

AALOK SHIKHA

Bandhan's Quarterly newsletter

January-March, 2025

Bandhan-Konnagar was registered under West Bengal Societies Registration Act and commenced its journey in 2001.



16

States



34,426

Villages



42,08,353

Beneficiaries



A Proud Moment for Bandhan School, Aranghata

Years ago, the founder of the Bandhan group, Mr. Chandrashekhar Ghosh, had a vision that of creating good, English medium CBSE schools in the districts, so that talented students, in the far flung remote areas of West Bengal, had access to quality education. Keeping in mind, this vision, the first CBSE school was founded in Aranghata.

The school, located on a lavish expanse of land, is just 2 km away from the Khishma forest.

We applied for cbse affiliation and received it on 19th March 2025. Our CBSE affiliation number is 2430453. We now have around 900 students in the school. We are proud to state that we have received cbse affiliation till class 12. We are going to start plus two, from April 2026 and we propose to open with a science and a humanities stream. In a remote area like Aranghata, we provide state of the art infrastructure, including smart boards and cctv, in every school. We now boast of CBSE affiliation the best educational facilities even in a remote area like Aranghata. We pay homage to our founder , Shri Chandrashekhar Ghosh sir, through each and every one of our actions and the affiliation of the Bandhan school Aranghata, is a live example of it.

Training Programme on “Rainfed Agricultural Techniques”

On 12th February 2025, an enriching training session on “Rainfed Agricultural Techniques” was organised by Bandhan Climate Action Programme at the Bandhan Learning Centre, Santiniketan. The session was led by Dr. Subhrajyoti Chatterjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Horticulture, Centurion University of Technology and Management, Odisha. His valuable insights and expertise helped participants gain a deeper understanding of sustainable horticultural practices suited for rainfed conditions.



Graduation Ceremony



An event organized for the women beneficiaries of Targeting the Hardcore Poor Programme who has successfully come out of extreme poverty with the support of the programme. Five graduation ceremonies were organized in the month of February & March 2025 in Howrah, West Bengal; Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh; Haridwar, Uttarakhand; Medak, Telangana; and in Bhadrachalam, Telangana. These projects were supported by ITC. Many beneficiaries were present to share their development journey in these events. In these events guest and dignitaries praised Bandhan & ITC knowing the success stories of poverty alleviation and hearing journey from the beneficiaries in these events.

Dignitaries present:

- Mr. Ujjal Samanto (Block Development officer), ITC State officials; 102 beneficiaries in Howrah, West Bengal (On 18th Feb. 2025).
- Shri Sumit Kumar Mahajan, Chief Development Officer (CDO); Shri Alok Sharma, District Project Rural Officer (DPRO); and Shri Pradeep Yadav, Aajeevika Manager, Saharanpur. Officials from the local ITC State Office; 1086 beneficiaries in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh (On 27th Feb 2025).
- Smt. Rekha Arya, Cabinet Minister for Women, Child Development & Sports; Shri Adesh Chauhan, MLA Ranipur; Shri Rajeev Sharma, Chairman of Shivalik Nagar Municipality; Smt. Sulekha Sahgal, District Officer, Women & Child Development; and Smt. Shabali Gurang, District Sports Officer. Senior officials from ITC Ltd., including Shri Surjit Singh Roriya, General Manager, and Shri Altaf Husain, HR Manager; 400 beneficiaries in Haridwar, Uttarakhand (On 28th March 2025).
- Mr. P. Ganesh Reddy- Commissioner of Toopran Municipality, Mr. Krishna Murthi- Mandal Parishad Development Officer, Mr. Lakshmi Narasimhalu, Panchayat Development Officer, Mr. Jaya Prakash Ramasamy, ITC MSK Programme Manager, and Mr. Anand Jadi, Medak ICML Factory Head; 200 beneficiaries in Medak, Telangana (On 24th March 2025).
- Mr. B. Rahul (IAS), ITDA Project Officer; Mr. Payam Venkateshwaralu, MLA from Pinapaka & Bhadrachalam Mandal; Mr. M. Nagarajun Rao, APM SERP Bhadrachalam; Mr. K. Satyanarayana, APM SERP Aswapuram; Mr. Soyendra Singh, ITC PSPD Factory Head; Mr. Shyam Kiran, HR DGM, ITC PSPD Factory; and Mr. Jayaprakash Ramasamy, Telangana ITC MSK Programme Manager; 400 beneficiaries in Bhadrachalam, Telangana (On 11th March 2025).

