

APNA GHAR SAMVAD

Festive Edition



Celebrating Navratri, Diwali & the Spirit of Togetherness



Step inside our Mumbai Ashram, where Diwali diyas, the gentle spirit of Navratri, & sacred festive traditions fill the space with warmth & belonging. From stories of compassion & healing to heartfelt reunions & shared moments of togetherness, each Prabhuji's journey reflects how love, care & festive light can brighten even the darkest corners of life.

These months reminded us how celebrations can reignite memories, movement & smiles. We feel privileged to share these stories of courage & connection.

- Aakriti K Agrawal & Ankita K Dalmia





ABOUT US

Apna Ghar Mahila Ashram is a compassionate home for women who have been abandoned, rescued, or left without family support. Our mission is to provide safety, dignity, medical care, emotional healing & a sense of belonging to every Prabhu'ji who walks through our doors.

With our dedicated Sevasaathi's (caregivers), daily routines & community activities, we strive to create an environment where every Prabhu'ji can rediscover confidence, joy & purpose.

This festive quarter brought colour, music, dance & deep moments of connection for all our Prabhuji's.

RESIDENT STATISTICS (TILL NOVEMBER 2025)

A snapshot of our community as on date:

Rescued Prabhujis	77
Discharged, with Family	20
Transferred to Pune Ashram	2
Deceased Prabhuji	1
Total Prabhuji's Present as on 25th November 2025	54

MONDAY BHAJANS

Singing as one, healing as one.

Every Monday, the Ashram comes alive with the soothing rhythm of bhajans & gentle group chanting. These moments bring our Prabhuji's together in a space that feels calm, familiar & comforting.

The devotional tunes often spark old memories of temples, childhood songs or voices they once knew, helping them feel connected to their past in a warm & reassuring way. The bhajans create a sense of togetherness, easing anxiety & bringing emotional balance to the start of the week.

Soft clapping adds a simple rhythm, encouraging light movement & keeping everyone joyfully involved without pressure. These bhajans continue to be a cherished part of Ashram life - moments where hearts feel lighter & everyone feels a little closer.



TUESDAY FUN TIME

Play, smile, repeat - together.

Every Tuesday, the Ashram comes together with laughter, movement, and simple joys as Prabhuji's, sevasathis & volunteers gather for playful activities.

The games are designed to be easy, familiar & comforting - like the lemon walk, ring-&-drop, & other small group activities that spark smiles & friendly encouragement. Many Prabhuji's recall playing similar games in their younger days, making the experience even more meaningful.

These moments of fun naturally bring light movement, improve alertness, & create a warm sense of togetherness. The shared cheering, hand-holding, & laughter turn an ordinary afternoon into a joyful memory for everyone.

Tuesday Fun Time has become a space where our Prabhuji's feel supported, included, & gently inspired to participate - reminding us that playfulness & connection truly have no age.



NAVRATRI CELEBRATIONS

A day to honour Shakti within every woman.

Navratri at Apna Ghar Mahila Ashram was celebrated with joy, colour & devotion on a beautiful & memorable day. The Ashram came together as Prabhuji's & sevasathis gathered to honour the spirit of the festival & the strength of Goddess Durga.

The celebration began with Devi bhajans, creating a peaceful & devotional atmosphere. Prabhuji's dressed in bright, colourful dupattas, adding a festive charm to the morning. The courtyard was decorated with marigold flowers, diyas & simple rangoli, bringing warmth & happiness to the space.

A highlight of the day was the Garba & Dandiya, where residents participated with enthusiasm & gentle movement. Supported by Sevasaathis & volunteers, they enjoyed the music, rhythm & togetherness, creating a moment of shared celebration & smiles. The energy of the dance brought back memories for many & helped others feel included & uplifted.

The day concluded with prasad distribution, a small gesture of blessings & gratitude that brought everyone together. This one special day of Navratri filled the Ashram with strength, joy & connection - a reminder that even a single moment of celebration can touch many hearts.

For our Prabhuji's, Navratri wasn't just a festival - it was a day of feeling powerful, loved and celebrated.



DIWALI CELEBRATIONS

Lighting hearts, not just diyas.

Diwali at the Ashram was a warm & heartfelt celebration, filled with light, colour & moments of togetherness. The festival brought joy to our Prabhuji's, Sevasaathi's, & volunteers who all came together to make the day special. In the days leading up to the festival, a diya-making workshop was held two days before Diwali. Prabhuji's guided by Volunteers & Sevasaathi's, painted & decorated diyas & rangolis with great care & creativity. These handmade diyas later lit up the Ashram, making the celebration feel even more personal & meaningful.

