

Educational Visit to Bihu Pandal

On January 13th, 2025, the boys of Snehalaya Boy's Home, Dhirenpara embarked on an enriching educational visit to a local Bihu pandal. The outing offered them a vibrant introduction to Assamese culture, especially the traditional "Meji Ghor"—a temporary bamboo-and-straw hut symbolizing warmth, harvest, and community spirit. Through engaging discussions and firsthand observation, the boys learned about the customs and deeper significance of the Magh Bihu festival. The experience was both educational and joyful, helping the children connect with their heritage, fostering cultural pride, and instilling a sense of unity and belonging rooted in Assam's festive traditions.



REPUBLIC DAY

On January 26th, 2025, the 76th Republic Day was proudly celebrated across all Snehalaya CCI homes—Dhirenpara, ILA, Paltan Bazar, Jyoti, and Auxilium. The day began with the hoisting of the national flag and the singing of the national anthem, bringing together children and staff in a shared patriotic spirit. Engaging cultural programs, inspiring patriotic songs, and heartfelt speeches by the Superintendents emphasized the Constitution's core values of unity, equality, and justice.



Children actively participated in various activities, strengthening their understanding of civic responsibility and love for the nation. As a special honor, children and staff from Auxilium & Jyoti Snehalaya joined the Republic Day celebrations at Bamunimaidan, accompanied by our Director Fr. Lukose, Sr. Holibon, and Sr. Teresa. This memorable day paid tribute to freedom fighters and reaffirmed the democratic ideals that continue to inspire and guide Snehalaya's mission.



Feast of St John Bosco

On January 31st, 2025, Snehalaya Boys Home, Dhirenpara, celebrated the Feast Day of St. John Bosco with a vibrant mix of sports, fun, and cultural experiences. The day kicked off with an energetic Sports Day, where children competed in football, basketball, and badminton, fostering teamwork, confidence, and healthy competition.



In the evening, a visit to the Brahmaputra Carnival in Bharalumukh offered them enriching exposure through boating, singing, and dancing. The joyful celebration not only honored the legacy of St. John Bosco but also promoted physical fitness, cultural awareness, and emotional well-being—leaving the children inspired, connected, and more confident in themselves.

Dialogue Meeting on Deinstitutionalization



On February 4th, 2025, Snehalaya Boys' Home, Dhirenpara, hosted a dialogue meeting with 12 parents and guardians to discuss the vital process of deinstitutionalization and the future of children in care. Attended by the Protection Officer (Institutional Care), a DCPU counselor, and the Zonal Coordinator from Aide et Action, the session focused on promoting family-based care and exploring pathways for restoration and reintegration. Discussions highlighted the role of families, assessment procedures, and the importance of emotional bonding. The meeting fostered open dialogue, addressing concerns and offering guidance, while reinforcing collaboration among families, child welfare agencies, and Snehalaya for the holistic development of every child.

Welcoming of Fr. Jerbasius Xalxo Our New Assistant Director

On 6th March 2025, the staff and children of Snehalaya, Paltan Bazar, extended a warm welcome to Fr. Jerbasius Xalxo, the new Assistant Director. The occasion was marked with warmth and joy as our Director, Fr. Lukose, honoured him with a traditional Phulam Gamusa—a symbol of respect and Assamese hospitality. Fr. Jerbasius expressed his delight at joining the Snehalaya family and shared his commitment to wholeheartedly contributing towards the growth, care, and holistic development of the children. His presence brings renewed hope and enthusiasm to our shared mission.



ILA Snehalaya Shines at Momentum North East 2025



On 21st March 2025, children from ILA Snehalaya had the delightful opportunity to showcase a vibrant dance performance at the inauguration of the 4th edition of Momentum North East 2025, held at the Maniram Dewan Trade Centre, Guwahati. The prestigious event, organized by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), focused on accelerating regional development through trade, agriculture, and tourism. With grace, energy, and confidence, our children captivated the audience and received a loud applause from dignitaries and attendees. The performance was followed by a sumptuous lunch, creating cherished memories and fostering a sense of pride among the children. The experience offered them not only a platform to express their talent but also valuable exposure to a professional and inclusive environment alongside key stakeholders from across the Northeast.

Welcoming of Fr. Ranjeet Xalxo at Snehalaya Boys Home, Dhirenpara



On March 24th, 2025, the children and staff of Snehalaya Boys' Home, Dhirenpara, joyfully welcomed, Fr. Ranjeet Xalxo. The children of Dhirenpara Snehalaya expressed their love and excitement through soulful songs and beautifully crafted handmade cards, creating a touching and memorable welcome. A vibrant cultural program followed, showcasing the talents and warm spirit of the boys. The Snehalaya family is delighted to welcome Fr. Ranjeet, whose presence brings new hope and inspiration. In his address, he expressed his joy in joining the Snehalaya family and pledged his wholehearted commitment to the care, growth, and holistic development of every child. The event concluded with a warm gathering and refreshments, marking a promising new beginning.

