation and a social entrepreneur working in inclusive education and disability empowerment, and by Ms. Fatema Kanchwala, Assistant Professor at the College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan Institute, Mumbai.

Each team presented its solutions in an offline format, followed by an interactive question-and-answer session with the judges. Entries were evaluated on relevance to social impact, innovative use of technology, feasibility and scalability, creativity and user experience, and overall presentation and impact.

After all the presentations, the judges deliberated and finalized the results. (Refer to Table 5). The event concluded with the felicitation of the judges and appreciation of all participants for their active participation and efforts.

Table 5: We Care: Making Digital Difference 2026 – Winning Teams

Rank	Team (Organization)	Digitization Project	Students	Prize Money (₹)
Winner	Narcotics (Society for Promotion of Youth & Masses (SPYM), Chandigarh)	Digitizing Rehabilitation Operations at SPYM DDRC Chandigarh. Addressing operational inefficiencies caused by manual record-keeping and fragmented data systems.	1. Sheron Singh 2. Garima Singla	25,000
1st Runner- up	UWF (Udaan Welfare Foundation, Thane)	Making Udaan's Impact Easier to See & Trust - Digital Transformation Proposal	1. Dhiren Jadhav 2. Sanskruti Chavan 3. Manasi Kulkarni	15,000
2nd Runner- up	aaryaa.gholkar138 (Salaam Bombay Foundation (SBF), Mumbai)	IMPACT + Digital Transformation - Integrated Monitoring, Performance & Analytics for Community Transformation	1. Aaryaa Gholkar 2. Aditi Hegishte 3. Aashutosh Tiwari 4. Jiya Mathew 5. Ankita Nair 6. Pritish Kulkarni	10,000

Outcomes

The participants showcased innovative and practical digital solutions to improve NGO operations, emphasizing efficiency, scalability, and long-term sustainability. It encouraged students to apply their academic knowledge and technological skills to real-world social challenges, fostering innovation and problem-solving. The initiative strengthened organizational digital readiness while aligning innovation with sustainable social impact across key SDGs, including SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

4.4 Dolphin Tanki - Fifth Edition

The Salaam Bombay Foundation (SBF), in partnership with the Jasani Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Management, along with the Social Responsibility Forum (SRF) and the Entrepreneurship Cell (E-Cell) of the School of Business Management (SBM), organized the fifth edition of Dolphin Tanki on March 20, 2026, at SBM, NMIMS, Mumbai.

This initiative was supported by Nuvama Wealth Management, Matrix IEC Pvt. Ltd., and The Narotam Sekhsaria Family Office.

The event aimed to provide a platform for adolescent entrepreneurs to present their business ideas and receive expert feedback. The platform also enabled participants to receive financial support and mentorship to help develop sustainable businesses.

A total of 36 adolescent entrepreneurs participated in the event. The participants were from Mumbai, Pune, and Nashik (Rural). One participant from Kolkata attended the event via Zoom.

The event was conducted simultaneously across three classrooms, 502, 503, and 504. Each classroom had 12 participants. The sessions started at 02:00 PM and concluded at 05:30 PM.

Participants from different business trades presented their ideas. Table 6 presents the number of contestants by trade and location.

Table 6: Number of Participants by trade and location

Trade	Mumbai	Kolkata	Nashik	Pune	Total
Bakery & Confectionery		1			1
Beauty & Wellness	10		2	3	15
Choreography	1				1
Creative Arts	2				2
Fashion Designing				1	1
Macrane	1				1
Mobile Repairing	6			1	7
Photography	3				3
Video Editing	3				3
Home Appliances	2				2
Total	28	1	2	5	36

A short video about each participant was shown before their presentation. Each participant was given five minutes to present their business idea. The presentation covered their business concept, SWOT analysis, marketing strategy, and plans. This was followed by a 5- to 7-minute question-and-answer session with the jury.

The event featured a panel of industry experts as jury members. Each classroom had three jury members. They evaluated the participants based on their business ideas, presentation, and overall potential. The jury represented various industries, including Media & Entertainment, Consumer Electronics Retail, Cosmetics, Financial Services, Telecom, and Creative Arts & Handicrafts.

During the presentations, the jury led an interactive Q&A session tailored to each business. The interaction centred on clarifying the cost structure, pricing strategy, target market, growth potential, plans, and potential challenges. Participants shared their strategies and funding requirements and outlined how the funds would be utilized. Mr. Ritesh Patel (Director, Mirae Asset Foundation) addressed the participants during the classroom session and shared a few words of encouragement.

The participants were ranked into Gold, Silver, and Bronze Rank holders based on their performance. See Table 7.

Table 7: Distribution of Participants by Rank and Seed Funding Support

Sr. No.	Rank	No. of Participants	Amt per Participant (Rs)	Total Amount (Rs)
1	Gold	10	50,000	5,00,000
2	Silver	18	30,000	5,40,000
3	Bronze	8	20,000	1,60,000
	Total	36		12,00,000

The list of Rankholders is presented in Annexure XI A).

The prize distribution was held at the NMIMS Mini Auditorium, where the Guests of Honour, Pravesh Saha (General Manager, South Asia - Wella Company), and Rashmi Nagori (Head ESG and CSR, Nuvama Group), presented award cheques to the participants. Mr. Imran Choudhary announced his support for participants in the mobile repair category and committed to providing each participant with a mobile repair kit.

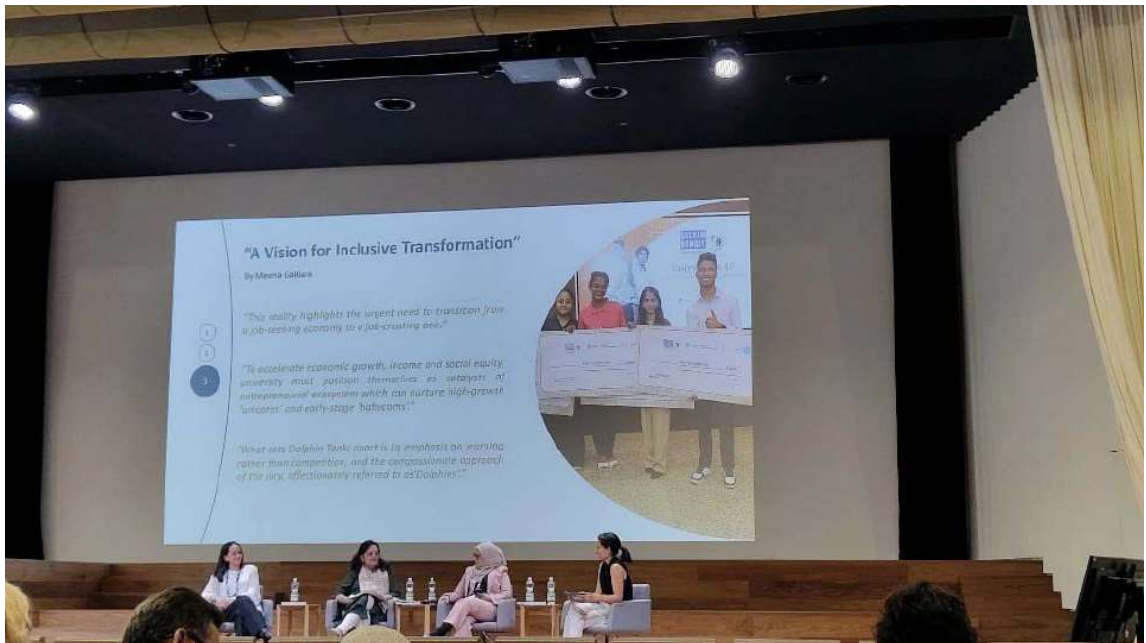
The fifth edition of Dolphin Tanki concluded with active participation from adolescent entrepreneurs. The event provided practical exposure through idea presentations, jury interaction, and evaluation. It also enabled participants to receive financial support and feedback to develop their businesses. Such initiatives continue to create opportunities for young entrepreneurs and our MBA students to engage in real-world learning.

The event received media coverage across leading platforms, including BW Education and The Free Press Journal (online), Mid-Day, Navbharat, and Punjab Kesari (print media), as well as coverage by GN News (television). Annexure XI B) includes the media coverage, and XI C) includes glimpses of the event.

5. Conferences/Training Programs Attended

5.1 ACEEU Panel Discussion

Dr. Meena Galliara was invited as a panelist for the Panel Discussion on ‘Current Practices and Emerging Futures of Higher Education’ on September 11, 2025, at the ACEEU’s book launch on “The Future of Entrepreneurship and Engagement in Higher Education”. Other co-panelists included Dr. Julieth Lizcano Prada from the University of Magaland, Colombia, and Dr. Nik from Management & Science University, Malaysia. Dr. Lina Marcela Landinez Gomez, the CEO of ACEEU in Germany, moderated the session. (Refere Annexure XII)



5.2 Round Table Conference

Mirae Asset Foundation–SVKM’s NMIMS ESG Research Chair
Round Table Conference on ‘Nurturing the Next Wave: Grassroots Entrepreneurship for a Changing World’ on Friday, February 20, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at NMIMS University, Vile Parle (W), Mumbai

The School of Business Management, NMIMS University, under the aegis of the Mirae Asset Foundation–SVKM’s NMIMS ESG Research Chair, hosted a one-day Round Table Conference (RTC) on ‘Nurturing the Next Wave: Grassroots Entrepreneurship for a Changing World’ on Friday, February 20, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The RTC was virtually inaugurated by Ms. Manisha Verma, I.A.S., Hon' Additional Chief Secretary Skill, Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation, Government of Maharashtra. Dr. Ramesh Bhat, Vice Chancellor, SVKM’s NMIMS, delivered the inaugural address.

The RTC consisted of three panel discussions and one breakout group, delving into the agenda of scaling grassroots entrepreneurs. The RTC covered topics (i) Scalable grassroots entrepreneurship models and best practices; (ii) access to finance, technology, and markets through multi-stakeholder convergence; (iii) enabling policy, regulatory, and institutional frameworks; and (iv) coordinated roles of NGOs, Corporations, Government, and Higher Education Institutions. About 50 participants and 10 panelists from the government, private sector, academic institutions, and NGOs attended the RTC.

See Annexure XIII

6. Research & Publications

6.1 Research

a) A Study on Awareness and Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by Public Schools of Mumbai

The Jasani Center for Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Management, School of Business Management, in partnership with the Salaam Bombay Foundation, conducted a joint research study on “*A Study on Awareness and Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by Public Schools of Mumbai*” under the aegis of the Mirae Asset Foundation–SVKM’s NMIMS ESG Research Chair.

The Report was released during the convention “*Decoding AI in Public Education: Perspectives for Policy and Practice*” at the Mumbai Press Club on April 22, 2026. The gathering brought together educators, policymakers, and experts to discuss how AI can shape the future of public education. Highlights of the event included a keynote address, the official release of the report, presentation of the study’s key insights, and panel discussions featuring thought leaders from the education and technology sectors.

Mr. Vivek Sawant, Chief Mentor, Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited (MKCL), highlighted in his keynote address that there is growing concern about students' reliance on AI. He highlighted that depending too much on AI may weaken critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. This issue can be addressed by moving away from predictable exams and routine learning, allowing AI to enhance rather than replace human intelligence. He also suggested that digital devices should be introduced only after Class VIII, ensuring students are mentally mature enough to handle them.

The Research Report was unveiled next. Dr. Mansi presented the study's context, methodology, and key findings. Dr. Swati Sisodia spoke about the Conceptual framework - Gateway to AI for Transformative & Equitable Education (GATEE), which could be adopted to streamline the integration of AI in Schools.

To explore the integration of AI in schools with practitioners from EdTech enterprises, a panel discussion titled “*From Access to Understanding – Building AI Literacy in Schools*” was organized. The panel featured Ms. Eva Chopra (AVP, Marketing & Communications, Lead Group) and Mr. Saleem Khan (India Managing Director, Code.org). Mr. Gaurav Arora moderated the panel. During the session, panelists emphasized that AI models can be designed to activate curiosity and critical thinking. They highlighted that, rather than relying on conventional AI systems that simply provide answers, schools should adopt models that encourage inquiry, exploration, and deeper understanding among students.

To create an ecosystem for purposeful AI integration, the second panel discussion—“*Enabling Ecosystems for Inclusive AI*”—featured Mr. Anees Merchant (EVP–Global Innovation, IP & Analytics Consulting, C5i) and Ms. Manjari Sheel (Senior Product Manager, Wadhvani AI). Dr. Satish M.K moderated the session. The panel explored the

role of families, schools, teachers, and collaborations with government agencies in empowering ecosystems for AI inclusion.

Ms. Manjari Sheel oriented the audience about the Wadhvani Foundation's AI solutions designed to strengthen foundational learning in India's public schools. The program uses speech recognition and adaptive assessments to strengthen literacy, numeracy, and English fluency. The program is integrated with national platforms like SWAYAM and aims to reach **75 million students and 1.8 million teachers by 2027**. The initiative aims to empower teachers, improve student outcomes, and scale innovation across the education system.

Speaking about the role of teachers, Ms. Manjari Sheel articulated that AI cannot replace teachers. She is the main agent of change, and hence AI needs to be shaped to be teacher-centric. It should be a tool that helps educators improve learning outcomes. The data used to train AI models must be representative of the country's diversity.

Mr. Anees highlighted that the Grade IX kids are the workforce of 2035. Twelve years from now, they will join the workforce. If AI fluency is the moat of the next decade, then inequality will not be measured in access to devices. It will be measured at the school with a structured AI class.

