

SNEHALAYA

Activity Report from April – September, 2018

➤ EARTH WEEK CELEBRATION IN ILA SNEHALAYA

We show our respect and gratitude to the planet we live in by observing Earth week. Nature is created by God and to take care of it God created us, the human beings. But instead of taking care of it we are destroying it through air pollution, water pollution and deforestation. Unknowingly these activities are leading to rising temperature of the earth. On the other hand, use of plastic is causing more damage. Even though plastic is a useful material, its demerits are of bigger extent. If thrown in water bodies plastic creates hindrances. Animals too sometimes swallow polythene and get choked. Again, deforestation (cutting of trees) is another factor of global warming.

Trees give us oxygen and purify the air but human beings are cutting down trees and clearing forests in order to make way for big buildings which is helping the temperature to soar. In order to explain the value of maintain our Earth and avoid use of plastic and cutting trees to the future generations, the Earth week was organized by Bimal Auto Agency. The Earth week starts from April 22-29. On April 22, 2018 the staff of Bimal Auto Agency visited ILA Snehalaya and animated the children and urged them to respect mother Earth, to plant trees and avoid use of polythene. On April 24, 2018 Sr. Sheeba, Home Incharge of ILA Snehalaya conducted a session for the children and planted trees.



Sr. Sheeba (left) helping the children to plant trees



The staff of Bimal Auto Agency with the children of ILA Snehalaya

➤ **VISIT OF NEW PROVINCIAL, FR. JANUARIUS S. SANGMA TO SNEHALAYA**



Fr. Januarius Sangma, the New Provincial

On June 1, 2018 the new Provincial of Guwahati province, Don Bosco, Fr. Januarius S. Sangma paid a visit to Snehalaya, Paltan Bazar. It was the first official visit of Fr. Sangma to Snehalaya after taking charge. The staff and the children had all gathered

in the playground to welcome him. As soon he entered the gate the children sang a welcome song. He spoke to the gathering and thanked the staff and the children for the wonderful welcome. He advised the children to study well and prosper. Furthermore, he highlighted and appreciated the hard works and sincere efforts of the management and the staff members of Snehalaya towards the benefit of these children.



Fr. Martin Sangma addressing the inmates of Snehalaya

➤ **FAREWELL OF FR. P.J. JOSE AND WELCOME OF FR. MARTIN R MARAK**

Life is a transitory process. Nothing is permanent in this world. Both good and bad have to perish one day. Similarly, the Salesians priests render their services in a place for a limited period of time. After the period is over they move to where they are assigned to work. Fr. P.J. Jose joined Snehalaya in March 2015 as Associate Director. A loving and caring person, he is liked by all the children who have come under his supervision. He is willing to help, very amiable and wears a smile on his face. But as he received a calling from another place to render

his service the time came to bid adieu to Snehalaya. The official farewell programme was organised in Snehalaya Boys' Home, Dhirenpara on June 10, 2018. The same programme marked the welcome of the new Associate Director of Snehalaya, Fr. Martin R Marak.

The programme started in the evening beautifully hosted by Snehalaya's staff Julie Bora and Birender Baxla. They introduced the programme to the audience. Then the Jyoti Snehalaya's girls performed a welcome dance. Fr. Jeremias Tirkey presented the words of welcome. In his speech he expressed thankfulness on behalf of Snehalaya family to Fr. Jose for his selfless service to Snehalaya. He further mentioned how difficult it is to let go off someone who is so lovable. The Snehalaya children performed modern dances, skit and sang farewell songs. Fr. P.J Jose while speaking narrated about his stint as Associate Director of Snehalaya. He mentioned how they take the place of parents for the orphan children. He urged the children to be good and do well. Fr. Martin R Marak expressed his thankfulness for welcoming him and sang a Hindi song of Kishore Kumar in favour of Fr. P.J Jose.



Fr. P.J Jose (right) and Fr Martin R Marak (left) on the dias



The Jyoti Snehalaya's girls performing a folk dance

➤ ARINDAM GOSWAMI MEMORIAL AWARD PROGRAMME

Most importantly, the Arindam Goswami Memorial Award ceremony was also organised in the same programme mentioned above. This award which carries cash prize and a certificate is distributed in the memory of Late Arindam Goswami by his parents Rabindranath Goswami and Archana Goswami. It is presented to any Snehalaya children who perform well in board exams and score more than 60%. This year Moina Das of Jyoti Snehalaya cleared Higher Secondary Final Exam (Arts) under AHSEC with First Division. She is the proud recipient of Arindam Goswami Memorial Award, 2018. The parents of Late Arindam presented the award to Moina. They urged the other children of Snehalaya to be inspired by the success of Moina and scale great heights. Moina spoke about the kind service of Snehalaya towards children like her. She

thanked Fr. Thadeus Kujur, Director of Snehalaya and Sr. Merina Soren, the Home In charge of Jyoti Snehalaya, and the staff of Snehalaya for motivating and guiding her all the time.

