

Skills, Values & Smiles at ILA Snehalaya

During the months of April to June, ILA Snehalaya organized a series of joyful and enriching activities for the children. On 1st April 2025, the home hosted "A Fun-Filled Day of Skills, Values & Smiles" led by chief trainer Mr. Montu, where indoor and outdoor games like football and passing the ball encouraged teamwork, discipline, and physical fitness. He also guided the children on good behavior and values, while Sr. Presentation Pereira, the Superintendent, concluded the event by distributing appropriate gifts and arranging a



delicious meal. On 10th May, the children enjoyed an outing to the Balaji Temple, spending time in nature, playing games, and savoring a special panipuri treat. Later, on 25th May, at St. Xavier School, Pamohi, the ILA children played a friendly football match with the students, showcasing great team spirit and winning the game. These months were filled with learning, joy, and lasting memories.



Children's Mela

On 11th April 2025, Snehalaya Child Rights Center, Paltanbazar, hosted a heartwarming Children's Mela for 23 boys from the Panbazar and Paltanbazar railway slums.

The day began with listing of children, instructions to them on the days program, haircuts, baths, and fresh clothes—simple acts that restored dignity and filled young hearts with joy. Throughout the day, the children immersed themselves in music, dance, games, and sports, while enjoying wholesome meals lovingly prepared for them. Every moment was carefully designed to ensure they felt safe, valued, and celebrated.



Snehalaya Excels in HSLC Exams!

On April 11, 2025, as the Children's Mela was in full swing, Snehalaya received wonderful news—every boy had passed the HSLC exams! Out of the seven students, six secured First Division with Letter Marks, and one achieved Second Division. The announcement brought immense pride and joy, standing as a powerful testament to the boys' resilience and the unwavering commitment of Snehalaya's dedicated staff and volunteers.



“Snehalaya Children Celebrate Bihu with Joy and Togetherness”

On 16th April 2025, the children of Snehalaya Boys Home, Dhirenpara, and the Paltan Bazar Snehalaya Centre for Child Rights enjoyed a joyful outing to Latacil Field to witness the vibrant Bihu celebrations. Surrounded by the festive spirit, they watched traditional Bihu dances, enjoyed the lively music, and soaked in the rich cultural atmosphere of Assam’s most cherished festival. The outing not only gave them moments of happiness but also helped them connect with their cultural roots, learn the values of togetherness and celebration, and create lasting memories. It was truly a day filled with joy, learning, and bonding.



“Children’s Committee Meeting: A Step Towards Expression & Understanding”



On 31st May 2025, Auxilium Snehalaya, Noonmati, organized a Children’s Committee Meeting to encourage learning, expression, and leadership among the children. The session provided a platform for the girls to openly share their concerns, problems, and suggestions while learning how formal discussions are conducted. Sister Holibon guided the meeting as the Committee President, while senior girls from Jyoti Snehalaya took on the role of secretaries, presenting and explaining the issues raised by the Auxilium girls. This mock committee experience built confidence, improved communication skills, and strengthened teamwork. The enriching programme was concluded with a joyful lunch, fostering togetherness and bonding.

“World Environment Day: Learning to Care for Our Land”

On 5th June 2025, Snehalaya Dhirenpara children, together with students of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, joyfully observed World Environment Day on the theme “Our Land, Our Future.” The programme began with an awareness session, by Miss Rita Sharma, (SSA) followed by engaging activities such as a drawing competition, cleanliness initiative, slogan sharing and plantation of 5 tree samplings. Through active participation, the children not only celebrated the day but also learned the importance of caring for nature, protecting resources, and adopting eco-friendly habits. The event fostered teamwork, creativity, and responsibility, making it a memorable and meaningful occasion that inspired both children and community towards a greener future.



On 6th June 2025, a Health Check-up Camp was held for the 50 children of Snehalaya Dhirenpara and Snehalaya Paltan Bazar. A dedicated team of doctors and medical staff from the National Health Department under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, supported by the Mobile Health Team, conducted thorough general examinations and basic health screenings, giving each child individual care. The camp not only identified health needs but also raised awareness on personal hygiene, nutrition, and healthy lifestyle habits. The children participated with enthusiasm, gaining valuable lessons in self-care and preventive health. Snehalaya extends heartfelt gratitude to the medical team and supporters for nurturing the well-being and growth of our children.

“Health First: Snehalaya Children Benefit from Medical Camp”



“Building Discipline and Balance through Yoga”



On 21st June 2025, Snehalaya Boys’ Home, Dhirenpara joyfully observed International Yoga Day. The programme began with an introduction highlighting the importance of yoga in building physical fitness, mental peace, and emotional balance. Guided by dedicated staff and volunteers, the boys actively practiced various yoga asanas, breathing techniques, and meditation exercises, experiencing the harmony of body and mind. The session inspired them to embrace discipline, concentration, and healthy lifestyle habits in daily life. The event concluded with the children taking a pledge to continue practicing yoga regularly, ensuring a path towards wellness, positivity, and holistic growth.

