



Piali Ashar Alo School

Januar – April 2025

Special Moments and Important Visits: Spring 2025

The first months of the new year brought several unforgettable and moving moments that enriched our community and gave even deeper meaning to our work.

One of the highlights was the visit from the **Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Ms. Tanja Fajon**, who honored us with her presence along with her delegation. Among the guests were also **Ms. Mateja Vodeb Ghosh, the Ambassador of Slovenia to India, and Mr. Bagaria, the Honorary Consul of Slovenia.**

We prepared carefully for this important visit, and although we were a little nervous at first, the kind support and relaxed attitude of the guests quickly put us at ease. The Minister warmly connected with our children and was especially delighted by the dance performance of our girls to the song “Zemlja pleše.” The visit ended with generous gifts—English books for our library and a beautiful book about Slovenia.





This year we celebrate the **17th anniversary of our work**. On this occasion, we are especially grateful – to our children and their families, to our dedicated teachers, to the tireless cooks and cleaners, to our gardener who helps grow vegetables and fruit, and to our security guard who ensures we are safe each day. What started as one teacher and one vision has now grown into a true community of colleagues, volunteers, and supporters working together to create a better future for our children.

Joining us for this anniversary were also our generous **sponsors from the CED Foundation**, led by their president **Ms. Susanne Pechel**, along with our Italian volunteer, **Mariestelle**, who quickly became part of our everyday life.



Due to overwhelming interest, we **welcomed more than 100 new children** this year. Although some had to leave for various personal reasons, we now have **more than 300**



students – the highest number so far. This isn't just a sign of growth, but a reflection of the trust families from our community place in our work and vision.



We were also delighted to host **three speech therapy students from Slovenia – Anastasija, Anja, and Gaja – along with a young traveler, Gladys from Belgium**. During their weeks with us, they actively participated in lessons, organized creative workshops and games, and helped paint several of our school walls. Our girls warmly welcomed them, dressed them in colorful saris, decorated their hands with mehendi, and took them around the village to explore local life, language, and cuisine. It was a heartfelt experience of sharing, learning, and building friendships across cultures.



Our girls recently embarked on another meaningful journey – they **visited an old age home in Kolkata**, where they performed a cultural program for the residents. They sang, danced, and performed a short play that brought many smiles and even tears of joy to the elders' eyes. At the end, the girls received heartfelt blessings and handshakes – a powerful moment of **intergenerational connection**. These visits are not only beautiful gestures but invaluable life lessons for our girls, teaching them

empathy, respect, and the importance of human connection – lessons that go far beyond the school curriculum.



We are also very proud to report on another significant initiative – a successful **medical camp** organized by our NGO to provide free healthcare for school children and residents of surrounding villages.

More than 100 people received medical attention, including consultations with general practitioners, gynecologists, ophthalmologists, as well as EKGs and laboratory tests. We are especially proud that we were able to provide **free eyeglasses for those in need and**

organize cataract surgeries for individuals who could not otherwise afford them. A heartfelt thank you to all the doctors, volunteers, and supporters who made this life-changing initiative possible. Together, we are improving lives.



Much has also happened in terms of infrastructure. Thanks to the generous donations from companies **GV Pharma and Second Vivekananda Bridge Tollway**, we were able to carry out vital **maintenance work, purchase additional furniture, and improve classroom conditions**. We also expanded and upgraded our beauty course space, which is becoming increasingly popular among local women.

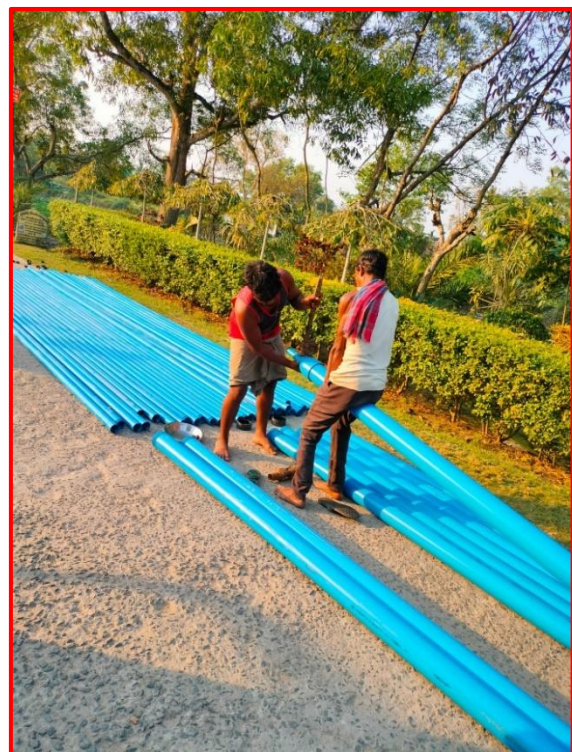


With great excitement, we announce the purchase of a **telescope** – opening new horizons of curiosity and learning, especially in science classes.

We are currently constructing an **additional room and actively expanding our computer lab** so that

more children can gain access to digital learning – an essential skill in today's world.

To improve access to safe drinking water, a new borewell—approximately 1000 feet deep—was installed on the premises. A submersible pump was fitted inside the borewell to efficiently draw water from the underground aquifer and bring it to the surface. This provides the school with an additional, reliable source of clean water for daily use. The project was generously **sponsored by the Second Vivekananda Bridge Company.**



A special focus during this time has also been placed on the **professional development of our teachers**. On Saturday, we held a **workshop on active learning**, aimed at exploring modern teaching approaches. Together, we explored group work, discussions, activities that promote critical thinking and creativity – all methods that increase student engagement and help children become active co-creators of knowledge. The workshop also served as a wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas and strengthen connections among teachers – something that is key to building a strong and supportive learning environment.



None of this would be possible without your support. Thank you for helping us grow – together with our children and together with our community.

Your Piali shar Alo School Family

