

# AALOK SHIKHA

## Bandhan's Quarterly Newsletter

October-December, 2025

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



**16**  
States



**36,925**  
Villages



**43,75,132**  
Beneficiaries

### Bandhan-Konnagar Wins a National Level Recognition- India CSR Award 2025 for Livelihoods

On 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025, Bandhan-Konnagar has been honoured with the prestigious India CSR Award 2025 in the Livelihoods – Large Category organised by India CSR-ESG Corporation, held in New Delhi. It recognised the transformative impact of its flagship Targeting the Hard Core Poor (THP) Programme. The award acknowledged the programme's sustained efforts in empowering 3.99 lakh women-led poorest-of-the-poor households across 16 states, with the dedicated support of national and international donors.

This recognition celebrated the resilience and leadership of women entrepreneurs, the trust and collaboration of our partners, and the unwavering commitment of Bandhan-Konnagar's teams, who continue to drive lasting social transformation across underserved communities.



### Bandhan-Konnagar at the 12<sup>th</sup> India CSR & ESG Summit 2025



Bandhan-Konnagar proudly participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> India CSR & ESG Summit 2025, organised by CSRBOX and held at Hotel Pullman from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025 in New Delhi. The summit brought together India's leading CSR and sustainability leaders to deliberate on inclusive, responsible, and sustainable development pathways.

A delegation from Bandhan-Konnagar engaged in insightful exchanges and interactions with industry leaders, including Mphasis and EY GDS, fostering dialogue, collaboration, and shared learning.

### Expanding Pathways to Employment through Partnership

On 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Rainbow Foundation and the Bandhan Skill Development Centre, Patna, to strengthen career counselling, admissions, and placement support for youth.

Under this partnership, Rainbow Foundation will mobilise and refer candidates to Bandhan for skill training and placement, expanding access to quality skilling opportunities for underserved youth. This collaboration marks an important step toward building a stronger employability ecosystem and connecting young talent with sustainable livelihood opportunities.

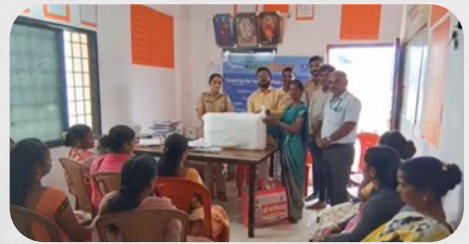


## Asset Distribution Event:

On 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025, the Targeting the Hardcore Poor (THP) Programme, supported by ITC, successfully organised a Beneficiary Asset Transfer Ceremony at the District Collector's Office, Kapurthala, Punjab. The event was held in the esteemed presence of Mr Varinder Singh Pal, Additional District Collector (ADC); Mr Umesh Singh, ITC Factory Manager; and members of the ITC State MSK Team.

Subsequently, on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025, another Beneficiary Asset Transfer Ceremony was organised under the ITC Project at Bhadrachalam, Telangana, and further reinforced livelihood support for programme beneficiaries. The event was graced by Mr Rahul Raj (IAS), Assistant Project Officer, along with senior officials from the ITC PSPD Factory, including the Finance General Manager, Deputy General Manager, and members of the ITC MSK State Team.

Another asset disbursement programme was successfully organised under the Targeting the Hard Core Poor (THP) Programme, with support from Bajaj Finance Limited, on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at Saswad in the Jejuri region of Pune District, Maharashtra, benefiting 15 eligible beneficiaries. The event was graced by many Local dignitaries.



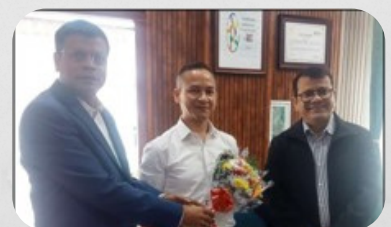
## 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> PIMC Meetings under GRIP Project

On 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025, the 4th PIMC meeting was held in Katni district, Madhya Pradesh, to review progress under the Graduated Rural Income Programme (GRIP) of the Targeting the Hardcore Poor Programme. The meeting was followed by a field visit by senior officials from NABARD, SBI, and RSETI, who interacted with beneficiaries and witnessed the programme's socio-economic impact firsthand. Subsequently, on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> PIMC meetings under the GRIP Project, implemented by Targeting the Hardcore Poor Programme, were held at the Solapur District Cooperative Bank Conference Hall, Solapur, Maharashtra. These meetings were attended by senior officials from NABARD and Bandhan.



## Exploring Scale-Up Opportunities – Meghalaya

On 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025, Mr. Sanjib Kumar Das, CEO, and Mr. Biplab Ghosh, DVP, Bandhan-Konnagar, met with Shri Ronald Kyntac, Chief Operating Officer (COO), SRLM, at the MSRLM Office, Meghalaya, to review the progress of the ongoing GRIP project under the Targeting the Hardcore Poor Programme in the State, supported by NABARD. The discussion also explored opportunities for future collaboration and scale-up, aimed at expanding the program's reach and long-term impact.



