

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



**16 States**

(as on December 2024)



**34,342 Villages**

(as on December 2024)



**41,66,484**

**Beneficiaries**

(as on December 2024)

## NABARD-Graduated Rural Income Generation Programme (GRIP) Workshop

On 9th December 2024, a workshop organised by NABARD held in Shillong, Meghalaya to disseminate information on Graduated Rural Income Generation Programme (GRIP). Discussion was focused on the details of the project, including its objectives, implementation strategies, and steps needed for successful execution. The implementing team members of Targeting the Hardcore Poor Programme attended the workshop.



## Workshop on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace (POSH):

On 18th December 2024, a one-day workshop on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace (POSH) was held at Utsav Hall, Chanakya Hotel, Patna, Bihar. The workshop was organised by Bandhan in collaboration with JEEViKA and BRAC. The primary goal of this workshop was to raise awareness and promote a safe, inclusive, and respectful work environment for all employees. The workshop featured insights of experts namely, Ms. Sanju Singh, Advocate at Patna High Court, Mr. Ram Manohar Vikas, Advocate at Gujarat High Court, and Dr. Brijesh Rai, RTI Activist, who shared their expertise and knowledge with the attendees. The session was attended by field teams, State teams, and PMU teams of the SJY programme.



## MOU Signed with BOSCH Foundation:



Bandhan Employing the Unemployed Programme (EUP) arranged a partners' meet for BRIDGE training programme on 27th November 2024 at Hotel Hindustan International (HHI) in Kolkata, West Bengal. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between BOSCH India Foundation and Bandhan-Konnagar. It formally established the collaboration to provide skill development training and initiatives to empower young people and improving their employability. Ms. Sakina Baker, CSR Head, BOSCH India and other designated BOSCH officials, as well as representatives from other partner organizations and project stakeholders, were among the important individuals who attended the event.

## Mega Job Fair 2024

On 7th December 2024, a Mega Job Fair 2024 was organised by Bandhan Skill Development Center (BSDC), Uttarpara, West Bengal under Bandhan Employing the Unemployed Programme to create an incredible platform for job seekers and employers to connect. It was attended by 123 candidates highlighting their inquisitiveness regarding qualification and skills required to crack a particular interview process. Prominent employers, including Fusion BPO, Writer Information, Dewars Garage (Nexa), Canon Digital, and Shriram Finance, joined the event. 70 candidates participated in the recruiting drive, which marked a significant milestone in fostering job possibilities and professional development.



## Orientation sessions on Menstrual Hygiene Management



Bandhan Health Programme conducted orientation sessions on Menstrual Hygiene Management for adolescent girls aged 14-18 years across 78 High Schools within the ENHANCE project areas in Sawai Madhopur and Tonk districts in Rajasthan, supported by Kotak Mahindra Bank. Additionally, orientation sessions were organised in 18 schools under the TCTD I project in Ajmer district in Rajasthan, supported by Bajaj Finance Ltd. This effort underscores a broader commitment to empowering young girls and enhancing their well-being. These sessions aimed to educate the girls on menstrual health, hygiene practices, and the importance of proper menstrual care.

## Children's Day Celebration:

Bandhan celebrated Children's Day on 14th November 2024 across all 728 BECs and 8 Academies under its Bandhan Education Programme. The children demonstrated their talents through a variety of acts, including drawing competitions, songs, dances, and recitations, which made the event bright and memorable.



## Career Fair



A team of Bandhan Employing the Unemployed Programme (EUP) attended a career fair arranged by Career Counselling and Guidance (CCG) Cell and Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Shree Gopal Banerjee College, Magra, Hooghly District, West Bengal on 12th December 2024. Bandhan Employing the Unemployed Programme (EUP) had a stall in the fair to disseminate information on diverse skills development training imparted by them to more than one hundred inquisitive candidates exploring opportunities and learning.

## Observation of World Soil Day in Kashipur, Purulia



On the eve of World Soil Day (5th December 2024) an insightful awareness session on soil health was hosted by Bandhan Climate Action Programme in Kashipur, Purulia, West Bengal. This event brought together local community members to emphasize soil's critical role in sustaining life and the urgent need for sustainable agricultural practices. The session was graced by the presence of esteemed Mr. Soumyadeep Das, Joint Block Development Officer; Ms. Kabita Nag, Block Sabhapati; and Mr. Rajesh Karmakar, Forest Ranger. Their participation underscored the significance of soil conservation. These distinguished guests shared valuable insights into the impact of soil health on agriculture, the environment, and the community's future.