The deliberations highlighted how AI can be leveraged to develop solutions for complex social challenges and improve the lives of underserved communities. The discussions also focused on designing AI models to promote curiosity and critical thinking rather than just spoonfeeding answers. Further, it was highlighted that integrating AI into educational ecosystems is important, as it will help address infrastructural inequalities, standardize an AI curriculum, and strengthen foundational AI literacy. Additionally, partnerships between the government and organizations will enhance the reach and impact of these initiatives. This will bridge the gap between policy and practice. These partnerships can advance the development of inclusive frameworks that embed AI literacy at every level of society.

In the closing remarks, Dr. Meena Galliara, Director, Jasani Center for Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Management, School of Business Management, NMIMS, emphasized the need for higher education institutions to develop AI literacy, enhance teacher training, and ensure that AI supports, rather than replaces, critical thinking. She further added that higher education should lead this change so that all students learn to use AI thoughtfully and responsibly.

For the summary findings, see Annexure XIV.

6.2 Book Chapters

a) A Vision for Inclusive Transformation by Dr. Meena Galliara

A chapter by Dr. Meena Galliara, titled “A Vision for Inclusive Transformation”, has been published in the book *Current Practices & Emerging Futures of Higher Education*, edited by ACEEU. This book brings together inspiring stories and practices from universities across Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, and the Asia-Pacific regions, showcasing how higher education is being transformed through entrepreneurship and engagement. The Chapter presents the flagship event, Dolphin Tanki, for which NMIMS collaborated with the Salaam Bombay Foundation to provide resource-poor adolescent entrepreneurs with a platform to present their business ideas and access seed funding. The Chapter can be accessed via the open-access publication link:

<https://www.aceeu.org/books/cpef>.

(Refere Annexure XII)

Galliara Meena (2025). A Vision for Inclusive Transformation. In *The Future of Entrepreneurship and Engagement in Higher Education*. Section 1, pg 48-55.



6.3 Publication

a) We Care Anthology

Ujjivanam: An Anthology of Empowerment and Inclusion

We Care: Civic Engagement Anthology 2025 (Volume XII)

Editor: Meena Galliara

Pranoti Dharankar

ISBN No. 978-93-48943-30-9

Gaurang Publishing Globalize Pvt. Ltd.

The We Care: Civic Engagement Anthology, titled '*Ujjivanam: An Anthology of Empowerment and Inclusion*,' offers an in-depth observation regarding the challenges faced by marginalized communities in India. The Anthology examines government schemes and programs, as well as the critical role of NGOs in promoting them. The chapters are based on civic engagement internships for MBA students and offer real-life examples. These chapters include the barriers faced by people with disabilities, the challenges faced by street vendors, the impact of industrialization on rural

artisan communities, the struggles of tribal communities, and the limitations in accessing social security schemes. By highlighting NGO's efforts, the Anthology recommends it as a practical resource for social sector professionals and students to analyze strategies, such as policy reforms and community initiatives, that promote social inclusion.

Galliaro, M., & Dharankar, P. (Eds.). (2025). *Ujjivanam: An Anthology of Empowerment and Inclusion - Volume XII*. School of Business Management, SVKM's NMIMS.

<https://sbm.nmims.edu/docs/Ujj%C4%ABvanam-An-Anthology-of-Empowerment-and-Inclusion-Vol-XII.pdf>

7. Recognition and Awards:

7.1 Award to the Centre

a) ACEEU Triple E Award

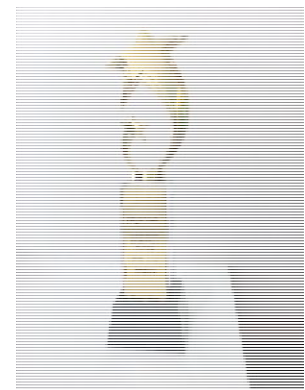
The flagship We Care: Civic Engagement Internship of the School of Business Management, NMIMS, Mumbai, secured fourth place among the Global Finalists from the Asia-Pacific region in the Community Engagement Initiative of the Year category at the ACEEU Triple E Awards. Over the past 15 years, since 2010-11, the We Care: Civic Engagement Internship has been nurturing MBA students with social sensitivity and inculcating values of inclusion and empathy. The internship is successfully proving that business education can truly transform society. (Refer Annexure XII)



The details are available on the Triple E Award Website (See the link below)
<https://2025.triple-e-awards.com/finalists/region/2025global>

b) Recognition by MAF

Mirae Asset Foundation (MAF) acknowledged the association with the Centre and SVKM's NMIMS since 2019 during the Annual Celebration of Mirae Asset Foundation Day, organized on April 21, 2026, at Vipra Foundation, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Mumbai. MAF appreciated the Centre's pro-bono activities for MAF, collaboration for the scholarship support for MBA (Part-time) in Social Entrepreneurship and Full-time MBA students, and for the ESG Research Chair.



7.2 Alumni Awards

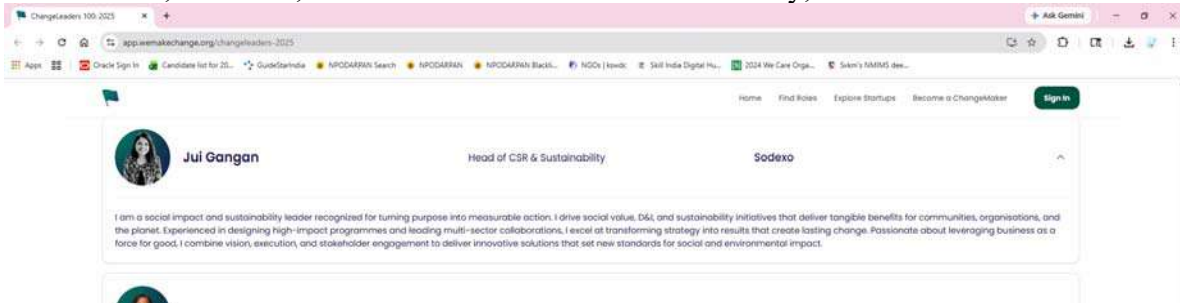
1. Arpit Oza, Alumnus NMIMS - PTMBA (SE) 2023-25, received the Community Impact Award 2025 in February 2026 at the Pitchbook Panther Awards.



2. Haresh Agarwal, Alumnus NMIMS - PTMBA (SE) 2022-24, won the Global Volunteer Award 2025 on December 10, 2025, at the Standard Chartered Employee Volunteering Recognition Awards 2025.



3. Jui Gagan was recognized as one of the Top 100 ChangeLeaders 2025. We Make Change and Blue Earth Summit hosted the ChangeLeaders 2025 awards on October 15, 2025, in London, recognizing top corporate impact leaders. The collaboration brings together founders, investors, and leaders to accelerate sustainability,



Annexure I
List of Graduating students

MBA Part-Time in Social Entrepreneurship (MBA Part-Time (SE))
Batch XVIII (2023-25)

Sr. No.	Name of the Student
1	Mr. Amit Kumar Tiwari
2	Ms. Varsha Karangutkar
3	Ms. Disha Zaveri
4	Ms. Pooja Lavate
5	Mr. Ajay Nayak
6	Mr. Swapnil Kadam
7	Ms. Priyanka Yadav
8	Mr. Siddhesh Jadhav
9	Mr. Amol Kaashyap
10	Ms. Parnashree Patil
11	Mr. Arpit Oza
12	Ms. Faiza Lakdawala
13	Mr. Akhtar Khan
14	Mr. Shrikant Salve

Annexure II
List of MAF & NMIMS Scholars

A) MBA (Part-time) in Social Entrepreneurship Batch 2025-27

a) Mirae Asset Foundation (MAF) Scholarship

Sr. No.	Name of the Student	Mirae Asset Foundation Scholarship (Amount in ₹)
1	Priyanka Mahadev Dherange	1,00,000
2	Pranoti Dharankar	1,00,000
3	Devendra Gawade	1,00,000
4	Roshan Ramesh Gajamal	1,00,000
5	Keshav Kumar Jha	1,00,000
6	Dattatrya Waghmare	1,00,000
7	Ritesh Gaikwad	1,00,000
	Total	7,00,000

b) NMIMS Scholarship

Sr. No.	Name of the Student	NMIMS Scholarship (Amount in ₹)
1	Priyanka Mahadev Dherange	1,50,000
2	Pranoti Dharankar	1,50,000
3	Devendra Gawade	1,50,000
4	Roshan Ramesh Gajamal	1,50,000
5	Keshav Kumar Jha	1,50,000
6	Dattatrya Waghmare	1,50,000
7	Ritesh Gaikwad	50,000
	Total	9,50,000

B) Full-time MBA Batch 2025-27

Mirae Asset Foundation (MAF) Scholarship

Sr. No.	Student Name	Program & Year	Mirae Asset Foundation Scholarship (Amount in ₹)
1	Arunava Dey	MBA I yr.	5,00,000
2	Glaren Sharon	MBA I yr.	5,00,000
3	Shubham Shivaji Patil	MBA I yr.	5,00,000
	Total		15,00,000

C) Full-time MBA Batch 2024-26

Mirae Asset Foundation (MAF) Scholarship

Sr. No.	Student Name	Program & Year	Mirae Asset Foundation Scholarship (Amount in ₹)
1	Nudurumati Sai Bhaskar Virinchi	MBA II yr	5,00,000
2	Somenath Karmakar	MBA II yr	5,00,000
	Total		10,00,000

Annexure III List of Seminar Papers

SVKM's NMIMS University
MBA Part Time (SE) (Batch 2024-26) - II year
Academic Year: 2025-26, Trimester: V

Student Name (Roll No)	Guide	Title	Abstract
RATNASRI (A001)	Prof. Purbasha Sarkar	Evaluating the Impact of Long-Term Capacity Building Programs by Ummeed Child Development Center	<p>Ummeed's long-term training programs aim to enhance the capacity of professionals, including doctors, pediatricians, therapists, counsellors, etc., from medical institutions, NGOs, schools, and community-based organizations, across India in child development and developmental disabilities. The impact of Ummeed's training programs was assessed by conducting a mixed-methods study involving participants from 4 courses (Oct 2022–Mar 2024). Key knowledge and skill gaps motivated professionals to enroll in these trainings. Despite prior training, many reported needing specialized skills to support children with developmental conditions through a long-term, holistic approach that includes parent guidance, environmental adaptations, and inclusive strategies.</p> <p>Impact was measured by the direct application of teachings in professional settings. Participants integrated new skills to enhance service delivery, adopt inclusive and family-centered approaches, and develop resources, thereby driving systemic change. 64 per cent of respondents reported applying more than 50 per cent of their learning in daily work, with 60 per cent making modifications to existing services or introducing new ones.</p> <p>Reported outcomes included improved professional practices, parent engagement, confidence, and child progress. Despite these positive outcomes, challenges remain. Participants highlighted barriers, including inadequate organizational support and staffing constraints, that could affect the sustainability of the implemented learnings.</p> <p>The findings reaffirm Ummeed's role in bridging gaps in the disability sector and highlight the need for ongoing supervision and collaboration to sustain inclusive practices and strengthen support for children and families.</p>
VED MORE (A002)	Dr Srinivas Ainavolu	CSR and Environmental Sustainability in India: An Analysis of Corporate Interventions in Climate Action and Biodiversity Conservation	<p>This study examines the role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in promoting environmental sustainability in India, with a focus on climate action and biodiversity conservation. It analyses trends in CSR spending, types of environmental interventions, and their effectiveness using both secondary research and primary data from CSR and sustainability professionals.</p> <p>The findings show that while corporate awareness and investment in environmental initiatives have increased in recent years, most projects remain short-term and focus on visible outputs, such as plantation drives, rather than long-term ecological outcomes. Key challenges include a lack of scientific baselines, weak monitoring</p>

Student Name (Roll No)	Guide	Title	Abstract
			<p>systems, and limited focus on biodiversity. The study highlights the need to shift towards outcome-based, long-term, and ecosystem-focused CSR strategies, supported by strong partnerships and impact measurement frameworks.</p> <p>Overall, the paper emphasizes that CSR has strong potential to contribute to India's environmental goals but requires more strategic, evidence-based implementation to create a meaningful impact.</p>
PRADEEP (A003)	Dr. Meena Galliara	<i>The Role of CSR in Addressing Child Malnutrition among Children under Five years in Maharashtra.</i>	<p>This study explores the role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in addressing child malnutrition among children under five in Maharashtra. Malnutrition remains a major public health concern, exacerbated by climate change and socio-economic inequalities. Data from national surveys highlight high levels of stunting, wasting, and underweight children in the state.</p> <p>Using an exploratory research design based on secondary data, the study analyses CSR initiatives of selected pharmaceutical companies. Key interventions include nutrition research, maternal and child healthcare programs, community-based awareness, and strengthening Anganwadi infrastructure. The findings indicate a shift from traditional philanthropy to sustainable, community-focused CSR approaches, supported by partnerships with government programs such as ICDS and Poshan Abhiyan. However, gaps remain in impact assessment and scalability.</p> <p>The study concludes that CSR can significantly complement government efforts by integrating strategies, targeting interventions, and strengthening stakeholder collaboration to improve child nutrition outcomes.</p>
SUNIL SINGH RAWAT (A004)	Prof. Simi Vij	A Study of the Functioning of Daycare Centres in Navi Mumbai	<p>This study examines the operational functioning and challenges of private daycare centres in Navi Mumbai through a stakeholder survey of 20 respondents (45 per cent management, 55 per cent teaching staff). The research reveals a sector with strong foundational structures—95 per cent role clarity, 85 per cent policy documentation, and 90 per cent compliance documentation—yet facing critical resource gaps. While physical infrastructure meets regulatory standards (80-90 per cent satisfaction), significant challenges emerge in staff training (only 50 per cent receive consistent training), learning materials (45 per cent inadequate), and compensation (35 per cent dissatisfied). Limited funding (60 per cent identify it as the primary challenge) emerges as the systemic bottleneck, cascading into staff shortages (50 per cent), turnover concerns (55 per cent), and compromised service quality. The workforce is highly educated (75 per cent with bachelor 's+ degrees) but exhibits a bimodal experience distribution, indicating retention challenges. Despite systemic pressures, 75 per cent believe centres can improve quality, identifying three equal priorities: staff training, infrastructure enhancement, and financial support.</p> <p>The research concludes that coordinated policy interventions addressing financial sustainability, professional development, and</p>

