

DON BOSCO ASHALAYAM

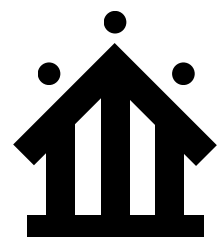


TRI-MONTHLY REPORT

ISSUE 25, VOL. 1, January- March 2025

**Education to Life Skills - slums
and streets.**

- ✓ Academics & Skill Trainings
- ✓ Children Programmes
- ✓ Events



ESTD - 1985

Directors Message



Dear Friends of Ashalayam,
Warm greetings to you all!

The first quarter of 2025 has been a vibrant and eventful period at Don Bosco Ashalayam. As the academic year began children went to schools with lots of enthusiasm. The class ten and twelve have their annual examinations. Once the exams were over, they went as a group to visit the famous centre of Rabindra Nath Tagore in Santiniketan. It was a good break and an enriching experience for them.

A major highlight of this quarter was the launch of the Ruby Jubilee celebrations, marking 40 years of Don Bosco Ashalayam's dedicated service to vulnerable children. The Phase One celebrations were made even more special by the presence of our dear ASA friends from France. Over five memorable days, they journeyed with us across all our centres – from shelter hostels to all educational outreach in slums and streets – witnessing firsthand the work that has been made possible through years of committed support and solidarity. The celebration concluded with a joyful nature visit at the Botanical Gardens, where the children, staff, and volunteers from abroad shared laughter, stories, and cultural exchanges. It was a truly enriching experience for all involved.

Another exciting development is the launch of a computer education programme at ASHA TICI, thanks to a generous CSR donation from Pernod Ricard Foundation. The newly equipped computer lab is already buzzing with activity as the children begin their journey into the world of digital literacy – a crucial step towards their future empowerment. This also offered IT possibilities to children from other organisations similar to Ashalayam.

As we step into the coming months, we carry with us the joy of shared celebrations, the promise of a new academic year, and the continued commitment to serve children in need with love and dignity.

Thank you for walking this journey with us.

With warm regards,

Fr. Dr. George Chempakathinal
Director, Don Bosco Ashalayam



New School Enrollments

Six boys from Don Bosco Ashalayam, Howrah have been newly enrolled in an english medium, Bantra Public High School. This marks an important step in their educational journey, providing them with greater opportunities for academic and personal growth. We wish them every success in this new chapter of their lives.

A Milestone Moment at Asha TIC!



We are thrilled to announce the inauguration of our state-of-the-art computer lab at Asha TIC! on January 2, 2025, made possible through the generous support of the Pernod Ricard Foundation. The lab, equipped with 15 advanced computers, host 5-day digital bridging camps for underprivileged children, teaching vital software skills like Google Suite, Excel, Illustrator, Photoshop, and Fusion 360 for 3D modeling.

This incredible milestone was marked by the presence of Ms. Smriti Patak from Pernod Ricard India, Mr. Didier Talpain, Consulate General of France in Kolkata, and Fr. Dr. George Chempakathinal, Rector & Director of Don Bosco Ashalayam.

This initiative empowers hundreds of children with essential digital skills, opening doors to a brighter future. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of everyone involved in making this project a reality, specially the Pernod Ricard Foundation.



"Yoga and Meditation Session at Bhattanagar Hostel

Mr. Francoise a French volunteer, conducted a yoga and meditation session for the children at Bhattanagar hostel, promoting mindfulness, relaxation, and overall well-being among the students."

IT at Ashalayam

New batch of students from class VI onwards at Ashalayam are learning computer skills. They gain knowledge in typing, Microsoft Office, internet use, and digital safety, preparing them for the digital world.



Homelink Annual Training

From January 20 to 23, 2025, Homelink Network conducted its annual training in Trichy, focusing on "Harnessing the Power of Artificial Intelligence." The session explored how AI can be leveraged for HLK DIGI data protection.

Cooperators on 23 Jan, 2025.

Salesian Cooperators from Don Bosco Ashalayam attended the Salesian Family Day in Nitika Don Bosco and celebrated 100 years of Don Bosco. The gathering focused on the impact of social media on youth, discussing its effects and potential solutions.

The participants were divided in groups to share experiences and ideas, fostering a sense of community and collaboration.



Ruby Students' Educational Trip to Botanical Garden

On January 16, 2025, our Ruby students had an enriching experience at the Botanical Garden, guided by Mr. Yannis. They explored diverse flora, gaining hands-on knowledge and appreciation for nature. The trip was a huge success, leaving students with unforgettable memories.