On Diwali morning, a beautiful rangoli, added colour & charm at the entrance. Everyone then gathered for Lakshmi Pujan, offering prayers for peace, happiness, & wellbeing. The puja was followed by prasad, shared among all with gratitude & warmth.

The afternoon continued with a special Diwali lunch, where Prabhuji's, Sevasaathi's, & volunteers enjoyed a festive meal. The highlight for many was the delicious homemade gulab jamun & kheer, prepared as a sweet treat for the occasion.

As the diyas were lit across the Ashram in the evening, the entire space glowed softly, creating a peaceful & comforting atmosphere. Each corner radiated light, warmth, & quiet joy.

Diwali at the Ashram was not just a celebration - it was a reminder of shared love, gentle support & the beauty of togetherness.

“This Diwali, the brightest lights were the smiles on our Prabhuji's faces.”



ROTARY SERVICE WEEK BY THE ROTARY WESTERN ELITE

Painting smiles, one brushstroke at a time.

A few days after the Diwali celebrations, the Ashram welcomed a group of Rotary volunteers who brought energy, creativity & heartfelt connection to our Prabhuji's. Their visit added a beautiful touch to the post-festival atmosphere, keeping the spirit of joy alive within the Ashram.

The volunteers spent the morning conducting a painting & creative learning session with watercolours. With gentle guidance & warm encouragement, they helped our Prabhuji's explore simple strokes, bright colours & easy patterns. The activity was calm, engaging & brought out many smiles as everyone tried their hand at creating something colourful.

For many Prabhuji's, this session also sparked old memories - of earlier days when they enjoyed drawing, colouring or simply expressing themselves through art.

The shared laughter, soft conversations, and attentive support from the Rotary team made the space feel vibrant & inclusive.

The visit concluded with light interaction & heartfelt gratitude from both sides. It was a simple morning, yet deeply enriching - one that reminded us how small gestures of care can brighten the day for our Prabhu'jis.



MOMENTS OF COLOUR & COMPANIONSHIP

Where every moment becomes a little memory.

These simple moments - painting together, colouring softly, sharing conversations or enjoying the sunshine - brought gentle joy to our Prabhuji's this season. With every brushstroke & every smile, they found space to express themselves, reconnect with memories, & feel the comfort of being surrounded by care. Whether indoors or under the open sky, these small interactions created warmth, laughter & a sense of togetherness that made the days feel lighter & more meaningful.

At Apna Ghar, it's these little moments that truly brighten hearts.



CASE STUDY – FAMILY REUNION OF SARITA PRABHUJI

Patience, hope & love came together in one tearful smile.

Introduction & Basic Details

Prabhuji, whose full name is Sarita Subhash Kumbhar, is a 61-year-old woman from Ambegaon, Pune. She was transferred to Apna Ghar Mahila Ashram from another NGO in Pune for continued care & support. When she arrived, she appeared calm, cooperative & physically stable. She mentioned having a daughter in Pune, but had lost contact with her over time.

Background & Circumstances

Sarita'ji came to us with very few details about her past. She spoke softly, often sharing only small fragments of information. She remembered her daughter with affection, but couldn't provide enough details to reach her immediately. Despite this, her gentle nature, patience & quiet longing were evident from her first days at the Ashram.

Life at the Ashram

During her 22-day stay, Sarita ji received regular counselling, emotional support & medical care as recommended by the Ashram's doctor. She settled into the daily routine with ease and participated in simple activities with the other Prabhu'jis.

She also took part in the Diwali celebrations, quietly joining the group in lighting lamps and offering prayers. Her calm presence & soft-spoken dignity made her deeply loved by the Sevasaathi's. Though she did not share many stories, her peaceful nature left a lasting impression on those who cared for her.



CASE STUDY – FAMILY REUNION OF SARITA PRABHUJI

Patience, hope & love came together in one tearful smile.

Family Tracing & Reunion

The reunion process began when the previous NGO shared a contact number, believed to belong to her daughter. With the help of recent photographs, her daughter was able to confirm Saritaji's identity. She came to the Ashram soon after. The moment mother & daughter saw each other after nearly two years, emotions overflowed. Tears, relief & the warmth of long-awaited belonging filled the room.

