



Students and teachers rally through the villages, motivating families to send their children to school.

## A Milestone for Our School and Villages... Rahrai Class 12 !

During the last six months, we have been working intensively on obtaining the higher secondary affiliation for *Rahrai St. Anthony's School*. After the successful CBSE affiliation for Class 10, our next step was to upgrade the laboratories and complete all the required formalities so that our students could continue

their studies in our own school. We are happy to share that this process is now successfully completed: *Rahrai St. Anthony's School* is officially recognized up to Class 12 ! This is an important milestone for the school and a great relief for our students and their families, who can now complete their full secondary education in a safe and familiar environment.

Our team of social workers is focusing on the nearby villages, going house to house to identify children who are ready to join the school. As the admission period approaches,

we organise rallies and small cultural programs in the villages to raise awareness about the importance of education — especially for girls. These activities help families understand the value of sending their children to school and strengthen our relationship with the community. This is the same approach that brought such positive results in the project of *Dugawar* over the years, and we trust it will lead to similar growth and transformation in *Rahrai*.



Cultural programs conducted by St. Anthony's school let us meet villagers and share motivational messages about education

## Five New Classrooms in Jadwar

For the children of our *Jadwar St. Anthony's*, we have started to construct five classrooms on the remaining half portion of the first floor. It is imperative that we get it ready by July 2026. Already in July 2025, we did not have enough classrooms to fit all the new admissions, so we divided three classrooms into two with temporary screens as a short-term solution to accommodate the increasing number of students. Though it was not ideal, as the noise between groups is constant and teachers struggle to maintain attention, we did not want to turn back any child who was willing to study.

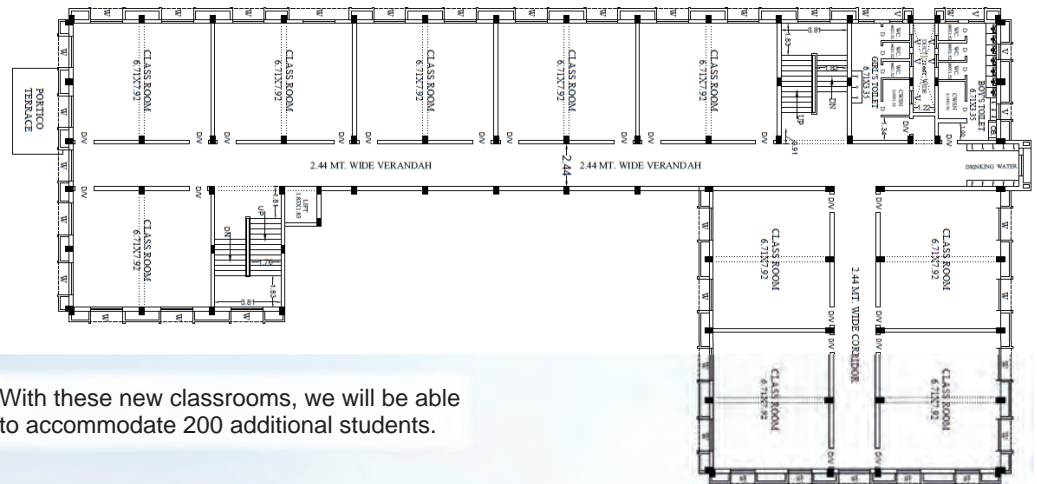
This building has the capacity for one more storey, and each subsequent year, for the coming several years, we need to expand the building capacity until we reach Class 12. Construction has just begun, and we hope to get it ready by July 2026.

## Sports Day on Our Campus : A Moment of Pride — and a Mirror of Reality

Sports Days are usually held in November, when the weather is ideal for outdoor games in North India. For many years, our *Dugawar* campus has been the venue for the annual *Sports Day* of the surrounding government schools. The main educational officer and his team would come, organise a few activities, and the day would pass quietly.