Fr. Thadeus Kujur while presenting his speech in the programme praised the hard work and sacrifice of Fr. P.J Jose towards Snehalaya. He expressed how the Snehalaya family will miss him. At the same time he welcomed Fr. Martin R Marak to the family. He thanked the parents of Late Arindam for presenting the award. Furthermore, he appreciated Moina for excelling in the HS Final Exam and receiving the Arindam Goswami Memorial Award, 2018



Moina Das being presented the award

➤ ANTI CHILD LABOUR DAY



The staff performing the skit

Snehalaya aims to make Guwahati free of child labour. The staff members of Snehalaya performed a skit based on the theme of child labour on June 14, 2018 in the entrance of Guwahati Railway Station. They enacted the roles of different characters ranging from child labour, employer, police, social worker etc. A big crowd gathered to watch the performance.

After the skit was over, the staff interacted with the crowd to find out their reactions. They expressed they have got the message of anti-child labour. The street drama played a big role in enlightening them regarding child labour.

Through the skit, an effort was made to bring awareness among the people that no child below the age of 14 should be employed as domestic workers, in factories, hotels etc. If anyone is found of breaking this law one will have to undergo 3 years of jail and pay a fine of 20,000/-

➤ INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY



Children and staff of Snehalaya, Dhirenpara doing pranayams

June 21 is celebrated across the world as International Yoga Day. The day was announced in United Nations General Assembly in 2015. Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi suggested this date in UNGA.

Yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual exercise. It originated in ancient India. Yoga is a natural practice. It heals the body, mind and spirit. The steps are quite flexible, easy to do (with practice), and involves the whole body. There are several types of yoga like Classical yoga, Asthanga yoga, Hatha yoga etc. There are different types of asanas or postures of yoga.

Snehalaya celebrated this day in Snehalaya, Dhirenpara and tried to give a message to its inmates that development of a person depends on the development of his physical, mental and spiritual aspects. When all these are maintained then an individual could possess a sound body and mind.



Children performing yoga

➤ RABHA DIVAS

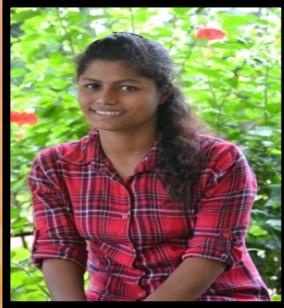
The SSA centre of Snehalaya, Paltan Bazar observed Rabha Divas on June 20, 2018 in its classroom organised by Trishna Talukdar, the SSA teacher. The programme started with lighting the earthen lamp in front of the picture of Bishnu Rabha by Fr. Jeremias Tirkey, Assistant Director of Snehalaya. All the staff and children present in the room bowed before him and paid homage. Then Fr. Tirkey highlighted the greatness of Bishnu Rabha and urged the children to follow him. Pankaj Sinha, Accountant of Snehalaya spoke about his revolutionary works.



Children paying tribute to Kalaguru Bishnu Rabha

➤ **CHILDREN WHO BROUGHT LAURELS TO SNEHALAYA**

This year in 2018 the Snehalaya children who cleared board exams and delighted everyone are—



Tulsi Singh
Secured IIInd Div



Biswajit Nag, Secured
IIInd Div

High School Leaving Certificate Exam (SEBA Board

Higher Secondary Final Exam (AHSEC)



Moina Das,
Secured Ist Div



Raju Das, Secured
IIrd Div



Tinu Das, Secured
IIIrd Div



Pompy Das, Secured
IIIrd Div

➤ SUMMER VACATIONS

Summer vacations of Snehalaya's children are always filled with fun and frolic and learning too. This year like every year the inmates of all the homes went for summer camps. The children of **Snehalaya, Dhirenpara** went to Gojapara, Goalpara. They stayed there in Don Bosco from July 4-July 13, 2018. The staff accompanied the children. The boys stayed there for 10 days and in these days boys were given lots of activities to do. The days were full of fun and activities. The most interesting events were football match between Gojapara boys and Snehalaya boys. The Snehalaya boys defeated the home team with 7 – 1 goals. Another beautiful moment was a visit to Don Bosco, Rongjeng. The beauty of the mountains was just wonderful. The road is covered by very beautiful trees.



The Snehalaya, Dhirenpara children along with Fr. Martin in Gojapara

On July 8, 2018 the children and staff of Jyoti Snehalaya had gone for a picnic to Gojapara, Goalpara district. They also visited Panishali and while coming back they visited Damra. They were accompanied by Fr. Thadeus Kujur. They all enjoyed because they got chance to see many places.

On July 26, 2018, all the inmates of **Jyoti Snehalaya** had gone for outing to Tezpur. They started their journey at 7.30 AM via Nagaon .They first visited DBSTI (Don Bosco Socio Technical Institute). From there they went to Tezpur Bishop House which is situated on the bank of the mighty river Brahmaputra. Then they visited Chitralkha Park and after the lunch they visited Agnigarh. It is a historical place on the top of the hill. They all climbed on the tower and enjoyed the view of the whole Tezpur town and the Brahmaputra River. Last they visited Jyoti Bhavan MSMHC sister's provincial house.

