

NEWSLETTER

AALOK SHIKHA

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



16
States



36,935
Villages



44,13,099
Beneficiaries



A Proud Milestone in Social Impact

On 12th March 2026, Bandhan-Konnagar was honoured with the Social Impact CSR Jury Award 2026 by the Indian Chamber of Commerce, marking a significant milestone in its journey. The award recognises the organisation's impactful livelihood programme supporting women-led ultra-poor families across 16 States, through which over 4 lakh women have moved out of extreme poverty by building sustainable micro-enterprises across farm, non-farm, and livestock sectors. With a holistic approach encompassing education, healthcare, social security, credit, and market linkages, Bandhan-Konnagar continues to enable women to build resilient livelihoods. This recognition stands as a testament to the inspiring women entrepreneurs, dedicated teams, and partners driving change on the ground.

Women-Led Change: Micro-Entrepreneurs Graduate in Gorakhpur

On 24th February 2026, the BBL-14 Project under Targetting the Hardcore Poor Programme in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh marked a significant milestone as 1,993 ultra-poor women graduated as successful micro-entrepreneurs at Rajlaxmi Marriage Lawn. The initiative, a CSR programme of Bandhan Bank implemented by Bandhan-Konnagar, focuses on enabling vulnerable women to build sustainable livelihoods. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Deepak Meena, hounarable District Magistrate of Gorakhpur; Mr. Sarvan Kumar Nishad, Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) and Mr. Vinoy Kumar Gupta, Village Pradhan (ADSC Member) along with local representatives, community leaders, and programme officials. The project followed a holistic support model, including linked the participants to key government schemes such as Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the Public Distribution System, as well as insurance and pension benefits.



RBI Deputy Governor's Visit Underscores Bandhan-Konnagar's Grassroots Impact



On 27th February 2026, Bandhan-Konnagar participated in a Customer Awareness Seminar organised by the Reserve Bank of India in Bhubaneswar, where two beneficiaries from its NABARD Odisha (OD) Project represented the organisation. The highlight of the event was the visit of Mr Shirish Chandra Murmu, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India to the Bandhan-Konnagar stall. During the visit, the Deputy Governor interacted closely with the beneficiaries, listened to their entrepreneurial journey, and acknowledged the transformative impact of the initiative in enabling sustainable livelihoods. Bandhan-Konnagar showcased its livelihood initiatives and beneficiary success stories, drawing strong interest from attendees and further reinforcing the effectiveness of community-based interventions.

GRIP-NABARD Project

On 14th March 2026, a field visit and review were conducted under the GRIP-National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Project in Solapur, Maharashtra. The visit was led by Smt. Rashmi Darad, Chief General Manager, Regional Office NABARD along with Mr. Nitin Shelke, District Development Manager, Solapur district following the completion of the Project Implementing and Monitoring Committee (PIMC) meeting. The review included beneficiary interactions, staff engagement, and office-level document verification, ensuring effective monitoring of project implementation and progress on the ground.



Strengthening Livelihoods through Strategic Partnership in Bihar

A strategic partnership between JEEViKA, under the Rural Development Department, Government of Bihar, Bandhan- Konnagar and Bajaj Finance Limited was formalised on 28th January 2026, marking a significant step towards enhancing livelihood opportunities in the state. Effective until March 2028, the collaboration will support the implementation of SJY-JEEVIKA and other livelihood initiatives through technical assistance, capacity building, and knowledge sharing, aiming to strengthen community institutions and improve sustainable income generation for beneficiaries.



Capacity Building Workshop Strengthens THP Programme Implementation

Bandhan-Konnagar organised a three-day capacity-building workshop at the Bandhan Learning Centre in Bolpur from 29th–31st January 2026 to strengthen the effective implementation of the Targeting the Hard-Core Poor (THP) Programme. The workshop focused on key aspects such as programme orientation, SOP and IT alignment, beneficiary selection, audit compliance, monitoring, reporting, and the crucial role of Area Coordinators in ensuring quality delivery at the grassroots level.



Asset Distribution Ceremony Empowers Women through the THP Programme



On 16th February, 2026, the Targeting the Hardcore Poor (THP) Programme of Bandhan-Konnagar held an Asset Distribution Ceremony as part of the Bajaj-8 Project at the Baramati Branch in Pune, Maharashtra. During this initiative, over 2,000 women received livelihood assets intended to help them establish sustainable income-generating activities and work towards financial independence. The ceremony was graced by the presence of distinguished guests, including Mr. Shail Chiwad Shetty, Police Incharge; Vaishnavi Sachin Gaikwad, NCP Women's Vice President Baramati; Mr. Sanjay Waghmare, Social Worker Baramati and others. This event marked a significant milestone in the empowerment of women through livelihood support, economic resilience, and self-reliance, reinforcing the programme's commitment to uplifting vulnerable communities.