Republic Day Celebration

The Education for All project celebrated Republic Day on January 26 with great enthusiasm at street schools. Students participated in various activities, fostering patriotism and unity. The event promoted values of diversity, equality, and national pride, inspiring young minds.



Visit of St. Dominic High School,

Students from St. Dominic High School in France visited Asha Neer, boys residence, bringing games for the children. The children had a blast playing together, making new friends, and creating memorable experiences.

A Thrilling Experience



The Comic Con Kolkata, held on February 23, is a vibrant celebration of pop culture, featuring comics, movies, TV shows, anime, gaming, and more. We thank Comic Con Kolkata for generously providing free passes, giving our children an unforgettable opportunity to meet artists, attend panels, and immerse themselves in a world of creativity.



French Language Camp with Alliance Française

Our students from ASHA TICI participated in a one-month French language camp with Alliance Française du Bengale. Our Class 10-12 students enjoyed a 3-hour introduction to French during their holidays, exploring the language and culture.

Success Story



Bishal Das joined Don Bosco Ashalayam in 2012 through our outreach team at Howrah Station. He stayed in various hostels of DBA and actively participated in various activities and skill trainings that shaped his growth and development. He recently completed his B.A graduation and is now working and managing life independently. We congratulate him on his success!

Don Bosco Feast Day, 31 Jan

Don Bosco Ashalayam celebrated Don Bosco Feast Day with immense joy and enthusiasm. Children from the shelter home came together, strengthening bonds and creating memories. A vibrant rally was organized in Howrah, with support from Bantra Police Station, showcasing unity and festivity. The event featured engaging staff animation, annual awards to recognize children's achievements, and fun-filled games. The celebration concluded with a shared meal, promoting a sense of community and togetherness among the children and staff.



Annual Sports in Bantra Public High School, Kadamtala Hwh



Bantra Public High School organized its Annual Sports Day. Our children from Don Bosco Ashalayam actively participated in various athletic events, showcasing their talents, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm for healthy competition. The event was a great success, thanks to the excellent coordination by the school's teachers, who ensured that the program ran smoothly and was enjoyable for all participants. We are grateful that our children are studying in an institution that values holistic education—nurturing not only academic excellence but also physical fitness and mental well-being.



Nutrition Support in Street Schools

The SSCAP Project continues its unwavering commitment to child welfare by providing monthly nutrition support across all its street schools in Howrah and Kolkata. From January to March, a total of 1,195 children have been supported through this initiative. The educators were actively present, guiding the children and creating a supportive environment that promoted healthy eating habits and encouraged regular school attendance.

Yoga & Meditation

To help promote emotional well-being and inner peace among children, meditation sessions were conducted in various street schools under the SSCAP Project. These sessions aimed to help students develop a calm and focused mind, improve concentration, and manage stress more effectively. With the gentle guidance of educators, children participated in simple breathing exercises and mindfulness practices, creating a peaceful break in their daily routine and nurturing a positive mindset for learning and personal growth.



Visit from ASA France

Mr. Thierry Vannier, the first Secretary of ASA France, arrived in India on 3rd March. During his stay at Don Bosco Ashalayam, he visited the street and slum education centres in Howrah and Pilkhana, where he interacted warmly with the children and observed the ongoing educational initiatives.

Leadership and Community Engagement



On 11th March 2025, Fr. George Chempakathinal, Director of Bosco Net, attended a crucial Disaster Management Meeting held in Assam. The event focused on raising awareness among community members about emergency preparedness and response strategies. Essential equipment was handed over to the villagers, empowering them to respond more effectively during natural disasters.



Celebrating Holi with Joy and Togetherness

Holi was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Don Bosco Ashalayam's Day Care Centre and street schools. Each centre organized fun-filled programs with the children, creating a joyful and caring atmosphere. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our supporters for their presence and encouragement in making the celebration truly special.



Gratitude and Farewells at Asha Deepti

On March 18, 2025, a group of Class 12 girls bid a happy farewell to Asha Deepti after completing their board exams. The students expressed their gratitude and warmly thanked Don Bosco Ashalayam for the support and guidance they received."



Ashalayam **kitchen gardens** are growing a variety of vegetables and herbs, providing fresh ingredients for daily meals while teaching the children the value of nature, hard work, and teamwork.



Congratulations to Nandini!

We're proud to announce that Nandini Rajak, our Class 12 topper, received a laptop from Guardians of Dreams, Bangalore, for her outstanding academic performance. This recognition celebrates her hard work and inspires her peers to strive for excellence. Nandini's achievement is a testament to her dedication and perseverance. She sets a great example for her peers. We wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.