Annual Employers & Stakeholders Meet

Employing the Unemployed programme arranged an event of the Annual Employers & Stakeholders Meet on 16th January 2025 in Kolkata. It was attended by 58 representatives from renowned organisations across sectors like BFSI, Retail, ITES, Facility Management, Hospitality, Automobile, and more. Prestigious organizations such as Hindustan Unilever, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, Writer's Information, HDB Financial Services, Satin Creditcare Network Ltd., L&T Finance, OPPO, Canon Digital, Vedic Village, Arohan Financial Services Ltd., Jyote Motors (Nexa), Mukesh Hyundai, Teleperformance, Fusion Finance, Dosa Fincare, VGM Consultants, Godrej & Daikin Authorised Services Partner, and leading recruitment consultancies like Genius Consultants, Randstad India, and Uprising were present. Information regarding skill development efforts by Bandhan under its Employing the Unemployed Programme was disseminated during this event.



Mangrove Plantation Training Session

On 7th March, 2025, Bandhan Climate Action Programme, in collaboration with EILCS, conducted a training session in Hingalganj on mangrove plantation area surveys using advanced software.



World Pulses Day Celebration

On 10th February 2025, the Bandhan Climate Action Programme (BCAP) commemorated World Pulses Day at Kashipur under the Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) project.



Birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

On 23rd January 2025, the 128th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was commemorated with respect and enthusiasm by the children and teachers of Bandhan Education Centres. The day was marked by a series of cultural activities to honour the legacy of the great freedom fighter. Children actively participated in patriotic song performances, wreath-laying ceremonies, drawing competitions, dances, recitations, and more. It was a heartfelt tribute, filled with energy, creativity, and national pride.



School Children Campaign

a) Personal Hygiene: In January 2025, Bandhan Health Programme reached out to young minds through a special campaign on personal hygiene. The sessions were held across 178 schools in the SMILE VII (Ranchi, Ramgarh, Bokaro District in Jharkhand) and HBWN IV (Jhargram and Purba Medinipur District in West Bengal) project areas. A total of 6,985 primary school children took part in these interactive sessions and learnt imperative habits to stay clean and healthy every day. It was a joyful and impactful start to the year by helping children build strong hygiene practices for a better future.

In February 2025, school children's campaigns on personal hygiene were organised for primary school children across 160 schools located in the ENHANCE project areas (i.e. Sawai Madhopur and Tonk districts in Rajasthan) and HBWN IV project areas (i.e. Jhargram and Purba Medinipur districts in West Bengal). These sessions were attended by 6,404 primary school children, and key messages on personal hygiene practices were disseminated to promote healthier habits among young students.



b) Menstrual Hygiene: School campaigns on menstrual hygiene awareness addressing adolescent girls were organised in 20 high schools throughout March 2025 in the HBWN IV project areas (Jhargram and Purba Medinipur districts in West Bengal). A total of 1,463 adolescent girls were reached through these sessions, where important information on menstrual health and hygiene practices was shared to promote awareness and confidence among the participants.



International Mother Language Day



On 21st February 2025, all 10 Bandhan Academies observed International Mother Language Day. The event aimed to promote linguistic and cultural diversity while honouring and preserving the glory of the Bengali language. Through meaningful cultural activities, students and teachers celebrated the heritage of the Bengali language as their mother tongue to embrace their cultural identity.

Graduation Ceremony of the Bandhan Sustainable Livelihood Beneficiaries

The Annual Graduation Ceremony of the Bandhan Sustainable Livelihood Programme – 2025 was held on 20th March 2025 at the Barasat Skill Centre. The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Soumen Mitra, Advisor at Bandhan, as the Chief Guest. Special guests included Mr. Ronendra Chowdhury, Programme Director at Bandhan; Mr. Avijit Nag Chowdhury, CIC-Health, Barasat Municipality; and Mr. Bipul Roy, Secretary of Sandhani Club, Prasadpur.



Training session on mustard cultivation

An insightful training session on advanced techniques of mustard cultivation was conducted by Ms. Snigdha Mondal, Assistant Director of Agriculture, Kashipur, on 7th January 2025, Field Day. The session was organized for the beneficiaries of the Bandhan Climate Action Programme to improve their knowledge and practices in sustainable farming.



World Water Day

World Water Day was celebrated on 22nd March 2025 at all the sites of the Bandhan Safe Water Project. The day was marked with various activities and awareness sessions. Special emphasis was placed on promoting the consumption of safe drinking water, and efforts were made by the project team to spread awareness about its importance in daily life.



Republic Day

On 26th January 2025, the 76th Republic Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm across all Bandhan Education Centres (BECs) and Bandhan Academies. It witnessed the participation of 2,239 students in the hoisting of the National Flag, followed by heartfelt patriotic songs and poem recitations in all Bandhan Education Centres. Similarly, Bandhan Academies marked the occasion with spirit and zeal. The flag was unfurled in the presence of students, class teachers, and the headmistress, followed by the singing of the national anthem. Local dignitaries shared inspiring speeches, encouraging the children to embrace the values of the nation. A total of 1,118 children from 10 academies showcased their talents through patriotic songs and dance performances, supported by their dedicated teachers. These celebrations reflected unity, pride, and a deep sense of patriotism among students and educators.



