



# Miles of Smiles

The Art of Living Free Schools Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2023



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# The Art of Living Free Schools

82,000+ Students

1096+ Schools in India

In 1300+ Villages in India

Across 22+ States in India

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## I) ACHIEVEMENT:

### 1) WINNERS OF PRATIBHA KARANJI COMPETITION:

Our Karnataka school students from grades 1 to 10 won prizes in the Kaggalipura Cluster Level Pratibha Karanji Competition. Manyashree from sixth grade won first place in a devotional music competition. Lunyibe Jeme from the 10th grade won second place in sketching, and Aniket Sugriv Bhalekar from the 4<sup>th</sup> grade won third place in reciting of a Sanskrit poetry.



## II) DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES:

### 1) HAPPINESS PROGRAM:

Workshops were held to provide our teachers with powerful tools to manage their mind and create a stress free environment for themselves and others. Our school teachers in Domohani, West Bengal underwent Happiness Program.



### 2) WINNERS OF JHANKRITI:

Launched by the World Forum for Art and Culture, Jhankriti 2023 is a unique platform for young artists, performers, and cultural enthusiasts from around the world to showcase their talents, traditions, and artistic expressions. Our girl students from Bastar school, Chhattisgarh participated in the Jhankriti 2023 competition and got selected in the semi-finals. We congratulate the girls.



### 2) EXAMINATION:

Students from our school in Karnataka completed their formative and summative assessments, while students from our school in Chhattisgarh completed their quarterly examination..





### 3) DISTRIBUTION OF BOOKS UNIFORMS AND SHOES:

Uniforms, textbooks and shoes were distributed to our schools in the states of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.



### 4) TEACHERS TRAINING:

On September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, a two-day teachers training was held in Omkareshwar Ashram for teachers from our Rajasthan schools. Similar trainings were held in Omkareshwar Ashram on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> for teachers from our Madhya Pradesh schools, and in Bodh Gaya Ashram on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> for teachers from our Bihar and Jharkhand schools. Mr. Ravindra Yevale a well know educationist from Pune took the teachers training program. After the session, the teachers were completely revitalised.



### 5) DONATION:

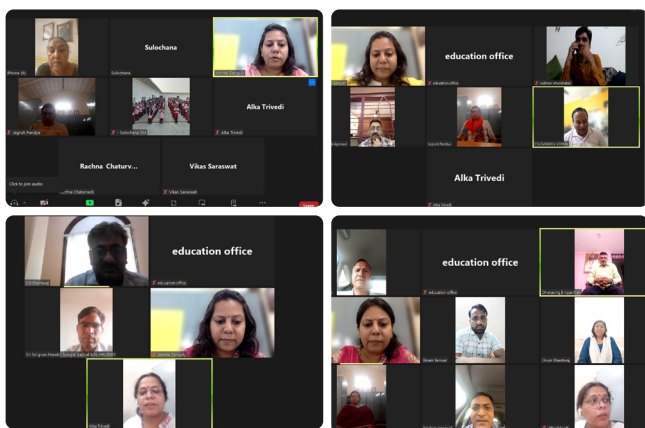
We are grateful to Sri Vishnu Bhandari ji, Chairman of the Supertron Foundation in Kolkata, and Sri Girish Madhogaria, Chariman of the Girish Pushpa Madhogaria Foundation in Kolkata, for donating 23 tablets to 23 of our West Bengal schools. Teachers at these schools were also trained on how to use the tabs. These tabs aided schools in digitising data, recordkeeping, and attendance.





## 6) STATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

The education office held online state committee meetings for all our schools in 22 states. These meetings are held to create a smooth working environment, to learn how the schools are functioning, to recognise schools that have excelled in academics, sports and other areas, to encourage other schools to excel, and to learn about the schools, teachers, and staffs needs and requirements. This year State Committee Meeting was held, online from 12<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.



## 7) CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:

Shriram Life Insurance Company Limited under its CSR obligations, provided funds for Bags, shoes, socks, textbooks, & notebooks to all our schools in the states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh. Drinking water facility was also provided to our school in Telangana.



## III) CELEBRATIONS:

### 1) TEACHER'S DAY:

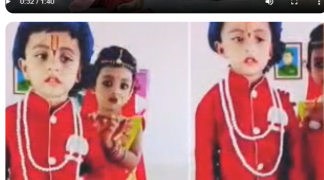
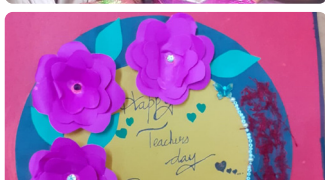
On September 5<sup>th</sup>, all of our schools in India observed Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's birth anniversary as National Teachers Day as an homage to his efforts and achievements. Children created lovely thank you cards for their instructors, drew Dr. Radhakrishnan's portrait, donated toffees and gifts to their teachers, and older students disguised as teachers taught the younger pupils. Some pupils performed dances, and delicious food and cake were served to all.