“Learning Beyond Classrooms: Educational Trip to Planetarium”

On 28th June 2025, 55 children of Ila Snehalaya and Auxilium Snehalaya went on an enriching educational trip to the Guwahati Planetarium, organized in collaboration with Ladies Circle India. The visit was led by Ms. Simpi Jain, Coordinator from Ladies Circle, along with the supportive presence of the Sisters of Ila and Auxilium Snehalaya. The children were captivated by the immersive sky theatre show, which introduced them to the fascinating world of astronomy, planets, and stars. The experience broadened their knowledge, sparked curiosity, and inspired them to dream beyond boundaries. The outing concluded with refreshing juice and snacks, adding joy to learning. We extend heartfelt gratitude to Ladies Circle India and all supporters for making this inspiring initiative possible.



STAFF TRAINING

On April 4, 2025, Snehalaya Child Friendly Guwahati (CFG) held a POSH training at Snehalaya Paltanbazar, empowering 90 participants including staff, coordinators, and adolescents. Conducted by Ma'am Anurita Pathak Hazarika (NEN Assam), the session fostered awareness on gender sensitivity, consent, empathy, and safe workplaces.



Key learnings included understanding legal protections, the role of the Internal Committee, and fostering respect and accountability. Real-life case discussions and expert inputs by psychologist Ms. Binita Sharma deepened insights, while adolescent involvement encouraged early awareness. The program concluded with a collective pledge to uphold dignity, equality, and a harassment-free environment at Snehalaya.

RONGALI BIHU CELEBRATION

On 12th April 2025, Child Friendly Guwahati joyfully celebrated Rongali Bihu across all CFG Centres, filling the air with music, dance, and community spirit. The festivities began with warm welcome speeches by social educators, followed by melodious Bihu songs and lively Bihu dances performed by both children and educators. Children and educators also carried the tradition of Husori to households in the community,



spreading cheer. Refreshments were shared with children and community members, adding to the festive joy. Talented children from Sarabhati, Barsapara, GMC, Baisistha, and Dhirenpara represented CFG at South Point School, Arya Vidyapeeth College, and Auxilium Provincial House, where they showcased Bihu dance, joined fun games, sang traditional songs, and learned about the cultural significance of Rongali Bihu through engaging speeches by social educators

CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS MEET

On 30th April 2025, Snehalaya Child Friendly Guwahati proudly hosted the Civil Society Leaders Meet at Don Bosco Panbazar Parish Hall, uniting over 200 enthusiastic participants from NGOs and civic bodies to share ideas for building a child-friendly Guwahati. The programme opened with a joyful prayer dance by children of Jyoti Snehalaya, followed by an inspiring address from Chief Guest Dr. Shyamal Prasad Saikia, Chairperson of the Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR). Session 1 on Family-Based Alternative Care was conducted by Anamika Das, while Session 2 on Mission Vatsalya was led by Padmini Saikia and



Alokita Barua. Special guests included Tarali Das, The Additional Member Secretary, SCPS, Father Provincial Fr. Sebastian Mathew, Fr. Lukose Cheruvalel, and Fr. Sebastian Kunnathukuzhy. At this occasion, the Snehalaya Annual Report was formally released by our distinguished guests. The celebration featured the felicitation of CFG and Snehalaya HSLC 2025 achievers, the re-launch of EKTA Juvenile Justice Network, and the announcement of a research study by Assam Don Bosco University on the impact of deinstitutionalization in Kamrup (M) — concluding with a warm, shared meal together.

VISIT BY MISS SAMITA VASUDEVAN FROM AZIM PREMJI FOUNDATION

On 27th and 28th May 2025, Snehalaya Child Friendly Guwahati joyfully welcomed Samita Vasudevan from the Azim Premji Foundation (APF) for a two-day enriching visit. Her field visit included CFG Centres at Bhutnath and Machkhowa, where enthusiastic children greeted her with beautifully decorated classrooms, colourful posters, handmade cards, melodious welcome songs, and heartfelt poem recitations. Deeply touched, she warmly appreciated the creativity, confidence, and positive transformation CFG is bringing to children's lives.



The following day at the CFG office, Fr. Sebastian delivered the welcome address, followed by Fr. Lukose, Director of Snehalaya, who shared the inspiring history of Snehalaya and CFG's evolving vision with a PPT presentation. Presentations by Jharna, Rescue Coordinator, and Himakshi, Project Secretary, showcased impressive rescue efforts, innovative initiatives, and resource mobilisation, giving Miss Smita a vibrant and comprehensive understanding of CFG's impactful work.



