

# AALOK SHIKHA

## Bandhan's Quarterly Newsletter

July-September, 2025



**16**

States



**36,907**

Villages



**43,05,078**

Beneficiaries

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

## Bandhan School of Business Launches PGDM Programme Approved By AICTE



Bandhan School of Business (BSB) inaugurated its AICTE-approved Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) courses on 10th August 2025, in the esteemed presence of Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, Senior Ashoka Fellow and Chairman of Bandhan Group.

The occasion was further graced by the eminent presence of academicians Prof. Sujit Kumar Basu, Former VC of Visva Bharati University, and Prof. Saikat Maitra, Former VC of MAKAUT, along with senior HR leaders from reputed corporates. With this milestone, BSB takes a step forward in shaping future business leaders with excellence and industry-ready skills.

## PIMC Meetings and Field Visits – NABARD ( Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya & Jharkhand)

A Project Implementation and Monitoring Committee (PIMC) meeting was held on 2nd July 2025 in Katni, Madhya Pradesh, marking another milestone in the project's journey. Then a NABARD team led by Mr. Malaya Meher (AGM, RO-Bhopal) and Mr. Vikas Kumar Jain (DDM, Katni), along with Mr. Mejhras Kindo (LDM, SBI-Katni) and Mr. Kailash Chand Verma (BPM, NRLM), visited project sites to assess progress and interact with beneficiaries. The visit concluded with an asset transfer ceremony to the selected ultra-poor women beneficiaries, celebrating tangible achievements and reaffirming the shared commitment to sustainable livelihoods.



Another two PIMC meetings were held in Meghalaya (19 August 2025) and Jharkhand (28 August 2025) brought together NABARD officials, state livelihood missions, banking partners, and Bandhan-Konnagar representatives to review programme progress and strengthen strategies. In Meghalaya, discussions led by Shri Madrass Dkhaar (DDM, East Khasi Hills) and Smt Radhika Parulekar (AM, NABARD RO) highlighted strong field results and growing women's entrepreneurship. In Jharkhand, under Smt Richa Bharti (DDM, Hazaribagh), the committee noted steady progress in livelihood adoption, enterprise growth, and income diversification. Across both states, the meetings emphasized capacity building, market linkages, and sustainable graduation of ultra-poor households towards economic resilience.



## Health Camps for Adolescent Girls



A total of 107 health camps were held in July 2025 across the Ajmer and Kishangarh blocks of Ajmer district under the TCTD I Project supported by Bajaj Finance Ltd. The camps reached 2,530 adolescent girls with medical check-ups by qualified medical professionals, health counselling, and awareness sessions on nutrition, personal hygiene, and overall well-being. The initiative strengthened adolescent health, encouraged informed health-seeking behaviour, and promoted preventive care at the community level.

## A New Chapter in Learning – Launch of 62 Education Centres

On 21st July 2025, Bandhan launched 62 new Bandhan Education Centres (BEC) across South and North 24 Parganas under the Bandhan Education Programme, supported by Bandhan Financial Services Limited (BFSL). Designed for children aged 4 to 6 years, these centres will be promoting early childhood education as the foundation of lifelong learning. More than classrooms, the BECs offer vibrant spaces of curiosity and care, where children begin their first lessons in literacy, confidence, and social skills. The expansion—part of a larger plan to establish 100 new centres—was made possible through the dedicated efforts of teams from the Berachampa, Kharibari, Polerhat, and Bodra branches. With strong support from parents and community leaders, the initiative reflects how collective commitment can transform education into a shared celebration of growth and opportunity.



## Future Forward: Exploring Careers in Sales & Marketing



On 8th August 2025, the TCS Youth Employment Programme held a Future Forward session on careers in Sales and Marketing at the Bandhan Skill Development Center (BSDC), Barasat, 24 Parganas (North). Led by Mr. Riju Saha, Global Head of Sales and Operations at TCS, the session highlighted the diverse opportunities in the field and emphasized sales as a profession built on trust and meaningful relationships. Bandhan Sales Trainers also participated, gaining valuable insights into current industry trends and strengthening their capacity to guide young aspirants.