## International Day for the Girl Child

Seminars were arranged in Ajmer Rural and Kishangarh blocks in Ajmer district, Rajasthan on 15th and 17th October, 2024 respectively to commemorate the International Day for the Girl Child (i.e. 11th October 2024). It was organised by Bandhan Health Programme's TCTD I project team supported by Bajaj Finance Ltd. It focussed on key issues such as girls' health, education, and empowerment. More than a hundred teenage girls participated in the same. Local stakeholders, including community leaders, educators, and healthcare professionals ensured their presence.



## Skill Development Workshop at Sachinandan College, Shimurali



On 21st December 2024, a workshop was organised by Bandhan Employing the Unemployed Programme and Sachinandan College with the aim of improving student's skills and providing job-linked training. It was illustrated at Sachinandan College of Education, Shimurali, Nadia, West Bengal. More than 50 college students attended the workshop. The workshop was graced by the presence of Dr. Ahana Chakraborty, Principal, and Mr. Tibrajyoti Das, President of the College Governing Body.

## Annual Sports:

As a part of extracurricular activity Bandhan Education Programme organised annual sporting event throughout November and December 2024, 4,595 children participated from 459 Bandhan Education Centers spread over 25 branches. They were engaged in sports activities such as Running, Ball Throwing, Marble-Spoon Race, Cockfight, Skipping, and more. These events witnessed presence of local administration representatives as special guests.



## Mangrove Plantation at Basanti and Expansion Plans for Coastal Sustainability:

On 12th December 2024, a mangrove plantation drive was arranged by Bandhan Climate Action Programme in collaboration with the Local Climate Action Group in Chandra Kona Village, Basanti Block, South 24 Parganas District, West Bengal beside the Hogla River. A total of 5,000 Bine (*Avicenna officinalis*) mangrove saplings were planted to fight climate change and promote environmental protection. Local Gram Panchayat dignitaries witnessed the efforts toward creation of climate resilient society.



## Annual Cultural Programme:

Bandhan Education Programme (BEP) organised an annual cultural programme across all 10 academies throughout the months of October and November 2024. Many students actively participated in various cultural activities, including drama, group and solo songs, solo and group dance, and recitation. Additionally, they demonstrated their models, representing their aesthetic and creative skills.



## Asset transfer ceremony

On 25th November 2024, an asset transfer ceremony under the Targeting the Hardcore Poor Programme was held at the ITC-MSK 11 project in Kapurthala at Punjab. The event was attended by Mrs. Kulwant Kaur, Municipality Mayor; Binod Rathore, Deputy Mayor; Mr. Charanjit Singh, Village Sarpanch; Mrs. Poonam Kaur, Ward Member; Mr. Sukhwinder Singh, ITC State Office Official; Mr. Shreeram Sanodiya, ITC Program Officer; and Mr. Nadeem Khan, Finish Society Representative and local NGO partners.



Simultaneously, another asset distribution was arranged under ITC-MSK 11 project in Pune, Maharashtra on 28th November, 2024. It was graced by the presence of Mrs. Sayali Ashok Kadam, ITC Programme Officer; Mrs. Madhuri Vilas Thorat, Village Sarpanch; and Mr. Sudam Gaikwad, Local Social Worker.



In these events assets (farm & non-farm) were given as grant to the selected ultra-poor women under these projects to develop enterprises. Henceforth, handholding and mentoring support will be given for two years to get rid of the poverty and becoming self-reliant.

## Bandhan's Water Conservation Model :



Bandhan Climate Action Programme (BCAP) launched a water conservation model that made a big difference for local farmers at Kashipur block, in Purulia district, West Bengal. This facilitated in storing water supporting Rabi cultivation on 138 Bighas of land. The goal of this initiative is to help farmers use water more efficiently, expand their agricultural areas, and improve crop production. The stored water was distributed across nearby farms, with several villages and Farmer Field School (FFS) working together to make sure it was used properly for different crops. This approach has helped farmers increase their yields, reduce water stress and making better use of their land.

