



One! International Poverty Relief

One By One

Year 25 Issue 1 (Double Issue)

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“I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by conscious endeavor.”

H. D. Thoreau

Matching Donations

What an incredible response to our matching donation campaign!

Thanks to the generosity of our anonymous donor family and your swift, heartfelt contributions, we started 2025 knowing we would survive the year—a huge relief.

While challenges remain and funds are only secure until June 2026, it is your kindness and unwavering support that inspires us to push forward and find new paths with renewed energy.

Our communities and families have had our support for 24 yrs and 4 mths. Hopefully we can find a way to make it only the beginning...



Ignite: Heart—Body—Mind

The theme for our 24th Annual Gala in February could not have been more apt now than it was then.

At the beginning of 2025, it was a call for ignition in our own hearts and bodies and minds. Everyone at One! International needed a reset, needed support and needed to be REIgnited.

The incredible Gala guests and friends of One! International did just that. We truly appreciate the 144 guests who helped us raise just over \$25,000 for us to continue to sup-



port the children and families who have entered our hearts. Our reliably devoted and dedicated volunteers made it happen! Thank you!

We honoured mom (Marilyn!) for the 25 years since she first visited India, met our first child, and never hesitated to give all of herself to One! International. There is no doubt, that she is who

ignited the first spark in me.

Personally, the enormous show of love & support was exactly what I n e e d e d — reassurance that I couldn't stop, it can't be the end.

The gala left me with a feeling of hope; hope that the trouble we are currently facing financially can

and will be overcome. Just like we support our One! International families through their tough times, our donors, supporters and volunteers are helping us cope and fight on.

Today, the theme ignite takes on a different angle. We hope for fights and wars and conflict...NOT TO IGNITE; to stop igniting.

Though everyone in Mumbai is safe from danger at this time, the energy in our

communities is not safe. The level of division between neighbours is increasing; the conflict in every day discourse palpable. I

strongly feel this isn't instinctual, it is taught. It is taught and passed on through social media, news and others seeking power through strife.

We need to recapture IGNITE.

We need to make it positive again. Ignite the body to do good things, ignite the mind to spread positive thoughts, and ignite the heart to truly care for everyone around us.

This is the message that we will ignite in our One! International schools and communities for as long as we can.

JOIN US! Help us to ignite each other and to make the world a better place.



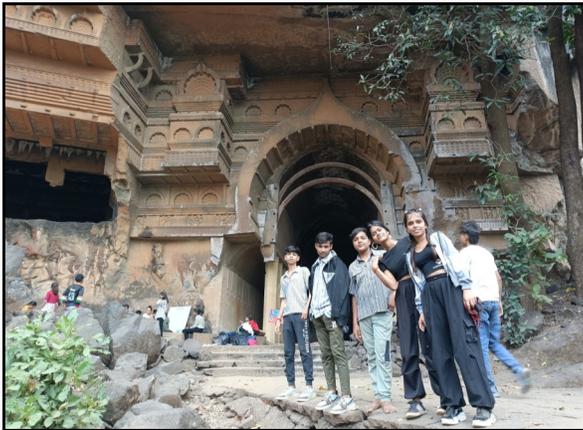
**WE'LL CELEBRATE
25 YEARS in '26:
Grab your calendar
and mark this date:
January 30th,
2026!**

Kondhana Caves Trip



Here are some snapshots from the one-day trek to the Kondhana Buddhist Caves. The caves are about 100 km from Mumbai and date back to the 1st century BC. 12 staff and 36 NIOS (high School) students were rewarded for their hard work studying and teaching in 2024.

What a day! A short yet refreshing



escape for all.

Starting at 4:30 AM, they took a train from Mumbai to Karjat, the base village for the Rajmachi trek. After a quick breakfast, they set off for the caves only pausing for a refreshing dip in a nearby river before the final uphill climb.

Reaching the caves was worth every step—serene, historic, and surrounded by lush greenery. The first cave, a prayer hall, boasts an intricately carved façade, while the second, a Vihara, features a central hall and 14 small cells with Chaitya arches.

After a well-earned lunch, they began their return journey. They carried home not just tired legs, but smiles, refreshed spirits, and unfor-



Trouble and Trauma Amongst the Joy

The last four months have not been short of trouble and trauma.