Environment Day

On 5th June 2025, Child Friendly Guwahati (CFG) turned green and happy to celebrate World Environment Day! Across all CFG centres, inspiring children and community members to protect and nurture our planet. Children drew colourful pictures of nature, made eco-friendly paper bags, and planted 32 little saplings—each one a new friend for the Earth. Social educators shared exciting stories about why trees, clean air, and a plastic-free world matter. With juicy mango treats and big smiles, everyone promised to care for our planet every day, making “Go Green” not just a slogan, but a way of life!



World Day Against Child Labour

World Day Against Child Labour was observed on 12th June 2025, Snehalaya Child Friendly Guwahati, in collaboration with government officials, observed World Day Against Child Labour at Don Mario Hall, Panbazar. The event, themed on celebrating rescued children and raising awareness, was graced by dignitaries including Mrs. Parijat Bhuyan (District Development Commissioner), Mr. Hemanta Kalita (Assistant Labour Commissioner), Rev. Bivan Mukhim (Vice Provincial, Don Bosco Provincial House), Father Lukose Cheruvalel (Director, Snehalaya), Ms. Shehnaz Khan & Mr. Pravesh Chandra Das (Legal Aid Defence Counsels), and Ms. Tanima Dhar (District Child Protection Unit).



Inspirational speeches and addressed poverty, education gaps, and welfare schemes like Viksit Bharat. Cultural highlights included a dance by Jyoti Snehalaya girls, a musical skit by CFG Sijubari children, and a song by Ms. Leena Kalita (Panjabari Centre). Three rescued children received backwage compensation (₹1.5 lakh, ₹90,000, ₹60,000). A street rally and play with police, railway officials, and Don Bosco students further spread awareness, urging citizens to call Childline 1098 to report exploitation.



International Yoga Day

On 21st June, 2025 CFG celebrated International Yoga Day 2025 across all 33 Child Friendly Guwahati (CFG) centres, inspiring children and community members to embrace a healthier lifestyle. Social educators introduced simple yoga asanas and breathing techniques, fostering awareness of physical fitness, mental calmness, and self-discipline. In some centres, children confidently led the sessions, encouraging peer learning and leadership. The celebration nurtured a spirit of togetherness, boosted confidence, and motivated participants to make yoga a joyful part of their daily lives.



COMMUNITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

In June and July 2025, Child Friendly Guwahati (CFG) conducted 29 Community Awareness Campaigns on *Child Rights, Child Protection Issues and Reporting Mechanism* across 31 areas of Guwahati, Kamrup Metro, led by Child Protection Officer Musabbir Hussain with cluster coordinators. An ample number of community members actively participated, making the initiative a vibrant and



engaging platform. The sessions proved to be an eye-opener for many, as participants became more aware of their rights, gained valuable knowledge on child protection laws, and learned how to access vital services and identity documents. Through rallies, public discussions, and Q&A sessions, the campaign inspired collective action towards building safer, more nurturing communities for children. Over 1440 community members participated in the awareness sessions conducted in 31 CFG centres.



Rescue Department

From April to June, the Child Friendly Guwahati (CFG) Rescue Team, led by Coordinator Jharna Chakraborty with officers Raju Mahanta and Jay Das, in collaboration with the District Task Force (DTF) and local authorities, successfully rescued 19 children from child labour across Guwahati. This included a 10-year-old girl engaged in domestic work and 18 boys (aged 14-17) employed in bike garages, welding shops, restaurants, car washes, hotels, and butcher shops. After rescue, the children were produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and safely reunited with their families, after the parents gave an undertaking that they will not engage them in child labour reaffirming CFG's commitment to child rights and protection.



Message

This 38th Edition of Sneha Dhwni (Echoes of Love) brings you a brief account of all the loving activities that were carried out in the 5 Snehalaya Homes and the 33 Child Friendly Guwahati (CFG) centres from April to June 2025. The 125 children in the Homes receive 24x7 A to Z loving care, whereas the 2000 children in the CFG centres get motivational as well as after-school loving support aimed at dropout prevention. The diverse and engaging activities guided by the team of over 90 staff members, numerous volunteers and interns and a core team of 10 spiritually driven child-friendly persons gradually help Snehalaya to move a little closer to its vision of creating a Child Friendly City where there is a safety net for children and a culture of child safeguarding. Join hands with us and let no child be left behind. Let us uphold their hopes and give a helping hand in the unfolding of their dreams as we teach them to move forward, looking beyond with resilience.

Fr Lukose Cheruvalel SDB
Director.

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