Student Name (Roll No)	Guide	Title	Abstract
			learning resources are essential to enable centres to transition from maintenance-mode operations to quality-focused early childhood development services.
POOJARANI (A005)	Dr.Swati Sisodiya	Double-Edged Delays: Economic Rewards and Emotional Strains of Late Motherhood in Urban India	<p>This paper explores late motherhood (after 30) among lower-middle-class working women in urban India, focusing on Mumbai.</p> <p>Qualitative interviews show that delaying motherhood is often a strategic decision shaped by financial stability and partner choice.</p>
VIKASH YADAV (A006)	Dr.Swati Sisodiya	Lived Experiences, Psychological Impact, and Social Stigma among Retinoblastoma Survivors and Their Families: A Qualitative Study	<p>Retinoblastoma, a rare childhood cancer, extends beyond medical challenges to deeply affect the psychological and social well-being of survivors and their families. This qualitative study explores lived experiences, emotional impact, and stigma among retinoblastoma survivors in India through in-depth interviews with survivors and caregivers. The findings highlight significant caregiver distress, financial strain, and long-term challenges among survivors, including low self-confidence, social isolation, and body image concerns. Despite these adversities, strong resilience and support systems emerge as key strengths. The study underscores the urgent need for holistic, survivor-centered care integrating psychosocial support, awareness, and inclusive policies to improve long-term quality of life.</p>
SUJATA DHANKE (A007)	Prof. Simi Vij	A Study of the role of Non-Governmental Organizations in implementing the NIPUN Bharat Programme in India.	<p>Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) is essential for all future learning and overall student development. India faces a significant learning gap, with many elementary-aged children lacking basic literacy and numeracy skills. The NIPUN Bharat Programme aims to ensure that every child aged 3–9 attains foundational learning competencies by 2026–27.</p> <p>Government school teachers and NGO field workers play a crucial role in implementing the programme. Teachers actively engage in FLN-focused classroom practices, remedial support, and efforts to increase parental participation, despite managing large class sizes and high administrative workloads. NGO field workers complement these efforts by providing teacher training, classroom support, learning materials, monitoring, and community engagement.</p> <p>The study finds that while both teachers and NGO field workers make significant contributions, their effectiveness is limited by workload pressures, resource constraints, training gaps, and coordination challenges with education authorities. This study examines their roles, identifies key challenges, and offers recommendations to strengthen collaboration and improve foundational learning outcomes in India.</p>
AMIT (A008)	Dr.Swati Sisodiya	Exploring the Socio-Economic Impact of Diabetes and	<p>This study examines the socio-economic impact of diabetes and hypertension on education, nutrition, and livelihood among the Siddi community in Gujarat, a historically marginalized population facing limited access to healthcare and economic opportunities. The rising prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes</p>

Student Name (Roll No)	Guide	Title	Abstract
		Hypertension on Education,	<p>and hypertension in low-income tribal populations has created a dual burden of health challenges and financial hardship. These chronic conditions increase household expenditure on medication, diagnostics, and long-term care, thereby reducing available resources for food, education, and income-generating activities. Previous studies highlight that chronic illnesses contribute to productivity loss, reduced earnings, and intergenerational disadvantages, particularly in vulnerable communities.</p> <p>The present research adopts a cross-sectional descriptive design focusing on Siddi households in Jambur and the nearby villages of Junagadh district, Gujarat. Approximately 40–50 households with at least one member diagnosed with diabetes or hypertension will be included. Primary data will be collected through semi-structured questionnaires, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews, while secondary data will be sourced from the WHO, ICMR, NFHS-5, and related literature. Quantitative data will be analyzed using descriptive statistics to estimate income loss, healthcare expenditure, and educational disruptions. In contrast, qualitative data will be analyzed thematically to understand coping mechanisms and socio-economic challenges.</p> <p>The study aims to assess direct and indirect costs of chronic diseases, examine their influence on nutrition, education, and livelihood, and recommend sustainable community-based interventions. The findings are expected to provide evidence for integrated health and socio-economic programs that reduce disease burden, improve household resilience, and support inclusive development among the Siddi community.</p>
MOHIT (A009)	Srinivas Ainavolu (Dr.)	Nutrition and Livelihood of the Siddi Community in Gujarat	<p>Decentralized solar energy has become a vital enabler of sustainable rural development in India by providing clean, affordable, and inclusive energy solutions. Despite significant progress in national electrification, challenges related to reliability, affordability, and productive energy use persist. This paper explores how solar energy, when coupled with social entrepreneurship, can transform rural communities by improving livelihoods, education, health, and gender equity. It synthesizes findings from national programs, global reports, and scholarly literature, identifies implementation gaps, and proposes a framework for scaling inclusive solar models through innovation, financing, and community engagement.</p>
Perpetual Fernandes (A010)	Dr Satish Kajjer	Digital Readiness In Indian Government Primary Schools: An Analysis Of Infrastructure And Digital Usage Among Children	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic hastened the adoption of technology, and digital readiness has become a foundational need for educational advancement. Despite various government programs such as Digital India, DIKSHA, and the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, substantial gaps remain in the accessibility and practical utility of digital infrastructure within India’s government primary schools.</p> <p>This research examines digital preparedness by evaluating two specific variables: the availability of digital infrastructure and the frequency of digital tool usage among elementary students. Using a mixed-methods approach, the study analyzes primary data gathered</p>

Student Name (Roll No)	Guide	Title	Abstract
			<p>from 15 NGO field workers active in Mumbai’s government schools, alongside secondary data from NCERT and ASER publications.</p> <p>The results suggest that while the majority of schools possess digital hardware, its functionality, accessibility, and actual use are significantly limited. Students primarily engage in the passive viewing of instructional videos rather than participating in hands-on digital literacy activities. Furthermore, systemic barriers, maintenance backlogs, and deficiencies in teacher preparedness severely limit the educational value of existing infrastructure. To cultivate sustainable digital readiness, the study recommends equitable resource distribution, the integration of structured digital curricula, reliable maintenance agreements, and comprehensive teacher training.</p>
WRUTTIKA (A012)	Dr Satish Kajjer	A study on Problems of Construction Workers in the Akola Taluka	This study examines occupational health hazards and the accessibility of welfare schemes among construction workers in Akola Taluka, using data from 31 workers. It finds that unsafe working conditions, low awareness, administrative delays, and complex procedures limit workers’ access to benefits under the BOCW Act.
Vaibhav Buddhadev (A013)	Dr Srinivas Ainavolu	Precarity and Protection: A Social Development Perspective on Gig Workers in Mumbai	<p>India’s rapidly expanding gig economy is redefining urban labour, particularly in Mumbai, where app-based platforms such as Swiggy, Zomato, Ola, Uber, and Rapido have created large-scale, flexible employment opportunities. While these platforms provide income opportunities for youth and migrants, they also create structural vulnerabilities—algorithmic control, fluctuating earnings, and a lack of social protection.</p> <p>This paper analyses the socio-economic conditions of Mumbai’s gig workers through a social development lens, combining a policy review with exploratory field insights. It examines institutional gaps in welfare delivery and proposes a holistic model for gig-worker social protection that aligns with India’s national frameworks and G20 commitments. The study aims to contribute to policy advocacy and institutional design by integrating government, corporate, and NGO initiatives to promote dignity, equity, and sustainable livelihoods in the gig economy.</p>
Hussaina Palana (A014)	Prof. Simi Vij	Role of Parents of Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders in Early Childhood Interventions Through the Medium of Play	This study examines the role of parents in early childhood interventions for children with neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) through play-based approaches. Grounded in the concept of neuroplasticity, the study emphasizes that the early years (2–6 years) present a critical window for developmental support. Adopting a qualitative research design, data were collected through semi-structured interviews with parents and occupational therapists. The study examines parental perspectives on play-based interventions and analyzes how parental involvement influences children’s developmental and behavioral outcomes. Findings reveal that play serves as a powerful developmental tool, supporting communication, emotional regulation, motor skills, and social interaction. Parent-mediated interventions were found to enhance learning by extending therapeutic practices into daily routines. However, several barriers—

Student Name (Roll No)	Guide	Title	Abstract
			<p>such as delayed diagnosis, lack of awareness, financial constraints, accessibility issues, and social stigma—limit the effectiveness of early intervention.</p> <p>The study also highlights that active parental involvement significantly improves school-readiness behaviors, including self-regulation, communication, and adaptability. At the same time, parental engagement is influenced by stress, lack of support, and socio-economic factors. Overall, the research underscores the importance of family-centered, play-based intervention models and calls for improved awareness, accessibility, and support systems to maximize developmental outcomes for children with NDDs.</p>
Rithvik Shetty (A015)	Dr Satish Kajjer	Sustainability in Supply Chain	<p>This research study examines the growing importance of sustainability in supply chain management (SCM), particularly in the Indian manufacturing sector, where regulatory frameworks such as the Companies Act, 2013, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have made sustainability a strategic and compliance-driven priority. It highlights that supply chains—spanning sourcing, production, logistics, and end-of-life processes—are key contributors to environmental and social impact, making Sustainable Supply Chain Management (SSCM) essential for balancing economic, environmental, and social objectives. The study reviews the existing literature to identify major drivers, such as digital technologies, regulatory pressure, and consumer awareness, alongside key barriers, including high implementation costs, a lack of supplier coordination, and fragmented data systems.</p> <p>A major focus is on Green Logistics, which involves reducing emissions, implementing reverse logistics, leveraging technology-driven optimization, and adopting collaborative logistics models to improve efficiency while minimizing environmental harm. The research is based on primary data collected from 14 SCM professionals through structured questionnaires, analyzed using basic statistical tools, and supported by qualitative insights. Findings indicate strong awareness of sustainability practices among professionals and a gradual integration of green initiatives across organizations; however, implementation remains inconsistent due to challenges such as cost constraints, limited infrastructure, and the absence of standardized sustainability metrics. Overall, the study concludes that sustainable supply chain practices are critical for long-term operational efficiency, risk mitigation, and environmental responsibility, and emphasizes the need for stronger policy support, technological adoption, and stakeholder collaboration to drive wider implementation in India.</p>
Emaran Tiwale (A016)	Dr. Meena Galliara	Empowering Rural Women through Climate-Resilient Food Systems: A Study of the Ma Ki Roti (MKR) Model in India	<p>This paper examines the Ma Ki Roti (MKR) Model as an innovative approach to women’s empowerment through sustainable food enterprises in India. Positioned at the intersection of climate change, gender equity, and livelihood generation, the model enables rural and urban women to engage in community-based food systems such as kitchens, canteens, and nutrition centres. The study adopts a qualitative, exploratory research design focusing on two MKR centres in Maharashtra—Gadchiroli (rural/tribal) and Pune (urban).</p>

Student Name (Roll No)	Guide	Title	Abstract
			<p>The findings reveal that the MKR Model delivers a “triple dividend” by enhancing livelihood security, improving access to nutrition, and promoting ecological sustainability through climate-resilient practices such as local sourcing and minimal waste. In rural contexts, the model strengthens community cohesion, preserves traditional food systems, and provides supplemental income. In urban settings, it demonstrates scalability, regular income generation, and market integration.</p> <p>The study highlights the role of women-led collective enterprises in building economic agency, decision-making power, and resilience against climate vulnerabilities. Despite contextual differences, both centres show significant improvements in women’s confidence, financial participation, and social recognition. The paper concludes that the MKR Model is a replicable and scalable framework for inclusive development that aligns with key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and recommends context-specific adaptation, capacity building, and stronger monitoring mechanisms to achieve broader impact.</p>
Linsa Elizabeth (A017)	Srinivas Ainavolu (Dr.)	An Exploratory Study on the Livelihood Practices and Value Chain of the Waghri (Devipujak) Community: Pathways Towards Sustainable Integration	<p>This study examines the livelihood practices and value chain of the Waghri (Devipujak) community, a marginalized group central to India’s informal post-consumer textile recycling system. Despite their significant role in enabling circularity by collecting, sorting, reusing, and redistributing textile waste, the community remains economically vulnerable and socially excluded. Using an exploratory qualitative approach, the study is based on semi-structured interviews with community members and Textile Recovery Facility stakeholders in Mumbai. It maps the end-to-end value chain, highlighting two key pathways: resale of reusable garments and processing of low-value textile waste (chindi). Findings reveal that while the community contributes substantially to waste reduction and resource efficiency, they face structural barriers, including a lack of formal recognition, limited access to financial and legal systems, gendered labor roles, and vulnerability to market fluctuations. The study also identifies a gap between value creation and value capture, where upstream workers bear risks but receive lower returns.</p> <p>The paper recommends inclusive policy design, improved infrastructure, and greater financial access to integrate informal recyclers into sustainable and equitable circular-economy frameworks.</p>
Vijaykumar Bansode (A018)	Dr. Meena Galliara	Vocational Training Dropout Among Underprivileged Youth in Mumbai: Case Study of Yuva Parivartan	<p>Vocational training programs implemented by KSWA’s Yuva Parivartan play a critical role in promoting social development by enhancing employability among underprivileged youth in urban India. Despite their importance, many such programs experience high dropout rates, thereby weakening the intended social and economic outcomes. This seminar paper examines personal and institutional factors contributing to dropout from KSWA’s Yuva Parivartan vocational training programs in Mumbai. Using primary data simulated from 16 respondents (8 male and 8 female) who</p>