Farewell and Gratitude to Mr. Hugo

We extend our heartfelt thanks and bid a warm farewell to Mr. Hugo Chanavat, a volunteer from ASA France, as he returns to his home country. During his time with us, Mr. Hugo was actively involved with the children through rugby games and played a vital role in supporting the mission and work of Don Bosco Ashalayam. We are truly grateful for his time and contributions, and we wish him all the very best in his future endeavors.



Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign

Street & Slum Children Assistance Project (SSCAP) organized Human Trafficking awareness sessions across street schools in Kolkata and Howrah. The campaign aimed to educate children about the dangers of trafficking and empower them with knowledge to stay safe.

3D Modeling Camp

Our senior students have successfully completed the 3D Modeling Camp at Bakrahat, gaining essential digital skills to enhance their craftsmanship. Certificates of completion were awarded to each participant in recognition of their dedication and hard work throughout the training course. Congratulations to all!



Don Bosco Mega Quiz



The Don Bosco Mega Quiz saw enthusiastic and active participation from our children, who showcased their knowledge and team spirit throughout the event. The program was skillfully coordinated by Br. Arun Lakra, whose efforts ensured its smooth execution and success.

All participants performed excellently and completed the quiz with great enthusiasm. We hope the experience was not only enjoyable but also a valuable and fun learning opportunity for everyone involved.



Fr. Andrew Visits

In March 2025, Don Bosco Ashalayam had the pleasure of welcoming Fr. Andrew from England. During his visit, Fr. Andrew toured all the hostels and warmly interacted with the children. He took video clippings of the sponsored children as they shared heartfelt greetings for their sponsors.

As a token of love and joy, he also distributed gifts and chocolates to all the children, making the day truly special for everyone at Ashalayam.



Honoring 35 Years of Dedicated Service

With deep gratitude and warm wishes, Don Bosco Ashalayam bids farewell to Mr. Ashraf Ali (Hanif), who retires after an incredible 35 years of dedicated service as an accountant. Since joining DBA, Mr. Hanif has been a pillar of reliability and commitment, managing the financial responsibilities of the organization with utmost integrity and precision.

His work behind the scenes has been instrumental in ensuring the smooth operation of countless programs that have impacted the lives of vulnerable children and youth. As he embarks on a well-deserved retirement, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Hanif Ali for his remarkable service and wish him good health, happiness, and fulfillment in this new chapter of life.

Fr. Rector's Birthday

The Don Bosco Ashalayam family came together and celebration to mark the birthday of our Fr. Rector. Children from all the hostels joyfully gathered to wish him, offering heartfelt greetings, songs, and handmade cards filled with affection and gratitude.



We thank Fr. Rector for his inspiring presence and dedicated service, and we wish him continued blessings, good health, and happiness in the year ahead!



Job Placement to Mysore

We are proud to share the inspiring achievement of 16 boys from the Terra Indica program at Don Bosco Ashalayam, who have completed their training in woodwork. Through dedication, hard work, and the guidance of their instructors, these young men have gained valuable skills that will help shape their future.

This accomplishment highlights the power of vocational training in transforming lives and opening doors to new opportunities. We congratulate the boys on this remarkable achievement and extend our best wishes as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

A Week of Celebration – Ashalayam's 40th Anniversary



Ashalayam's Ruby Jubilee was nothing short of extraordinary, marked by six vibrant days of emotion, joy, and reunion. ASA France members and long-time friends joined us in March to celebrate 40 years of unwavering service to children in need.

The celebration kicked off with a grand party featuring Holy Mass, Sports, Dance, Music, and Theater. Children from across Ashalayam's hostels and street schools participated, and alumni shared powerful testimonies of transformation.



The week included visits to our street schools, a countryside retreat to Kalyani, and a pilgrimage to Mother Teresa's tomb—blending reflection with festivity. Guests toured our education centers, witnessed our vocational training programs, and engaged in games, laughter, and heartfelt exchanges with children and staff.

From Olympiads and Kabaddi matches to swimming and rooftop volleyball, every moment reflected the unity, joy, and purpose of Ashalayam's mission.



As one child beautifully said,
"Thank you, Uncle and Auntie, yesterday was my best day ever." (Trip to Botanical Garden) – Subhojit
Congrats to 40 years of Ashalayam – and many more to come!

ANNUAL SPORTS DAY 2025



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31 - March 2025