



ANUPRERONA

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Voici la version anglaise de notre Newsletter. Si vous avez besoin de la version française, veuillez nous envoyer un e-mail à volunteer1@howrahsouthpoint.org.

““ The poor won't come to us, it's up to us to go to them.”

DONATE



Events

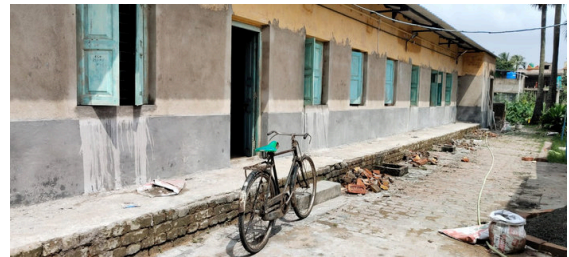


Baksarah Boys Hostel : Renovation done !

The renovation of the boys' dormitory in Baksarah has **finally been completed** at the end of March. After more than eight months of work—interrupted by long pauses due to communication issues—the boys have finally been able to return to their quarters in time to face the coming summer.

As a reminder, during the renovation, the boys and the dadas were living in the attic of the Baksarah school. A cramped and narrow floor, which turned out to be an acceptable solution for the winter, but was completely **unsuitable for the heat of the Indian summer**.

Before :



After :



The building is now as good as new!

The roof and its structure have been completely replaced, **the façade** has been renovated, a **new ceiling** has been installed, **the paint** has been refreshed, and both **the electrical and plumbing systems** have been fully modernized. Some windows were also sealed off to improve insulation.

We would like to extend our **heartfelt thanks** to our donors, without whom this renovation would not have been possible. It will greatly benefit the boys of Baksarah!

A special mention goes out to the boys of Baksarah, as well as to Animesh da and Sandjip da, **who stood strong** during these eight months spent in the attic and managed to keep their spirits up despite the conditions.

To mark their return, a Mass was celebrated by Father Laurent, **in the presence of Father Alain Bourdery, an MEP priest visiting HSP.**



Republic Day and Holi

During this eventful period, many festive occasions have brought life to HSP, notably **Republic Day**, celebrated every January 26th. All the centers were adorned with the colors of India: flagpoles were raised, and the Indian flags proudly hoisted!

The children, too, wore their school uniforms or donned sashes in the colors of the national flag for the occasion.

It is one of the many moments throughout the year when they can express their love and deep connection to the **incredible nation that is India**.



Holi is an Indian festival that celebrates the arrival of spring.

It's a time when all members of HSP splash each other with colors and spread them wherever there's still a spot untouched!

A joyful, colorful battle breaks out among the children, while the adults exchange pigments in a somewhat more... restrained manner.





Fundation Day and visit of Asansol Children

As every year, **February 28** marks the celebration of HSP's founding, which also coincides with **Father Laborde's birthday**.

On this occasion, **the children from Asansol** came to spend a week in Howrah. This center, which reopened last October, is once again welcoming children—many of whom had been disconnected from HSP during the four long years of the Covid crisis.

It was a wonderful opportunity for them to reconnect with the community! They visited the Botanical Garden, accompanied by Pierre-Alain Besuchet, his family, and Father Paulino Gonzalez.

The girls, meanwhile, had the joy of discovering the Victoria Memorial in Kolkata. Most of them are **former residents of the Asansol home**, before it closed. This visit allowed them to reconnect with old friends and forge new bonds with children from other centers.

It was a moment of great joy for everyone to see familiar faces again and to feel once more the family spirit that drives HSP!



For HSP's 49th anniversary, everything was pulled out all the stops!

All the staff and children of Howrah were invited to an afternoon of celebration at Ashaneer. The festivities began with a Mass co-celebrated by Father Paulino Gonzalez, followed by numerous dances, songs, and short plays prepared and performed by the children.

Meanwhile, in Jalpaiguri, the celebration was in full swing as well: all the children, along with the Didis and Dadas, participated enthusiastically. Father Julius Kujur, S.J., a member of HSP's board of directors, celebrated a special Mass for the occasion. The children joyfully took part in the preparations, decorating the space with their handmade crafts and creations.

It was a vibrant day—both in dress and décor—concluding with a large shared lunch in a festive and warm-hearted atmosphere.





Visit of the friend of HSP and ancient volunteer

Over the past three months, we've had the joy of welcoming many visitors. First of all, Raphaël, a former HSP volunteer who stayed for two years, returned at the end of January to spend three weeks with us, accompanied by two friends. It was a shared joy for the Didis, the Dadas, the children... and for Raphaël himself!!



We were also delighted to welcome Father Paulino Gonzalez and Pierre-Alain Bésuchet, accompanied by the latter's family.

