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HAND IN HAND

Organisation for Humanitarian Aid

Activity and Progress Report

From 1st April 2025 until 31st March 2026

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GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT HAND IN HAND

HAND IN HAND is an **international non-profit organisation for humanitarian aid, founded in Vienna in March 2000**. This was followed by

- HAND IN HAND USA (2001)
- HAND IN HAND Foundation Germany (2005)
- HAND IN HAND Switzerland (2006)
- HAND IN HAND Foundation Netherlands (2007)
- HAND IN HAND France (2008).

The present activity and progress report describes the current developments of the HAND IN HAND projects in India and summarises the specific activities of the HAND IN HAND organisations in Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, and France. The activity reports of HAND IN HAND Switzerland and HAND IN HAND USA are available at www.handinhand-schweiz.org and www.handinhandusa.org.

All the organisations listed above, work for the conception, planning, financing, and implementation of the HAND IN HAND aid projects in the areas of education, health, and disaster relief in Odisha. Odisha is one of the poorest states in India with an exceptionally high degree of exposure to natural disasters.

The aid projects are implemented in cooperation with **HAND IN HAND's partner organisations, the PRAJNANA MISSION (PM), a partner since March 2000, and the JNANAPRABHA MISSION (JPM), a partner since September 2025**, in Cuttack, Odisha, India. **The JNANAPRABHA MISSION is a sister organisation that emerged from PRAJNANA MISSION and focuses specifically on the empowerment of girls and women.** The structure of HAND IN HAND together with an overwhelming voluntary commitment, enables up to **80 to 90 % of the donations to flow into the projects** and allows for almost all donations to reach those so urgently in need.

HAND IN HAND pursues exclusively charitable goals. As a result of international cooperation, it is possible to break hopeless cycles of poverty by:

- Giving children living in extreme poverty a home, the chance to grow up healthy, and quality education - and thus a future.
- Providing medical care to people without access to health services and medicines.
- Providing rapid and sustainable aid in the event of natural disasters, to protect people, animals, and the environment.

In the **HAND IN HAND health projects - the Hariharananda Charitable Health Centres (HCHC)** - more than 40 doctors offer general and special medical treatments in the Health Centres. They are located in:

- Balighai: HCHC Balighai
- Jagatpur: HCHC Jagatpur (Day Clinic)
- Arua: VHP* Arua (Health Centre within the Balashram school)
- Athagarh: VHP* Athagarh
- Bhishindpur: HCHC Bhishindipur
- **Habibpur: VHP Habibpur**

*) Village Health Project

The HAND IN HAND education projects are currently:

- The Hariharananda Balashram Residential School
- The Chrysalis project, which emerged from the Balashram project
- Tuition Centre in Arua
- The village school project in Hariharananda Shiksashrams in Rajanagar
- **The planned school for girls in in Koraput**

The HAND IN HAND disaster relief and civil protection includes:

- Provision of immediate life-support assistance such as medical aid, provision of food, hygiene items and emergency kits.
- Helping to restore destroyed infrastructure, such as building storm- and flood-proof, one-room houses.
- Provision of agricultural land and seeds for replanting and reforestation.

All HAND IN HAND projects stand for an **ecologically attentive and care for life** and aim at increasing autonomy. With green ideas for a healthy future the following was achieved:

- Organic Farming since 2021
- The construction of a farm building for the supply of dairy products and the preservation of the Indian humped cattle (Zebu).
- The construction of a biogas plant connected to the farm building.

HAND IN HAND HEALTH PROJECTS

The Hariharananda Charitable Health Centres (HCHC) provide medical treatment to people without access to adequate medical and dental care. **Since 1999/2000**, the founding year of HAND IN HAND, **six Health Centres** have been established.

- There are **more than 40 doctors** offering health services across all the centres, on a voluntary basis.
- **General health and dental services** are provided in the OPD (Outpatients Department) centres at Balighai, Puri District and Bhishindipur, West Medinipur district.
- **Homeopathy** services are offered at the HCHC Bhishindipur, Athagarh, and in the Village Health Project (VHP) in Arua.
- The HCHC in Balighai has started **Ayurveda services** in September 2018 and Homeopathy services since February 2021.
- The HCHC in Cuttack/Jagatpur, has been developed into a **Day Clinic**. It started on February 14, 2014, at New Industrial Area, Jagatpur. This complex is serving the general population by providing medicine, surgery, paediatrics, gynaecology, and other health services. During normal times, **each day more than 100 patients** from the nearby communities receive medical treatment.

Centre	Inauguration	Allopathy	Homeopathy	Ayurveda
HCHC Jagatpur	1999	7 days a week		planned
HCHC Balighai	1999	5 days a week	once a week	once a week
HCHC Bhishindipur	2004		2 days a week	
VHP Arua	2010	Alternate days	once a week	
VHP Athagarh	2012		7 days a week	
VHP Habibpur	2025		Once a week	
HCHC = Health Centre; VHP = Village Health Project				

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE HCHC

Eye Care Services

In Balighai, eye care consultations were initially conducted on a regular basis. However, due to the lack of doctors available on a long-term voluntary basis, the service is currently paused. At the same time, efforts are ongoing to find professionals willing to contribute their expertise voluntarily.

In Jagatpur, a weekly eye OPD has been running since 2014, serving an average of 50–60 patients. After a short interruption, the services were successfully resumed in 2021.

Modern Diagnostics

Since its opening in 2014, the laboratory in Jagatpur has been continuously upgraded with modern equipment. Today, almost all essential blood and urine investigations as well as infection tests can be performed directly on site. Since 2020, the diagnostic services have been further strengthened by the installation of an X-ray unit, ensuring that patients no longer need to travel to external facilities for most investigations.

