



THE GOOD SHEPHERD AGRICULTURAL MISSION  
BANBASA, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025



# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

To our dear friends, supporters, and the GSAM family,

It is with deep gratitude and a heart full of hope that I share this year's Annual Report with you. Each year at The Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission brings with it a unique rhythm—new challenges to overcome, new milestones to celebrate, and new lives touched by the work we are so privileged to do. This past year has been no exception.

At the heart of our progress has been a renewed commitment to Vision Casting—a process through which we've reimagined what our future could and should look like. We've been asking bold questions, rethinking systems, and laying out intentional, long-term strategies that will strengthen our foundation and expand our reach. Our vision for a stronger, more self-sustaining Mission is clearer than ever, and we're moving toward it with purpose and unity.

A beautiful embodiment of that vision has taken shape in Sam's Garden, a project very close to our hearts. This vibrant space is more than a garden—it's a place of remembrance, growth, and learning. It's a tangible reminder of the values we hold dear, and the legacy of love and service that we continue to honor each day. Watching the children explore this space—planting, learning, laughing—has been one of the year's most moving highlights.

We are especially grateful to the Saxena Family and TURBOCAM, whose generosity and partnership have helped bring key infrastructure projects to life this year. Their belief in our work goes far beyond buildings—it's an investment in dignity, in opportunity, and in a better tomorrow for every child we serve.

We were also thrilled to welcome a new tractor to our agricultural efforts—an investment in both productivity and sustainability. This piece of equipment has already transformed the way we approach our farming, enabling us to produce more efficiently and take bigger steps toward food security and self-reliance. Our thanks go out to the Smith family, our generous donors who made this possible; your support isn't just helping us grow crops—it's helping us grow futures.

Another source of great pride this year has been the success of our Mission University students. Not only have many of them graduated, but a remarkable number have also secured strong job placements across the country. Seeing these young men and women step confidently into their futures—equipped with skills, passion, and purpose—is everything we dreamed of when we launched the program. It's a powerful reminder that education truly is the most transformative gift we can offer.

Of course, no year comes without its trials. The devastating floods that struck our campus and community were a sobering reminder of how fragile our environment can be. But in the wake of destruction came an outpouring of generosity and encouragement from around the world. The response from our supporters was overwhelming—in the best way. Because of that kindness, we've already begun implementing critical infrastructure improvements to better protect our campus against future disasters. Once again, you've shown us that we're never alone in this journey.

None of this progress would be possible without our incredible Board of Directors, whose wisdom and guidance steer our path, and our extraordinary staff, whose daily commitment and care are the beating heart of this Mission. I feel incredibly fortunate to serve as Director of this beautiful place, but I know that everything we've accomplished has been the result of a collective effort. The team here is doing a truly wonderful job, and I couldn't be prouder of them.

I warmly invite you to explore this year's Annual Report. I'm confident you'll see the same things I do: growth, resilience, innovation, and above all—love in action. Every page of this report tells a story of people coming together to make something truly special happen. And every achievement it contains is shared with you, our extended Mission family.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for walking with us. The road ahead is full of promise, and with your continued partnership, I believe we will go further than we ever dreamed possible.

With gratitude and hope,



Rev. Clifton S. Shipway  
Director



## REGISTRATION DETAILS:

The GSAM is a non-profit that is registered under the following Acts/Government Offices:

### Societies Registration Act

UK0650162021006196

### Income Tax Act

Section 12A, 80G, PAN: AAATG3113G

### Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)

Registration Number: 136620006

### Uttarakhand Education Department

Registration Number: 779-53/2015-2018

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

The following people make up the elected Board of Directors of The Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission as of March 31st, 2025:

Name	Gender	Position	Occupation	Meetings Attended
Clifton Shipway	Male	Director	Photographer	9 / 9
Eugene George	Male	Secretary	Agriculturalist	9 / 9
Paula Karada	Female	Deputy Director	Teacher	8 / 9
Priscilla Shipway	Female	Treasurer	Childcare Worker	9 / 9
Simeon Karada	Male	Member	Teacher	7 / 9
Josie Singh	Female	Member	Agriculturalist	8 / 9
Jack Johnson	Male	Member	Social Worker	9 / 9



## ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

The Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission (GSAM) is an independent, non-governmental social development organization dedicated to supporting vulnerable communities since 1952. Known affectionately as "The Mission," GSAM engages in diverse initiatives, including education, community development and training, disaster relief, and specialized support for individuals affected by leprosy.

At its heart, however, the Mission remains deeply committed to the care, protection, and holistic development of children. GSAM strives to create a nurturing, family-oriented environment for every child, fostering strong familial bonds and encouraging a sense of responsibility, community involvement, and personal growth among all members.

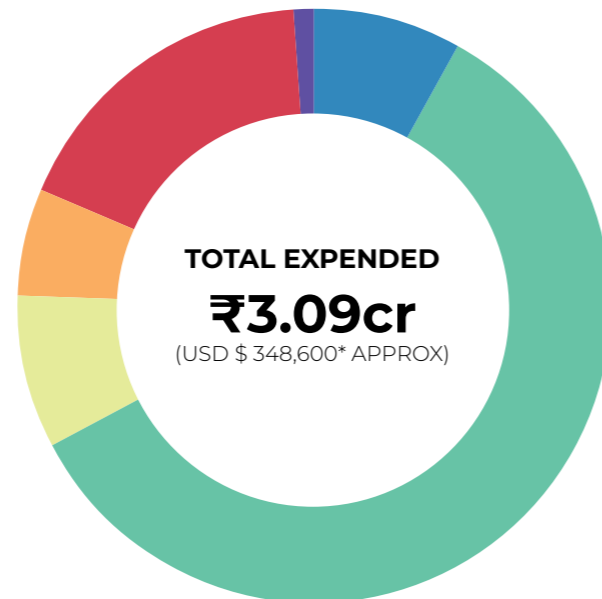
## PAYMENTS

Below is a summary of payments undertaken by our organization beginning April 1st, 2024 and ending March 31st, 2025.

These payments have been categorized and their respective colors have been used to create the graph on the right for a quick understanding of where our funds are utilized.

On the opposite page is information regarding receipts for the same year. Excess receipts have been carried forward to the next financial year.

School & Hostel Expenditure	Amount (INR)
Children's Education & Tuition Fees	₹37,58,944
Children's Clothes & Wearings	₹83,285
Food & Consumables	₹10,14,729
Medical & Health Care	₹5,46,421
Children's Miscellaneous Expenses	₹2,65,303
School General Expenses	₹11,38,626
Software Subscription Fees	₹1,39,003
Staff & Workers Welfare (School)	₹43,640
Vehicle Insurance: School	₹2,31,575
EPF Charges	₹48,392
EPF Employer Contribution	₹6,52,691
School Miscellaneous Expenses	₹94,717
Advertisements	₹33,500
Audit Fee	₹60,000
Bank Fees & Charges	₹36,796
Contribution & Disaster Relief Exp	₹3,490
Festivals and Ceremonies	₹5,89,872
Interest Paid on Loan	₹1,85,759
Legal & Professional Fees	₹5,33,900
Newspaper & Periodicals	₹20,477
Office & Administration Expenses	₹1,13,943
Payment Gateway Fees (Razorpay)	₹7,047
Postage & Couriers	₹82
Printings & Stationery	₹3,06,928
Salary & Wages (GSAM Staff)	₹14,01,315
Salary & Wages (School Staff)	₹44,64,040
Staff & Workers Welfare (GSAM)	₹7,22,743
Telephone & Internet	₹66,000
Travel & Conveyance	₹2,89,296
Vehicle Insurance: General	₹75,782
Water & Electricity	₹13,78,617
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>₹1,83,06,913</b>



