

Zurich, November 2025

## GandhiCare Report, November 2025

Dear sponsors, patrons and supporters of the Gandhi Hilfswerk Switzerland Foundation

As we approach the end of the year, it is once again time for a GandhiCare review and a look ahead to the coming year.

Our activities are always dependent on the environment, and we are glad that the unrest in the north of the country has subsided, at least for the moment.

The Bharatiya Janata Party, which won the elections again in January, has made a strong showing this year with a strong presence and steady growth in popularity. This is probably due to the fact that economic growth in India is stronger than in other major economies. The government's economic stimulus measures are also cushioning the negative effects of US tariff policy, among other things. Gross domestic product grew by 6.5 per cent in the 2024/2025 financial year (1 April to 31 March). Forecasts for the current 2025/2026 financial year predict the same result. Some analysts even expect up to 6.8 per cent.

In a direct comparison, old Europe lives up to its name, although it should never be forgotten that growth is always much more difficult in already highly developed regions than in emerging markets. However, we welcome the positive development in India.



**Picture on the left:**  
*Our children at the girls' home in Veldurthy set off together in an orderly fashion for the state school, which is a 10-minute walk away.*

## Education, education and more education

Throughout our many years of charitable work, it has become clear time and again that investing in education has the greatest impact. Our support, and therefore your donations, are always targeted and results-oriented. To ensure that we can continue to provide the most effective aid in the future, we have decided to build a school in Chittoor.

This step was long overdue, although not entirely voluntary. The existing facility will be closed next year because government regulations no longer allow teaching to continue there. The building is dilapidated and may no longer be used as a place of learning. We therefore set out to find solutions.

## Land in sight

On 1 November 2025, the time had come. We purchased a piece of land on which we will now build our new school. The plot is located 9 kilometres outside the city of Chittoor, in a region where we have always been active.

The land has now been marked with blue-coloured stakes and the first boreholes for groundwater have been drilled. These were successful. We now have land and water and can begin building the school.



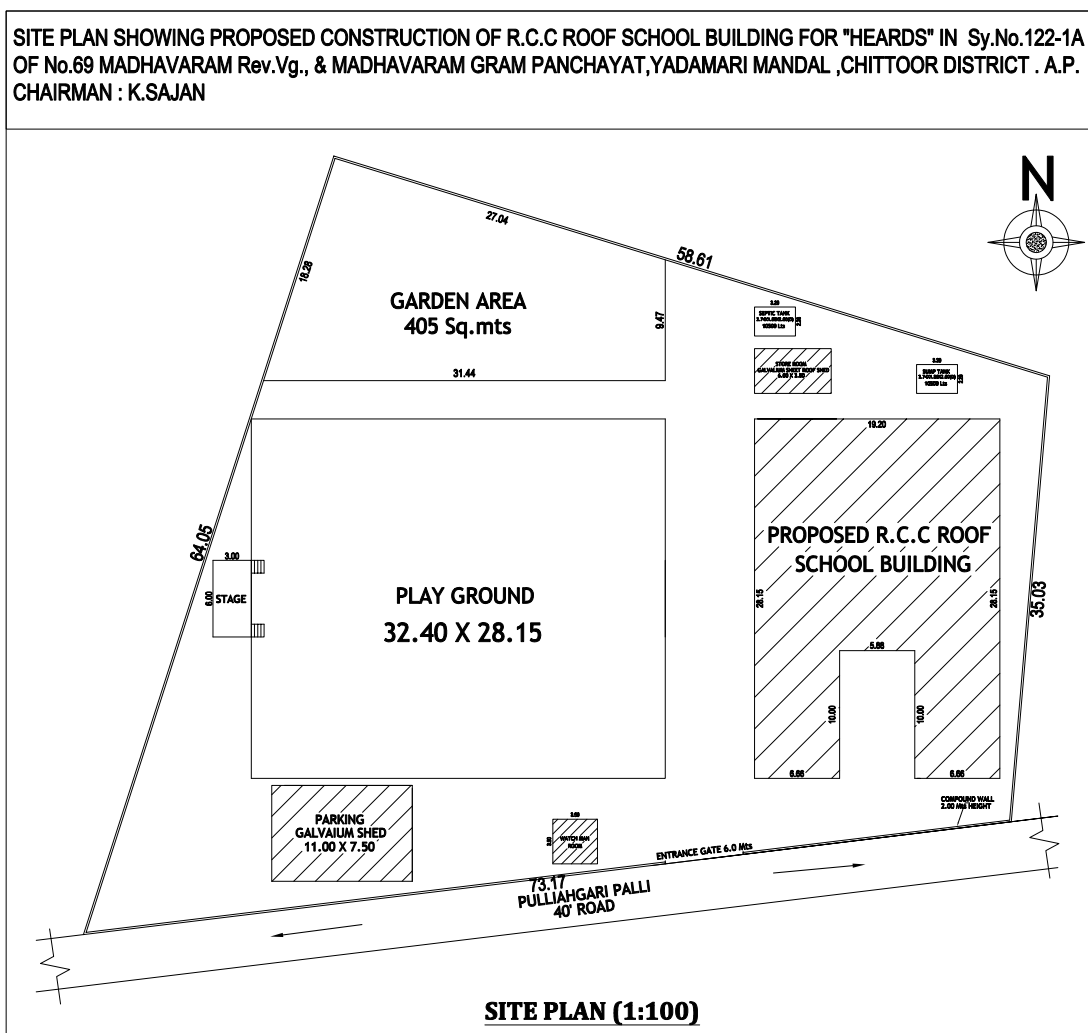
**Picture above:** An extremely important step. Even the first borehole was a success. We have groundwater and, according to the survey, enough to last for a very long time.