Professional Wound Care

The wound care unit in Jagatpur is equipped to treat both minor injuries and more complex cases such as burns and diabetic foot ulcers, ensuring prompt and professional care.

Focus on Heart Health

The introduction of regular ECG testing has significantly improved the early detection of cardiovascular diseases and reduced the need for patients to travel to specialised diagnostic centres.

Expanded Dental Services

Initially limited to basic procedures such as fillings and scaling, dental care in Jagatpur now also includes more advanced treatments such as root canal therapy. The availability of modern equipment has played a key role in broadening the scope of services.

A Wide Range of Care in Balighai

Since 2018, Balighai has been offering not only allopathic but also Ayurvedic treatments. In 2021, homeopathy was added, giving patients access to a broad spectrum of healthcare options.

Advancements in Physiotherapy

The introduction of the modern Tech Laser SS-2000 in 2024 has significantly enhanced physiotherapy services, enabling larger treatment areas to be treated more quickly and effectively.

NEW ACQUISITIONS IN 2025/26

Advanced Laboratory Diagnostics

Since February 2025, an **Electrolyte Analyzer 3p** has been in operation, further strengthening the diagnostic capabilities of the laboratory.

Improved Diabetes Care

The **HbA1c testing** unit became operational in November 2025. It enables accurate long-term monitoring of blood glucose levels and supports the effective management of diabetes. Since its introduction, **866 patients** have benefited from this service.

Expanded Ultrasound and Cardiac Diagnostics

A new **ultrasound machine** became operational in May 2025. Initially used for 2-D echocardiography, it has significantly strengthened cardiac diagnostics. Since November 2025, the same equipment has also been used for a wide range of ultra-sonography examinations.

Since the introduction of the Echo service in August 2025, **129 patients** have benefited from **cardiac ultrasound** examinations. Following the expansion of ultrasonography services in November 2025, **655 patients** have undergone **ultrasound examinations**.

Specialist Endocrinology Services

The endocrinology service was launched in August 2025, providing diagnosis and treatment for patients with hormonal and metabolic disorders, including diabetes and thyroid diseases. Since the service began, **230 patients** have received treatment.

Preventive and Holistic Healthcare through Yoga Therapy

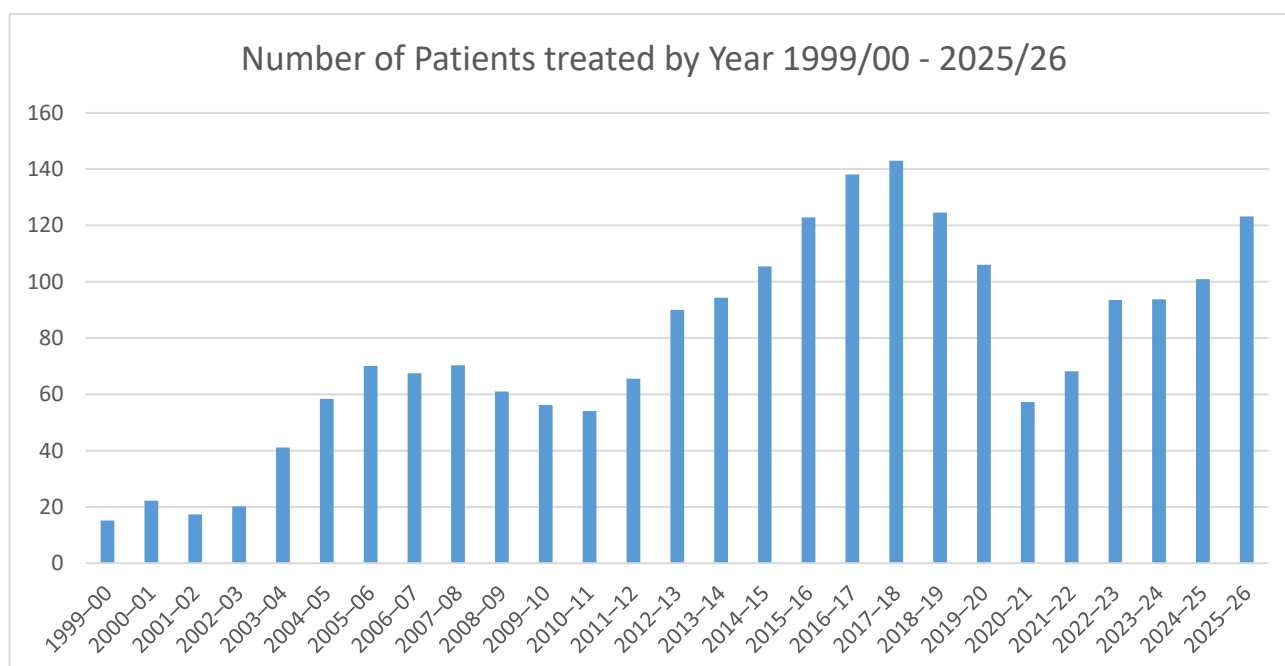
Yoga therapy has been introduced as a complementary component of the hospital's healthcare services. It offers patients holistic support for their physical and emotional well-being, complementing conventional medical treatment.

NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED IN THE HCHC

From July 1999 until March 2026, the HCHC provided medical assistance and medicines for **2,080,101 million patients**. From a total of 1,00,892 OPD consultations in the financial year 2025-26, the number **has increased by close to 20% in 2025-26 financial year**.