- Agricultural Expenses
- School & Hostel Expenditure
- Repairs & Maintenance
- Diesel & Fuel
- Fixed Assets
- Repayments of Loans

Agricultural Expenses	Amount (INR)
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>₹25,08,326</b>

Repairs & Maintenance	Amount (INR)
R&M of School	₹15,12,999
R&M of Building & Furnitures	₹4,46,439
R&M of Computers	₹1,82,500
R&M of Vehicles & Generators	₹1,26,851
R&M School Vehicles	₹3,00,045
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>₹25,68,834</b>

Diesel & Fuel	Amount (INR)
Diesel & Fuel: General	₹1,64,258
Diesel & Fuel: Generator	₹9,92,171
Diesel & Fuel: School	₹6,80,101
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>₹18,36,530</b>

Fixed Assets	Amount (INR)
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>₹53,64,091</b>

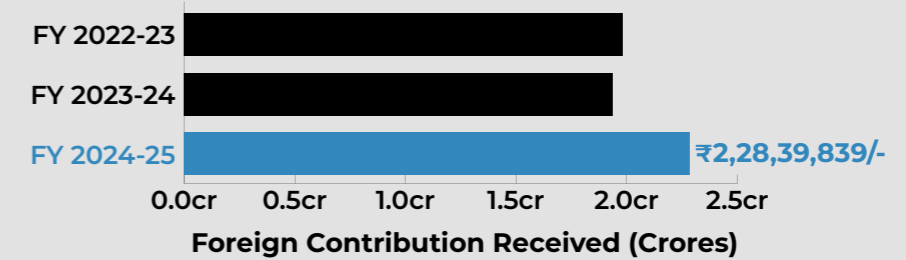
Repayments of Loans	Amount (INR)
Ashok Leyland School Bus	₹5,951
Eicher School Bus	₹3,26,665
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>₹3,32,616</b>

\*For the purpose of this document 1 USD = INR 88  
^WIP = Work in Progress

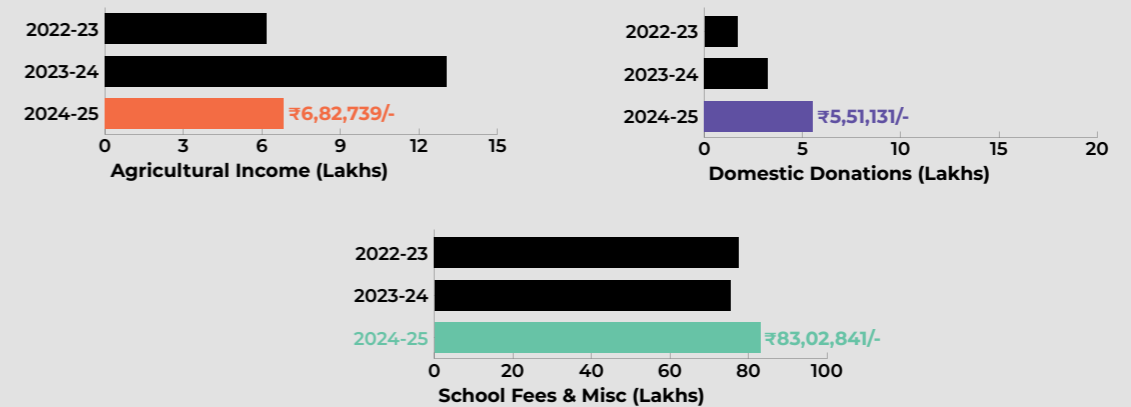
## A RECORD YEAR OF SUPPORT

FY2024-25 marked the **largest foreign contribution in our history, with ₹2.28 crore received**—an extraordinary testament to the unwavering belief our global supporters have in this mission. This landmark funding empowered us to invest boldly in long-term assets: from the launch of Sam's Garden Kindergarten to the purchase of a new John Deere tractor, vital school ground renovations, classroom furniture upgrades, and the completion of our new Carpentry Workshop. **These developments not only enhance daily life at the Mission but lay the foundation for sustainable impact for decades to come.**

The graph below illustrates the growth of foreign contributions that we have seen this year when compared to the past three years:

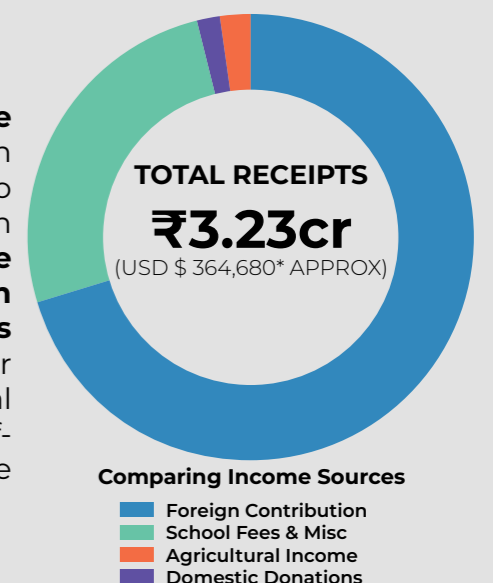


In addition to foreign contributions, our internal and local income streams continue to play a vital role in sustaining the Mission's day-to-day operations. While agricultural income fluctuated due to seasonal challenges—peaking at ₹13.06 lakh in FY2023-24 before **stabilizing at ₹6.82 lakh this year**—it remains an important pillar of our self-sufficiency. **Domestic donations were higher than we've had since the pandemic at ₹5.51 lakh**, showing consistent growth in our support from within India. Most notably, our **school income reached its highest ever this last year at ₹83.02 lakh**, reflecting both growing enrolment and confidence in the quality of education at Maxton Strong School. The graphs below illustrate these trends in more detail:



## COMPARING INCOMES

This year's income distribution highlights the **vital role each stream plays in supporting our mission**. Foreign contributions made up the largest portion, enabling us to undertake major asset-creation projects like Sam's Garden and infrastructure upgrades. Meanwhile, **school income provided the second-largest share, playing a crucial role in covering staff salaries and core administrative costs across the organization**. This balance allows us to direct a greater portion of international funding toward transformational project work, while building financial resilience and self-sufficiency for day-to-day expenses through local revenue sources.



- Comparing Income Sources
- Foreign Contribution
  - School Fees & Misc
  - Agricultural Income
  - Domestic Donations

## AGM FOR THE FUTURE

At this year's Annual General Meeting, we unveiled an inspiring 10-year campus development plan—a bold vision for growth grounded in purpose. Using drone footage, architectural drawings, and site maps, our leadership laid out a roadmap featuring new infrastructure, improved facilities, and community-centered spaces. The presentation emphasized stewardship, inclusion, and transparency, inviting staff and supporters into the dream. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with renewed commitment and shared excitement about what lies ahead. More than just buildings, this vision represents people coming together to shape a thriving future—for children, for families, and for Banbasa as a whole.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors is a steady, fully united team committed to keeping GSAM moving forward; strong in values and responsive to a fast-changing world. We debate openly, decide cohesively, and then execute. All Directors except Clifton are Indian nationals, and all but two actually grew up here as Mission Members, which gives decisions heart as well as history. That lived experience keeps our focus practical: safeguarding children, strengthening schooling, upgrading infrastructure, and building financial resilience. We benchmark against best practice, welcome outside expertise when needed, and keep transparent records. Most of all, we work as one family—past, present, and future—so that the Mission remains innovative, ethical, and effective for the children we serve.