Student Name (Roll No)	Guide	Title	Abstract
			discontinued vocational training, the study analyses motivations for joining, challenges faced during training, institutional support mechanisms, and perceived barriers to course completion. The findings reveal that financial hardship, family responsibilities, immediate income needs, inadequate placement support, and limited counselling services are major contributors to dropout. The paper concludes by recommending integrated support systems including flexible schedules, financial assistance, counselling, mentoring, and stronger industry linkages. The study contributes to the field of social development by emphasizing that vocational training must address broader socio-economic realities to achieve sustainable employability outcomes.
Ashish James (A019)	Dr Satish Kajjer	Impact of Eco Tourism on Rural Livelihoods in Raigad	Eco-tourism has become an important way to promote sustainable development by combining environmental protection with improving the lives of people who live in rural areas. This study examines the effects of eco-tourism on rural livelihoods in the Raigad district of Maharashtra, an area noted for its ecological diversity and reliance on conventional economic practices. The study employs a mixed-method research design, utilising primary data gathered from 30 respondents via a structured questionnaire to evaluate changes in income, employment, livelihood diversification, and environmental awareness. The results show that eco-tourism is good for making money, creating jobs, and helping young people and women start their own businesses. But the benefits are still not evenly distributed, and problems such as seasonal income patterns, poor infrastructure, and environmental pressures persist. The study finds that eco-tourism could be a great way to help rural areas in Raigad grow in a sustainable way. However, for it to work in the long term, it needs to be planned with everyone in mind, build capacity, share benefits fairly, and manage the environment well. To make sure that eco-tourism helps both people make a living and protect the environment, it is important to strengthen community involvement and policy support.
MANSI (B001)	DR MEENA Galliard	Corporate Social Responsibility as a Driver of Digital Access and STEM Education in India: Aligning CSR Interventions with NEP-2020	This study examines how Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is contributing to digital access and STEM education in India, particularly in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP-2020). It highlights that India is unique in mandating CSR spending, with a significant portion (44 per cent) directed toward education, especially digital learning initiatives. The research shows that CSR has evolved from simple funding to becoming a strategic driver of educational development, supporting infrastructure (like smart classrooms and devices), advanced skill training (AI, coding), and teacher capacity-building.

Annexure IV List of Business Plans

SVKM's NMIMS University
MBA Part Time (SE) (Batch 2024-26) - II year
Academic Year: 2025-26, Trimester: VI

Roll No Name student	B-Plan Title	B-Plan Abstract/Brief
A001- RATNASRI, A008 – Amit Dhawade, A015 – Rithvik Shetty, A018 – Vijaykumar Bansode	IMPACT-FIRST, BUT BUSINESS-DRIVEN - BUSINESS PLAN FOR SAKHI STITCH ENTERPRISES	Sakhi Stitch Enterprises, based in Badlapur, is a social enterprise formed to offer sustainable livelihood opportunities to local underprivileged women while delivering quality, affordable, and stylish ethnic wear. The company plans to manufacture garments specializing in women's ethnic Kurtis priced between ₹ 500 and ₹ 3,000. Sakhi Stitch Enterprises will focus on daily-wear, office-wear, and festive Kurtis, combining standardized production processes with strong quality control to ensure consistent sizing and finishing. The products will be distributed through online marketplaces such as Myntra, an e-commerce website and social media page. The plan is to expand and scale to other online marketplaces after stabilising for the first 5-7 years of operations. Sakhi Stitch Enterprises plans to build a scalable business model that integrates social impact with business sustainability, generating steady income for women workers while also establishing a trusted local ethnic-wear brand.
A002 VED MORE, A006 Yadav, A014 Hussaina Palana, A016 Emaran Tiwale	Circular Textile Waste Recovery	Sutrakar Circular Foundation is a TRF based in Thane that addresses the growing challenge of post-consumer textile waste while generating sustainable livelihoods for women. The model operates through a five-stream approach—reuse, upcycling, recycling, downcycling, and energy recovery—to maximize value extraction from discarded textiles.
003 PRADEEP, A007 Sujata, A009 Mohit Vaidya, A010 Perpetual	Interior designing	Homes that reflect your roots - Smart Interiors, a residential interior renovation service provider focused on delivering professional design and execution services for apartment interiors. The business aims to simplify the renovation process for homeowners by offering integrated services that combine interior design, renovation execution, and project management. Unlike traditional renovation contractors who operate informally, Smart Interiors seeks to provide a structured approach to interior renovation through standardized processes, transparent pricing, and professional project management. The primary target customers for Smart Interior are middle- and upper-middle-income homeowners who require reliable, professionally managed renovation services.
A004 SUNIL SINGH RAWAT, A013 Vaibhav B, A017 Linsa,	NestWise Co-Living	NESTWISE is a co-living and PG accommodation business in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region that offers affordable, flexible housing for students and young professionals. It operates on a rental arbitrage model, leasing flats and renting out individual beds with transparent pricing and no long lock-ins. The venture focuses on high-demand areas and offers mid-premium amenities, aiming to deliver quality, convenience, and scalable urban living solutions.

Roll No Name student	B-Plan Title	B-Plan Abstract/Brief
A005 POOJARANI, A012 Wruttika, A019 Ashish J, B001 Mansi S	Dynamic Edu Support Foundation: An Inclusive STEM Education Model for Underserved Students in Vasai- Bhoisar area	The business plan proposes Dynamic Edu Support Foundation, a social enterprise that aims to provide affordable STEM education, mentorship, and career guidance to underserved students. The initiative focuses on bridging the gap between school education and competitive exams like NEET and JEE through small-batch coaching, personalized mentoring, and scholarships. By targeting low-income and first-generation learners, the foundation seeks to improve access to quality education and enhance students' academic and career opportunities. The model combines social impact with a sustainable and scalable education support system.

Annexure V
Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace

Foundation Program 2025: Session for MBA (Core) & MBA (HR)

Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Venue: Mukesh Patel Auditorium

Speaker: Advocate Mallika Verma



Annexure VI Mirae Asset Foundation Project Report

MoU between Mirae Asset Foundation and Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal (SVKM)
January 12, 2026



Annexure VII

We Care: Civic Engagement Internship - Glimpses

A) Field Execution

Educational Support & Financial Literacy



Digital & AI Literacy Workshops



Farmer Awareness & Survey



Awareness on Girl Education



Medical Camps



Impact Assessment



Women Empowerment & Marketing Support



Entrepreneurship and Employment Awareness Session



B) Poster Presentation



Annexure VIII
Lenses of Care: We Care Documentary Film Fest

A) List of Participants and Winners

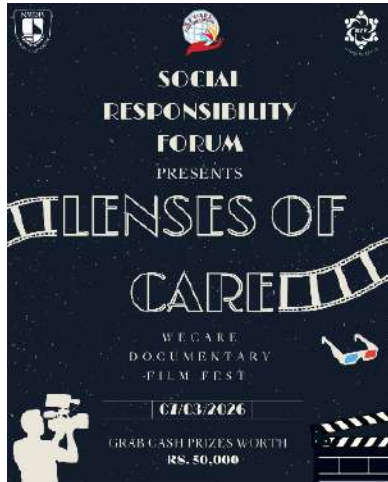
Sr. No	Team No.	Team Name	Student Name	Position	Internship Organization
1	1	Team Ophelia	Sejal Chopra	Winner	Tata Chemicals Society for Rural Development (TCSRDR), Mithapur
2			Purva Jignesh Paun		
3	2	Blitz	Argo Dutta	1 st Runner Up	Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), Bokaro
4			Md Nawaz Hussain		
5	3	Samriddhi Setu	Mohini Dey	2 nd Runner Up	Help & Helps Samiti, Raipur
6			Aditya Mishra		
7	4	NIRMANA	Puru Chitkara	Finalists	NIRMANA, New Delhi
8			Sanyam Jain		
9			Akshit Suri		
10			Siddhant Kaushal		
11			Dheeraj Munjal		
12	5	NMstory.tellers	Hishansh Wadhvani	Finalists	Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS), Jodhpur
13			Dikasha Tharwani		
14	6	prerit.udasi381	Prerit Udasi	Finalists	Salaam Bombay Foundation (SBF), Mumbai
15			Isha Rajesh Gala		
16			Garima Bhatt		
17			Anas Sheikh		
18			Paliakkara Joy		
19			Vaidehi Shah		
20	7	khushi.nahar859	Khushi Nahar	Registered	Naya Sawera, Jaipur
21	8	SSF	Pramita	Registered	Spread Smile Foundation Trust, Sonipat
22	9	ICare	Yash Padia	Registered	Ekjut India, Chakradharpur
23	10	aaryaa.gholkar138	Aaryaa Gholkar	Participants	Salaam Bombay Foundation (SBF), Mumbai
24			Ankita Nair		
25			Aditi Hegishte		
26			Pritish Kulkarni		
27			Jiya Mathew		
28			Aashutosh Tiwari		
29	11	rishav.seth676	Rishav Seth	Registered	Food Education and Economic Development Society (FEED), Asansol
30	12	SSF	Parth Dhiman	Participants	Spread Smile Foundation Trust, Sonipat
31	13	Aseema	Aryan Khandelwal	Registered	Aseema, Mumbai
32			Shilpi Panwar		
33	14	tanisha.arora528	Tanisha Arora	Registered	Vidya Integrated Development for Youth and Adults (VIDYA), Gurugram
34			Yuvraj Gupta		
35			Akshat Singh		

Sr. No	Team No.	Team Name	Student Name	Position	Internship Organization
36			Nishtha Bhasin		
37	15	vedika.gupta786	Vedika Gupta	Participants	Azad Foundation, Jaipur
38			Kanika Goyal		
39			Akshat Chhangani		
40			Abhishek Mathur		
41	16	prajwal.indalkar580	Prajwal Prakash Indalkar	Participants	Swami Brahmanand Pratishtan, CBD Belapur
42	17	arunava.dey429	Arunava Dey	Registered	Swami Vivekananda Vani Prachar Samity, Durgapur
43			Subarna Mitra		
44			Somnath Dey		
45			Hindol Bose		
46	18	Gram Vikas Trust	Avinash Prasad	Registered	Gram Vikas Trust, Bharuch
47			Ishan Gupta		
48	19	Team Pegasus	Shashank B M	Registered	Deenabandhu, Bengaluru
49			Bharath Panchakshari		
50	20	manvi.maheshwari353	Manvi Maheshwari	Participants	Caring Souls Foundation (CASOF), Lucknow
51			Shashwat Mishra		
52	21	anushka.sharma767	Anushka Sharma	Participants	Aarambh Education & Community Development Society, Bhopal
53			Ekta Dubey		
54			Nandini Madrey		
55	22	Santiniketan Strategists	Animesh Mondal	Registered	Elmhirst Institute Of Community Studies, Shantiniketan
56	23	pradyuman.sharma096	Pradyuman Sharma	Participants	Salaam Bombay Foundation (SBF), Mumbai
57			Hemish Shah		
58			Raksha Nayak		
59			Saumil Joshi		
60			Riya Solanki		
61			Siddhi Panchal		
62			Vatsal Parikh		
63			Harsh Shah		
64	24	Sunshine	Suhani Gupta	Participants	Prangan Foundation, Dombivli
65	25	Umang	Sejal Baid	Participants	Umang, Jaipur
66			Chirag Sonkhiya		
67	26	DV	Dhrupal Vagadia	Registered	Saurashtra Medical & Educational Charitable Trust (SMECT), Rajkot
68			Shah Vishwa		
69	27	adit.gupta628	Adit Gupta	Participants	Shramik Bharti, Kanpur
70			Kavya Dwivedi		
71			Vaibhav Tiwari		
72			Nilesh Gupta		
73	28	rashioberoi.oberoi598	Rashi Oberoi	Registered	Uttejana Foundation, New Delhi
74			Madhur Garg		
75			Pratham Arora		
76			Kiratjit Singh		

Sr. No	Team No.	Team Name	Student Name	Position	Internship Organization
77			Prarthna		
78	29	Samvednaa	Stuti Thacker	Registered	Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), Ahmedabad
79			Desai Jayshil Shashank		
80			Shashank Srivastava		

B) Glimpses: Lenses of Care

Poster:



Documentaries:



Annexure IX
Ignite: We Innovate for Good Competition 2026

A) List of Participants and Winners

Sr. No.	Team No.	Team Name	Student Name	Status	Internship Organization
1	1	DV	Dhrupal Vagadia	Winner	Saurashtra Medical & Educational Charitable Trust (SMECT), Rajkot
2			Vishwa Shah		
3	2	AI Samarth	Pradyuman Sharma	1 st Runner Up	Salaam Bombay Foundation, Mumbai
4			Vatsal Parikh		
5			Siddhi Panchal		
6			Riya Solanki		
7			Saumil Joshi		
8			Hemish Shah		
9			Raksha Nayak		
10			Harsh Shah		
11	3	The Innovator	Rishav Seth	2 nd Runner Up	Food Education and Economic Development Society (FEED), Asansol
12	4	Blitz	Argho Dutta	Finalists	Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), Bokaro
13			Md Nawaz Hussain		
14	5	tanisha.agrawal189	Tanisha Agrawal	Finalists	Salaam Bombay Foundation, Mumbai
15			Shikhar Rohela		
16	6	aditi.hegishhte184	Aditi Hegishte	Finalists	Salaam Bombay Foundation, Mumbai
17			Aashutosh Tiwari		
18			Pritish Kulkarni		
19			Ankita Nair		
20			Jiya Mathew		
21			Aaryaa Gholkar		
22	7	pramita176	Pramita	Participants	Spread Smile Foundation Trust, Sonipat
23			Parth Dhiman		
24	8	Catalyst Crew	Naureen Rehman	Registered	Association for Social and Health Advancement (ASHA), Kolkata
25			Shubham Agarwal		
26			Atrirup Basu		
27			Anindita Das		
28	9	Team Pratibha	Sonali Maheshwari	Registered	Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA), Ahmedabad
29			Vartika Desai		
30			Alok Abhayajith		
31			Shah Kamlesh		
32	10	Igniters	Aryan Khandelwal	Registered	Aseema, Bandra

Sr. No.	Team No.	Team Name	Student Name	Status	Internship Organization
33			Shilpi Panwar		
34	11	Vanguard	Pratham Jain	Registered	Purbottar Vikash Parishad, Tinsukia
35	12	vedika.gupta786	Vedika Gupta	Registered	Azad Foundation, Jaipur
36			Abhishek Mathur		
37			Kanika Goyal		
38			Akshat Chhangani		
39	14	amersha.jaiswal183	Amersha Jaiswal	Participants	Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, Bengaluru
40			Koney Sai Keerthi		
41			Arjun Sree Madhav		
42			Dhruv Mahajan		
43	15	arunava.dey429	Subarna Mitra	Participants	Swami Vivekananda Vani Prachar Samity (SVVPS), Durgapur
44			Somnath Dey		
45			Arunava Dey		
46			Hindol Bose		
47	16	The Innovators	Shashank B M	Registered	Deenabandhu, Bengaluru
48			Bharath Panchakshari		
49	17	Santiniketan Strategists	Animesh Mondal	Registered	Elmhirst Institute Of Community Studies, Santiniketan
50	18	gayatrilkulkarni99	Gayatri Kulkarni	Registered	Savitribai Phule Mahila Ekatmata Samaj Mandal (SPMESM), Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar
51	19	rashioberoi.oberoi598	Rashi Oberoi	Participants	Uttejana Foundation, New Delhi
52			Madhur Garg		
53			Kiratjit Singh		
54			Pratham Arora		
55			Prarthna		
56	20	Shiksha Rath	Ansh Sachdeva	Participants	Shiksha Rath, New Delhi
57			Jalaj Verma		
58			Madhav Jauhari		
59	21	BREDS_MAYA	Samridh Srivastava	Registered	Bapuji Rural Enlightenment and Development Society (BREDS), Visakhapatnam
60			Sai Krishnaja Regulagedda		
61			Rishi Sri Bandaru		

B) Business Ideas Submitted by Winning Teams

Winning Teams (Team Members) NGO Name	Abstract: Idea Presented
<p>DV (Ms. Dhruval Vagadia, Ms. Vishwa Shah)</p> <p>Project Life, Saurashtra Medical & Educational Charitable Trust (SMECT), Ahmedabad</p>	<p>Project Life Digital Ecosystem Platform is an innovative social business model designed to digitally transform the operations of livelihood-focused NGOs and create sustainable economic opportunities for women. The platform addresses critical gaps in training management, market access, and impact measurement through a three-layer digital ecosystem comprising a Digital Training Management System, a Digital Marketplace, and a Real-Time Impact Dashboard. Leveraging cost-effective technologies such as Google Workspace, AppSheet, WhatsApp Business, ONDC, and Razorpay, the platform enables NGOs to manage trainee records, assessments, certifications, alumni tracking, and product sales within a single integrated system. The solution targets a sector with over 3.4 million NGOs in India and responds to the growing demand for accountability in a CSR ecosystem that recorded annual spending of ₹29,000+ crore, while supporting women whose workforce participation remains around 37%.</p> <p>The platform is projected to digitally register and track 200+ women trainees annually, achieve 85%+ training completion rates, onboard 150–200 women entrepreneurs to digital marketplaces, and generate an average 30–40% increase in participant income through online sales channels. Real-time dashboards will improve donor engagement by over 60%, enabling transparent reporting of training outcomes, employment generation, revenue growth, and social impact. With an estimated implementation cost of only ₹30,000–₹50,000, the model remains highly scalable and financially sustainable through product sales commissions, corporate gifting partnerships, CSR-funded programs, and platform licensing. Over the next five years, Project Life aims to empower 5,000+ women entrepreneurs, expand across multiple NGOs, and establish a technology-driven ecosystem that strengthens employability, enhances income generation, and delivers measurable social impact at scale.</p>
<p>AI Samarth (Siddhi Panchal, Harsh Shah, Raksha Nayak, Saumil Joshi, Hemish Shah, Vatsal Parikh, Pradyuman Sharma, and Riya Solanki)</p> <p>Salaam Bombay Foundation, Mumbai</p>	<p>Presented “Project UDAAN AI”, an initiative aimed at helping students from municipal and government schools learn the basics of Artificial Intelligence and digital skills. The idea was created to reduce the growing digital gap between students from privileged and underprivileged backgrounds. The project focuses on providing simple and easy-to-understand AI learning modules in partnership with NGOs, schools, and CSR organizations. Along with student learning, the initiative also plans to train teachers to teach AI concepts in classrooms confidently.</p> <p>The project follows a step-by-step implementation plan, starting with pilot programs in selected municipal schools in Mumbai and later expanding to other cities. Students will be introduced to topics such as basic AI concepts, ethical use of technology, and real-life applications of AI through interactive activities and workshops. The team also proposed using simple digital platforms to track student progress and measure improvements in learning outcomes. By creating awareness and improving digital skills, the project aims to make students more confident and better prepared for future career opportunities.</p> <p>To ensure long-term growth, the team suggested collaborating with NGOs, educational institutions, government bodies, and corporate CSR partners. The initiative plans to spread awareness through workshops, social media campaigns, and school engagement programs. Funding for the project would come from CSR sponsorships, grants, teacher training programs, and partnerships with organizations supporting digital education. The long-term vision of Project UDAAN AI is to make AI education accessible to students across India and to help create a more inclusive, future-ready learning environment.</p>

Winning Teams (Team Members) NGO Name	Abstract: Idea Presented
Innovator (Rishav Seth) Food Education and Economic Development Society (FEED), Asansol	<p>Presented “GaonRoots: A Tribal Experience & Rural Enterprise Hub”, a community-owned experiential tourism and rural commerce model aimed at generating sustainable livelihoods for tribal communities while preserving indigenous culture and traditions. The project addresses challenges such as limited employment opportunities, exploitation by middlemen, cultural erosion, low female workforce participation, and migration of tribal youth to urban areas.</p> <p>The model proposes eco-friendly village stays where visitors can experience authentic rural life through farm-to-table dining, craft workshops, folk performances, farming activities, and cultural experiences. GaonRoots integrates tourism with direct sales of tribal handmade products, enabling villagers to earn income through hospitality, workshops, and marketplace participation. Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) play a major role in hospitality, product manufacturing, and cultural activities, promoting women-led entrepreneurship and financial independence.</p> <p>The business model is supported through multiple revenue streams, including accommodation, food experiences, workshops, product sales, and corporate or educational retreat programs. Digital platforms, QR-based systems, and social media storytelling help build long-term market access for tribal products. The initiative aims to create a scalable “Tribal Experience Network” that strengthens rural economies, preserves cultural heritage, and promotes inclusive community development through sustainable tourism and rural enterprise.</p>

C) Glimpses : Ignite: We Innovate for Good 2026

Poster:



Participants presenting their Business Ideas:



Annexure X
We Digitize: Making Digital Difference

A) List of Participants and Winners

Sr. No	Team No.	Team Name	Student Name	Position	Internship Organization
1	1	Narcotics	Sheron Singh	Winner	Society for Promotion of Youth & Masses (SPYM), Chandigarh
2			Garima Singla		
3	2	UWF	Dhiren Jadhav	1 st Runner Up	Udaan Welfare Foundation, Thane
4			Sanskruiti Chavan		
5			Manasi Kulkarni		
6	3	aaryaa.gholkar138	Aaryaa Paresh Gholkar	2 nd Runner Up	Salaam Bombay Foundation (SBF), Mumbai
7			Aditi Hegishte		
8			Aashutosh Tiwari		
9			Jiya Jacob Mathew		
10			Ankita Girijan Nair		
11			Pritish Kulkarni		
12	4	gayatrilkulkarni99	Gayatri Kulkarni	Finalists	Savitribai Phule Mahila Ekamata Samaj Mandal (SPMESM), Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar
13	5	ASHA 2.0	Naureen Rehman	Finalists	Association for Social and Health Advancement (ASHA), Kolkata (Bidhannagar)
14			Shubham Agarwal		
15			Anindita Das		
16			Atrirup Basu		
17	6	jatin.bhagchandani208	Jatin Bhagchandani	Finalists	Kotak Education Foundation, Deonar
18	7	KULT_Ops	Srushti Sanjay Sali	Finalists	
19	8	tanisha.agrawal189	Tanisha Agrawal	Finalists	Salaam Bombay Foundation (SBF), Mumbai
20			Shikhar Rohela		
21	9	Mavericks	Anushka Berry	Registered	Project Flashlight, Jabalpur
22	10	SSF	Pramita	Participants	Spread Smile Foundation Trust, Sonipat
23			Parth Dhiman		
24	11	rishav.seth676	Rishav Seth	Participants	Food Education and Economic Development Society (FEED), Asansol
25	12	Blitz	Argho Dutta	Registered	Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), Bokaro
26			Md Nawaz Hussain		
27	13	arunava.dey429	Arunava Dey	Participants	Swami Vivekananda Vani Prachar Samity, Durgapur
28			Hindol Bose		
29			Subarna Mitra		
30			Somnath Dey		
31	14	aryan.khandelwal46	Aryan Khandelwal	Registered	Aseema, Mumbai
32			Shilpi Panwar		
33	15	vedika.gupta786	Vedika Gupta	Registered	Azad Foundation, Jaipur

Sr. No	Team No.	Team Name	Student Name	Position	Internship Organization
34			Abhishek Mathur		
35			Kanika Goyal		
36			Akshat Chhangani		
37	16	Digi Impacteers	Amersha Jaiswal	Registered	Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, Bengaluru
38			Arjun Sree Madhav		
39	17	Team Pegasus	Shashank B M	Registered	Deenabandhu, Bengaluru
40			Bharath Panchakshari		
41	18	Santiniketan Strategists	Animesh Mondal	Registered	Elmhirst Institute Of Community Studies, Shantiniketan
42	19	ruchir.sadana806	Ruchir Sadana	Registered	Child Survival India, New Delhi
43	20	Social Sync	Kushagra Mehta	Registered	Shubhakshika Education Society, New Delhi
44			Arushi Bhandula		
45			Aryan Goyal		
46	21	AI Samarth	Pradyuman Sharma	Participants	Salaam Bombay Foundation (SBF), Mumbai
47			Vatsal Amit Parikh		
48			Siddhi Sanjay Panchal		
49			Riya Narendra Solanki		
50			Saumil Hemant Joshi		
51			Hemish Bhavesh Shah		
52			Raksha Nayak		
53			Harsh Alpesh Shah		
54	22	Umang	Sejal Baid	Registered	Umang, Jaipur
55			Chirag Sonkhiya		
56	23	Team LOLT	Neelay Rakesh Jagani	Participants	Light of Life Trust, Bandra
57			Tania Himmat Ramavat		
58			Dhwani Kalpesh Paradia		
59	24	DV	Dhrupal Vagadia	Registered	Saurashtra Medical & Educational Charitable Trust (SMECT), Rajkot
60			Shah Vishwa		
61	25	madhur.garg262	Madhur Garg	Participants	Uttejana Foundation, New Delhi
62			Prarthna		
63			Rashi Oberoi		
64			Pratham Arora		
65			Kiratjit Singh		
66	26	JanPragati	Siddharth Dev	Registered	Jan Pragati, Lucknow
67			Anmol Gupta		
68			Anmol Bajpai		
69	27	Janvi riders	Mythri M	Participants	Janvi Charitable Trust, Chandivali (Saki naka)
70	28	ansh.sachdeva415	Ansh Sachdeva	Registered	Shiksha Rath, New Delhi

B) Glimpses: Lenses of Care

Poster:



Presentations by the participants:




Annexure XI
Dolphin Tanki – Fifth Edition

A) Award Winners

Sr. No	Name	Trade	Location	Rank
Gold				
1	Prachi Dhuria	Photography	Mumbai	
2	Harsh Maru	Video Editing	Mumbai	Gold
3	Archana Bansode	Video Editing	Mumbai	Gold
4	Manisha Prasad	Beauty & Wellness	Mumbai	Gold
5	Aman Kanojiya	Home Appliances	Mumbai	Gold
6	Alfiya Naz	Beauty & Wellness	Mumbai	Gold
7	Arman Khan	Mobile Repairing	Mumbai	Gold
8	Vrushali Ghivande	Beauty & Wellness	Nashik	Gold
9	Shreya Jaiswar	Creative Arts	Mumbai	Gold
10	Priya Khuswaha	Choreography	Mumbai	Gold
Silver				
1	Ayub Pathan	Home Appliances	Mumbai	Silver
2	Dipesh Marathe	Video Editing	Mumbai	Silver
3	Sakshi Chavan	Fashion Designing	Pune	Silver
4	Tausif Mansuri	Photography	Mumbai	Silver
5	Ahad Shaikh	Mobile Repairing	Mumbai	Silver
6	Rukmini Pujari	Photography	Mumbai	Silver
7	Komal Kasind	Beauty & Wellness	Nashik	Silver
8	Afifa Parwez	Bakery And Confectionery	Kolkata	Silver
9	Shagun Gupta	Beauty & Wellness	Mumbai	Silver
10	Khushboo Sharma	Beauty & Wellness	Mumbai	Silver
11	Mehboob Shah	Mobile Repairing	Mumbai	Silver
12	Ashwini Rathod	Macrane	Mumbai	Silver
13	Neha Patwa	Beauty & Wellness	Mumbai	Silver
14	Praveen Mali	Mobile Repairing	Mumbai	Silver
15	Chandani Khan	Beauty & Wellness	Pune	Silver
16	Chaitnya Sarvankar	Beauty & Wellness	Mumbai	Silver
17	Sandhya Gaund	Beauty & Wellness	Mumbai	Silver
18	Mohammed Ali	Mobile Repairing	Mumbai	Silver
Bronze				
1	Kanchan Rathod	Beauty & Wellness	Pune	Bronze
2	Shivani Pal	Beauty & Wellness	Mumbai	Bronze
3	Riya Saroj	Beauty & Wellness	Mumbai	Bronze
4	Vaishnavi Hatkar	Beauty & Wellness	Pune	Bronze
5	Kunal Kadam	Mobile Repairing	Mumbai	Bronze
6	Semu Jatoliya	Beauty & Wellness	Mumbai	Bronze
7	Pritesh Shirsat	Mobile Repairing	Pune	Bronze
8	Shani Jaiswar	Creative Arts	Mumbai	Bronze

B) Media Coverage

<p>Navbharat (Mumbai Plus), Page No. 2 Link: Navbharat: March 22, 2026</p> <p>किशोर उद्यमियों को सशक्त बनाने का प्रयास</p>  <p>मुंबई.सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशन ने एनएमआईएमएस स्कूल ऑफ बिजनेस मैनेजमेंट के सहयोग से अपने प्रमुख उद्यमिता मंच 'डॉल्फिन टंकी' का पाँचवाँ संस्करण आयोजित किया। यह अनूठा मंच सीमित संसाधनों वाले पृष्ठभूमि से आने वाले युवा उद्यमियों को विकसित और तेजी से आगे बढ़ाने बनाया गया है। यह वास्तविक निवेशक माहौल को नकल करता है, जिससे प्रतिभागियों को महत्वपूर्ण अनुभव और प्रतिक्रिया प्राप्त होती है। इसमें ब्यूटी व वेलनेस, मोबाइल रिपेयरिंग, फोटोग्राफी, वीडियो एडिटिंग, ग्राफिक डिजाइनिंग सहित कई क्षेत्रों के उद्यम प्रस्तुत किए गए। एनएमआईएमएस के एसबीएम के छात्र 'बी केयर-सिविक इंजेजमेंट इंटरशिप' के माध्यम से मेंटरशिप प्रदान करते हैं, जो जमीनी स्तर की महत्वाकांक्षा को व्यावसायिक विशेषज्ञता के साथ जोड़ता है।</p>	<p>Punjab Kesari (Pradeshik, Aaspas yewam anya Gatividhiya), Page No. 10 Link: Punjab Kesari: March 22, 2026</p> <p>डॉल्फिन टंकी का आयोजन</p> <p>मुंबई, (पंजाब केसरी) : सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशन ने एनएमआईएमएस स्कूल ऑफ बिजनेस मैनेजमेंट के सहयोग से अपने प्रमुख उद्यमिता मंच "डॉल्फिन टंकी" का पाँचवाँ संस्करण आयोजित किया। श्री गौरव अरोड़ा, चीफ ग्रोथ ऑफिसर और सीनियर वाइस प्रेसिडेंट – स्किल्स@स्कूल एवं स्पोर्ट्स, सलाम बॉम्बे फाउंडेशन ने कहा, "डॉल्फिन टंकी उन उद्यमियों के लिए लॉन्चपैड के रूप में कार्य करता है, जिन्हें अक्सर पूंजी, नेटवर्क और औपचारिक प्रशिक्षण तक पहुंच नहीं होती।</p>
<p>BW Education Link: BW Education: March 24, 2026</p>	<p>The Free Press Journal Link: The Free Press Journal: March 19, 2026</p>

BW EDUCATION
 Wednesday | Mar 20, 2025 | 10:42:25 AM

NMIMS HOSTS DOLPHIN TANKI 2026

Home / Higher Education / NMIMS Hosts Dolphin Tanki 2026


NMIMS Hosts Dolphin Tanki 2026

199 Views | 10 Mar 20, 2025

#DolphinTanki2026 #grassrootsentrepreneurship India #SatsamBombayFoundation

Initiative supports grassroots entrepreneurs with funding and mentorship through a no-equity model

Photo: Satsam



NMIMS School of Business Management, in collaboration with Satsam Bombay Foundation, organized the fifth edition of Dolphin Tanki, a platform aimed at supporting young entrepreneurs from underserved communities. The initiative focuses on providing financial assistance and mentorship without taking equity, enabling participants to develop sustainable business models.

The latest edition featured pitching sessions evaluated by a panel of industry experts, following which selected participants received financial and material support for their ventures. A total of around Rs 12 lakh was awarded to support early-stage businesses.

Participants included young entrepreneurs aged between 16 and 20 years, selected from a larger pool of applicants. They presented business ideas across sectors such as beauty and wellness, food services, creative arts, photography and repair services.

The programme also involved mentorship support, with students working alongside participants to strengthen their business understanding, improve pitching skills and enhance financial literacy. The initiative aims to bridge gaps in access to capital, networks and formal training for early-stage entrepreneurs.

Meena Gallera, Director, Jasani Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Management, NMIMS School of Business Management, says the platform is designed to help young individuals develop entrepreneurial thinking and build confidence through guided support.

Gaurav Anand, Chief Growth Officer and Senior Vice President, Satsam Bombay Foundation, notes that such initiatives can help participants move towards self-employment and contribute to local economic activity by creating opportunities within their communities.

Over the years, the platform has seen participants expand their ventures and improve income levels, reflecting the role of targeted support in enabling grassroots entrepreneurship.

The initiative highlights the growing focus on inclusive entrepreneurship, where academic institutions and social organisations collaborate to support skill development and economic participation at the grassroots level.

Dolphin Tanki 5.0 Empowers Young Entrepreneurs With Grants, Mentorship And Opportunity

Dolphin Tanki 5.0 Empowers Young Entrepreneurs With Grants, Mentorship And Opportunity |

A unique platform aimed at nurturing grassroots entrepreneurship among youth will be showcased at Dolphin Tanki 5.0, where 36 young entrepreneurs aged between 16 and 20 will pitch their business ideas for financial and mentorship support.

The event will be held at Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS) on March 20 between 2 pm and 5 pm, bringing together aspiring entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds who are building ventures ranging from baking and styling to photography and repair services.

Unlike conventional pitch events focused on equity investments, Dolphin Tanki 5.0 offers participants access to a grant pool of Rs 11 lakh along with mentorship opportunities designed to help transform their ideas into sustainable livelihoods.

"This platform is about giving young individuals a real chance to shape their future. These are not just business pitches, but stories of resilience, ambition, and self-reliance," said an organiser.

The organisers emphasised that the initiative focuses on grassroots entrepreneurship, enabling teenagers to access resources that are often out of reach at an early stage.

"Many of these participants are first-generation entrepreneurs. With the right support and guidance, their small ideas can grow into meaningful income-generating ventures," the organiser added.

Also Watch:

The event is expected to offer strong human-interest narratives, highlighting how young individuals are leveraging skills and creativity to build independent careers.

Dolphin Tanki 5.0 will also provide attendees an opportunity to witness live pitches and interact with emerging entrepreneurs, mentors, and community leaders supporting youth-led innovation.

THE FREE PRESS JOURNAL

Classrooms to startups, city youth chase biz dreams

Shireya Jachak
 MUMBAI

Several underprivileged students and aspiring young entrepreneurs pitched their business ideas at Dolphin Tanki on Friday at Narsee Monjee College in Vile Parle. The event brought them face-to-face with established philanthropists as they sought seed funding to turn their ideas into viable ventures.

Among the participants, Riya Saroj, who comes from a humble background, spoke

about her entrepreneurial journey. "I am the first in my family to receive such training and start a business," she said. She completed a make-up course through the programme and has already catered to clients in her locality, earning ₹30,000.

Saroj, who's from Kandivali, said, "My only limitation is the lack of equipment and professional make-up products, which forces me to turn down clients. With funding, I hope to set up my own salon."

More than 30 participants

Over 30 students pitch ventures at Dolphin Tanki in Vile Parle; total corpus was ₹12 Lakh

aged between 16 and 20 showcased their skills and shared their stories across nine sectors, including beauty, photography, video editing, dance choreography and bakery.

The Salaam Bombay Foundation (SBF), a non-profit organisation, selected the par-

ticipants from a pool of more than 100 students it trained. Explaining the initiative, senior vice president, SBF, Gaurav Arora, said, "We offer around 40 courses at the school level. Students who show aptitude undergo a year-long advanced training that NMIMS professors and industry experts lead. They learn skills such as marketing, accounting and SWOT analysis, concepts typically taught in MBA programmes but otherwise inaccessible to these children."

By the end of the pro-

gramme, the training equips students to generate income independently. To scale their ventures, they prepare pitch decks and present them for funding. Based on evaluation, the foundation provides financial support ranging from ₹20,000 to ₹50,000. This year, corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds provided a total corpus of ₹12 lakh.

So far, over 100 have launched their businesses and continue to grow while balancing entrepreneurship with education.

Sat, 21 March 2026

Mid-Day

Link: [Mid-Day: March 24, 2026](#)

Slum students pitch businesses for seed fund

From mobile repair operations and beauty services, to arts and crafts, kids showcase their talents: Salaam Bombay Foundation offers ₹11 lakh in grants

ADITI ALURKAR
 aditi.alurkar@ndtv.com

CREATING a spin off of the reality show Shark Tank, underprivileged school students from Mumbai teamed up with business school pupils to pitch their own ideas for seed fund. From mobile repairs and beauty services to arts and crafts, students as young as 16 years old, who work to support their families, showed up on Thursday to showcase their talents at the 'Dolphin Tanki' — a seed funding platform organised by the Salaam Bombay Foundation.

For three weeks, these teenagers were paired with MBA students from NMIMS who helped them create a SWOT analysis, weak areas, opportunities, their own website for their business ideas while helping them with the idea of entrepreneurship by the students learnt through their course. As many as 36 students presented their ideas to a panel of industry experts brought together by Salaam Bombay, who offered a total sum of ₹11 lakh in grants to the students, while pitches were judged on practicality, local demand, and community needs for micro-businesses like these.

36 No. of students who made the pitch

Sectors pitched by students

- Beauty and wellness
- Mobile repair
- Home appliance repair
- Photography
- Video editing
- Creative arts
- Fashion design
- Bakery
- Choreography

Salaam Bombay Foundation

Founded in 2002, Salaam Bombay Foundation is a Mumbai-based non-profit that focuses on helping children from low-income communities in school. It provides underprivileged kids education, preventive healthcare, vocational training, and outdoor sports programmes in arts and sports.

"I started repairing phones at first because I liked solving problems. Now it helps my family and neighbours too"

Muhammad Nasir, 16, XI student



Muhammad Nasir, 16, XI student of Arts from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya

STUDENTS SPEAK

MUHAMMAD NASIR, 16, XI student of Arts from Chhatrapati

I started repairing phones at first because I liked solving problems, now it helps my family and neighbours too. Eventually I took up the course via Salaam Bombay and I want to start an affordable phone repair shop with no duplicate spare parts, no hidden charges, and no compromise on people's data security. Right now, I make around ₹20,000 a month, and hope to get new tools with my fund

SHAGUN GUPTA, 16, XII student from Khar

After my father passed away, I had to step up to help my mother and siblings, so I started my own home-based beauty service business in Khar West. I can do basic haircuts, makeup, facials, and threading, and am now upskilling in bridal makeup and nail art. I asked the judges for basic tools like a vanity box and hair straightener. I had my younger siblings buy stationery and other needs for their school with this money.

RUKMINI PODDAR, 19, XII student from Khar

This year I did a short film on photography. For me, it is about finding the story behind every frame. My father works as an auto-rickshaw driver, and my mother is a cook. For now, I work on basic photo projects. I have asked for an investment of around ₹50,000 for equipment like reflectors and ring light camera. I enjoy travelling so I hope to become a destination wedding photographer.