The year-wise breakup of patients treated:

Year	Total Patients Treated	Year	Total Patients Treated
1999-00	15,147	2013-14	94,272
2000-01	22,218	2014-15	105,418
2001-02	17,37	2015-16	122,828
2002-03	20,167	2016-17	138,085
2003-04	41,087	2017-18	143,001
2004-05	58,371	2018-19	124,581
2005-06	70,151	2019-20	106,045
2006-07	67,473	2020-21	57,288
2007-08	70,304	2021-22	68,209
2008-09	60,993	2022-23	93,491
2009-10	56,199	2023-24	93,746
2010-11	54,096	2024-25	100,892
2011-12	65,514	2025-26	123,182
2012-13	89,973	Total	2,080,101



HCHC JAGATPUR (DAY CLINIC)

A Trusted Healthcare Centre Since 2014

The **HCHC Jagatpur Day Clinic** opened its doors in February 2014 in the new industrial area of Jagatpur. Since then, it has earned an excellent reputation across the region, with patients even traveling from neighboring states such as West Bengal for treatment. The clinic primarily serves underprivileged communities and offers both general medical and therapeutic care, as well as specialised services in pediatrics, gynecology, and surgery. Modern diagnostic services are available throughout the year, and outpatient consultations are provided six days a week.

In the year **2025/26**, the HCHC day clinic in Jagatpur provided medical help to about **100 patients every day**. With the introduction of new services such as the **Immunoanalyzer, Ultrasound**, and other diagnostic facilities, HCHC Jagatpur is now generating nearly **65% of its operating expenses**.

Expanding Physiotherapy Services

The physiotherapy department, set up in 2016/17, was originally designed to treat around 30 patients per day. Today, nearly **60 people use this service daily**. Physiotherapy has increasingly become a valuable alternative to pain medication and drug-based therapies.

Comprehensive Outpatient Care

The **Eye OPD** has been running since October 2014, with 50–60 patients treated weekly.

The **dressng unit** continues to provide care for a wide range of cases, including diabetic foot ulcers and lipomas.

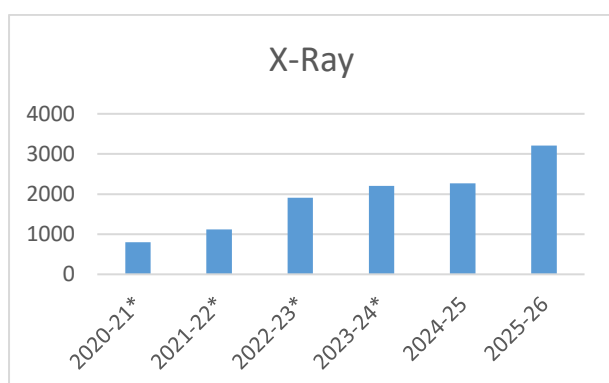
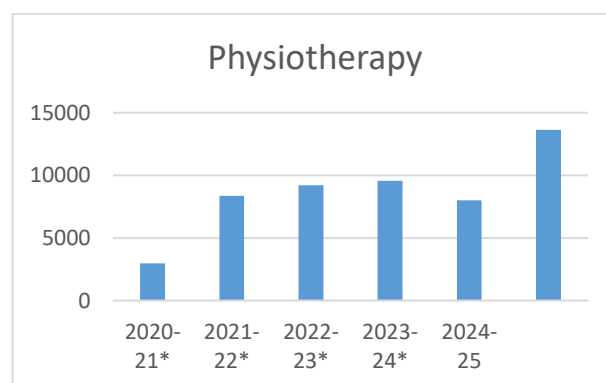
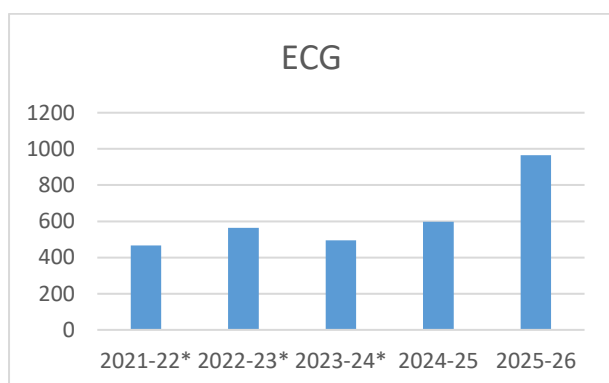
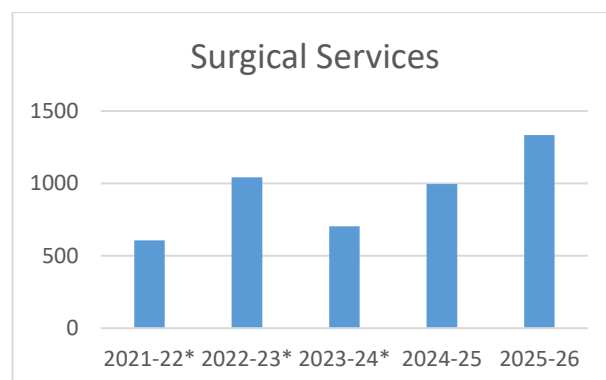
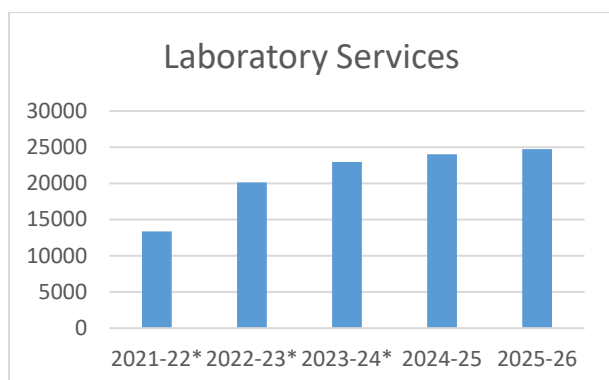
Dental services have expanded from simple extractions, fillings, and scaling to advanced procedures such as root canal treatment. In July 2024, a Dental Light Cure Machine was added to enhance illumination during dental examinations and treatments.

