

A Gesture That Found New Homes: The Thanksgiving Day Toy-Donation Drive



At the end of November 2025, the corridors of S.B. Patil Public School hummed quietly with purpose. From 24th to 26th November, 2025, students from Grades I through X gathered “clean, safe and gently used toys” — soft toys, board games, puzzles and educational games — and handed them to their class teachers during school hours. What began as a modest Thanksgiving gesture turned into something more meaningful.

On 5th December, 2025, the collected toys were delivered to Good Shepherd Homes, at their Parandwadi Children's Village in Maval, Talegaon — a secure campus built to house, nurture and educate children rescued from the streets of India.



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Shepherd Homes had been operating since 1996 — rescuing street children, offering them shelter, education, and a chance at dignity. The Parandwadi facility itself consisted of multiple residential buildings, double apartments, and was capable of housing hundreds of children; it served as both a home and an educational hub.

When the toys arrived that winter day, they did more than rest on shelves: they became tools of joy and normalcy. Soft animals, board games, puzzles — each toy a small vessel of childhood laughter and innocence, offered by schoolchildren to children who'd known hardship. The staff at GSH received the donations with gratitude; many children's faces brightened at the sight of toys that spoke of play, comfort, and belonging.



For the givers — the students of SBPPS and their parents — the act transcended mere charity. It became a bridge: between two worlds, two childhoods — one of relative comfort, the other of need. In that bridge lay kindness, empathy, and hope. The Toy Donation Drive had done more than move toys: it had carried compassion across lives, reminding everyone involved that generosity is seldom loud, but always lasting.