Inter - Centre Sports Meet

On March 26th, 2025, an exhilarating Inter-Centre Sports Meet was held between Snehalaya Boys Home, Dhirenpara, and Snehalaya Centre for Child Rights, Paltan Bazar. Inaugurated by the new superintendent, Fr. Ranjeet Xalxo, the event featured spirited contests in football, basketball, and chess, promoting unity and sportsmanship. Dhirenpara won the football match, while Paltan Bazar triumphed in basketball.



In chess, Dibankar (Paltan Bazar) secured 1st place, followed by Partha Sarathi Chaora and Rahul Kalita (Dhirenpara). The meet fostered fitness, friendship, and confidence, culminating in a joyful prize distribution and motivational address, leaving a lasting impression on all participants.

Visit From CAN Team

During February and March, 2025 Snehalaya was delighted to warmly welcome Sandra and Nicole from the Child Aid Network (CAN). Their visit to all our five Snehalaya CCI homes—Dhirenpara, ILA, Paltan Bazar, Jyoti, and Auxilium—brought immense joy and connection. The children and staff greeted them with a vibrant cultural program featuring traditional dances, music, and spirited performances.



Adding to the joy, Sandra and Nicole led a fun and creative crafting session, teaching the children to make beautiful art using beads and wires. The visit left behind treasured memories of laughter, learning, and lasting bonds.

A Day of Joy, Compassion, and Discovery

On March 29th, 2025, the children of Auxilium Snehalaya enjoyed a memorable full-day outing with staff members. The day began with a visit to Shanti Dan (Missionaries of Charity Home), where their dance performances brought joy to the residents—teaching them empathy, compassion, and the joy of giving. They then joined the celebration of Fr. Lukose's birthday at Paltan Bazar through lively dance performances, learning the value of gratitude and shared happiness.



The day concluded with an engaging visit to the Science Museum in Khanapara, where interactive exhibits and a 3D movie sparked curiosity, teamwork, and a passion for discovery.



**CHILD FRIENDLY
GUWAHATI**

CFG NEWS

Republic Day

On January 26th, 2025, Snehalaya Child Friendly Guwahati (CFG) proudly celebrated the 76th Republic Day across all its 33 centres with great enthusiasm and unity. The day began with the hoisting of the national flag and singing of the national anthem, bringing together children and staff in a shared patriotic spirit. Highlights included a cleanliness drive, poster-making and art competitions, and engaging cultural programs

featuring singing patriotic songs, dances and speeches on the Constitution's values. Informative sessions on education, child marriage, and child rights empowered the children with knowledge. Prizes were distributed to encourage participation, and refreshments were served making the day joyful and memorable for all.



Partners Meet & 2025: A Celebration of Commitment



Together, we explored impactful strategies for deinstitutionalization and foster care, reaffirming our collective commitment to child protection and holistic development. The gathering deepened our partnerships and renewed our resolve to empower underprivileged children. We at CFG Snehalaya extend heartfelt thanks to all our partners—your unwavering support lights the way to a brighter, more inclusive future for every child we care for.

On January 30th, 2025, Snehalaya Child Friendly Guwahati (CFG) joyfully hosted the Partners Meet and Don Bosco Feast at Snehalaya, Paltanbazar. The event was graced by Fr. Sebastian Mathew, SDB, Provincial of Guwahati, and brought together esteemed representatives from organizations such as the Lions Club, Leo Club, Rotary Club of Guwahati, Round Table India, Matri, Young India, Don Bosco Past Pupils, and the Superintendent of Snehalaya Homes. Fr. Lukose Cheruvalel, Director of Snehalaya, skillfully facilitated the event and led the meeting's agenda, fostering a spirit of collaboration and shared purpose.



Child Parliament Training



On the same day, CFG organized an impactful Child Parliament Training to empower children to address pressing issues such as substance abuse, child labour, and emotional abuse through education, advocacy, and community-driven solutions. The session was facilitated by Rescue Coordinator Ms. Jharna Chakraborty, Child Protection Officer Ms. Hussne Mushabbir, and Cluster Coordinator Mr. Bijoy Nath, who led -



provoking discussions and interactive activities. The training aimed to build awareness, leadership, and communication skills among the children, encouraging them to become active participants in safeguarding their rights. It also reaffirmed our shared commitment to building a safer, more inclusive, and nurturing environment—where every child is protected, heard, and empowered to become a responsible leader and changemaker in society.



Sneha Drishti Eye Camps

From January to March, Sneha Drishti Eye Camps were conducted across seven schools in Guwahati, that were Maidam Vidyapeeth ME School, Raghunath Chaudhary High school, Narengi High school, St. Mary's school Maligaon, Lachitgarh High school, South point school, Don Bosco School reaching over 1,037 children and community members. Organized by Snehalaya CFG in collaboration with the Lions and Leo Clubs of Guwahati, the camps provided essential eye check-ups, diabetes screening, and general health check up.