Advanced Diagnostics

ECG services have been continuously upgraded, ensuring that patients no longer need to rely on external clinics for tests. In 2023/24, an Immunoanalyzer was introduced for advanced thyroid testing (T3, T4, TSH). In February 2025, the laboratory further expanded with the installation of an Electrolyte Analyzer 3p.

	2021-22*	2022-23*	2023-24*	2024-25	2025-26
Laboratory Services	13,360	20,123	22,955	24,020	24,725
Surgical Services	607	1,041	703	996	1,333
ECG	467	564	495	598	965
Physiotherapy	8,354	9,210	9,572	7,997	13,638
X-Ray	1,120	1,906	2,203	2,266	3,211

*April to March - the number of people who utilized the services since 2021/22



NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT HCHC JAGATPUR 2025/26

	2024-2025	2025-26*	Commenced from
Electrolyte Analyser	56	585	Feb 2025
Echo	NA	129	Aug 2025
Endocrinology	NA	230	Aug 2025
Ultra sonography	NA	655	Nov 2025

- The **HbA1c testing** unit became operational in **November 2024**. The HbA1c test measures average blood sugar levels over the previous two to three months and is an essential tool for diagnosing and monitoring diabetes. It enables healthcare providers to assess how well a patient's diabetes is being managed and to adjust treatment accordingly. Since its introduction, **866 patients** have benefited from this service.
- The **Electrolyte Analyzer 3p** became operational in February 2025, significantly enhancing the laboratory's diagnostic capabilities. The system provides fast and reliable measurement of essential electrolytes such as sodium, potassium, and chloride, which are crucial for diagnosing and monitoring patients with kidney disorders, dehydration, metabolic imbalances, and many acute medical conditions. Rapid on-site testing enables timely clinical decisions and improves the quality of patient care. Since its introduction, 641 patients have benefited from this service.
- **The echocardiography (Echo) unit** was introduced in **August 2025**. Echocardiography is a non-invasive ultrasound examination of the heart that helps diagnose heart diseases, assess heart function, and detect abnormalities of the heart valves and chambers. Since its introduction, **129 patients** have benefited from this important diagnostic service.
- The **endocrinology service** was launched in **August 2025** to provide diagnosis and treatment for patients with hormonal and metabolic disorders, including diabetes, thyroid diseases, and other endocrine conditions. Access to specialist endocrine care enables earlier diagnosis and improved long-term management of chronic illnesses. Since the service began, **230 patients** have received treatment.
- The **ultrasonography unit** became operational in **November 2025**. Ultrasound examinations provide a safe and non-invasive method for diagnosing a wide range of medical conditions, including diseases of the abdomen, kidneys, liver, gallbladder, thyroid, and reproductive organs, as well as monitoring pregnancies. Since its introduction, 655 patients have undergone ultrasound examinations.

HCHC BALIGHAI

The HCHC in Balighai, Puri (Odisha) provides both general medical treatments and specialist health services. The centre is open six days a week and serves as an important healthcare centre for the local community.

In addition to its regular medical services, HCHC Balighai also offers Ayurvedic and Homeopathic treatments, expanding the spectrum of care. Ayurvedic services have been available since February 2018, and Homeopathy was introduced in February 2021. Special health camps, supported by local Ayurvedic specialists, are organised to address specific health conditions.

The centre further provides physiotherapy services, usually offered twice a month, as well as specialist skin consultations and dental treatments, also available twice a month.

Between April 2025 and March 2026, a total of 17,816 patients received treatment at HCHC Balighai.

HCHC BHISHINDIPUR

HCHC in Bishindipur in the state of West Bengal offers conventional general medical treatments and specialist health services, such as homeopathic treatments on two days every week. **The OPD services at Bishindipur were utilized by 3,176 patients in 2025/2026.**

VILLAGE HEALTH PROJECTS (VHP)

The VHP Athagarh (Upavanam), offers homeopathic treatments six days a week and dental care twice a month. **About 7,198 patients were treated during 2025/26 in VHP Athagarh.**

The VHP Arua, situated on the premises of the Hariharananda Balashram Residential School, offers four days a week allopathic treatment and twice a month dental care. Regular homeopathic treatment has also been carried out since 2019/20. **The OPD services at the Village Health Project Arua were utilized by 7,120 patients during 2025/26.**

In November 2025, a new Village Health Project was launched in Habibpur. Homeopathic treatment has been provided to local villagers three days a week. By the end of the 2025/26 financial year (31st March), i.e. **from November to March, a total of 378 patients** had received treatment through the project.

