

PALI CHIMBAI STUDENTS CELEBRATE - Members of Celebrate Bandra committee donate a bus to the school bought from funds raised during 2005.

The residents' associations involved with the Celebrate Bandra 2005 festival have used funds to buy a school bus for the Pali-Chimbai municipal school. The entire amount of Rs. 10 lakh raised during the festival has been utilised for the same.

The bus which accommodates 40 students at a time, was inaugurated on Aug 8 at the school by singer Shaan. Members of the Celebrate Bandra unit, school authorities and students attended the event. The kids felicitated guests with beautiful artworks made by them.

Darryl D'Monte resident of Carter Road and member of the Celebrate Bandra committee, says, "The motive behind Celebrate Bandra is to bring people from different walks of life together and to provide for the welfare of society. The funds raised from the festival are hence directed to good causes, like repairing pavements, helping the needy and much more."

Members of the Celebrate Bandra committee chose to give the funds to the Bandra-based NGO Aseema, which adopted the school in 2001 because they believe the NGO has been doing an exemplary job in supporting the underprivileged. Aseema's education officer Carolyn Fernandes says, "We have around 560 students who come from Rangsharda, Chimbai and Bandra Reclamation. We faced a lot of difficulties when it came to arranging field trips but now we can plan many more excursion activities for students."



Dilbur Parakh, chairperson of Aseema says, "We adopted this municipal school six years ago. We have improved the teachers, facilities and provided cleanliness to the students in the school. We are grateful for this bus."

Santosh Sharma, students of class 7 at the Pali-Chimbai school, says "I am very happy that so many people love us and we have our own school bus now. We can come to school everyday in our bus just like other fortunate students."

The forthcoming Celebrate Bandra festival is to be held in November. Shyama Kulkarni, resident of Perry Road and member of the H-West Federation, says, "I am extremely happy that we have employed our funds to donate a bus."

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