## A LEGACY ON WHEELS

This year, the Mission celebrated the arrival of a brand-new John Deere 5050D tractor—an incredible gift from supporters in Australia that carries far more than horsepower. It's a living tribute to the legacy of our founder, Rev. Maxton Strong, who in 1948 drove India's first John Deere nearly 2,000 kilometers from Bombay to the untouched jungles of Banbasa. That original machine helped clear thick forest, plant the Mission's first crops, and literally lay the groundwork for a future that has now spanned generations.

The legacy continued in 2006, when our current Director, Clifton's, parents—Warwick and Maxine Shipway—sold their home in Tasmania and used the proceeds to purchase two John Deere tractors. Those machines became the Mission's main workhorses, and even today, they continue to serve faithfully across the campus.

The arrival of this newest tractor represents more than just modern equipment—it's a thread connecting past to present. From Maxton and Shirley's pioneering days in the wilds of rural India to today's thriving community, each tractor has been part of something bigger than farming: transformation.

As a tribute, the original 1948 John Deere now stands as a monument on the property—a powerful symbol of vision, sacrifice, and perseverance. The children may love the joyrides, but for those who know the story, it's clear: this tractor isn't just about the land. It's about legacy, and the people who never stopped believing in something greater.



## RESCUE IN THE RISING WATERS

In July 2024, GSAM faced one of its worst monsoon floods on record, with water levels reaching up to four feet across campus and six feet in surrounding areas. While the Mission itself sustained significant damage to fencing, workshops, and supplies, it was the community response that stood out most. Staff and children worked tirelessly to safeguard the campus and extend support to neighbors. Sunny rescued Aunty Sonia from her flooded home; others helped Paula relocate to safety. Girls helped clean devastated homes, and everyone from the youngest children to senior staff pitched in to restore normalcy. Despite heartbreaking losses, GSAM's unified, compassionate response highlighted the strength and resilience that defines its mission and the hearts behind it.



## BUILDING BACK STRONGER: AFTER THE FLOOD

After July's flooding, friends from around the world reached out – messages, calls, visits, and gifts that turned a hard moment into forward motion. Their support helped us move from cleanup to prevention.

First, water management. We constructed a 300-foot storm drain along the length of the new kindergarten to pull runoff away from buildings. In parallel, we cut a 100-foot drainage ditch behind the workshop to reopen the site's fastest exit for floodwater. Together, they convert the campus from a basin into a channel – getting water off the property quickly during heavy rain. We also tackled vulnerable edges. On the north boundary, where fast water toppled sections of fence, we replaced chain-link with a more flood-friendly fence design that lets water pass rather than push the line over – salvaging materials where possible and rebuilding smarter for the terrain.

Finally, we're addressing a painful lesson: storage losses. With over half of our financial damage coming from soaked grain and supplies, we're planning major repairs to our grain-storage rooms in April 2025. Support from the flood appeal is being directed into exactly these durable fixes. From drains and ditches to fences and food security, these upgrades are practical, permanent steps – made possible by a generous community – and they're already reshaping our readiness for the rains ahead.



**DURING THE MONSOON, WHEN THE FLOODWATERS ROSE SUDDENLY, MANY HOMES ACROSS OUR CAMPUS AND GENERAL AREA WERE LEFT IN SEVERAL FEET OF WATER. WE WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE RESCUE SERVICES AND ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT TO MANY IN NEED.**



THE MONSOON RAINS ARE ALWAYS UNPREDICTABLE. WHILE WE'RE USED TO MINOR FLOODING, THIS YEAR'S FLOOD WAS A BIG ONE. IT SWEEPED IN DURING THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WHILE MOST WERE ASLEEP—THANKFULLY THERE WAS NO LOSS OF LIFE, ONLY DAMAGE TO POSSESSIONS AND PROPERTY.

# MISSION UNIVERSITY

Mission University makes sure care doesn't end at Class 12—it grows into college, careers, and character. We wrap around each student with practical support—university fees, books, transport, accommodation, and an allowance—plus steady mentoring and regular check-ins so no one has to make the leap to adult life alone. This year we welcomed three new entrants—Malika, Roshni, and Debbie—who stepped into degrees they once only imagined, while seniors finished internships, and moved into work.

Alumni are now employed across hospitality, healthcare, education, design and retail; others are pushing ahead with advanced studies. What does MU “produce”? Confident young adults who can study effectively, show up for a team, manage money, serve their communities—and graduate from respected colleges! When a first salary hits a bank account or a placement letter arrives, the whole family here celebrates. **MU isn't just a project; it's a guided pathway that turns potential into momentum—and momentum into purposeful lives.**

There is a new batch of students every year and we invite you to partner with us. On average, it costs about \$12,000 over three years to take one student through college. If you'd like to help change a life, please reach out: [office@indianorphanage.com](mailto:office@indianorphanage.com)



## JOY OF THE JUNGLE

After weeks of monsoon floods, the GSAM family finally returned to one of their most beloved places: the jungle stream. The trip marked the first visit in a long while, and the joy was unmistakable. Boys and girls took separate trips led by staff, diving into crystal-clear pools and launching from muddy riverbanks. They discovered deep swimming pockets, climbed muddy slopes, and even built makeshift mudslides—splashing, laughing, and living fully in the moment. Known fondly as “Little Sri Lanka,” the stream and its small island became the scene of pure childhood wonder. For the kids, it wasn’t just a picnic—it was a return to joy, freedom, and the timeless rhythms of nature they love.



## ANNIE’S ART BLOOMS WORLDWIDE

One of GSAM’s talented young artists, Annie, reached a beautiful milestone in 2024 with the publication of *The Girl Who Loved Flowers*, a children’s book written by longtime friend and former volunteer Ana Katsuya. Illustrated entirely by Annie, the book was published in both English and Portuguese and officially launched at the prestigious Lisbon Book Fair. The illustrations radiate the gentleness, wonder, and imagination Annie brings to her work—a testament to her growing skills and confidence. Her achievement not only highlights the depth of talent among GSAM’s children but also marks a proud moment of international recognition. It’s a rare opportunity, and Annie embraced it with grace, humility, and joy. We couldn’t be more proud.



## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BOOK

In 2024, GSAM’s creative voice reached an international stage through *Photo Camp Stories*, a published collection of photography and storytelling by youth around the world, curated by National Geographic. Among its pages are several stories and photographs contributed by GSAM children—marking a rare and powerful opportunity to share their lives, perspectives, and artistry globally. The book highlights the creativity nurtured at the Mission and celebrates the authenticity of the children’s storytelling. To see their work featured alongside young artists from across the world was a proud and humbling moment for the entire GSAM community. Their inclusion is not just a credit to their talent, but a testament to the empowering environment the Mission provides.