HAND IN HAND - EDUCATION PROJECTS

HARIHARANANDA BALASHRAM RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

- **Hariharananda Balashram – a home for care and education** – was founded on **July 29, 2004**, in Arua / Kendrapara. Since then, this residential school has been offering children living in extreme poverty—without primary care and without access to education—a safe home, healthcare, and holistic, high-quality schooling. Children who suffer from neglect in urban slums or who live in severely underserved and hard-to-reach rural areas, are selected by a specially qualified commission.
- Each year, **20 girls and 20 boys aged between four and five** are enrolled at Balashram for a period of **14 years**, during which time they receive comprehensive care and education.
- The school includes **Nursery classes (Nursery 1 and 2)** and offers formal education starting at the age of six, covering **Secondary Level 1 (Grades I–X)**.
- Every student is encouraged to dream of a future of their own choice and to realise that dream through dedicated effort. The school's motto is **"Make Your Dream a Reality"**, and the institution truly embodies this spirit.
- After completing the compulsory years of schooling (**Grade 10**), the adolescents move on to the follow-up project **Chrysalis** to continue with **Secondary Level 2 (Grades XI–XII)** or to pursue vocational training.
- In addition, Chrysalis continues to support Balashram alumni until they are able to live independently and support themselves. Even after they have established their own lives, Hariharananda Balashram remains their home – a place where they are always welcome and where they continue to belong.
- Hariharananda Balashram Residential School is managed by **Prajnana Mission**, headquartered in Jagatpur / Cuttack. Based on the school's performance, facilities, laboratories, and qualified teachers, the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** has extended the school's affiliation until **March 2030**.
- The school follows the **CBSE curriculum** with the **Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE)** system as per CBSE guidelines. In the curriculum, **English is the first language, Odia the second, and Hindi the third**. The course of studies includes **mathematics, science, social science, and environmental studies**. Non-academic subjects include **computer studies, general knowledge, and value education**. Teaching is conducted through **activity-based learning**, with computerised projectors supporting audio-visual learning.
- The **final examinations** for the classes X and XII (Secondary Level 1 and 2) **are open to the public** and are conducted by CBSE.

Educational excursions are an integral part of life at the Balashram School and are organised for all children and young people, from kindergarten through to Grade XII.
- **Educational excursions** are an integral part of school life at the Balashram and are organised for all students, from kindergarten through Grade XII.

- To nurture each child's individual talents and potential while fostering a strong sense of social responsibility, the Balashram offers a broad range of **extra-curricular and co-curricular activities** in the following areas:
 - Vocational Education & Practical Skills
 - Arts & Culture
 - Nature & the Environment
 - Sports & Games
 - Orientation Classes & Career Guidance
- **High-achieving students** in Grades 6–10 receive **additional academic support** through advanced foundation courses. These courses deepen their knowledge and equip them for future academic challenges.
- At the same time, **targeted remedial classes** are provided for students requiring additional support, helping them strengthen their understanding of core subjects and ensuring that every child can keep pace with the CBSE curriculum and successfully complete the Grade X Board examinations.
- **Teaching staff** regularly participate in **Continuing Professional Development programmes** tailored to their individual interests and areas of expertise.

FACILITIES

- The residential school has **26 dormitories for girls and 23 dormitories for boys**.
- The school is well equipped with a **computer laboratory** that has 45 computers and a projector for teaching information technology.
- Since 2013-14, Balashram has introduced an audio-visual learning system. Balashram frequently uses TeachNext tools - a **digital teaching and learning system**.
- The new **central library** was completed in February 2021.
- Construction work on the **mini auditorium** began in December 2019 and was completed in August 2020. The grand opening of the auditorium took place on 16 February 2021.
- In view of **accessibility** and according to the Guidelines for Children with Special Needs (CwSN), all existing schools and those seeking affiliation with the CBSE Board are required to provide either a ramp or a lift on every floor of the school building. In line with this mandate, Balashram installed a lift, which has been fully functional since July 2024.
- The Balashram operates an **HCHC Health Centre**, providing health promotion and preventive care, as well as medical and dental services for all Balashram residents.
- The **solar power** project was commissioned in December 2019 and it supplies electrical power of 50 kVA to school campus. Requirement for Balashram is 100+ kVA. Based on the success of this project, a 10kVA off-grid solar power project was installed on the school terrace. Completion date was March 2022.

- The **biogas plant**, commissioned in 2018, currently covers 80% of fuel requirements. LPG is used for the remaining requirements. Wood is no longer used to run the kitchen.
- **Organic farming** had been taken up at Balashram shortly before the outbreak of the Pandemic in 2019. About 8.5 acres of land is being cultivated for paddy and an organic vegetable garden is also developed for Balashram kitchen.
- A **goshala** (cow shelter) was established in 2013/14 to support organic dairy farming. It began with a herd of 76 cattle. Today, the goshala is home to around 300 cattle. Older cows are also given to villagers, for whom owning a cow can make a significant difference by providing milk, manure for fertilizer, and an important source of income.

To provide age-appropriate care and education for children in Grades I to V, while at the same time creating additional space for older students in the existing school building, **the construction of separate facilities for younger children is planned. Construction is scheduled to commence in October 2026.**

COOPERATIONS

Chandigarh University

Extracurricular activities in the visual and performing arts have always played a central role in Balashram's educational programme. The CBSE gives particular importance to an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning, which also includes the **integration of art and culture in both curricular- and extracurricular learning**. Therefore, visual and performing arts are partly compulsory for the children from nursery to class IX. The children learn drawing and painting, to make collages, drawing in two dimensions and acquire craft skills. In the performing arts, each child takes at least one of the three subjects dance, music and tabla. **For music lessons, Balashram is affiliated to the Pracheen Kala Kendra of Chandigarh University***. The girls and boys also learn classical Hindustani and Odissi music as well as traditional Odissi dance.

*) Pracheen Kala Kendra of Chandigarh University is the oldest organisation in India that promotes classical arts.