## Launch of the SATHI Project under the Bandhan Health Programme

On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025, a new project called School Assistance in Technical, Hardware and Innovation (SATHI) was launched in Jhargram as part of the Bandhan Health Programme, with funding from LIC Housing Finance Limited (LIC HFL). It will support 20 schools in the Binpur-I and Binpur-II blocks under the Jhargram districts focusing on creating SMART classrooms and upgrading library and sanitation facilities. The goal is to improve school infrastructure and learning conditions through technology-based and child-friendly strategies. The SATHI project exemplifies Bandhan's commitment to enhancing educational environments. Committed to improve the education, health, and overall well-being of students by creating inclusive, future-ready learning spaces in underserved regions.

## Celebrating the Power of the Girl Child



On 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025, the TCTD I Project, supported by Bajaj Finance Ltd under the Bandhan Health Programme, marked the International Day of the Girl Child through inspiring seminars themed “The girl I am, the change I lead: Girls on the frontlines of crisis,” in Ajmar, Rajasthan. The sessions highlighted girls’ resilience and leadership in the face of social, economic, and environmental challenges, encouraging participants to find their voice and see themselves as agents of change. The celebration reaffirmed our commitment to empowering confident and informed girls and acknowledged Bajaj Finance Ltd’s continued support in advancing girls’ empowerment at the grassroots.

## Dignity through Health & Awareness

In October 2025, under the TCTD I Project, Bandhan Health Programme conducted menstrual hygiene orientation sessions in 23 high schools in Ajmar, Rajasthan reaching 1,537 adolescent girls. The sessions addressed myths, stigma, and safe hygiene practices, creating supportive spaces for open discussion. This initiative empowered girls to manage menstruation with confidence and dignity, contributing to improved adolescent health, better school retention, and progress toward gender equality.



In November 2025, a series of school-based campaigns on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) were conducted in high schools across Swai Madhaypur, Tong District, aiming to promote awareness, dignity, and healthy practices among adolescents. A total of 56 campaigns were successfully organised, collectively reaching 3,227 adolescent students. The sessions focused on building accurate knowledge about menstrual health, breaking long-standing myths and taboos, and promoting safe and hygienic practices. The initiative reflects Bandhan’s continued commitment to adolescent health, gender-sensitive education, and informed decision-making within communities.

## Iron Deficiency Day Observed under TCTD-I Project

Iron Deficiency Day was observed by Bandhan Health Programme on 18<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> December 2025 under the TCTD-I Project, with the participation of adolescent girls aged 14–18 years and local stakeholders, with support from Bajaj Finance Ltd.

The programme focused on raising awareness about iron deficiency and anaemia, promoting healthy dietary practices, and encouraging preventive health measures among adolescents. The initiative reinforced the importance of community engagement in improving adolescent health and well-being.



## Job Drives across Key Locations



The Unemployed Programme successfully organised a series of job drives across Uttarpara (21<sup>st</sup> November 2025), Behala (26<sup>th</sup> November), and Chandannagar (27<sup>th</sup> November), creating meaningful employment opportunities for aspiring youth. The drives saw enthusiastic participation from a wide range of reputable organisations, including Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, Arohan Financial, DHOSA Fincare, Muthoot Finance, Satin Credit Network, Writer Information, mPokket, Fusion CX, Bhandari Automobiles, Dewar’s Garage, HDB Financial Services, Uprising Consulting, Mukesh Hyundai, among others. A total of 183 candidates participated in the recruitment process. Shortlisting and selection updates from the participating employers are expected to be shared by 10<sup>th</sup> December.



## Bandhan-Konnagar at Career Fair, K.K. Das College



Bandhan-Konnagar participated in a two-day Career Fair on 19<sup>th</sup> –20<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at K.K. Das College, Patuli, Kolkata to promote skill-based training, employability, and industry-aligned career pathways. Students were introduced to key programmes such as Tally with GST, short-term employability courses, and internship-linked training, along with career counselling on the value of skill certification. The initiative received an encouraging response and strengthened collaboration with the college. Bandhan-Konnagar was awarded a Certificate of Participation and Appreciation.

## Partnership Announcement | Bandhan-Konnagar & Jhpiego

On 30<sup>th</sup> December 2025, Bandhan-Konnagar signed an MoU with Jhpiego, a global health non-profit affiliated with Johns Hopkins University, to strengthen maternal, newborn, and women’s health outcomes in India. Country Director Dr Amit Arun Shah and Country Lead Mr. Ashok Raisinghani of Jhpiego were present at Bandhan’s HO in Kolkata during the signing ceremony. The partnership combines Bandhan-Konnagar’s grassroots reach with Jhpiego’s technical expertise, focusing on maternal and newborn health, including breast and cervical cancer screening, and broader public health interventions. Key areas include technical assistance, digital innovation, and health systems strengthening.