Strengthening Livelihoods through RSETI Skill Training under NABARD Project



Bandhan-Konnagar has actively collaborated with Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) across five states under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) project to deliver free-of-cost Skill Development Training Programme (SDTP) and Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) sessions for programme beneficiaries. Conducted during February and March, these training initiatives aim to enhance participants' technical skills, build entrepreneurial capacity, and expand livelihood opportunities. The programmes have primarily commenced in Maharashtra, where beneficiaries are receiving practical, hands-on training along with guidance to start or strengthen their income-generating activities.

Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods through Cage Fishing



On 9th January 2026, Bandhan-Konnagar partnered with Damodar Valley Corporation to launch a cage fishing-based CSR initiative under Bandhan Climate Action Programme (BCAP) aimed at promoting sustainable livelihoods. This eco-friendly aquaculture model is designed to generate reliable income opportunities, strengthen community resilience, and create long-term socio-economic impact, while encouraging the sustainable use of natural water resources.

Malda Skill Center Partners with Kaliachak College



In alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasises internships as a means to bridge the gap between academia and industry. The Bandhan Skill Development Centre, Malda under Employing the Unemployed Programme (EUP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kaliachak College on 3rd January 2026. The partnership introduces a structured 60-hour internship programme for 1,100 undergraduate students. This initiative aims to strengthen the link between academic learning and practical skill development by providing students with meaningful exposure to real-world work environments. By integrating hands-on experience into the academic journey, the programme seeks to enhance employability and prepare students for professional challenges. The first batch of 200 students commenced the internship on 9th February 2026, marking the beginning of a significant collaborative effort to equip young learners with industry-relevant skills and practical insights.

MoU Signed to Establish Tally Lab at Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya

On 29th January 2026, Bandhan Skill Development Center, Chandannagar under Employing the Unemployed Programme (EUP) formalised a partnership with Vivekananda Mahavidyalaya through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a dedicated Tally Lab on the college campus. As part of this initiative, a Tally Prime with GST course will be introduced to equip students with practical skills in accounting and taxation. The programme is designed to provide hands-on training in industry-relevant tools and practices, enhancing students' proficiency in accounting software and GST compliance. The initiative is expected to benefit approximately 600 students, significantly strengthening their employability and opening up new career opportunities in finance and accounting.



Building Bridges to Employment



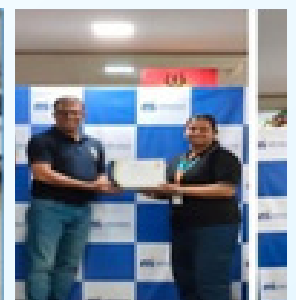
Bandhan-Konnagar is strengthening youth employability through its Skill Development Centres in Raniganj, Behala, and Bhubaneswar, which serve as hubs for industry-aligned training and academic collaboration.

Leveraging these centres, the organisation has signed MoUs with Raniganj TDB College (6th March), Vidyasagar College, and Kamla Nehru College (5th March) to roll out a 60-hour NEP-aligned Internship Programme on Employability Skills. The programme focuses on workplace readiness, communication, and practical exposure.

Expected to benefit nearly 800 students, this initiative underscores the pivotal role of Bandhan-Konnagar's skill centres in bridging education and employment, and in equipping youth with the competencies needed for a dynamic workforce.

Celebrating Trainee Success and Industry Recognition

Bandhan Skill Development Centre in Behala continues to take pride in the achievements of its trainees, reflecting the strength of its industry-oriented training approach. On 15th March 2026, two IT-BPO trainees earned notable recognition in their respective workplaces. Najia Mollah received the Highest Paid Services Award at Dewars Garage – Maruti Suzuki, South Kolkata, while Esha Ganguly was honoured with the Best Customer Support Award at mPokket (Fintech). Their accomplishments highlight the impact of Bandhan-Konnagar's skill development initiatives in preparing youth for professional excellence and industry success.



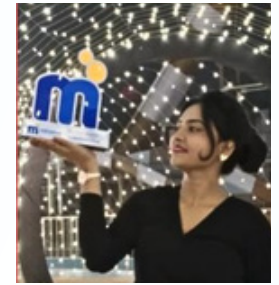
Internship Certificate Distribution Programme

Samsi College, in collaboration with the Malda Skill Center under the Employing the Unemployed Programme (EUP), successfully organised an Internship Certificate Distribution Programme on 31st January 2026. The event was graced by the esteemed Chief Guest, Mr. Riajul Rahim Baxi, President of Samsi College, who highlighted the critical role of practical exposure in complementing academic learning. In his address, he encouraged students to actively engage in hands-on experiences that enhance both their skills and employability. During the programme, certificates were awarded to students in recognition of their successful completion of internships. The occasion marked an important milestone in their professional journey, reinforcing the value of experiential learning in preparing them for future career opportunities.