## LIGHTING THE WAY

This year, GSAM installed around a dozen new security lights across the campus—each equipped with auto-on/off sensors for maximum efficiency and ease. These lights serve a dual purpose: making it safer to navigate the campus after dark, and enhancing overall campus security. From walkways to key outdoor areas, the well-placed lights have already made a noticeable difference. The boys are particularly thrilled about the one installed over the cricket pitch, where it’s quickly become a favorite for impromptu night matches. Spearheaded by Sunny, our internal team handled the installation themselves, demonstrating both skill and care. These lights are a small upgrade with a big impact—adding both visibility and peace of mind to Mission life.



## DEMOCRACY AT OUR DOORSTEP

In April 2024, GSAM had the honor of hosting a national election voting booth right on the corner of its campus, in the government school space developed by the Mission. This initiative allowed local residents—and many GSAM alumni and family members from as far as Delhi and Dehradun—to cast their votes without needing to travel long distances in the intense summer heat. For many, it was their first opportunity to vote so close to home. The moment was deeply symbolic of the Mission’s ongoing role in supporting not only children but the broader community. By opening its gates for this democratic process, GSAM reinforced its commitment to civic responsibility, inclusion, and strengthening ties with the people of Banbasa and beyond.



## LADIES RETREAT!

In October, a group of GSAM’s female staff members set off on a well-deserved three-day retreat to the Himalayan mountain town of Mukteshwar. After months of tireless work, they pooled their resources—and received a little help from a kind friend to make the trip happen. The retreat offered a much-needed change of pace: cool mountain air, scenic hikes, waterfall visits, and warm nights around a bonfire. As they explored the hills and shared stories, the women strengthened their bonds and returned refreshed, reconnected, and energized. Their time away was a meaningful investment in the well-being of the very people who pour so much into the care of others every single day.

## CELEBRATING WOMEN’S DAY

This Women’s Day, the Mission paused to honor the incredible women who are the heart of our home. From caregivers and teachers to kitchen staff and administrators, these women lead with strength, tenderness, and tireless dedication. To celebrate, our female staff enjoyed a jungle picnic—an afternoon of laughter, rest, and connection away from their daily responsibilities. Meanwhile, the boys stayed behind and took over the chores: dishes, cleaning, cooking, even preparing lunch. It was a joyful, and humbling, role reversal. The day ended with heartfelt gratitude for the women who do it all, every day, without fanfare. Their impact is immeasurable. They raise children, hold families together, and keep the Mission running. They are, without question, our foundation.



## VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS

Regular visitors and volunteers bring a lift to life on the Mission. They add extra hands in busy seasons and, even more importantly, fresh eyes and encouragement for our children and staff. Many help in classrooms, read with younger kids, support creative projects, coach sports, or jump into practical tasks around campus. Their presence models service, curiosity, and respect across cultures. When people return year after year, relationships deepen: children are remembered by name, skills grow with mentoring, and projects move from ideas to finished work. Volunteers also carry our story home, becoming advocates who connect friends to our work. We’re grateful for every visit that strengthens our community and keeps hope moving forward.

## MAXTON STRONG GRAMIN LEAGUE CRICKET TOURNAMENT

Cricket turned our campus into a festival this year as we hosted the inaugural Maxton Strong Gramin Premier League Cricket Tournament on our newly renovated field. For more than a month, eight local teams battled it out while hundreds from the community lined the boundary—families, shopkeepers, teachers, and friends turning every over into a roar. Sponsorships came from all over Banbasa, with generous contributions covering team kits, umpire uniforms, trophies, and prizes. We're also deeply grateful to a few special friends in Australia whose support helped lift the tournament from idea to reality.

On the pitch, the competition was fierce: tight spells, brave chases, and fielding that drew cheers and groans in equal measure. The event gave us the perfect chance to use our upgraded cricket ground the way it was meant to be used—safe run-ups, true bounce, and clear sightlines for players and spectators alike. Our own boys, the Strong Farm XI, played with heart and discipline, showing flashes of brilliance in the field and with the bat. But with a couple of key players missing, our depth was tested, and we were ultimately knocked out early.

Still, the story of the tournament is bigger than any result. It was about community spirit, healthy competition, and showcasing the power of partnership. From local sponsors to friends abroad, every gift and cheer helped create a memorable celebration of sport—and set the stage for an even stronger season ahead. The winning team was Fagpur XI who defeated Canal XI in a nailbiting final.



## CHRISTMAS AT THE GSAM

Christmas at the Mission is first and foremost a family celebration—warm, familiar, and close to home. On Christmas Eve we gather in the dining room for carols, candles, and an unhurried dinner. The older kids lead harmonies while the little ones chime in with actions and smiles; between songs, someone always slips into the kitchen to check on the last tray of cookies. Tables are pushed together, the room fills with chatter, and the evening stretches happily past bedtime.

Morning arrives to the sound of laughter down the corridors and the clink of cups as the kitchen preps a long, lazy Christmas brunch. Gift bags and presents are set out with care—simple, useful things the children and staff will cherish. One by one they're opened, shared, played with, and tried on; there's as much joy in the giving as in the receiving.

Throughout the season, bonfires glow in night, drawing circles of stories, songs, and toasted treats. Fireworks light up the sky and our hearts. What makes Christmas special here is the togetherness: many hands setting tables, many voices singing, and a campus that feels like one big home. It's simple, joyful, and exactly the pause we all need.



## VINOD & MANVI'S WEDDING

Vinod (alumni of our organization) and Manvi's wedding turned our school grounds into a joyful celebration. Under open skies and strings of lights, families, students, and friends gathered to bless the couple and share a beautiful meal. The main wedding was in Ramnagar but the reception was held on our grounds. Choir students led songs, younger kids scattered petals, and alumni welcomed guests at the gate. It felt like an extended family occasion—warm, colourful, and full of laughter. From the first drumbeat to the farewell, the campus shone with hospitality and teamwork. Hosting the ceremony at home reminded us why GSAM is more than buildings: it's a community that celebrates milestones together and surrounds new families with prayer, joy, and hope.



## 5KM FUN RUN IN TANAKPUR

About twenty-five of our students laced up for the 5 km Fun Run in Tanakpur, part of the Uttarakhand Police's "Say No To Drugs" campaign. Training started on our field and roads—easy pace, good form, finish strong. On race day, the kids ran in bright school tees, cheered by classmates and staff. Some chased personal bests, others jogged in supportive pairs; everyone crossed the finish smiling. Officers spoke about healthy choices, and our students added their own pledge to stay active and look out for friends. The run was more than kilometres; it was confidence, belonging, and community pride. We returned tired and happy, with stories to tell and a fresh commitment to fitness and drug-free living.



## ANIMAL RESCUES

Working alongside the Forest Department, our team responds when wildlife wanders near homes, fields, or waterways. Safety comes first: we secure the area, calm crowds, and our trained handlers do the rest. This year we rescued and relocated more than forty venomous snakes and four crocodiles, returning them to jungle habitats where they belong. We take the opportunity to educate our children who watch from safe distances, teach them to identify species, avoid risky behavior, and report sightings quickly. By partnering locally, we protect people, reduce fear, and conserve fragile ecosystems. Every release back into the forest is a reminder that coexistence is possible—and that our community can act decisively and compassionately when nature needs a helping hand.



## CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays at GSAM are little bursts of joy. There's always cake, songs, and a circle of cheering kids—and sometimes a picnic by the river, pizza in the market, a movie night, or afternoon of games. Peter always gets his own candle cake so everyone stays safe and he still gets the thrill of blowing it out (things can get a bit splashy when he does!). Staff join in, parents visit when they can, and older students help bake and decorate. The point is simple: everyone is seen, celebrated, and loved. After candles, gifts are practical and fun—storybooks, clothes, MP3 players, or sports gear—followed by photos and thank-yous. Some moments stand out: Auntie Violet's 88th, a nine-hour dash to Dehradun for Malika's surprise 18th, and the gloriously "out-of-control" fireworks at Jyoti's party that burst every balloon. Together, these celebrations stitch our big family even closer, reminding each child that their life is a reason to smile, sing, and keep growing.



# THE 11<sup>TH</sup> SUMMER GAMES

This year marked the 11th Summer Games—the highlight of our year. All through June, campus became an adventure arena of games, challenges, picnics, parties, and surprise events. Children competed in four teams, each with an animal emblem and colour. At the Opening Ceremony, teams crafted Battle Standards and Buffs and carried them to every event (drop them, lose points). Each day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., kids guarded their Team Shield—let it slip and another team could steal it for a point swing. Hidden on campus, the Medallion of Power added daily clues and one-time strategic advantages.

We opened our 11th games with a splash: Day 1 at Bareilly's Fun City Water Park—waterslides, pools, and pure delight after a three-hour bus ride. The month rolled on with kickball, Minute-to-Win-It, cooking showdowns, hide-and-seek, and plenty of pool time. For the finale, the campus erupted in one of the biggest water-balloon fights we've ever seen—laughter, strategy, and very wet champions.

What began in 2014 as a simple holiday idea is now a rite of passage. Yes, the Games are fun—but they also build grit, teamwork, leadership, and joy. They help children chase dreams, face challenges, and smile even when a water balloon finds its mark.



## KITCHEN & DINING ROOM

Our kitchen and dining room are the Mission's warm heart. Under Aunty Lucy and Aunty Esther's care, everyday meals become moments of comfort—fluffy rotis, nourishing dal, fresh salads, and endless cups of chai. Girls learn real skills here: washing and sanitising, chopping safely, baking bread, cooking pancakes, making paneer, stirring jams, and timing big-batch meals. On very rare occasions our boys pitch in too. The team plans menus around harvests and budgets, turning farm milk and produce into food that powers study and play. They also manage celebrations, from morning tea snacks to Sunday afternoon treats, keeping nutrition and hygiene front and centre. It's hard work, done with love, and it equips young people with confidence and lifelong kitchen craft.



## OUR STAFF

Our staff are the Mission's quiet engine, turning big goals into everyday care. In the office, Amos keeps books balanced and paperwork moving. Casey teaches in our school and somehow still finds the time (and patience) to handle photocopying exam sheets for every class. Lalita's cleaning makes rooms and corridors shine; Joey's gardens keep paths shaded and flowering. In the hostels, Elsie and Violet shepherd the small boys with care and structure; Ganesh always building something; Jack steadies the senior boys with guidance, good humour and loads of cricket; Stella and Nancy support the senior girls in their own way. And that's only a handful—the list of our amazing staff truly goes on. We couldn't name everyone, but to each teammate: thank you for keeping this place running!



## ALL FOR THESE KIDS

At GSAM, the children's wellbeing is our daily priority. We don't take good health for granted—meals are planned for nutrition, routines guard sleep, and regular checkups catch problems early. Play, sport, and time outdoors build strong bodies; reading corners, music, and art nourish minds and hearts. When fevers come, we slow down, support, and get the right care; when energy returns, we celebrate the bounce-back. We're grateful for the laughter, friendships, and milestones that fill our weeks, but we know none of it happens by accident. To everyone who stands with us—through gifts, prayers, messages, and visits—please know the tremendous role you play in shaping these young lives. Your support becomes health, confidence, experience, dreams and hope.



## WHY OUR POOL MATTERS

Our swimming pool may be a simple concrete pit, but in the summer it's a lifesaver—and, more importantly, a place where children learn skills that can save lives. We run basic water-safety and swimming lessons for our kids and share the pool with Maxton Strong School so students can practice under supervision. Confidence grows week by week, and so does respect for water. The need is real: India loses an estimated 38,000 people to drowning every year, many of them children. Cooling off, learning strokes, practicing safe entries, and watching out for one another turn hot afternoons into training grounds for safety. Simple pool, big impact: fitness, fun, and essential life skills. It's also a pretty amazing place to have a birthday party or play some games on a quiet afternoon!



## AGRICULTURE AT THE HEART

Farming has always been woven into the Mission's DNA—feeding our family, funding development, and teaching our children the dignity of work. Each season we steward our cash crops—sugarcane, wheat, and rice—with care and a lot of teamwork. Rice remains a staple on our plates, planted by hand and milled locally so we can control quality from field to kitchen. Wheat keeps our machines humming—tuning cutters, shifting pumps, and readying storage as fresh grain comes in—all surplus sales help balance the books. Sugarcane demands precision from the start; this year, Eugene helped source the exact seed we needed and coordinated fieldwork—one example of his steady leadership over the farm.

Our agriculture doesn't just nourish us; it strengthens our resilience. Even as agricultural income can rise and fall with the weather, it remains a key pillar of our self-sufficiency. And when systems show their age, we fix them. We're prioritizing repairs to older grain storerooms to protect harvest quality, improving returns and reducing waste. All of this is powered by an incredible farm team—and guided by our leaders, whose hands-on oversight keep the work moving through planting, harvest, and maintenance. From seedlings to supper, agriculture is how the Mission feeds itself, funds progress, and models stewardship for the next generation.



## OUR DAIRY

Fresh milk is a daily nutrition boost for our children. It goes into morning chai and porridge, is poured by the glass at snacks, and anchors countless recipes in our kitchen. We carefully strain, chill, and rotate every batch so it stays safe and delicious. The herd is kept healthy with clean housing, regular mineral and vitamin supplements, and plenty of green fodder. When there is extra, we turn milk into paneer for curries, raita for cooling lunches, thick curd for probiotics, and festive sweets for special occasions. We don't sell milk; we drink it and benefit from it. Simple, local, and lovingly produced, it is one of the important contributions our farm makes to children's growth, energy, and smiles.



## FRESH FRUIT!

Fruit trees are part of our identity and our diet. We keep experimenting—apples, cherries, coconuts, and pears—testing varieties that tolerate our weather and soils. Some trials fail, but every season teaches us something new about shade, wind, and water. Meanwhile, the old faithfuls carry us: mangoes, berries, lychee, jamoon, banana, amla, guava, lemon, and star-fruit. In good years the children help harvest, turning work into laughter, sticky fingers, and baskets full of colour. Fresh fruit goes straight to the table; surplus becomes preserves, pickles, pies, jam, and juice, extending the season and reducing waste. Trees also cool playgrounds, shelter birds, and hold soil after heavy rain, making our campus tastier, greener, and more resilient.



### THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG?

Our chicken program has grown into a cheerful routine. We now hatch most of our own chicks, building a resilient flock adapted to our climate and caretaking style. Around sixty hens are laying regularly, with small batches of growers coming up behind them to keep numbers steady. The eggs go straight to the kitchen—especially on Sundays, when breakfast means fried eggs or big pans of omelettes with onions and herbs. Through the week, eggs enrich baking and add protein to quick meals for busy school days. Kids help our staff collect, wash, and tray the eggs, learning gentleness and responsibility. Simple, dependable, and healthy, the hens turn scraps and grain into nourishment that our kids love and our cooks rely on.



