

JHAG CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

prem pathshala

August was a busy month for the students and staff of Prem Pathshala, with a number of activities and celebrations.

School uniforms and learning materials were distributed free of charge to Prem Pathshala's students by I-India's founding Director, Mrs Abha Goswami. Their teachers requested that the children take good care of their new school supplies. The first tests of the academic year were held between the 26th and 28th of August.

On the 15th of August, Independence Day was celebrated with songs, dances and debates. Representatives of leading IT company INFOSYS attended, and company representatives distributed student stationery supplies and fruit as part of the CSR gesture. School staff also distributed Indian sweets.

The festival of Raksha Bandhan was celebrated where brothers and sisters honoured and vowed to protect each other.



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donations

In lieu of presents for their daughter Agatha on the special occasion of her Christening, Marc and Farrah Dunn requested that their friends and family donate funds to I-India Project Australia.

Their generosity has materialised in the form of a rocking elephant for the Jhag Children's Village playground.

The children watched with great anticipation as the playground equipment was unpacked and installed. They are now having great fun with this very special piece of equipment.

On behalf of the Jhag Children's Village children, we express sincere thanks to the Dunn's family and friends for this very special gift.



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The shelter home children were treated to an excursion, mothers were educated on the benefits of breast feeding and various other activities were held. Along with volunteers from Ireland, the Jhag Shelter Home children visited the beautiful gardens of "Kanak Vrindavan", near Jal Mahal.

To encourage ecological responsibility and environmental education, a planting event was held at the Jhag Children's Village. The children assisted in the planting of saplings.

The construction of the medical centre's roof was completed. Impoverished local workers are employed in the construction work of the medical centre and the girls' shelter home, which is benefiting the families and the local communities generally.

A workshop in the Jhag Children's Village Shelter Home was held for local mothers and women to address issues of child development and breastfeeding. Issues which were discussed included the benefits of exclusively breastfeeding babies until 6 months of age, colostrum feeding and combating vitamin deficiency through breastfeeding. Only 33.2% of babies in Rajasthan are exclusively breastfed up to 6 months of age, and 39.9% of children under the age of three are underweight. (Source: National Family Health Survey www.nfhsindia.org) A concerted campaign to educate the villagers to promote breastfeeding was conducted, with I-India organising a rally. Prem Pathshala students participated.