Attempted suicides, accidents, hospitalizations. Families pressuring their young daughters for underage marriages. Physical abuse—spousal and child. Teenagers falling into the wrong groups. Teenagers running away from the abuse at home. Families with no food at home; severe malnutrition. Depression due to the lack of work and jobs. The list goes on and on...

Thankfully, this semester had no deaths or serious diseases.

Though we have had lots of trauma and trouble over the past six months, we believe that celebrating individual successes and joys is our power. Our power is to support through difficult situations by finding some positivity. This makes coping more manageable and takes away the feeling of being alone.

We hope you appreciate this perspec-

tive. Rather than reading the difficult stories, we hope you can enjoy the smiles!



Congratulations



Dr. Sunil

A true success story!

A former hard-working and dedicated student of Nallasopara school, he is now a Doctor of Medicine.

Now, It is Dr. Sunil!

A huge congratulations to Dr. Sunil!

Yes, you read that right, a true success story! Sunil spent three years relentlessly finding a path to study medicine, a year to secure the path, and six years studying intensely. After ten years of perseverance and resilience, Sunil has officially graduated.

His university years were far from easy: adjusting to a new country (Tbilisi, Georgia), health scares far away from home, being isolated in a foreign country during covid, language barriers, a turbulent and dangerous political situation, and more.

He has proven that he has become an incredible young man that can calmly and intuitively face any challenge. Channeling his knowledge and spirit, he is determined to give back to his community and all those who supported him along the way.

Sunil, we are so proud of you! Well done on completing this journey and becoming the bright, driven young doctor you are today.

The journey is not over. Next challenge? Recognition in India—an extremely challenging exam, where less than 20% of applicants succeed. He writes in June.

We believe in you, Sunil, and are cheering you on every step of the way!



Elections Activity: Learning by Doing



During October and November, Grade 10 and 12 students dove into the election process, by forming six political parties with unique names, symbols, flags, and manifestos—no better way to learn than by doing!

Key elements included: Debates, Campaign week, rallies, games, and performances, and Election Day. SSP was victorious, winning 5 out of 6 seats.

This hands-on approach enriched their political science and law studies, making governance engaging. Post-election, students explored oath-taking, by-elections, parliamentary sessions, and bill passing—



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Year-End Party!!!

December wrapped up with joy and excitement at the much-anticipated year-end party!

At Nallasopara School, the day was filled with fun games and movie sessions. Students indulged in delicious treats like popcorn, cake, and sweets, making it a truly memorable celebration.



At Khar School, the newly elected student union (SSP party) took the lead for the first time. They planned and managed the event. Despite initial challenges, they found their rhythm and delivered



a fantastic celebration, leaving everyone with smiles, warmth, and enthusiasm for the new year ahead!



Vijay's Corner—

Resonating myself through my words:

I am very grateful to One! for giving me a chance to write and express my experience and words to everyone through these articles.

When I read some motivation and experience of great leaders and philosophers' words, I feel so good and it helps me keep positive. Same way I understand how helpful my article could be for others who might be lost in negativity.

I fill positivity in myself through my article, as every time I write an article, I feel so strong and valuable. My article helps me to check and keep a track of my ability and the steps that I need to take for moving forward towards our goal of making a happy world for everyone.

Thank you.

Annual Program



Entitled "Unity in Diversity", it was a heartfelt tribute to India's rich heritage. Through storytelling, music, and dance. Our

students beautifully showcased the diverse traditions, languages, and history of the country.

The performances were framed as a touching conversation between grandparents and grandchildren. It highlighted India's journey toward independence and joining all 565 princely states. Students proudly celebrated each state's uniqueness while honoring the shared values that bind the nation. Tributes to freedom fighters and moving national songs (Vande Mataram and Ham Hongre Kamiyab) showed patriotic spirit.

The event's success reflected the dedication behind the costumes, props, and rehearsals of all staff and students. It has left a lasting impression of cultural pride and unity.



Workshops for Teens...

Nearly 70 teenagers attended an overnight workshop at Khar School, creating a safe space for open discussions on sensitive topics.



Through mixed and single-gender sessions, they engaged freely with trusted adults, highlighting the need for such support. With no question off the table, what started as awkwardness, quickly turned into opportunity and there wasn't enough time to get to every raised hand! Inspired by their eagerness to learn, the One! International team plans more sessions to foster confidence and open communication.

...and Parents!

A week later, a special session for parents provided guidance on understanding and supporting their teens through this crucial stage, and the need to help them navigate the challenges of adolescence, especially given the risk-filled environment they are growing up in.