### OUR FARM WORKSHOP

Behind the fields, our farm workshop keeps it all moving. Preventive maintenance on pumps, threshers, and the tractor prevents costly breakdowns; quick fixes to gates, handrails, irrigation lines, and storage fittings keep work safe and efficient. We stock a spares inventory and upcycle metal offcuts into brackets, shelves, and fence repairs—saving both money and time. Sunny is the heartbeat of this space: a true all-rounder in welding/fabrication and plumbing, and—more recently—our go-to electrician. Sunny and our amazing team of men fabricate custom parts, seals leaks before they spread, and rewires lighting as needs arise. The result is faster turnarounds, fewer call-outs, and a campus that's ready for work every single day.



### PERMACULTURE IN PRACTICE

Our farm is designed to loop resources, not waste them. Cow manure feeds our biogas digester—gobar gas—which powers daily cooking in the campus kitchen. After the methane is captured and used, the remaining slurry becomes nutrient-rich fertilizer for fodder and crop fields. Those fields grow grasses and grains that feed the herd, which produces more manure, closing the circle again. Wheat joins the loop too: straw and chaff decompose through the digester or compost, returning carbon and minerals to the soil. With every turn, we reduce purchased fuel and chemical inputs, cut smoke and waste, and build healthier soil structure. It's a simple, elegant cycle—energy for meals, fertilizer for fields, fodder for cows, and nourishment for children.



### KITCHEN GARDEN

Over time we've reduced our kitchen garden back to a handful of hardy winners: garlic, mint, coriander, curry leaves, chili, corn, radishes and okra. They're reliable in our soil, easy to tend between big farm tasks, and they add fragrance and freshness to daily meals. We tried wider vegetable rows in the past, but the pest pressure, disease cycles, and fencing needs made year-round production impractical. Instead, we focus our energy on field crops—growing them well, selling any surplus, and buying seasonal vegetables from local farmers and neighbours. It keeps costs sensible, quality high, and relationships strong. The herb patch still teaches kids to plant, water and harvest, while the big fields drive our self-reliance and fund campus improvements.



### FISH PONDS

Our fish ponds quietly support life on campus. They are places for children to learn patience, teamwork, and care for living things—and they provide a steady, low-maintenance source of protein for the kitchen. Every few years we restock with hardy carp, then let the ponds settle into their natural rhythm with minimal intervention. Recent floods exposed weak banks and clogged inlets, so the ponds now need serious renovation to improve flow, prevent erosion, reduce loss of stock, and simplify upkeep. We plan to prioritise this work in the next few years so the whole system is safer, cleaner, and easier to manage. With refreshed edges and smarter inflow and outflow, the ponds will keep delivering learning, joy, and nutritious meals for years to come.





## MAXTON STRONG SCHOOL

Maxton Strong School, operated by the Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission (GSAM), continues to provide exceptional education to over 600 students, ranging from Nursery to Year 10. The school employs a team of well-trained and dedicated staff, ensuring a high standard of teaching and a nurturing environment for all students. Emphasizing English as the medium of instruction, the curriculum includes comprehensive classes in Hindi Language, Hindi Literature, and Sanskrit. This approach not only enhances linguistic skills but also fosters cultural appreciation among students.

In addition to its academic offerings, Maxton Strong School plays a pivotal role in GSAM's mission toward self-sufficiency. Tuition fees from community students contribute significantly to covering operational costs, enabling the organization to allocate resources toward future development projects. This sustainable model benefits the school's growth and supports the broader community by providing affordable, quality education.

Recent developments include the completion of a new kindergarten facility, marking a significant milestone in the school's expansion plans. This addition underscores GSAM's commitment to enhancing educational infrastructure and accommodating the growing needs of the community.

Looking ahead, Maxton Strong School aims to further extend its educational reach by constructing additional facilities, including a high school and senior secondary building, a gymnasium/assembly hall, and a swimming pool. These future projects reflect the school's dedication to providing a holistic and enriching educational experience for all students.



## HARELA TREE PLANTING

In July 2024, GSAM participated in the Harela Festival—a local tradition celebrating the onset of the monsoon—by planting a variety of trees and plants across the campus. Even in the aftermath of destructive floods, staff and children honored the custom with renewed dedication. Students carefully planted over 100 trees and seedlings nurtured in GSAM's gardens, demonstrating hope, resilience, and a strong connection to nature. The event served as a powerful reminder that even amid loss, growth is always possible. By blending cultural tradition with environmental stewardship, GSAM reinforced its role as both a community leader and a learning environment where values take root alongside plants.



## INVESTING IN OUR EDUCATORS

At Maxton Strong School, professional development is not just a priority—it's a core value. This year, the school brought in external experts to lead a series of staff training workshops, focused on enhancing classroom effectiveness, child development, and innovative teaching methods. These sessions equipped teachers with fresh tools and perspectives, enriching their ability to engage students and foster deeper learning. From leadership development to creative thinking, the trainings addressed both the art and science of teaching. By empowering educators through ongoing professional development, the school is investing in a stronger academic future—one teacher at a time.



## REPUBLIC DAY PARADE!

On January 26th, 2025, GSAM celebrated Republic Day with its largest and most joyful parade yet. With support from the Banbasa Police, nearly 700 children marched through the local market, waving flags and radiating national pride. A decorated float led the procession, while students dressed as historical figures and armed forces members brought history to life in vivid color. Along the route, shopkeepers and townspeople stepped out to cheer and distribute snacks, creating an atmosphere of celebration and unity. A traditional Pahari dance performance added cultural richness, and friends of the Mission captured the day in photos. This event wasn't just a school parade—it was a moving display of connection between GSAM and the wider Banbasa community.



## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Maxton Strong School held its annual Student Council elections with great excitement and pride. The democratic process engaged students in leadership and civic responsibility, culminating in a special assembly where the new council was introduced to the entire school body. Sheetal and Ajay were elected as Head Girl and Head Boy, respectively, while Santoshi was named Co-Curricular Activities Captain. Badges and sashes were awarded in a formal ceremony, and the entire student body stood in applause to welcome their new leaders. These roles offer students hands-on experience in decision-making, event planning, and peer mentorship—empowering them to shape school life and build confidence as future changemakers.



## SCOUTING TAKES ROOT

Now in its second year at Maxton Strong School, the partnership with Hindustan Scouts and Guides continues to flourish. What began as a pilot initiative has grown into a highly anticipated part of school life, offering students hands-on experiences in leadership, teamwork, and survival skills. This year's sessions saw children pitching tents, learning key knots, and participating in structured activities that built discipline and resilience. Though the camp remained on campus, the energy and excitement were unmistakably adventurous. The Scouting program is fast becoming a cornerstone of co-curricular development—instilling values that extend well beyond the classroom and nurturing the leaders of tomorrow.