Commit to Change Initiative (C2C)

Commit to Change (C2C) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to transforming the lives of girls, especially from vulnerable communities, by empowering them through education. In partnership with Hariharananda Balashram (since 2024/25), C2C provides knowledge and skills in English and other subjects, along with counseling sessions for the girls. The C2C classes are progressing well. **The cooperation agreement has been renewed through 2027.**

L.V. Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI)

To ensure that **children's vision is regularly monitored**, Hariharananda Balashram has established a partnership with the L.V. Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI). With a strong presence in Odisha, LVPEI is committed to extending quality eye care to rural communities across the state. This partnership

began in September–October 2024, when the LVPEI team visited Balashram for the first time and expressed their willingness to conduct regular eye examinations for the students.

ACADEMICS IN 2025/26

In the academic year 2025/26 Balashram had **537 students** (261 boys and 276 girls), **36 teachers including the principal**, and four non-teaching staff members.

The Annual Survey for the Academic year 2025/26

The annual admission survey for enrolling new nursery students for the academic year 2025/26 was completed in the first week of April.

- In total, 284 applications were received.
- Among them, 166 children were above the age of five, and 30 children had not yet reached the age of four – these applications could not be considered.

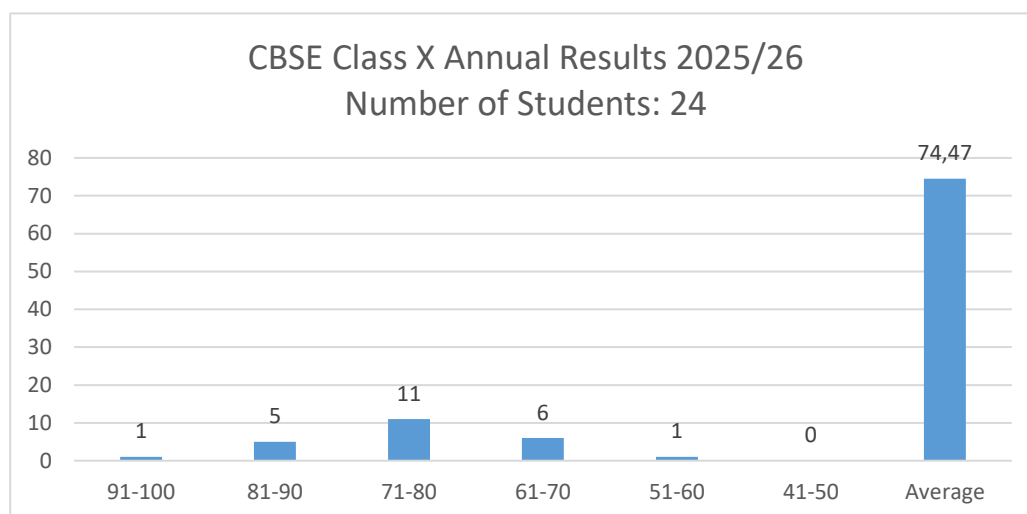
From the remaining 99 applications, **a total of 40 children were admitted** into Nursery (Lower Kindergarten – LKG) for the 2025/26 academic year.

Final Examinations – Class X

Class 10 results for the academic year 2025-26 were declared by CBSE on 13 May 2026. The institution achieved a remarkable 100% pass rate in both the Science and Humanities streams. This outstanding achievement reflects the hard work of the students, the dedicated guidance of the teachers, and the continuous support of the institution.

Jasbanta Bhoy was the school's top-performing student, achieving an outstanding score of 92%.

Class	Students	Topper	Percentage (%)
X	24	Jasbanta Bhoy	92
XII - Science	26	Swapnarani Barik	90
XII - Humanities	14	Kambala Hembrum	83



CHRYSLIS

Chrysalis supports graduates of the Balashram Residential School after leaving school. This Balashram follow-up project has the scope to give graduates the best possible support. The school received the Composite Provisional Affiliation for Secondary School from the Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi, in 2017. The approval for education up to secondary level 2 is a result of the Chrysalis project, which emerged from the Balashram project in 2016, and it is an important milestone in the school's development. Since then, it is possible to harbour the children for 14 years at Balashram and to give them further education at levels +2 and +3 after completion of compulsory schooling (class X).

Entrance Examinations Class XI

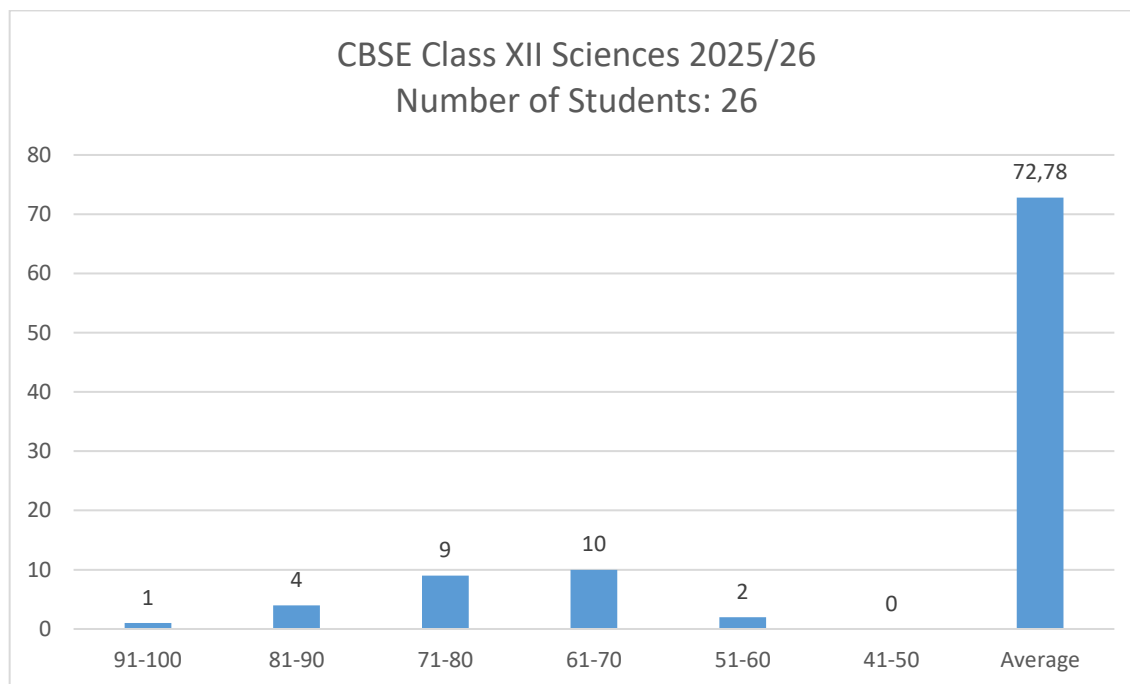
The entrance examination for the +2 Science programme was held on **25 January 2026**. Students from Hariharananda Balashram, as well as external applicants participated in the examination which was conducted in a well-organised and orderly manner. The dedicated support of all teachers ensured that the examination ran smoothly. After the examination, all participants were provided with lunch. A selection of photographs is shown below.