## 2) KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI:

On September 6, 2023, all of our schools in 22 states celebrated Krishna Janmashtami. Krishna's childhood adventures were played out by children. Children costumed as Radha and Krishna participated in the Dahi Handi exercise, in which a pot is held high above the ground and pupils create a pyramid to reach it and eventually destroy it. This was well received by both students and faculty.





### 3) WORLD LITERACY DAY:

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, our schools observed World Literacy Day by raising awareness among students about the value of literacy for individuals and communities as a whole.



### 4) HINDI DIVAS:

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, all of our schools in India celebrated Hindi Divas. The lecturers emphasised to the students that due to the large number of regional languages, our constitution designated Hindi as the official language for government. On this day, students created amazing drawings and displayed them.



### 5) INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRACY DAY:

“Empowering the next generation,” this year’s International Day of Democracy theme, focuses on young people’s critical role in strengthening democracy & ensuring that their voices are included in decisions that have a profound influence on their world. Our Karnataka school celebrated by teaching the significance of this day to the children.



### 6) HARTALIKA FESTIVAL:

This festival is dedicated to goddess Parvati and it is celebrated by married women for the well-being and logetivity of their husbands. Our girl students in Devachijali, Maharashtra celebrated by performing puja to the shiva ling and showing arti.



### 7) GANESH CHATURTHI:

Schools installed beautiful Ganesha Murti. The students got on to making Ganesha with mud and play clay and decorated it with flowers. Small skits on Ganesha were performed by students. Pujas were performed by priests. Students, teachers and parents joined in the celebration. Melodious bhajans on Lord Ganesha were sung. Students helped in making Prasad and it was distributed to one and all.





## 9) BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF ISHWAR CHANDRA VIDYASAGAR:

Students in our West Bengal schools bowed down and placed flowers on Vidyasagar's image to commemorate his birthday. The teachers explained to the students that Vidyasagar was a pillar of Bengal renaissance who continued the social reforms movement. He revolutionised the Bengal education system and polished the way Bengali language was written and taught.



## 10) GRAND PARENTS DAY:

Grandparents day gives us the perfect occasion to thank our grandmothers and grandfathers for the sacrifices they have made and the care they have provided for the family tree. Students at our Karnataka school celebrated by crafting beautiful cards for their grandparents.



## 8) INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE:

In Atru, Rajasthan, our school observed International Day of Peace by meditating & praying. The teachers informed the students that they must take responsibility for bringing peace to every corner of the globe. If there is no peace in the world, then our peace also will be incomplete.



## 11) WORSHIP OF BULLS:

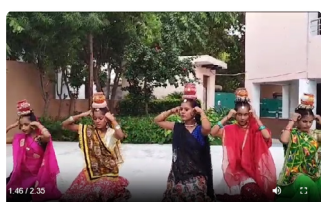
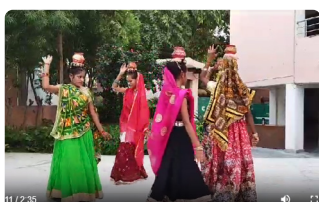
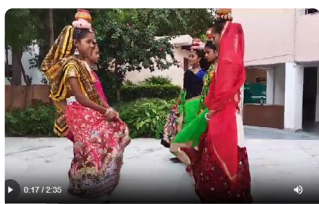
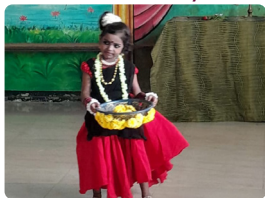
On Shravani Amavasya, bull pola is celebrated in several villages across Maharashtra. On this day no work is done by bulls, instead they are seated in a cart, their shoulders are massaged with ghee and they are dressed in velvet clothing. They are then worshipped. Our school student in Devachijali, Maharashtra made bulls out of clay.





## 12) ARTS FESTIVAL:

To commemorate the World Culture Festival, which took place in Washington DC from September 29th to October 1st, our schools in Kerala and Rajasthan conducted a two-day arts event on September 29th and 30th, during which children showcased various dance forms.



## 13) GANESH VISARJAN:

Our schools celebrated Ganesh Visarjan which means bidding farewell to Ganesh on the 10th day by adorning ganesh, playing music, dancing, singing ganesh bhajans and the distributing different types of sweets to one and all. Later the ganeshas were immersed in the nearby lake, or river.







# Gift A Smile...

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