



Vienna, Spring 2026

*Dear friends  
of Hand in Hand,*

Thanks to your support, we can look back on a year full of new plans, achievements, and successes. This year, alongside health, the main focus at HAND IN HAND is, above all, on education. Therefore, this edition of our newsletter is entirely dedicated to this important topic. We hope you enjoy reading it!

### Soon, we will welcome the new kindergarten children!

For more than 20 years, your support has given children nurturing care, health, and access to education – and with it, the chance for a life free from poverty. To this day, hundreds of children have found a safe home at Balashram. And very soon, 40 new kindergarten children will be welcomed there. This start into a new and unfamiliar life is anything but easy for the little ones. Everyone at Balashram does their part to help the children feel secure, supported, and at home in no time.



*They are already part of the loving Balashram family.*





Deepa Jena with her family, accompanied by Swami Sugitanandaji and the class teacher Ajay Barik.



Barsha Perei (center) with her family



Netramani Patra with her mother



Janardhan Ojha with his family



Pinky Dalei with her family

## The students visited their families

The older children and teenagers know all too well what it means to leave the familiar behind— but also the new opportunities it has given them. The breaking of the cycle of poverty for the children at Balashram became especially evident when, accompanied by their class teacher Ajay Barik and headmaster Swami Sugitanandaji, the students visited their families in their home villages.

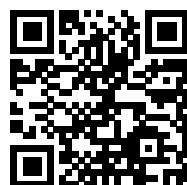
## New recreational and study spaces for teenagers

There is a 14-year age gap between the youngest and the oldest at the Balashram—so their needs differ greatly. So far, for each school term, more than 500 students have had access to only one building for recreation and study periods, especially during the rainy season. For some time, there have been plans to build a new hostel, offering 14-18 year-olds dedicated space for learning and group activities. Thanks to a very generous donation this year, this important project is finally coming to life, with construction having started in the spring.



## A new school project for girls

This year, HAND IN HAND is supporting **JNANAPRABHA MISSION** for the first time—an organisation that is deeply committed to women’s empowerment and to combating discrimination against women. You can read more about this in our current Spotlight, which is now once again available in several languages.





In a tribal region of India, sending girls to school is far from guaranteed. This is exactly where we aim to make a difference: Together with the dedicated women of JNANAPRABHA MISSION, **we plan to build a school for girls—right in a place where they often have little access to education or the chance to live an independent, self-determined life. Plans are already underway to purchase the land and start building the school this spring.** In a safe and supportive environment, girls will receive an education and have the opportunity to explore a wide range of subjects, helping them develop their full potential. A central aim is to empower them with self-reliance, resilience, and inner strength. **Your donation can help turn this new school project into a reality—please support us!**

### **PRAJNANA MISSION as the new sponsor of the Hariharananda Shikshashrams**

You may remember the village school project Hariharananda Shikshashrams, which was launched shortly before the pandemic. The first schools in Rajanagar (Athagarh district) and Mayurbhanj had to close due to the pandemic.

The school in Rajanagar reopened in spring 2022 as Hariharananda Shikshashram Betakholi, but it encountered financial difficulties because the Indian government prohibited funding from foreign donations. With PRAJNANA MISSION taking over sponsorship last year, HAND IN HAND is now able to contribute to the project again.

Currently, lessons are held in a rented facility that no longer provides enough room, so a new school building will be built this year.



Dear friends of HAND IN HAND, we have many new initiatives this year aimed at ensuring children in India receive a good education. Millions of children there remain without schooling, and girls in particular often have little chance of leading a free and self-determined life. Though our contribution may appear small in the face of such a vast challenge, for every child at Balashram and the village schools, it can mean the world. With your help and support, we can continue to make a positive difference in the lives of these children for the next 25 years.

Our children are our future.

*With heartfelt  
thanks!*

  
Peter van Breukelen





*One drop can make  
a difference!*

Please make that difference with just 2 Euro a day for the Balashram children!  
Give children from the poorest backgrounds a new chance in life.

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