GN News:

Link: [GN News: March 25, 2026](#)



C) Photos:

Students Presenting Their Business Ideas



Jury and Chief Guests offering guidance



Valedictory session



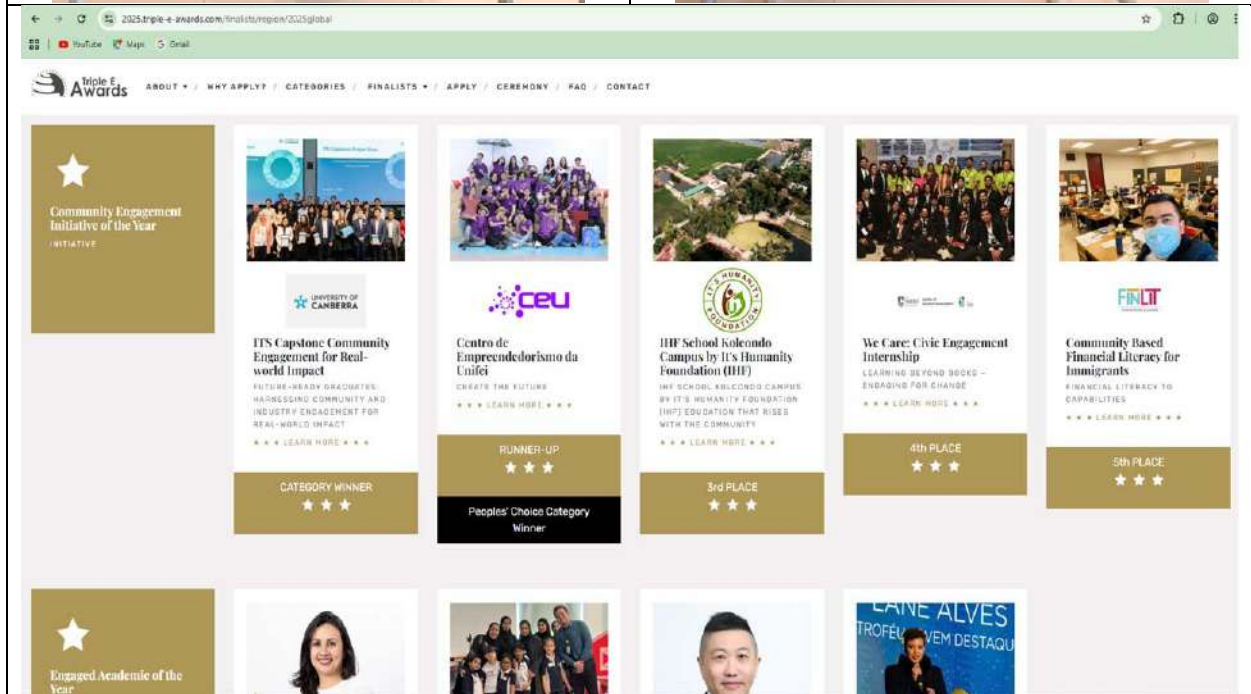
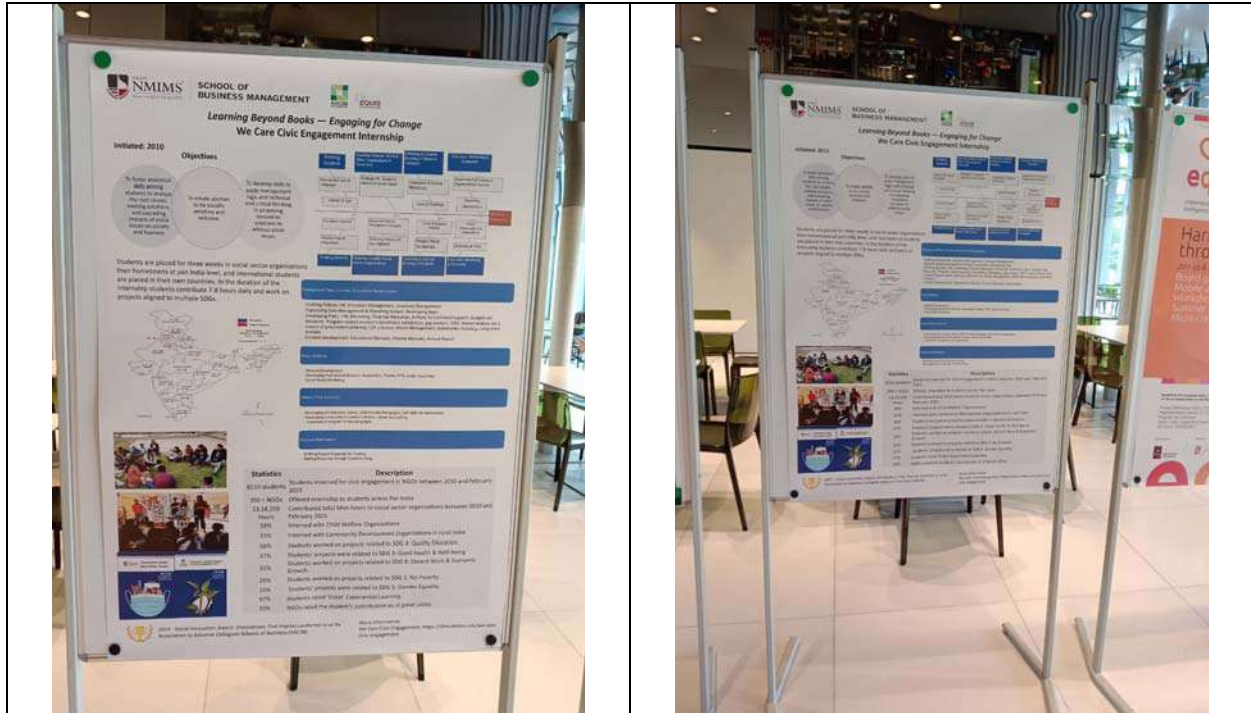
Live performance by SBF Students of Performing Arts



Annexure XII

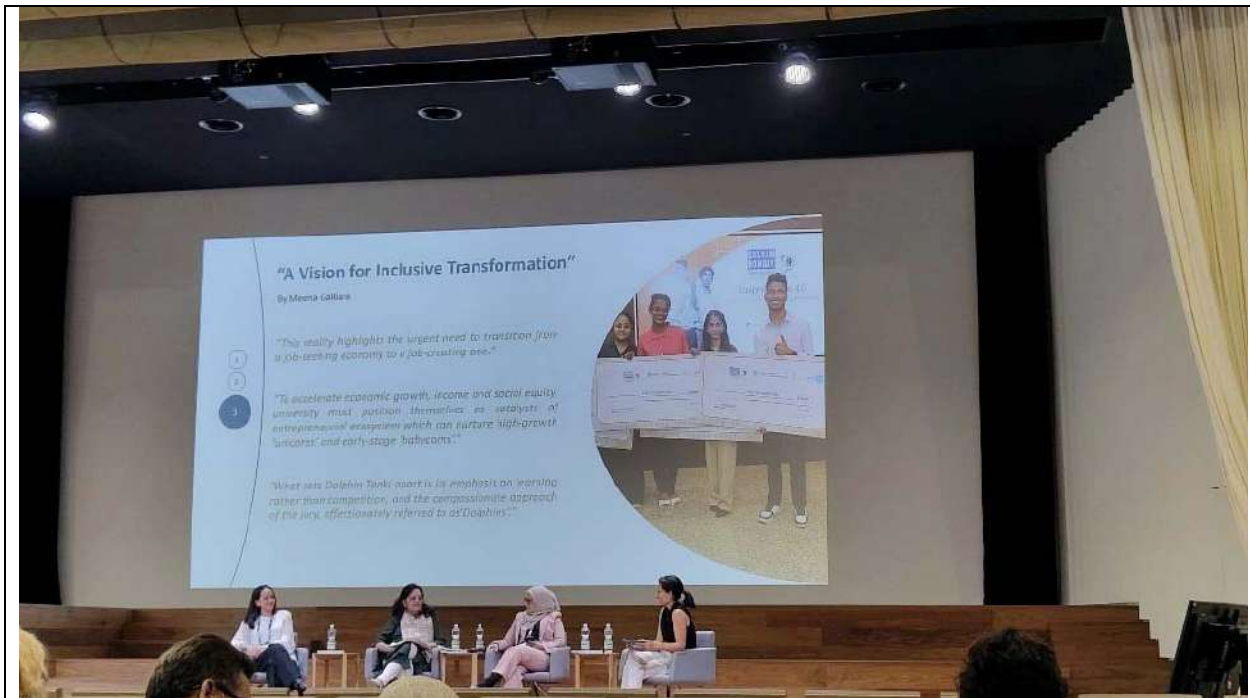
ACEEU Triple E Award, Panel Discussion & Book Chapter

A) ACEEU Triple E Award 4th Place: We Care: Civic Engagement Internship





B) ACEEU: Panel Discussion



C) ACEEU: A Vision for Inclusive Transformation by Dr. Meena Galliarda



Annexure XIII Round Table Conference

Mirae Asset Foundation–SVKM’s NMIMS ESG Research Chair

Round Table Conference on
‘Nurturing the Next Wave: Grassroots Entrepreneurship for a Changing World’
Friday, February 20, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
NMIMS University, Vile Parle (W), Mumbai

Inauguration



Panel Discussion

Panel – I: Successful Collaborative Models and Best Practices



Panel – II: Access to Finance, Technology, and Markets



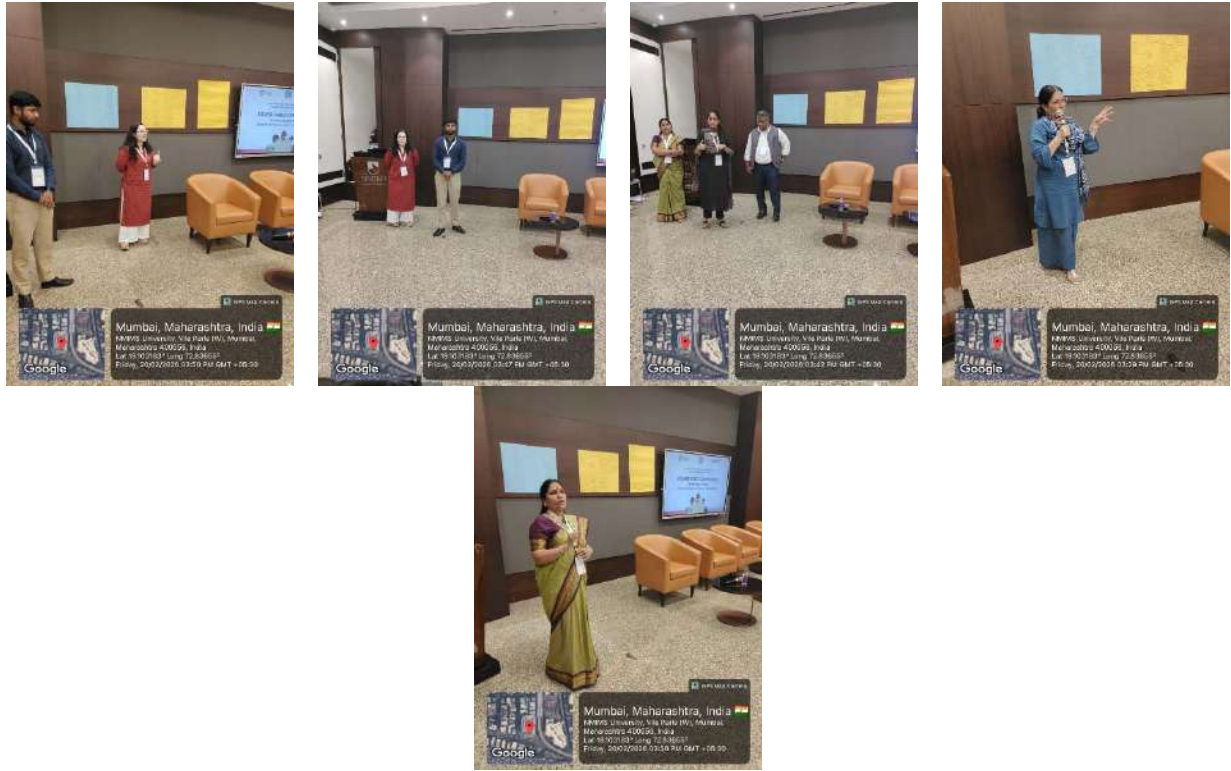
Panel- III: Policy, Regulatory, and Institutional Reforms