## Leadership Development Programme in Microfinance Management :

In collaboration with the Banking Finance and Insurance Institute of Nepal (BFIN), Bandhan School of Development Management (BSDM) organised a week-long Leadership Development Programme in Microfinance Management from 2nd – 6th December 2024. This residential program focused on building the capacity of middle and senior-level officials involved in policy planning within Microfinance Institutions (MFIs). The programme began with an inauguration attended by Bandhan-Konnagar's senior team, including Mr. Ronendra Chowdhury, Programme Director; Mr. Soumen Mitra, Advisor; and Prof. Jayanta Biswas, Head-Education



It included classroom sessions led by experienced industry experts and field visits. Participants visited the Utrayan Financial Services branch in Diamond Harbour, West Bengal. During the training, participants had the opportunity to explore Kolkata's landmarks, including the Swaminarayan Temple, Belur Math, Dakshineswar Temple, Victoria Memorial, New Market, and the Kolkata Metro. The programme concluded with a closing session and the distribution of certificates to the participants, marking the event's success.



## World Toilet Day

The Bandhan Health Programme organised seminars and rallies on World Toilet Day with the subject "Toilets – A Place for Peace" on 19th November 2024 under ENHANCE project, in Swaimadhapur and Tonk district, Rajasthan, supported by Kotak Mahindra Bank. The purpose of the rallies and seminars was to increase public awareness on cleanliness and sanitation. Many local stakeholders and dignitaries attended the seminars and rallies and shared their insightful views.



## Iron Deficiency Day



On 26th November 2024, Bandhan Health Programme observed Iron Deficiency Day under TCTD I project in Ajmer district, Rajasthan, supported by Bajaj Finance Ltd. It focussed on theme "Listen to Your Body" which was endeavoured to raise awareness about iron deficiency and its consequences on health. It addressed adolescent girls aged 14-18 years in many schools. The initiative was designed to educate participants on the symptoms of iron deficiency and taking proactive steps to improve their health.

## Success in Commonwealth Essay Competition 2024



Sumouli Dey, a Class VI student of The Bandhan School, Taldi, 24 Parganas (South), West Bengal was awarded the prestigious Silver Award in The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2024. The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition, is the one of the world's oldest international writing competition for schools which provides a platform for young voices to be heard and celebrated.

## Strengthening Climate-Smart Agriculture



More than 600 kg of climate resilient (crop) seeds (both Rabi and Kharif) were distributed to 174 farmers by Khashipur Block Agriculture Department in Purulia district, West Bengal. Bandhan Climate Action Programme (BCAP) provided technical assistance, guidance, and monitoring in developing Climate smart agriculture to the farmers.

## Faculty Development Programme

Bandhan School of Business (BSB), in collaboration with UCO Bank Staff Training College, organised a Faculty Development Programme (FDP) from 20th to 22nd March 2024 at BSB, Santiniketan. The event began with an inauguration session, which featured key dignitaries including Mr. Bijitendra Kumar Mondal, Principal of UCO Bank Staff Training College, and other representatives from UCO Bank such as Mr. Tathagata Bhattacharya (Chief Manager), Dr. Saleha Ahmed, Mr. Nirjhar Chakraborty, and Mr. R K Agarwal. The training aimed at enhancing teaching skills and professional development of faculty members, focusing on modern educational methodologies and effective teaching strategies.



# Visitors

On 3rd October 2024, Mr. Anjani Singh, Chief General Manager, Gates Foundation and Mr. Soumitra Chakraborty, R&D team from Indian Oil visited the field of Targeting Hardcore Poor Programme in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh and interacted with a few selected beneficiaries to comprehend field level practice.



On 9th November 2024, Mr. Prasun Sanyal, Sr.Associate, Erda Illumine Low Carbon Solutions (EILCS) and Mr.Subhas Mondal, Secretary, Maa Sarada NGO visited Bandhan Climate Action Programme's existing mangrove plantation area in Sandeshkhali block. Followed by a discussion on sustainable environmental practices and low-carbon solutions.



On 14th November 2024, Mr. K.Binoy, Regional Manager (South Eastern Zone) and Mr. Jayprakash Ramaswami, Programme Manager from ITC State Office visited ITC MSK - 10 project areas and met with a few beneficiaries in Iravendi GP Bhadrachalam-Telangana.



On 2nd December 2024, Mr. Kurush Irani, CSR President; Mr. Shubham Mittal, Deputy National Head (CSR); and Ms. Pooja Kambee, Senior Manager (CSR), CSR Bajaj Group visited project areas of Targeting the Hardcore Poor (THP) Programme in Pune-Maharashtra and met with few beneficiaries attending refresher training. Also, they visited their enterprises to comprehend the transformation in their lives.



On 5th December 2024, Mr. Kalyan Rudra , Chairman of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board visited Bandhan's Head Office. During his visit, he addressed the team of Bandhan and he was briefed about the programmes thereby, exploring the potential for future development in collaboration with the WBPCB.



# News Clippings