## TCS – Youth Employment Programme: Skill Readiness Initiative



Under the TCS Youth Employment Programme, the CSR Department of TCS has approved Bandhan Employing the Unemployed Programme’s request to conduct SME-led physical classes as part of the 11-day “Grow with Purpose (GwP)” programme across 2–3 training centres on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025. The sessions are scheduled to commence in mid-January 2026 at the Barasat and Behala centres, covering 100 trainees in Phase I. The programme will support participants in preparing for IT-enabled services (ITeS) roles, including guidance on graduate fresher opportunities through the TCS NextStep portal.

## MoUs Signed with Colleges to Enhance Skills, Internships, and Employment Opportunities



Bandhan-Konnagar has signed MoUs with several colleges to strengthen youth employability through industry-relevant initiatives. Under these partnerships, Bandhan Skill Development Centres under the Employing the Unemployed Programme will introduce Tally with GST courses, conduct student counselling sessions, organise placement drives and job fairs, and facilitate internship opportunities, enabling students to gain practical skills and access real-world career pathways. Partner Colleges include: Kharagpur College; K.K. Das College; Chandannagar College; Nabagram Hiralal College; Kabi Sukanta College; Tarakeshwar Degree College; Dhruvachand Halder College; Kalinga College of Commerce; RKD College; G.J. College; Dr. Bhupendranath Dutta Smriti Mahavidyalaya; Gazole Mahavidyalaya; Samsi College; Kaliachak College; Panihati College; Vivekananda College, Madhyamgram; Barasat Evening College; P.R. Thakur College; Swami Nishambala College; Parimohan College; Munshi Prem Chand College; Birsa Munda College; Subhas Chandra Bose Centenary College; Haringhata College; Kanchrapara College; and R.B.C. College for Women. Through these collaborations, Bandhan-Konnagar continues its commitment to empowering young people with relevant skills, meaningful exposure, and sustainable employment opportunities.

## Career Connect Sessions for Youth Employability under the Employing the Unemployed Programme.

Career Connect is an employability-focused initiative designed to guide students on career pathways, skill requirements, and internship opportunities aligned with industry needs. Under this initiative, two Career Connect sessions were conducted at Malda Gour College and Hatgobindapur College, Burdwan, on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2025, reaching a total of 230 trainees. As a positive outcome, 141 trainees enrolled for internships in the first phase, reflecting strong student interest in gaining hands-on experience and enhancing career readiness.



## Campus Job Drives and Career Fairs for Youth Employability



Employing the Unemployed Programme organised a series of Campus Job Drives and Career Fairs at K.K. Das College, Garia, Chandannagar, and the Barasat Centre throughout the month of December 2025, creating direct linkages between trained youth and potential employers. These drives witnessed the participation of 125 trainees and 6 employers from diverse sectors, offering candidates valuable opportunities to interact with recruiters, understand job roles, and participate in initial screening processes. Following the drives, shortlisted trainees are being contacted by the employers for further stages of the recruitment process. In recognition of the successful organisation and impactful engagement, K.K. Das College awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to Bandhan-Konnagar, acknowledging its continued commitment to youth employment and career development.



## Teachers' Training Programme to Strengthen Classroom Practices

On 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> December 2025, a three-day Teachers' Training Programme was successfully conducted at BSDM. It aimed to enhance classroom practices, strengthen competency-based teaching, and reduce student dropout rates. The training was aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and focused on practical, classroom-oriented strategies. The programme was attended by 50 teachers from all Academies, along with 10 Education Officers (EOs).



## Visitors

### Bajaj Team Visit to GRIP–NABARD Project Areas

On 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2025, a senior Bajaj team, including Mr Shubham Mittal, Deputy General Manager from Bajaj Finserv Ltd. and Mr Mohit T., Manager at Bajaj Finserv Ltd., visited the GRIP–NABARD project sites in Solapur, Maharashtra. During their visit, they interacted with selected project beneficiaries and engaged with staff to understand the project's strategies, key deliverables, challenges faced during implementation, and the anticipated impact.



### HDFC Life CSR Manager's Field and Head Office Visit

Tejeswaini Hulsarkar, CSR Manager-HDFC Life, visited the HBWN project field areas in Purba Medinipur as well as the Bandhan-Konnagar Head Office in November 2025 to review the progress of ongoing project activities.

During the visit, she attended anthropometric MUAC camps, conducted household visits to interact directly with beneficiaries, and gained first-hand insights into programme implementation. The visit concluded with a meeting at Bandhan's Head Office, where she shared observations from the field and discussed feedback and the way forward for strengthening project outcomes.