This year, however, things were very different. As we mentioned in the previous newsletter, the *National Education Policy* (NEP 2020) is pushing government schools

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



With these new classrooms, we will be able to accommodate 200 additional students.



to appear more active and accountable. We clearly see its ripple effect in our project area. The authorities now feel compelled to “show results,” often through large public events. Whether these activities genuinely reach the children is another question — but the effort to impress the public is unmistakable.



The MLA and block officers inaugurate the Sports Day celebrations.



This occasion allows officials to meet our teachers, management, and students, and to witness the commitment of *St. Anthony's* to the rural community.

The Annual Sports Day of this year was celebrated with unusual vigour. For the first time in 22 years, our campus hosted such a large gathering of high-level authorities. The Chief Guest was the Member of the *Legislative Assembly* from the ruling BJP, accompanied by senior officials from the education department. Local government school teachers worked hard to prepare their students, and for once, the funds they received for the event were visibly used.

Our schools in *Dugawar* and *Rahrai* belong to two different educational blocks from two different districts, *Sambhal* and *Amroha*. Each block covers a vast population and dozens of villages, all under one BSA (*Basic Shiksha Adhikari*) office responsible for the functioning of the government schools. Because these schools do not have any facilities for outdoor activities, our *Dugawar* and *Rahrai* campuses were again selected as the venue.

The atmosphere on the campus was very official — speeches, flags, microphones, and a lot of posing for photographs. Visibility matters, and everyone wants to be seen. Events like this also allow main officers to step inside our campus and see our work with their own eyes. Many are genuinely surprised by what they discover in the heart of such remote villages. It does not bring us any favour, but it helps them understand who we are and what we do.

And of course, after the government event, the children of *St. Anthony's* School also enjoyed their own Sports Day — as they do every year — with the same enthusiasm and joy.

## Medical and Eye Camp for our students

In the month of November we organised a medical and eye camp for all the children in our school. In many rural families, eye problems are overlooked simply because parents do not recognise the signs. Children often struggle to see the blackboard or read their books, but no one realises they need help. During the camp, several students were iden-



Medical camps help us identify issues and ensure follow-up care.

tified with untreated eye issues and received the care they needed, including glasses. These simple interventions make a big difference in their learning and daily life.

India faces a significant challenge with road safety, witnessing over 1.73 lakh fatalities annually due to road accidents, with more than 12,500 children's deaths near school zones — highlighting the urgent need for early education on road safety. Awareness programs led by the local police officers aim to instil safe habits in students from a young age.

In collaboration with the local police, our students receive regular awareness sessions.



## Graduation Day for ITI Students

This year, the government asked the ITIs to officially celebrate Graduation Day, a ceremony that is often forgotten. We gathered all the students and marked the occasion with a simple but meaningful celebration. Many of our past students are now in good jobs — both in government and in the private sector — thanks to the certificate they receive after

Our ITI-trained girls are beginning to move beyond their villages, seeking opportunities and employment.



training. It gives them eligibility for stable and well-paid employment.

This year, two young women from the graduating group have been appointed in our offices in Jadwar and Rahrai — a proud moment for them and a sign of growing opportunities for girls in our project area.

## A Christmas reflection from our villages

As we prepare for Christmas, our hearts are drawn once more to the reality of the people among whom we work. Recently, one of our social workers and his family faced a very serious and painful event. After moving to a rented house near our new school in *Jadwar*, his wife continued to travel regularly to their family home to care for her elderly parents. During one of these visits, she was violently attacked by unknown persons in the night. At dawn, neighbours found her unconscious in the fields and brought her to safety, and she is now slowly recovering.

This tragedy reveals again the harsh truth faced by many women in rural India: the constant risk of violence, often hidden and rarely spoken about.

At Christmas, we remember that Christ chose to be born not in comfort, but in vulnerability. His presence among the poor gives meaning to our mission. When we invest in education, social work, and women's groups, we are not simply providing services — we are helping build villages where dignity is protected and where women can live without fear.

This painful event strengthens our resolve to remain close to the people, to listen, to accompany, and to defend the silent dignity of women. *Christmas* invites us to renew our commitment to creating safer, stronger, and more respectful communities in the villages we serve.