Father Paulino Gonzalez, head of the association Les Amis de Calcutta, is a long-time friend of HSP. He has been visiting us since 2001, but due to Covid, it had been over seven years since his last visit. This trip gave him the opportunity to see how HSP has evolved—especially in Howrah, where he visited all the centers, including the EPN center, which is supported by Les Amis de Calcutta.

As for Pierre-Alain Bésuchet, project coordinator for the Lumilo Foundation in India, this was his very first visit to HSP. After their time in Howrah, the group traveled to the Jalpaiguri centers, where the Lumilo Foundation notably supports the Modragandi center.





We also had the pleasure of welcoming Jean-Marie Grillon, better known as Ali Baba, one of our loyal donors who visits us every year. He first stayed in Howrah before continuing his visit to Jalpaiguri.



Opening of a new SMCS center

A new SMCS center opened its doors in February, in the heart of the Tikiapara slum. This opening follows the findings from the first phase of the Home Visits. In addition to widespread poverty among residents, a clear need for specific support for mothers had been identified.

The Tikiapara slum stretches over a kilometer along the railway tracks. Today, 35 mothers are regularly monitored there with their babies, with the aim of fostering the healthy development of the child during the first three years of life.





Staff meeting in Jalpaiguri

HSP's Deputy Administrator, Dr. Bidyut, visited Jalpaiguri for the first time. Sabita Di, the administrator, and Sumit Da were also present, along with Devi Di, the administrator of the Jalpaiguri branch. The first staff meeting took place at Bakuabari, with all the staff from Jalpaiguri and the HSP administration.



Rajdeep Dhole, the head of HSP's social office, came to conduct a training session and explain the child protection policy.

The session was divided into two parts: one at Jordighi and the other at Bakuabari. The Didis and Dadas from all the homes, as well as the staff, participated according to their professional needs.



Jalpaiguri Children operation in Kolkatta

The children from Jalpaiguri traveled to Kolkatta with their parents, Dalyia Di, and Pascale, a French physiotherapist who has been in India for over 25 years, specifically in Jalpaiguri. The goal was to conduct medical check-ups for some, while others underwent surgery. In total, 15 children underwent orthopedic surgeries! Of these medical procedures, 5 were funded by the NGO RCFC (3 orthopedic surgeries and 2 consultations), and 2 orthopedic surgeries were covered by HSP.





News du trimestre

- Once again, coaches from Don Bosco came to Ashaneer to introduce rugby to the boys and girls from the Howrah centers. Among them was a familiar face to HSP: Swadhin, a former resident of the Jordighi home, who had surgery three years ago and has since discovered a true passion for rugby. Furthermore, a weekly training session takes place every Saturday morning in Kolkata, gathering over 200 young people from various backgrounds. The girls from the Lalkuthi center had the opportunity to participate occasionally, thus discovering a sport that is still little known in India.
- A sports competition for children with disabilities was held in Siliguri.

It was the 36th edition organized by the North Bengal district. The children from Jordighi and Bakuabari participated in the event. Their involvement was crowned with a victory for the boys, while the girls took second place!

- In early March, a drawing and poem recital competition took place at Ashaneer, where children from the Baksarah and Lalkuthi centers had the chance to participate. It was a wonderful event organized by Pradip Baroi, the Vice-President of HSP.
- In early February, our students from class 10 took the Madhyamik exam, which is a mandatory regional exam to move on to higher secondary education and start their studies. This marks an important milestone in their lives, as for many, it signifies the end of their journey with HSP if they do not wish to continue with the After 10 program. Their departure is celebrated with dances and gifts at each center, making for emotionally charged moments for these children who have spent much of their lives in our homes!
- The schools of Baksarah, EPN, and Modragandi organized sports days for their students.

Throughout the day, various sports events took place, including sack races, as well as more fun activities like a costume contest judged by a very strict panel.

- A large majority of the Howrah staff gathered for a picnic by the Rupnaryan River.

The goal was to bring the staff closer together and foster the family spirit that is HSP. The day was filled with dances, but most importantly,

a delicious meal made with mutton.

- Following the findings from the second round of Home Visits, a third round began in early March.

The objectives remain to reach out to the most vulnerable, identify areas in Howrah with high concentrations of poverty, find new potential beneficiaries, and admit them into HSP's programs (SMCS, non-formal schooling, homes, etc.). The initiative also aims to raise more awareness among staff about the social conditions of HSP beneficiaries and strengthen HSP's presence among the poorest. An article was written on this topic, and the link is just below.



Action et Partage avec Calcutta

Aidez-nous à prendre soin des pauvres parmi les plus pauvres et des enfants en situation de handicap



The Home Visits project was launched last year and is divided into several phases.

The idea is to send teams, composed of all HSP staff, to different areas of Howrah to visit the homes of the most vulnerable families.

[Lire l'article](#)















Vidéo

HSP in January, February and March



Donner