Final Examinations – Class XII

The Classes XII annual results for the academic year 2025/26 were declared by CBSE on **13 May 2026**. **All students passed.**

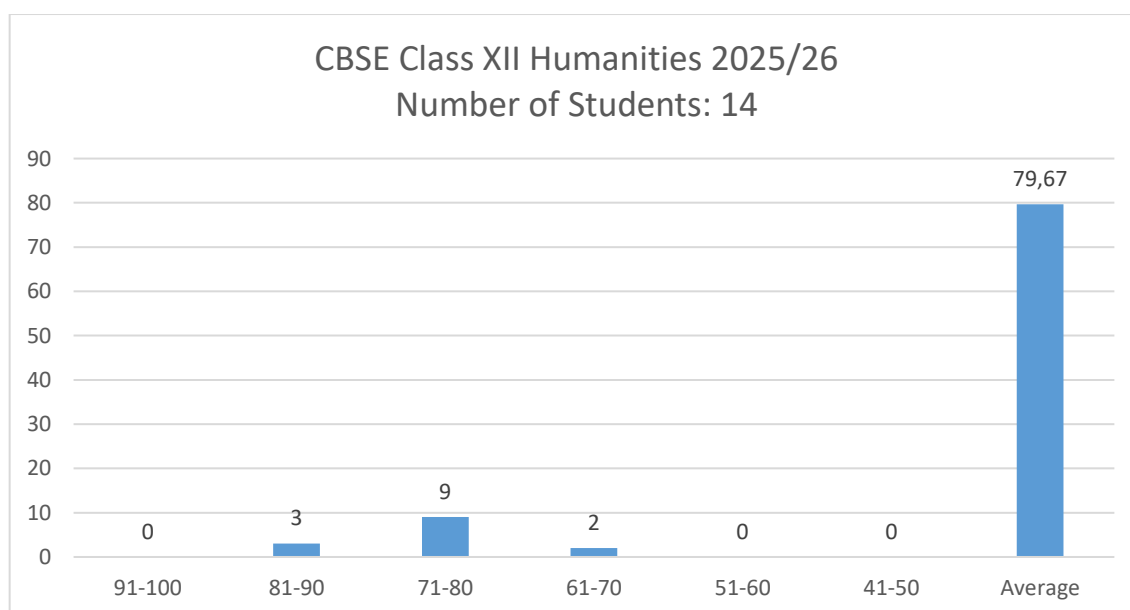
Class XII - Sciences

All 26 students in the Sciences stream successfully passed their final exams. Remarkably, 11 of them have been part of Balashram since their nursery years (admission batch 2011–12). The top student of the Science stream was **Himanshu Ranjan Mallick**, who achieved an excellent score of 87%.



Class XII – Humanities

All 14 students in the Humanities stream successfully passed their final exams. The class achieved a very good average score of nearly 80%.



TUITION CENTRE

A tuition centre was constructed in **2021/22 in Arua / Kendrapara** near the Balashram Residential School. It offers tutoring classes for the children of the villages of Arua, Kadliban, Hatapatana, Keshpur and Nuapatana, with the aim of raising the children's educational levels. **Around 100 students from the surrounding villages attend the tuition centre.** During the 2023/24 school year, an additional storey was added to the building, and a large hall was constructed above the classroom. In 2024, a library was set up there. Part of the extension is used for sewing classes.

The tuition centre offers two shifts: morning and evening: Classes I to VI come for tutoring in the morning while students from classes VII to X come in the evening. Graduates of Balashram, who live on the Balashram campus and study in nearby educational institutions under the Chrysalis Project, teach in their free time as tutors in the new Centre.

Parents of the children pay a small fee which covers the electricity costs and the examination fees. Retired government teachers who live in the villages, visit the Centre frequently and offer suggestions on how to improve teaching for the children. Parents-meetings are organised at regular intervals with the aim of promoting the parents understanding of their children 's educational journey. Moreover, an ethics lesson is held every Sunday and is attended by about 60 to 70 children.

The main goal of the Tuition Centre is to compensate for the poor quality of education in the regular village schools. It wants to help students, who find regular school classes difficult, to understand the basic courses of the lower grades. The tutors try to meet the individual needs of the students and advise the parents accordingly. The response of the villagers to the Tutoring Centre has been very positive.