Her daughter shared that family challenges had led to her mother being moved out of the home by her brother, but she had always hoped for a chance to bring her back. She expressed deep commitment to caring for her mother from this point forward.

Handover Process

Before the reunion, the Ashram verified identity proofs including Aadhaar and PAN cards to ensure accuracy. As no legal clearance was required, the handover process was smooth & respectful. The Ashram team guided the family through the final formalities & ensured that Saritaji left with dignity, comfort & blessings for a peaceful life ahead.

Reflections & Impact

This reunion reflects the true spirit of Seva & Samarpan practiced at Apna Ghar Mahila Ashram. It reminds us that every Prabhuji deserves a chance to reconnect with family, love & dignity.

Saritaji's daughter expressed heartfelt gratitude for the care & compassion her mother received. As one Sevasaathi beautifully shared, "Every reunion renews our purpose."



Stories like these strengthen our belief in the power of kindness, patience & family in restoring hope and dignity to every life.

CASE STUDY – FAMILY REUNION OF REKHA PRABHU 'JI

A journey remembered, a home rediscovered.

Introduction & Basic Details

Rekha'ji, an 83-year-old woman from Andheri (West), Mumbai, was brought to Apna Ghar Mahila Ashram by the Goregaon Police Station in an unwell & disoriented condition. In her initial days, she shared two names - Tetna Salim Durani & later Rekha Srivastav - and spoke very little apart from identifying herself. She was admitted for safety, medical care & emotional support while her identity & background were gently explored.

Background & Circumstances

As she settled into the Ashram environment, Prabhuji slowly began sharing memories from her life. She revealed that she had once been a renowned Bharatnatyam dancer who performed in London on behalf of India, an honour she remembered fondly. She also shared that she was married to the late Salim Durani, the legendary cricketer & Arjuna Award recipient & spoke lovingly about her daughter Sarita & son Venkat. A phone number she remembered became a key detail in helping the Ashram team begin tracing her family.

Life at the Ashram

During her stay, Prabhuji received regular counselling, medical support & gentle care. Over time, she became more expressive & involved in daily life at the Ashram. She enjoyed light activities, participated in fun games & especially loved her daily tea. Appreciating warm, freshly prepared meals, she often shared stories of her classical dance days & memories of her family as her health gradually improved.



CASE STUDY – FAMILY REUNION OF REKHA PRABHU ‘JI

A journey remembered, a home rediscovered.

Family Tracing & Reunion

The phone number she recalled eventually helped the Ashram connect with her son. He came immediately & the moment they met, both recognised each other at once. Their reunion was deeply emotional - filled with relief, gratitude & heartfelt happiness. Rekha ‘ji expressed immense joy in returning home, while her son thanked the Ashram sincerely for caring for her during her month-long stay.

Handover Process

The Ashram carried out the handover with dignity & care. The son’s Aadhaar & Driving Licence were verified & Rekha’s medical & social details were explained to him for her continued wellbeing. As no formal legal clearance was required, the process remained smooth & compassionate, allowing her to return home safely & respectfully.



Reflections & Impact

This reunion stands as a meaningful example of Apna Ghar Mahila Ashram’s mission of Seva, Care & Love. It highlights the power of patient listening, compassionate support & dedicated follow-up in reconnecting families. As we often say at the Ashram, “Every reunion renews our purpose.”



Stories like Rekha’s remind us of the profound impact of compassion & the dignity each life deserves.

OUR PROFILE

General information about our Mumbai Ashram

ORGANIZATION NAME	SHISHU WELFARE TRUST OF INDIA
ADDRESS	Shishu Bhavan, Valentine Complex, Off. Gen A. K. Vaidya Marg, Malad East, Mumbai 400097.
REGISTRATIONS	Registered Under: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bombay Public Trust Act 1950, (E-9931)• 80-G & 12-AA under Income Tax Act Order No. AAATS1207PF20213• NITI Aayog Regi. MH/2017/0172058• CSR Reg. CSR00087611
BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS	Account Name: Shishu Welfare Trust of India Bank Name: ICICI Bank Branch Name: Andheri (W) Account Number: 001101227330 IFSC Code: ICIC0000011 
CONTACT NUMBER	+91-8655349942 +91-8655349941
EMAIL	contact@apnagharmumbai.org
HELPLINE NUMBER	+91-8655349940



Thank you to every volunteer, donor & well-wisher who helped make the festival season special for our Prabhuji's. Your kindness lights up our Ashram like a thousand diyas.