## Celebrating Freedom – Independence Day with the Spirit of Learning

On 15 August 2025, the Bandhan Education Programme celebrated India's 79th Independence Day with pride and enthusiasm across 196 Bandhan Education Centres (BECs) and 10 Academies. Children, teachers, and headmistresses gathered for the flag hoisting and National Anthem, joined by local dignitaries who shared motivating messages. The celebrations featured patriotic songs, poems, and dance performances, with children expressing the meaning of freedom through art and creativity. The day highlighted that education is not only about learning but also about nurturing responsible, proud citizens.



## Personal Hygiene Awareness Among School Children



In July 2025, personal hygiene awareness campaigns were conducted across 119 primary schools in the HBWN IV and ENHANCE project areas of Purba Midnapur (West Bengal) and Sawai Madhopur and Tonk (Rajasthan). The initiative reached 4,592 school-going children, Promoting hygiene habits such as regular handwashing, oral care, and overall cleanliness.

Continuing this momentum, during the second quarter of FY 2025–26, an additional 96 school-based campaigns were organised, benefitting 4,569 children. Through Interactive demonstrations, Engaging sessions, and child-friendly learning tools, the programme reinforced the importance of daily hygiene routines in promoting good health and preventing illness among young learners.

## Leadership Honoured – Recognition for Principal Shri Koushik Singh

Bandhan School, Taldi, 24 Parganas (South) continues to shine with double honours. The Principal, Shri Koushik Singh, was recognised as the Chief Guest at Press Club, Kolkata, by the National Education Forum and awarded the esteemed Rashtriya Prashasak Samman Award & Certificate for his outstanding leadership in education. Adding to this proud moment, the school was also honoured at the Telegraph School Awards for its remarkable eco-friendly initiatives. Shri Koushik Singh, along with senior teachers, received the award at Science City Auditorium on 23rd August.



## A Moment of Pride – Recognition at the Telegraph School Awards

H P Ghosh Memorial School is honoured to be recognized at The Telegraph School Awards 2025 in the Courage Category. Ahashkar Dey, a Class II student, has been awarded for his remarkable courage, determination, and academic excellence while bravely living with Osteogenesis Imperfecta Type 4. Despite numerous physical challenges and surgeries, his unwavering spirit, dedication to learning, and achievements in both academics and sports make him a true inspiration to everyone.





## World Breastfeeding Week



In August 2025, World Breastfeeding Week was observed across all nine branches of ENHANCE project in Sawai Madhopur and Tonk district in Rajasthan supported by Kotak Mahindra Bank. The yearly theme “Prioritise Breastfeeding: Create Sustainable Support Systems”, was actively promoted through rallies, seminars, and focus group discussions (FGDs) involving community members, government officials, frontline health workers, and local leaders. The campaign emphasized the importance of early initiation and exclusive breastfeeding, community support mechanisms for new mothers, and the role of families and health systems in fostering healthy young child nutrition. In total, 1,298 FGDs were conducted, reaching 8,105 beneficiaries (Pregnant women & Lactating mothers), effectively raising awareness and encouraging positive breastfeeding practices at the grassroots level.

## Community Health Care Initiative with JSW Foundation

The organisation has launched a new community-focused primary health care project, aimed at strengthening accessible and affordable medical support for underserved populations. The initiative will operate through 4 community dispensaries strategically established in the JSW operational catchment areas across the districts of Keonjhar and Sundargarh, Odisha. These regions host communities that often face limited access to timely health care due to geographic, economic, and infrastructural challenges.

Operational activities under the project officially commenced on 1st September 2025. The project is supported by JSW Foundation, Barbil, to deliver essential outpatient care, basic diagnostics, maternal and child health support, first-line treatment, preventive care, and referral linkages.