Thanks to this educational support, children from the villages are able to successfully complete their school years. In 2023-24, the Tuition Centre building was extended, and a large hall was built above the classrooms. A library was set up there, and part of the extension is used for sewing courses.

HARIHARANANDA SHIKSHASHRAMS

The village school project Hariharananda Shikshashrams 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 in 2025, 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 in 2026/27.** Construction work has already started.

A three-day **Teachers' Training Programme** was organised for the teachers of Hariharananda Shikshashram from 10 to 12 May 2026. The programme focused on enhancing teaching skills,

improving classroom practices, and promoting effective student engagement. It provided a valuable platform for professional learning, reflection, and the exchange of educational ideas.

A NEW SCHOOL PROJECT FOR GIRLS IN KORAPUT

Since September 2025, 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**. 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 year.** In a safe and supportive environment, girls will receive an education and can 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.

HAND IN HAND – DISASTER RELIEF

In the financial year 2024/25, the Board of HAND IN HAND – Organisation for Humanitarian Aid in Vienna decided to increase the **disaster relief fund from EUR 10,000 to at least EUR 35,000**. This decision was made in response to the projected heightened risk of extreme weather events due to climate change.

Emergency Relief for a Family Affected by Fire in Musadia

In the early hours of 2nd May 2025, a fire broke out in the nearby village of Musadia under Keshpur Panchayat, located just 800 metres from Balashram. As the family's home was a simple mud house with a thatched roof, the flames spread rapidly and destroyed the building within a short time. Thankfully, no one was injured, but the family lost most of their belongings.

The following morning, a team from Balashram, together with local villagers, visited the site to assess the situation and provide support to the affected family.

Based on the immediate needs identified, the team quickly assembled essential relief supplies. By 12:30 p.m. on the same day, these items had been delivered to the family. The relief package included staple foods such as Chhuda (flattened rice), Chhatua (multigrain flour) and jaggery (unrefined cane sugar), as well as rice, dal (lentils), cooking oil and various spices. In addition, the family received fresh vegetables, clothing (including sarees, vests and towels), a set of cooking and eating utensils, a tarpaulin sheet for temporary shelter, and cattle feed.

The family received the assistance with deep gratitude. For the students of Balashram, the relief effort was also a valuable learning experience. They witnessed first-hand the importance of compassion, solidarity and practical support in times of crisis, and were able to make a meaningful contribution to helping a family in need.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES OF HAND IN HAND

- HAND IN HAND undergoes a strict audit procedure every year in Austria to obtain the donation seal of approval.
- Paramahansa Prajnanananda, the founder of our partner organisation in India, PRAJNANA MISSION, visited the HAND IN HAND organisation in Austria in June and September 2025, and in the Netherlands in August 2025. He participated in a fruitful exchange on the future vision for HAND IN HAND.
- The president and members of all HAND IN HAND organisations in Europe travelled to India in autumn 2025 to visit the Balashram school during the 9th Balashram Trek, which took place in Odisha/India and was organised by HAND IN HAND supporters in the UK. Further development of the projects in India was discussed and planned together with the PRAJNANA MISSION.
- Regularly meetings are held with HAND IN HAND USA, and the PRAJNANA MISSION in India with the aim of strengthening and expanding HAND IN HAND's international and worldwide cooperation.
- The President, Vice President, Executive Director, the deputy treasurer and ordinary board members of HAND IN HAND were able to inform about HAND IN HAND and raise funds for the projects in India during Europe-wide events in the financial year 2024/25.
- In the financial year 2025/26, HAND IN HAND produced a Christmas mail, the Sponsorship-Letters, and an issue of the donor magazine Spotlight and sent them out by post and email. The Spotlight was translated in German, English, French, Hungarian, Polish, Spanish, Dutch, and Portuguese in 2025. The Spotlight was printed as a print version in German, English, French and Dutch. An article was published in the KYI-Newsletter.
- In the mailings were enclosed postcards, and notecards based on drawings by the children and artwork by Atelier Silke Weiß, who again designed and sponsored a Christmas card for HAND IN HAND.
- This year fundraising programmes were held in various European cities. In Austria, Germany, Poland and the Netherlands, small charity auctions while in Austria also raffles were held this year for the benefit of the children of Balashram. In Austria, Germany and the Netherlands live concerts took place.
- Dirk Denzer and Asango Schuster presented the HAND IN HAND donation initiative during their variety festivals. During these well-attended performances Dirk Denzer and Asango Schuster delivered the donation appeals and offered the audience detailed information about the aid projects. The work of HAND IN HAND was showcased on an LED wall behind the stage, and information and donation booths were set up in the foyer.

- In Germany and Switzerland HAND IN HAND information and Christmas booths were organised. In the UK charity walks were undertaken in aid of Balashram,
- In addition to the annual general assembly, board meetings, as well as working meetings via Zoom, were held during this financial year. Apart from that, the board members are in telephone and/or email contact.

Thanks to the international collaboration of HAND IN HAND Organisations in Europe, “Stiftung HAND IN HAND Deutschland”, “HAND IN HAND Schweiz”, “Stichting HAND IN HAND Netherlands”, “HAND IN HAND France” and Support Groups in Poland, Hungary and the UK and non-European HAND IN HAND supporters, we can look back to a successful business year. HAND IN HAND USA makes a significant contribution to the planning, coordination and financing of the humanitarian aid projects in India. In India, Europe and in the USA many voluntary helpers and coordinators are participating in the different projects.

Vienna, September 2026