## School construction

The most significant hurdle has been overcome and all the parameters are in place. We have land and water and can now tackle the important final step: building the school.

However, the school is not the only thing to be built on the site. Just like at our girls' home in Veldurthy, we want to use the space for many purposes. There will be a large vegetable and fruit garden so that in future we can use many of the produce from our own garden for the school kitchen. A small hut will also be built for the guardian, who will act as caretaker and watchman.

In addition, the buildings relevant for hygienic operation will be constructed. Drainage areas, septic tanks, cesspools with collection tanks, groundwater pumping stations with filter systems, etc. And last but not least, there will also be space for an open playground.



**Image above:** This is one of many sketches showing the possible layout of the future school building. We are continuing to work on the final version together with our Indian partners.



## Sponsored children

The number of sponsored children remains stable, fluctuating between 140 and 150 children.

At the end of compulsory schooling, there are always a few departures and corresponding vacancies for new admissions to our programme.

We repeatedly find that we could expand the sponsorship programme very efficiently, as there is still a great need for it and we know that it has a high success rate. Despite all this, we must remain sensible and use the available resources sparingly so that our programmes can continue for a long time to come.

Half of the sponsored children come from the Rajamundry and Guntur districts and are scattered throughout these districts.



**Picture on the left:**

*We are standing in front of the home of one of our 150 sponsored children.*

*The girl lives in this modest dwelling with her sick grandmother. The large plastic containers are used to store water for washing and cooking.*

## Veldurthy - Girls' Home

There is hardly any news to report from our girls' home. Everything is running smoothly and there are very few incidents that are really worth mentioning.

We are happy to share with you the following photo, which was taken during our trip at the beginning of the year.



**Picture above:** During our purely medical programme in January this year, we also worked closely with optometrists and opticians, enabling us to produce glasses at low cost so that this disadvantaged section of society can see normally again.

Our children also benefited from this. They proudly show off their glasses and matching cases in the lounge area of our girls' home in Veldurthy.

## Certificate and sewing machine

At our Tailoring Training Centre, we give young women who have missed out on a traditional education the opportunity to train as seamstresses. This enables them to do important work in their villages and contribute to their household income.

However, the women do not simply receive the sewing machine for free. They must first successfully complete the training and then pay half of the cost of purchasing such a machine themselves. In this way, we want to send a clear message and ensure that the equipment is cared for and that the machines are not simply sold again if income becomes tight. Part of the training is also learning that investing in a sewing machine pays off much more in the long term.

Incidentally, the sewing machines are always analogue. Remote villages do not always have electricity. The machines, which we consider old, are less prone to breakdowns, cheaper to maintain and also easier to repair.



**Picture above:** Presentation of the sewing machine with certificate. Handed over by the teacher and the head of our organisation in Perecherla.



## Finances

The financial situation has not really improved since our last report, but nor has it deteriorated significantly. We must continue to be very careful with our funds, but without losing sight of the future. Investing in a new school building is a milestone. This step involves higher costs in the short term, but confirms our determination not to compromise on education.

These costs will be spread over the current and coming year. Our budget planning shows that we will be able to return to normal levels by Q3 of next year.

## Outlook for 2026

### Chittoor school building

Our new school building is scheduled for completion by May 2026. An ambitious goal – certainly, but still achievable. But why such a short implementation period?

In India, the traditional school year begins in May, and since we work directly with state schools, it is only logical to align ourselves with the same schedule. Construction of the school will begin this year.

### Fair Medical Care India

We are continuing our efforts to promote the idea of fair medical care. Implementation must be planned very carefully, so we are taking our time. Only when we are fully aware of all the components of the Indian healthcare system can we take the next steps. The plan is to set up an outpatient clinic in Guntur based on evidence-based medicine. This will take some time. We will stay on top of things and keep you informed about our next steps in good time.



**Image on the left:** “Teamwork makes the dream work”

*Taking a patient's medical history in a village during our medical camp. Dr Felix Huber and Dr Gunavardhan Manda examine a patient.*

## Closing remarks

Another eventful year is coming to an end, and the coming months are unlikely to be boring either. Of course, we want you to be part of all our next steps. The better you understand our work and projects, the easier it is to donate, as you know how and where the money is being used.

Perhaps you would also like to see for yourself, in person and on site, that we are implementing everything as described in our reports. You will have the opportunity to do so next year. The next trip for sponsors and interested parties is planned for autumn 2026. Of course, we will also visit the new school in Chittoor. Be there when we write a small piece of history. We are making the future possible – thanks to you and your generous support.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your loyalty. Without you and your help, our voluntary work would not be possible. Thank you very much!

Foundation GandhiCare Relief Organisation Switzerland

  
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