The girls of Jyoti Snehalaya with the staff in Tezpur



A long awaited day came on July 14, 2018. The children and three staff of **Auxilium Snehalaya** set out for summer Vacation camp in Niketan Vicuna Boko. In this camp children enjoyed in playing, games watching movies, dancing etc. They were taught how to keep their surrounding clean and hygiene as well. They were taught to be connected with the creator God through (meditation) taught them moral values through stories, they also enjoyed singing, dancing, drawing etc took part in various competitions they played indoors and outdoors games according to the weather. Children enjoyed their stay in Boko through the presence of the supporting staff, sisters, fathers and neighbouring community who helped them. They also had the joy of going for a walk amidst the greenery of the paddy fields.



The staff of Auxilium Snehalaya with the girls during the trip

On July 10, 2018 the children and staff of **ILA Snehalaya** went for the summer camp to Markasa, Meghalaya. 18 boys and 6 staff stayed in Fatima convent, Markesan. They started their journey by 9 AM via Rani Road to Mairang and from there about 17 km to Markasa. On the way they also had a wonderful experience of weather so cool and the sky and the Nature were talking to us so much, they felt so peaceful and calm. On the way they had some break in Umkador Catholic Mission where children had some snacks. They reached Markasa by 2 PM. Sisters of Markasa welcomed them and provided the accommodation and all that they required for their stay.

The kids of ILA were so delighted to visit this place. They seemed to get lost amidst the beauty of the hill station. They felt refreshed and it was a memorable trip for them. They stayed there for 6 days.



The children and the staff enjoying nature

The boys of Snehalaya, Paltan Bazar with the staff went to Bhutiachang, Udalguri for 18 days camp in July, 2018. The children had a wonderful time with lots of activities, talks, fishing, and training in paddy fields. They remarked that they never had a wonderful experience like this before.



The boys engaged in fishing under the guidance of staff

➤ **TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATION**

The children of Snehalaya pay their gratitude to their teachers every year on Teachers Day. On September 5, 2018 Teachers Day was celebrated in Snehalaya, Paltan Bazar. Mrs Trishna Talukdar, the teacher who has taught the Snehalaya children to read and write since a long time and mainstreamed them in formal schools was paid respect and thankfulness by the children and the staff. The children gifted her small gift as a token of respect. She has been running the SSA (Sarva Siksha Abhiyan) Centre in Snehalaya.



Mrs Trishna Talukdar amidst the staff and children on Teachers Day, 2018

Schooling:

All the children of five homes have been enrolled in the schools in its areas. Children have been well motivated especially during the summer camps and other occasions on the importance of education. Children go to their respective schools regularly and all are doing well. Children go to schools at about 8:30am and return by 2:30pm. In the evening hours children have games and other activities according to their likings. In the evening, all the children have studies and tuition classes especially Maths and Science. In the last week of June all the children had the quarterly written test and practically most of them did well. But there are a few who need to study well.



Those children who have not done well, did not have a good education foundation, however, they are finding it difficult to come up. Such students have been given extra tuition in the evening so that they can do better. Practically most of the children have been taking lots of interest in their education because they want to be a successful person in the future. The staff members of each Snehalaya home follow up each child in the schools. The staff members are constantly in touch with the school authorities.

During the last 6 months, there have been a good number of times we had health checkups, individual counselling as well as group counselling, varieties of competitions like – drawing, singing, dance, participation in anti-child labour day, awareness on child abuse and trafficking, exposure, outing, picnic, hiking, social work service to the village people, giving helping hands,

awareness programs, session on life skills, football match with other club members, climbing rocks and mountains, cleaning the roads etc. However, in the last 6 months the children have enjoyed, learned much and well motivated to face the future life. Children are happy, doing well and growing gracefully. The junior children also are getting inspired with the senior boys and girls who are already doing well and getting settled in life.









Words of Gratitude:

I, on behalf of entire Snehalaya family express the words of thanks and appreciation for all the help and support you have been giving to Snehalaya children for last many years. Today these poor and orphan children are doing well in their studies and growing gracefully under our care and guidance. After the summer comps in the month of July, the children have made up their mind set as well as well motivated to study well and come up in life. All the children are looked after well and doing well. Now these children are serious in their studies since the final examination is coming closer.

Children are ever grateful to you for the financial support you have been giving and hope that you will continue to support so that they can study least up to class X, XI, XII and vocational training. Practically most of the senior boys are getting settled after mainstreaming them in the society after have well preparation. Today they are doing well and we are always in touch with them. Today they are ever grateful to Snehalaya family for all the help and support they received in Snehalaya homes for many years also. In return they want also to give support and sponsor some of the poor children from their won income. We hope that they will come up in life and help the helpless children anywhere.

Once again, thanks a lot for all the help and support you have been rendering to these last, least and lost children whom we are taking care in 5 Snehalaya homes. We assure you of our prayers that may God bless your generosity that you can continue to support these and many more children in mere future.

Thanks and God bless you.

Fr. Thadeus Kujur, sdb,
Director, Snehalaya.
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