## OFFICE UPGRADES

This year, the school office underwent a long-overdue transformation—breathing new life into one of the GSAM's busiest hubs. The tired rooms were reimagined with PVC paneling, improved lighting, and refurbished doors and windows, creating spaces that feel brighter, more welcoming, and better suited to the needs of our growing team. Beautiful upcycled doors now serve with renewed purposes, symbols of sustainability and creativity. These improvements are not just cosmetic; they represent our ongoing investment in creating functional, inspiring spaces for those who work tirelessly behind the scenes. The renovations have boosted morale, improved efficiency, and given staff and visitors alike a place they're proud to walk into each day.



## MAGIC AND WONDER

One of the most enchanting afternoons of the school year came courtesy of a visiting magician who captivated Maxton Strong School with an unforgettable performance. With wide-eyed amazement and bursts of laughter, students were drawn into a world of illusion and mystery. Tricks flew fast, reactions were loud, and the wonder was palpable across every row of students. The show wasn't just entertainment—it was a shared moment of joy that brought the whole school together in delight. It's moments like these that make school feel magical, reminding us all of the importance of imagination and play in education. The magician's final trick—a levitating table—had even the science teachers applauding in disbelief.

## DIWALI LIGHTS

The Diwali celebration at Maxton Strong School this year was bursting with colour, joy, and creativity. Students spent time painting diyas, crafting cards, and designing their own vibrant rangoli—an activity traditionally reserved for adults but joyfully taken on by the children this year. The results lit up the campus, quite literally, with beautifully detailed floral patterns and marigold accents. The excitement didn't stop there. A group of boys visited Banbasa's bustling fireworks market with a small allowance in hand, returning with safe, colourful crackers to share. Fireworks lit up the night skies and sent local monkeys scrambling—an unexpected bonus! This festive week was filled with light, laughter, and lifelong memories.



## FESTIVAL OF COLOUR

Holi at Maxton Strong School was a vivid celebration of colour, joy, and community. Students engaged in Diwali-themed crafts and rangoli design earlier in the season, but Holi brought an extra splash of excitement. The day featured the warm presence of longtime friends of the school and mission adding to the festive cheer. Children and staff gleefully threw coloured powder, danced to music, and shared traditional sweets. Laughter rang through the campus as everyone—teachers, students, and guests—was swept up in the moment. These celebrations are about more than just fun; they deepen bonds and build memories that last far beyond the colours on our clothes.



## BREAKING NEW GROUND

With major renovations underway at Maxton Strong School, the need for consistent campus upkeep has never been greater. In response, the school welcomed a new full-time groundskeeper—an exciting step toward maintaining and beautifying our growing space. As pathways, garden beds, retaining walls, and drainage systems are being constructed, the addition of a dedicated gardener ensures these improvements will be well looked after for years to come. This role is part of a broader vision to create a unified, green, and functional campus environment. With their care and attention, we're looking forward to healthier gardens, cleaner grounds, and a school environment that continues to reflect pride, respect, and progress.

## CELEBRATING OUR EDUCATORS

In February, Maxton Strong School hosted its Annual Staff Lunch—an event dedicated to honouring the incredible teachers and support staff who make the school such a vibrant place of learning. Held in the shaded verandah of Sam's Garden, the lunch was filled with laughter, short heartfelt speeches, and a delicious home-cooked meal served by the leadership team. It was a rare opportunity for everyone to step away from the whiteboards, laptops and books and simply enjoy each other's company. From long-standing faculty members to new hires, the day celebrated teamwork, resilience, and shared purpose. As the school continues to grow, moments like these remind us that strong relationships are the foundation of a strong education.



## PLANT FOR THE PLANET

This year, Maxton Strong School hosted a powerful environmental awareness workshop through the Plant-for-the-Planet initiative, led in partnership with a visiting UNESCO team. The program encouraged students to explore environmental topics through discussion groups, creative brainstorming, and hands-on action. While some children were deeply inspired, others—ever honest—admitted the sessions weren't their favourite. But enthusiasm peaked when the students rolled up their sleeves for the final activity: planting trees around the campus. The workshop not only introduced key ideas about sustainability but also gave students tangible ways to contribute to a greener future. Programs like these are planting more than trees—they're sowing seeds of consciousness and care.



## VISIT FROM STATE GAMES

In an exciting visit that lit up the school campus, a delegation from the Uttarakhand State Games arrived at Maxton Strong School to meet and encourage our students. Their arrival brought an air of celebration and pride, as the guests engaged with students and toured the school grounds. The visit aimed to promote sports and physical development, offering our young athletes recognition and inspiration straight from state-level role models. Students were thrilled to meet the dignitaries, who spoke about the values of teamwork, perseverance, and leadership. It was a motivating moment that affirmed the importance of athletics in education and left a lasting impression on the entire school community. Of course the biggest thrill of all came from the amazing mascot!



## MEDICAL CAMP

This year, our School hosted a large-scale medical camp, offering comprehensive health check-ups for every student. Eighteen healthcare professionals from Tanakpur—including doctors, nurses, and pharmacists—volunteered their time to conduct general exams, dental checks, eye and ear screenings, and health consultations. The event was exceptionally well-organized, and even staff members received check-ups. Educational sessions also highlighted health topics like the dangers of tobacco. Medicines were distributed to those in need, and the day closed with heartfelt thanks and small gifts—coffee mugs bearing the school logo. The camp was a testament to community partnership and the care GSAM shows in nurturing the minds and well-being of our students.



## BUILDING STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS

At Maxton Strong School, the relationship between teachers and parents is a cornerstone of student success. This year, Parent-Teacher Meetings were held throughout the academic calendar, offering a space for collaborative dialogue around each child's progress. Teachers shared academic updates, behavioral insights, and strategies for improvement, while parents offered valuable context and support. These meetings not only strengthened communication but also reaffirmed a shared commitment to every student's growth. The results of end of year exams were encouraging, with many children exceeding expectations and taking pride in their accomplishments.



## CASTING VISION TOGETHER

In March, the entire teaching and administrative team gathered for a visionary planning session following GSAM's Annual General Meeting. Over 60 staff members participated as the leadership shared long-term goals for the school, including detailed site maps, architectural sketches, and strategic plans. The meeting emphasized transparency and unity—inviting every team member to understand and own the School's future direction. From infrastructure expansion to academic aspirations, the presentation highlighted a roadmap for growth rooted in purpose. The enthusiastic response from staff affirmed the power of casting vision collectively. When everyone sees where we're going, we get there faster, together.

## A FAIR TO REMEMBER

This year's Maxton Strong School Fair was nothing short of spectacular—a vibrant showcase of creativity, collaboration, and pure joy. Run by students from Grade 5 and up, the fair transformed the campus into a colourful marketplace buzzing with laughter, music, and excited chatter. Dozens of imaginative stalls filled the grounds, each planned and operated by students with guidance from their teachers. There were no competitions, no trophies—just pure, student-led initiative in action.

The event's breakout favourite was the Splash Zone, where students (and staff!) took turns placing their faces in a wooden cutout while others paid for the chance to throw water balloons. The lineup to drench Micah and Avinash Sir stretched long, especially when Micah's wife and father-in-law, Eugene, joined the fun. The giggles, shrieks, and soaking clothes made for one of the most memorable moments of the day.

Other standout attractions included the jumping castle, trampoline, and a wildly popular air-rifle balloon shoot. Stalls offered lemon juice, popcorn, samosas, homemade snacks, and treats galore, with the food tables emptying almost as fast as they were filled. Classic carnival rides like the merry-go-round and swinging boat delighted younger students, while toys, balloons, and mini games added to the fairground atmosphere. Nancy Ma'am claimed victory in the "Guess the Sweets in the Jar" game—earning both bragging rights and a very sweet prize!