## New Collaborations Pave the Way for Tally with GST Training & Student Empowerment



On 8th September 2025 at Chandannagar College (Hooghly), and on 11th September 2025 at Kharagpur College (Paschim Medinipur) and K. K. Das College (Garia-Patuli, South 24 Parganas), Memorandums of Understanding were signed to introduce Tally with GST courses, conduct student counselling sessions, organise placement drives, and facilitate internship programmes. These collaborations are aimed at enhancing academic-industry linkages and equipping students with the necessary skills, exposure, and opportunities to strengthen their career readiness.

## NABARD Regional Office Visit – Mayurbhanj, Odisha

On 13th September 2025, Shri Ayush Sgeopuri (General Manager, NABARD, Odisha) and Shri Smarak Kumar Mohanty (DDM, NABARD, Mayurbhanj) visited the Rairangpur project area to interact with beneficiaries and review the ongoing livelihood interventions. The visit highlighted tangible socio-economic progress achieved in the region, including enhanced household incomes, improved financial inclusion, and strengthened community resilience.

The delegation appreciated the visible transformation brought about through the NABARD–Bandhan partnership, commending the collaborative efforts that continue to uplift rural livelihoods among ultra-poor women and promote sustainable development.





## Menstrual Hygiene Awareness in Schools

In September 2025, a total of 38 menstrual hygiene awareness and orientation sessions were conducted across government and private high schools in Ajmer district, Rajasthan. The initiative focused on equipping adolescent girls with accurate information on menstrual health, breaking myths and taboos, and encouraging hygienic practices. Through interactive discussions, demonstrations, and confidence-building activities, the sessions empowered young girls to manage menstruation with dignity and knowledge, fostering improved health, self-esteem, and regular school attendance.



## National Nutrition Month

With the theme “Eat Right for a Better Life,” all nine project branches actively observed National Nutrition Month in September 2025 under ENHANCE project in Sawai Madhopur and Tonk district in Rajasthan supported by Kotak Mahindra Bank ., mobilising communities through awareness rallies, seminars, and focused group discussions (FGDs). The campaign brought together key stakeholders, including the CMOH, BDOs, CDPOs, ICDS staff, Panchayat representatives, and community health volunteers, creating a strong multi-sector platform for nutrition advocacy.

Across intervention areas, the programme reached 11,220 beneficiaries through 1,582 FGDs, reinforcing essential messages on nutritious and balanced diets, maternal and child nutrition, and healthy feeding practices. The initiative successfully deepened nutrition awareness at the grassroots, building stronger community commitment toward healthier living and improved well-being for women and children.



## Empowering Communities: Graduation Ceremony Held in Balasore, Odisha

A Graduation Ceremony and Certificate Distribution under the BFSL 9 and 9B Project under Targetting the Hardcore Poor Project was successfully organized on 18th September 2025 at the Bahanaga Block Office, Balasore, Odisha. The event marked a significant milestone as 500 beneficiaries successfully came out from extreme poverty with Bandhan's support for 2 years.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including Mr. Biswanath Mishra (Block Chairman), Mr. Mihir Kumar Rout (BPM, Odisha Livelihood Mission), Mr. Laxmi Kanta Das (Block Assistant Engineer), Mr. Tushar Kanti Mahapatra (Sarpanch, Gopalpur Village), Ms. Parikhita Majhi (Sarpanch, Pandasuni Village), and Mr. Biplab Dutta (Bandhan Bank Manager).



## Visitors

### Field Visit by Kotak Mahindra Bank CSR Team

The CSR team of Kotak Mahindra Bank visited the Phaloudi and Kundera branches in Sawai Madhopur district on 22nd and 23rd July 2025 to observe the ongoing field activities under the Bandhan Health Programme.

During their visit, they attended half-yearly MUAC camps, health forum sessions, school health campaigns, and staff training programmes.



### Immersion Visit by ITC AUT Team in Howrah and Hooghly

On 3rd July 2025, a team of 108 members from ITC's Assistant Under Training (AUT) programme visited THP project locations in Howrah and Hooghly as part of their induction process. During the visit, the team interacted with beneficiaries, community members, and project staff to gain first-hand insights into the project's implementation and community impact.