Expert care was taken by doctors from ASG and Netralaya Hospitals. With refreshments sponsored by the Lions and Leo Clubs, the camps offered a warm, supportive environment. These camps fulfilled a crucial need for accessible healthcare among underprivileged children and families, ensuring early detection and treatment for better health outcomes.

Successful cataract operations were performed for beneficiaries Sona Bhanu, Anju Das, Dhoniya Malla, and Champa Nessa, restoring their vision and improving their quality of life.



Career Guidance

From January to March 2025, Child Friendly Guwahati (CFG) Snehalaya conducted 11 impactful career guidance sessions across various schools in Guwahati. The sessions were held at Tepuram Teron High School, Gorkha ME and High School, Dakhin Guwahati Lachitgarh High School, Kaliram Baruah Girls High School, Pandu Adarsha High School, Hemanta Baruah School, Badridas Hindi ME School, LOG Hindi High School, Jana Simolk High School, Bagharbari High School, and Betkuchi High School. A total of 1,139 students



actively participated, gaining valuable exposure, motivation, and clarity about their career paths. The sessions were facilitated by respected professionals - Yakeen Osmani (Businessman & Trained Counsellor), Debashish Kalita (APS Officer), and Shweta Choudhury (Local Counsellor). These efforts reflect CFG's mission to empower young minds by helping them make informed, confident, and goal-oriented career choices.



Visit from Azim Premji Foundation

Snehalaya CFG was delighted to welcome Ms. Kankana Borah, Project Lead, and Sanjukta Kashyap from Azim Premji Foundation, from March 3-5, 2025. The three-day visit included strategy discussions with all CFG staff, CFG centre visits to Solapara, Garchuk Betkuchi, and Christian Basti centers, and engagement with children and CWPC/CP members. Highlights included reflections on Ms. Borah's insights, emphasizing community engagement,

family-centred approaches, strengthened inter-departmental coordination, enhanced CWPC training and documentation, regular cluster-level CWPC meetings, and structured child-rights education. The meeting underscored aligning innovations with local needs and concluded with a bold directive: empower and train community members to ensure the project's continuity and sustainability.



Chitrangon Mela

On 23 March 2025, Snehalaya Child Friendly Guwahati, in collaboration with the District Child Protection Unit and supported by the State Child Protection Society, held an impactful Awareness Programme on Child Rights and Protection at Kathabari Rang Pathar. The event was inaugurated by key figures including Fr. Lukose Cheruvalel (Director), Fr. Sebastian (Home Superintendent), Sr. Mariam Kindo (Senior Program Coordinator), Ward Councillor Manjita Daimari, DCPU's Outreach Officer Gautam Kumar, school headmaster Jaisumuddin Ahmed,



club leaders Babul and Prabhat Boro, Runart Boro (Secretary), international javelin athlete Hameshwari Boro, OC Bhupendra Rawat, BJP Secretary Ranajyoti Sharma, and social worker Tilok Kalita. A total of 129 children participated, engaging in speeches that emphasized each child's unique worth, the importance of physical and mental well-being, and the dangers of drug use. The programme featured an animated art competition judged by Ujjawal Sharma, vibrant cultural performances, and a live painting demonstration—all designed to deepen understanding of child rights through creative expression. By the day's end, every child left feeling empowered, better informed, and ready to make positive, safer choices for their future.



Rescue Department

Between January and March 2025, the CFG Rescue Team—led by Rescue Coordinator Ms. Jharna Chakraborty and Rescue Officers Raju Mahanta and Jay Das—in collaboration with DTF and local authorities, successfully rescued 17 boys from child labour across various areas of Guwahati, including Hatigaon, Bharalumukh, Jalukbari, Basistha, and Azara. Following rescue operations, the children were presented before the CWPC and temporarily placed in an open centre. Subsequently, all 17 children were safely reunited with their families, ensuring their protection and rehabilitation. This coordinated effort highlights the CFG team's ongoing commitment to ending child labour and safeguarding children's rights.



Message

The children in the 5 Snehalaya Homes are kept busy and cheerful with all kinds of enriching experiences on a day to day basis. Celebrating Festivals like Magh Bihu, Republic Day and the Tithi of Don Bosco not only entertained them but also inculcated in them the values highlighted by these celebrations. The children are taught to welcome visitors warmly and they are taken out for sports competitions as well as for outings. The Child Friendly Guwahati project of Snehalaya organized training for children's Parliament which is a good platform for leadership training among children. It also teaches the basic values of patriotism. The Snehadrsti eye camps as well as the career guidance camps were well accepted by the children as well as their guardians. Snehalaya has a strong bonding with the deprived communities. Taking advantage of this, we try to innovate and empower the leaders of these communities to give sustainability to the impact of its activities. Let us unite for the welfare of every child, and its protection and development.

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