The entire event pulsed with energy: announcements rang out, cheerful music blasted through speakers, and students raced between stalls with wide grins and sticky fingers from all the sweets. Parents, teachers, and community members mingled in the crowd, soaking in the atmosphere.

Funds raised from the fair went directly toward upgrading the school grounds—including new benches, wheelie bins, and dozens of rose bushes for the gardens. As the midday sun peaked high overhead and stalls began to close, everyone was thinking: "Can we do this again tomorrow?"



## SAM'S GARDEN OPEN!

After years of dedicated planning and construction, in February, Maxton Strong School proudly inaugurated Sam's Garden Kindergarten—a landmark moment for the GSAM and a defining step in the future of early education on our campus. The celebration marked the culmination of a deeply personal and transformational journey made possible through the unwavering support of the Saxena family, who have walked beside us for over a decade in memory of their beloved son, Samartha.

The inauguration day was blessed with light rain—a traditional sign of good fortune—and welcomed over 150 guests, including proud parents, school staff, Mission members, and special friends of the Saxenas: Dr. Arun and Dr. Rajaji Krishnan, whose presence further elevated the occasion. The program was filled with joy, gratitude, and emotion. From cultural performances to the children's charming fancy dress show, every moment radiated celebration and meaning. Clifton's heartfelt speech captured the vision behind the project and left many, including himself, in tears.

Sam's Garden is more than just a building—it's a bold investment in the youngest learners of our community. With nine classrooms, a multipurpose activity hall, office space, and outdoor play areas, it's been designed to foster creativity, nurture development, and support future expansion of our school up to Grade 12. The building reflects a dream once mapped out on paper, now standing in vibrant colour and stone.

Guests toured the full campus, witnessing first-hand how the Saxenas' legacy has taken shape—from the Learning Resource Center to the Science Wing and now this stunning new kindergarten. As evening fell, the celebration continued with a shared meal, heartfelt conversations, and even a playful game of rock-paper-scissors—reminding us that love, community, and shared purpose are what truly build a school.

Sam's Garden is now open—and with it, a new chapter begins.



THE INAUGURATION OF SAM'S GARDEN WAS MADE EVEN MORE SPECIAL AS IT ALSO MARKED THE GRADUATION OF OUR UKG CLASS. WITH PROUD SMILES AND LITTLE CAPS, OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS SAID GOODBYE TO PRESCHOOL AND HELLO TO THE NEXT STAGE OF THEIR EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY—ALL IN THE VERY SPACE BUILT TO NURTURE THEM.



## THREE DAYS OF TRIUMPH

The Maxton Strong School Sports Program this year was nothing short of monumental—a three-day celebration of athleticism, teamwork, and unity that brought together students, teachers, parents, and even the local police force. With participation spanning kindergarten to senior grades, the campus pulsed with excitement and determination from start to finish.

The event began with a grand opening ceremony featuring a flag-raising and torch relay, led by Chief Guest Mr. Laxman Singh Jagwan, Station Officer of Banbasa. Students paraded proudly in house colours, kicking off a day of fun-filled activities for the younger children: sack races, balloon relays, and egg-and-spoon challenges (substituted with lemons to reduce waste) brought giggles and cheers from the sidelines.

Day two turned up the intensity. Older students faced off in events such as kabaddi, kho-kho, high jump, shotput, and volleyball. Mr. Manish Katri, SOG Incharge, flagged off the games and even joined a running race with senior girls—earning applause and plenty of good-natured laughter. He also spoke about the region's ongoing "Say No to Drugs" campaign, linking sports with positive, healthy choices.

The grand finale saw Superintendent of Police Mr. Ajay Ganpathi arrive after hours of mountain travel from Champawat to join the closing day celebrations. His presence elevated the day, cheering students on and handing out medals in a heartfelt closing ceremony. But it wasn't just students who competed—parents joined for the first time ever, racing, laughing, and even facing off against teachers in a spirited tug-of-war or an incredibly entertaining game of cricket. The overwhelming response has ensured that parent events will now be a permanent part of Sports Day.

Across all three days, the program stood as a testament to the school's commitment to holistic education. It wasn't just about who won—but about heart, community, and the joy of playing together.



**A GRAND WELCOME FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE MR. AJAY GANPATHI, CHIEF GUEST ON THE LAST DAY OF OUR 3-DAY ANNUAL SPORTS PROGRAM AT MAXTON STRONG SCHOOL. WITH STUDENTS LINING THE PATHWAY, DRUMS BEATING, AND FLAGS WAVING, THE ENERGY WAS ELECTRIC. HIS PRESENCE BROUGHT HONOUR AND ENCOURAGEMENT, REMINDING OUR CHILDREN THAT THEIR EFFORTS—BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD—ARE SEEN AND VALUED. IT WAS A MOMENT OF PRIDE THAT SET THE TONE FOR THREE INCREDIBLE DAYS OF ATHLETICISM, TEAMWORK, AND SCHOOL SPIRIT.**



### SAY NO TO DRUGS

Inspired by the words of Superintendent of Police Shri Ajay Ganpathi during our Annual Sports Program, staff and students from Maxton Strong School launched a powerful initiative: a Say No to Drugs motorcycle rally through Banbasa and neighbouring villages.

With the critical support of Shri Laxman Singh Jagwan and Shri Manish Katri from the Champawat Police, and under the banner of Champawat Police's "Say No To Drugs" initiative, the rally gained momentum and reach. Senior students and staff rode into the mountains towards Champawat, stopping at multiple schools to speak directly to hundreds of students about the dangers of substance abuse. Banners, bold messaging, and personal testimony gave the campaign strength and impact.

For many of our students, this was more than a ride—it was a chance to lead. Riding alongside respected officers and addressing their peers, they helped ignite conversations that could change lives.



# HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED...



## **VOLUNTEER** | [www.indianorphanage.com/volunteer](http://www.indianorphanage.com/volunteer)

Our Volunteer Program is now open for applicants! Whether your talents lie in teaching, farming, construction, or mentorship, your skills can make a tangible difference. From helping in our classrooms to working on the farm or running workshops, we have a variety of roles available that could match your expertise.



## **FUNDRAISING** | [www.globalgiving.org/projects/indianorphanage](http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/indianorphanage)

Become a champion for our cause by organizing a fundraising initiative! Whether it's raising awareness for one of our larger projects like the Kindergarten, or supporting our ongoing education programs, your efforts can help ensure that the Mission continues to thrive. Let us know how you'd like to help, and we can provide you with resources and ideas.



## **DONATE** | [www.globalgiving.org/projects/indianorphanage](http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/indianorphanage)

While we strive to be self-sufficient, we rely on donations to fund major projects and ensure the sustainability of our programs. A one-time gift or monthly donation at any level can go a long way in transforming lives. We're committed to full transparency, so you can trust your contributions are used effectively.



## **SPONSOR** | [www.globalgiving.org/projects/indianorphanage](http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/indianorphanage)

Every child at our Mission is sponsored, but we're always in need of sponsors for other crucial needs—such as providing monthly meals, maintaining our facilities, or helping cover tuition fees for our older students. Your support helps ensure that these children receive the care and opportunities they deserve.



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