Basanta Utsav

Students across all academies celebrated Basanta Utsav on 13th March 2025 with great enthusiasm and joy. The day was filled with vibrant music, lively dance performances, and a beautiful sense of unity among everyone. One of the highlights was the Holi celebration, which added fun and excitement to the festive spirit. It was a memorable occasion that brought smiles with togetherness.



Teachers' Training Programme at BSDM Rajpur

A two-day training programme was conducted on 28th and 29th March 2025 for the teachers of "The Bandhan Schools" and HPGMS Baruiapur at BSDM Rajpur. One of the major sessions on effective classroom management based on NEP 2020 was held for all Bandhan school teachers. Also, Prof. Saikat Maitra, the former Vice Chancellor of MAKAUT, visited on the second day.



Bandhan-Konnagar's Engagements in 2025

Driving Innovation in Health Tech:

Dr. Uttam Kumar Ghosh – Head, Health & Financial Literacy Programme joined 8th Health Tech 2025 organized by BCCI at The Park Kolkata on 7th March 2025, to represent Bandhan-Konnagar, a partner of BCCI for their Incubation support project to the start-up initiatives. Dr. Ghosh made opening and closing remark to a session regarding "Showcasing Promising Health Tech Start-ups- AI in Primary Healthcare and Well Being".



Microfinance Summit 2025 Workshop:

Bandhan-Konnagar team had the privilege to attend the 9th Eastern India Microfinance Summit 2025 workshop, held at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre on 10th January, 2025.



Workshop- "Financing India's Green Transition Plan and Adaptation Needs":

Bandhan-Konnagar team had the privilege of participating in the prestigious "Financing India's Green Transition Plan and Adaptation Needs" workshop, held at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre on 16th and 17th January, 2025.



Visitors

On 27th January 2025, a visit was conducted by jury members from the FICCI CSR Award Team along with the ITC Telangana State team to the Bhadrachalam project areas. The purpose of the visit was to understand the programme processes and the contribution made by Bandhan towards transforming the lives of hard-core poor households. The visit was also attended by local government officials, including Mr. G. Varaprasad, Mandal Parishad Development Officer (Aswapuram Mandal), and Mr. M. Nagarjuna, Assistant Project Manager, SERP (Bhurgampahad Mandal). Mr. K. Vinay, Regional Manager, and Mr. Jayprakash Ramaswamy, Programme Manager, from ITC were also present during the visit.



On 20th March 2025, Ms. Shefali Bajaj, Chairperson-CSR, and Mr. Shubham Mittal, Deputy General Manager-CSR from Bajaj Finance Ltd, visited the implementing areas under the Targeting Hardcore Poor (THP) Programme. They attended the Asset Transfer Ceremony and interacted with selected project beneficiaries.



A team NABARD Bhopal Regional Office visited the project areas in Katni, Madhya Pradesh, on 24th January 2025. The team included Mr. Vijay Dhurander, General Manager (Bhopal); Mr. Vikash Jain, Deputy District Manager (Katni); and Mr. Mahesh Raichandani, Manager (Bhopal). During the visit, interactions were held with a few THP beneficiaries and their enterprises to understand the programme processes and the aspirations held by the beneficiaries to bring positive changes in their lives.



On 6th to 7th February 2025, a visit was conducted by a team from NABARD Regional Office, Jharkhand, including Mr. Manoj L. Chalkh, Deputy General Manager; Mrs. Swati Ranadive, Assistant General Manager; and Mr. Mahesh Raichandani, Manager, to the project areas in Jharkhand. Similarly, another visit was made by a team from NABARD Head Office and Regional Office to the project areas in Madhya Pradesh on 17th-18th February 2025. During both visits, interactions were held with project beneficiaries through group meetings and training sessions. Individual enterprise visits were also made to understand the ongoing project activities towards the sustainable development of beneficiaries.



On 22nd March 2025, Mr. Sadhanshu Kumar Mishra, Chief General Manager; Mr. Niranjan Bhuyan, Deputy General Manager; and Mr. Smarak Kumar Mohanty, District Development Manager from NABARD, visited the GRIP project areas in Mayurbhanj district. During the visit, they interacted with a few project beneficiaries as well as project staff to understand the ongoing activities and the support extended by Bandhan towards the upliftment of hard-core poor families.

A team from SERP- Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty, Telangana, visited implementing areas in Patna district, Bihar, under the SJY programme as a part of their exposure visit from 2nd – 5th March, 2025. Interactions were held with SJY beneficiaries and project staff during field visits. An interactive session was also organized with Mr. Himangshu Sharma, CEO, and Mr. Rajesh Kumar, Administrative Officer of JEEVIKA, sharing key insights and experiences.



Newsclips