Group Discussion



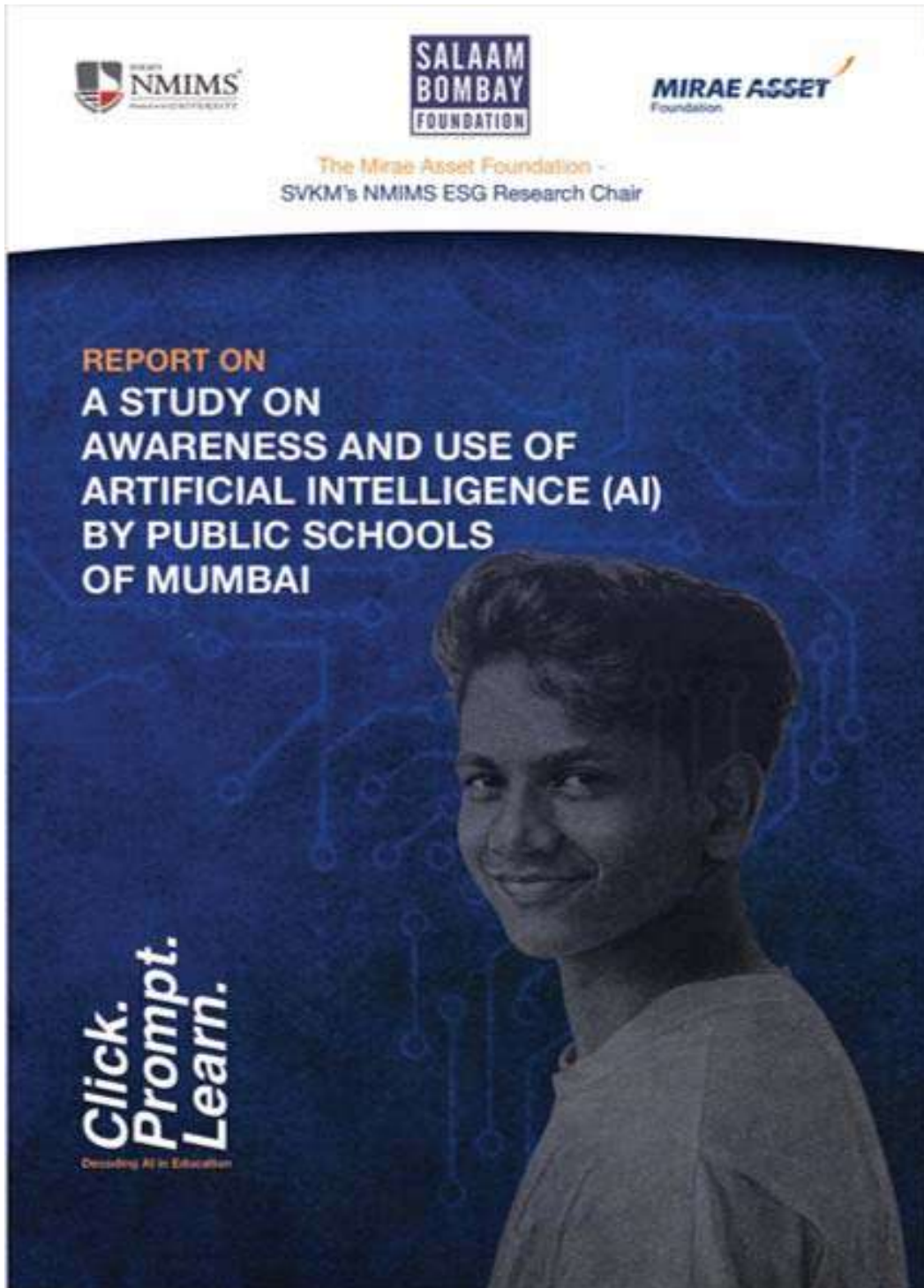
Presentations



Closing Ceremony



Annexure XIV
A Study on Awareness and Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by Public Schools of Mumbai





Contributors :

Salaam Bombay Foundation
Dr. Manasi Bawdekar
Dr. Kirti Gaur
Mr. Gaurav Arora

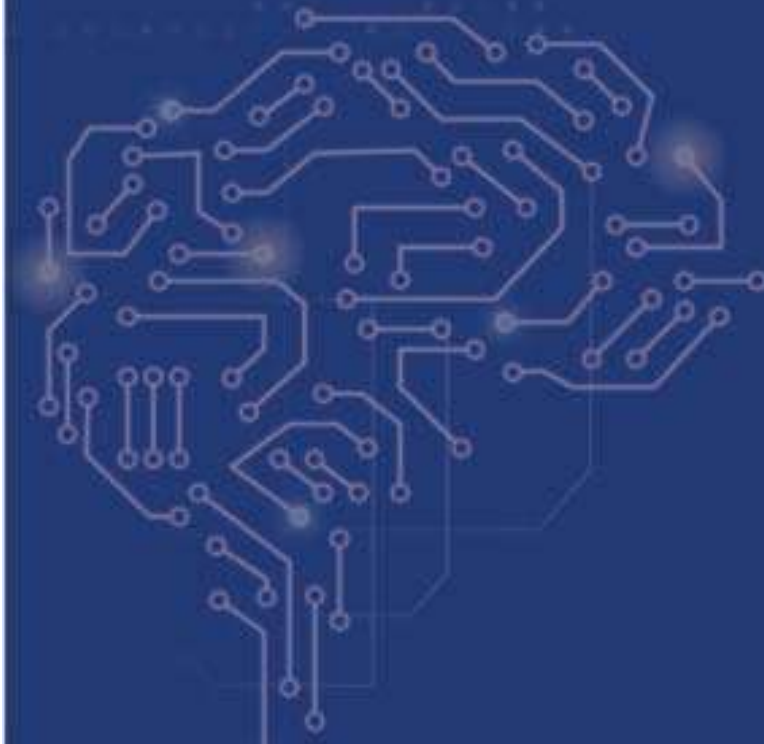
Design Credit
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Ms. Purnoti Dharankar

For the purpose of this report, the abbreviation 'A' is used interchangeably and consistently with 'Gauri' throughout the document.

Decoding AI in Education

Executive Summary





Context & Rationale

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly changing education by influencing how students learn, find information, and use technology. Recognizing this shift, India's National Education Policy 2020 stresses the need to integrate AI into schools to build future-ready learners with strong critical thinking, problem-solving, and digital skills. In line with this, a few public schools in Mumbai are gradually using a mix of AI-based and digital tools to enhance teaching and learning outcomes. However, the extent of students' exposure to and understanding of AI in a public-school setting remains largely unexplored.

About the research

In this context, Salaam Bombay Foundation and the School of Business Management, NMIMS, undertook a joint research study under the aegis of MAF-SVKM's NMIMS ESG Research Chair. The study focused on assessing students' familiarity with AI tools and technologies, which are increasingly integrated into educational and everyday contexts. By examining the frequency and nature of AI use among students in their academic and extracurricular activities, the research aims to provide empirical insights into how young learners from economically underprivileged backgrounds engage with emerging technologies. The study also captures teachers' perspectives on integrating AI into classroom practices and its influence on student engagement and learning.

Methodological Approach

The study adopts a robust mixed-methods framework, integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches to provide a comprehensive understanding of the research objectives. The quantitative component draws on responses from 1,050 Grade IX students across 20 public schools in Mumbai. The qualitative component includes two Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with 12 teachers representing diverse geographic areas of the city. Quantitative data were analysed using statistical techniques, including chi-square tests, t-tests, and ANOVA, to assess relationships and significance. The FGDs offered interpretive insights into classroom realities, institutional preparedness, and educator perceptions of students' increasing use of AI in academic settings.

Key insights

Overall, the findings are intuitively interesting, conceptually insightful, and hold deep potential for future policy preparation. Eight in ten students are aware of AI, with varying proficiency. A third of the sample is highly versatile, with various uses and applications of AI. The bottom 40 percent are surface-level conversant. This suggests that high awareness coexists among students, but they have limited conceptual understanding indicating a gap between exposure and meaningful learning.

Scroll, Search, Solve: The Evolving Learning Journey

Students use multiple tools for self-exploration. ChatGPT emerges as the most popular AI tool, with more than 70 percent of participants using it, followed closely by Gemini. Google's various services, like translation and Lens, are popular, as is MetaAI. In the absence of formal instruction on 'how to use', students tend to learn through trial and exploration.

Rather than depending on teachers for learning, they turn to social media, YouTube, and websites to gather information. This highlights the dominance of informal digital ecosystems in their learning space. Students use AI tools to offload demanding cognitive tasks, such as solving math problems, translating language and completing homework. AI use was minimal for curiosity-driven purposes, such as exploring concepts beyond their curriculum. Many students prefer AI over traditional help sources, indicating a shift in learning patterns from human-based support systems towards digital, AI-driven assistance. However, overreliance raises concerns about reduced critical thinking, accuracy, and creativity, as well as diminished teacher and peer engagement. This implies that dependency on AI may increase over time if left unaddressed. It may gradually reduce independent problem-solving capacity. One interesting thing that came to the fore is that, along the lines of reverse mentoring, many parents are seeking help from surveyed students regarding AI.

The Connectivity Gap: Inequities in Digital Access

As seen during the IT integration phase, device access continues to shape disparities in AI usage. Over half of the sampled population faced digital access barriers. Many relied on shared devices and experienced inconsistent connectivity.

Data also reveals that AI, while often positioned as an equalizing force, may in practice reinforce existing educational inequalities. Students from English-medium and more educated family backgrounds demonstrate higher knowledge and usage. This implies that without adequate learning support systems, AI may widen rather than bridge learning gaps. For instance, a consistent gender disparity is evident in

AI engagement. Male students report higher levels of AI knowledge compared to female students and also demonstrate greater dependency on AI. Importantly, this gap exists despite equal access to digital resources, indicating that differences in engagement and exploratory behaviour may be the contributing factors. Further, students from English medium have relatively better access to digital media and higher knowledge of AI compared to their counterparts. This suggests that within public schools, AI's promise of equity remains uncertain. Students from English-medium backgrounds benefit more compared to vernacular-medium students.

Curious yet Careful

The students were aware of AI's drawbacks and limitations. This was reflected in their cautious approach to granting their younger siblings unrestricted AI access. It indicates a conditional acceptance of AI, where students acknowledge its benefits but feel boundaries are necessary. Students have also raised concerns regarding the accuracy of AI outputs indicating issues of trust and highlight the need for verification skills. As expected, the majority of the learners surveyed felt that there should be structured inputs on AI and its use. Integrating AI into learning is essential. A significant proportion of students felt there should be a separate period or class dedicated to AI. Students' positive orientation toward AI education implies an understanding of its relevance for future academic and career opportunities.

Uncertainty to Uptake: Teachers Navigate AI in classrooms

Teacher interactions show that AI has entered public schools. However, its adoption is fragmented, uneven, and largely informal. They shared insights on its context, usage, impact on learning, and their own preparedness. The danger of cognitive offloading, as students may pay less attention in class, skip taking notes, or adopt shortcuts to complete required assignments was also highlighted. Consequently the teachers believed that they will fail to 'learn'.

Discussions highlighted the lack of formal training and clear guidelines for integrating AI into education. Teachers feel uncertain about its effective use and await government direction on curriculum integration, approved tools, and ethical practices. This uncertainty

is compounded by infrastructural challenges, such as limited devices, unreliable internet, and staffing shortages, making AI adoption uneven and dependent on individual initiative or external support.

Despite these barriers, teachers acknowledge AI's growing importance and support a balanced approach that blends traditional teaching with AI tools. They strongly emphasize the need for capacity building, practical exposure, and clarity to enable effective student guidance. In terms of institutional preparedness, there seems to be a positive impact from NGOs partnering with schools to teach AI. Whenever such partnerships existed, the outcomes seem better.

Conclusion and way forward: The GATEE framework

The findings present key recommendations grounded in the GATEE (Gateway to AI for Transformative & Equitable Education) framework, emphasizing urgent policy priorities to strengthen AI integration in public schools in Mumbai. These include developing a standardized AI curriculum with approved tools, embedding foundational AI literacy, and reforming assessments to emphasize critical thinking over rote responses. Equally important are investments in infrastructure, equitable access, and multilingual learning resources. Teachers must be equipped through practical, hands-on training focused on ethical and effective AI use. A balanced, inclusive approach supported by clear policies and a well-prepared school ecosystem can move beyond improving learning outcomes. It will ensure that all students are confident, competent, and future-ready in an AI-driven world.



we also seen... washing of ro... ads and appoint... ficers to monitor key road stretches, including highwa... ys. — Richa Pinto

vel assuming it would... the landscaping works. RIL requested that it be brought up to a certain level which we will do now via the existing

cept plan of the Coastal Road Gardens was unveiled during a meeting held with south Mumbai residents.

SIM cards. — Rachel Varghese, Ishaan Thadikaren & Meghna Rewachand

SUMMER GLOW: Sonmohar flowers brighten the walk through DN Nagar in Andheri town

'8 in 10 civic schoolkids aware of AI, but there's overdependence'

Mahiyar.Patel@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Eight in 10 students in city's civic schools are aware of artificial intelligence tools, but their use is increasingly centred around homework, translation and problem-solving rather than conceptual learning, a joint study by Salam Bombay Foundation and NMIMS School of Business Management has found. The study which surveyed 1,950 Class IX students across 20 public schools and included focus group discussions with

12 teachers, has flagged concerns over growing dependence on AI, a widening digital divide and the need to move away from rote learning and predictable exam patterns. Researchers found that while awareness of AI is high, usage remains largely exposure-driven and informal, with many students relying on these tools for solving mathematics problems, language translation and completing assignments. The study said there was limited evidence of students using AI for curiosi-

ty-led learning or exploring concepts beyond the syllabus. A key concern highlighted in the report is cognitive offloading, with students increasingly shifting mental effort onto AI platforms. Researchers said this is contributing to a behavioural shift from studying to searching, with reduced emphasis on working through problems independently, engaging deeply with textbooks and classroom discussion, or developing patience for effort-based learning. The trend was found to be mo-

re pronounced among boys. Teachers who participated in the study said AI has already entered classrooms, but its use remains fragmented and largely informal. Several educators reported that students are paying less attention in class, skipping note-taking and increasingly turning to AI-generated shortcuts for assignments instead of independent reasoning. The study also highlighted persistent inequalities in access. More than half the students surveyed reported barri-

ers such as shared devices and unreliable internet connectivity. Students from English-medium schools and families with higher educational backgrounds showed significantly higher familiarity and usage levels, suggesting that AI may reinforce rather than bridge existing learning gaps. Vivek Sawant, chief mentor, Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Ltd, said there was a growing concern that students may begin to "offload all thinking" onto AI platforms. He said this could be

addressed only by moving beyond predictable exam patterns and rote learning, and by enabling students to use AI as a tool that complements rather than replaces human intelligence. Eva Chogera of LEAD Group, which works on creating technologies and curriculum in schools, said: "AI models can be designed in such a way that they promote curiosity and critical thinking which schools can use, instead of typical AI models which spoon-feeds the answer to students."

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School of Business Management

SVKM's Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies

Deemed to be University

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