A Journey of Excellence: Konika Chakraborty Recognised with CEO Award

Konika Chakraborty, a student from the Bandhan Skill Development Centre, Behala, under the Employing the Unemployed Programme (EUP) – BPO training batch, has brought immense pride to the programme by receiving the ‘CEO Customer Hero Award 2026’ from Mpocket on 9th February 2026. This prestigious recognition celebrates her exceptional performance, unwavering dedication to customer service, and consistent professionalism in her role. Konika’s accomplishment serves as an inspiring example for fellow learners, reflecting the transformative impact of skill-based training in shaping confident, capable, and industry-ready professionals.



Bandhan Konnagar signs MOU with TATA Electronics in Bengaluru

Driving Sustainable Livelihoods through Strategic Partnership

Bandhan-Konnagar, in collaboration with the CSR initiatives of Tata Electronics, has launched a Sustainable Livelihood Programme in Kolar (near Bengaluru) to empower ultra-poor women entrepreneurs. The initiative has identified over 400 women through social mapping and wealth ranking, providing them with continuous handholding support to build and sustain non-farm, village-based enterprises. Beyond livelihoods, the programme integrates financial literacy, credit and market linkages, and access to social security for holistic development. At its core are stories of resilience like Tabasoom, who, after facing personal loss, is now rebuilding her life with dignity and hope. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to inclusive growth, enabling women to move towards self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods.

Celebrating the Legacy of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose



The birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was observed across Bandhan Education Centres (BEC) and Bandhan Academies on 23rd January 2026. Students and teachers from all centres participated with great enthusiasm, coming together to honour the life and legacy of one of India’s most revered freedom fighters. The celebrations featured patriotic songs, speeches, and wreath-laying ceremonies, creating a deeply respectful and reflective atmosphere.

Republic Day Celebrated with Pride and Patriotic Spirit

On 26th January 2026, the 77th Republic Day was celebrated with great pride and enthusiasm across Bandhan Education Centres and Bandhan Academies. A large number of students actively participated in the celebrations, making the occasion truly vibrant and memorable. The programme commenced with the hoisting of the national flag by teachers and local dignitaries, including Panchayat members and government school teachers. The atmosphere was filled with a sense of unity and national pride as participants gathered to honour the values enshrined in the Constitution. Students contributed enthusiastically through patriotic songs and poem recitations, adding colour and energy to the celebration.



Fostering Creativity: Drawing Competition



A drawing competition was conducted throughout January 2026 across 10 Bandhan Academies, engaging 1,335 students and fostering creativity, imagination, and artistic expression. The students participated with great enthusiasm, showcasing their artistic talents across a variety of themes, with their vibrant and imaginative artworks reflecting both skill and originality. The best creations were recognized and awarded, inspiring young learners to further explore and express their creativity with confidence while nurturing their artistic potential.

Inspiring Educators through Heritage Learning

An Exposure Visit for teachers was conducted across two branches of Bandhan Education Center Bodra (19th January 2026) and Berachampa (21st January 2026) to strengthen teaching practices and improve classroom effectiveness. A total of 64 teachers and staff participated, observing live classes at Bauliyapara SSK and Chyangdana F.P. School. The visit offered practical insights into pedagogy, classroom management, and student engagement, while encouraging peer learning and adoption of innovative practices.

A second exposure visit on 24th March 2026 engaged 60 teachers and 8 staff from the Medinipur region under the Bandhan Education Program (BEP), supported by Bandhan Mutual Fund Limited. Held at Birsingha Village, the birthplace of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, the visit combined guided tours, interactive sessions, and reflection activities. It inspired educators through Vidyasagar's values, promoted experiential learning, and deepened their connection to cultural heritage, encouraging integration of these insights into classroom teaching.



SATHI Project Launched to Transform School Learning in Jhargram

Bandhan-Konnagar implemented the SATHI Project at 20 schools in Jhargram in partnership with LIC Housing Finance Limited. The initiative aims to strengthen school infrastructure by introducing smart classrooms, digital learning resources, and enhanced library support, while also promoting improved hygiene and sanitation practices. By creating a more inclusive, resource-rich, and supportive learning environment, the project is set to significantly enhance the overall educational experience and well-being of students.



Promising Gains in Reducing Child Malnutrition



During January, the half-yearly Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) assessment for children under five was completed under the ENHANCE Project, under the Bandhan Health Programme (BHP) supported by Kotak Mahindra Bank. The exercise plays a crucial role in tracking children's nutritional status and identifying early signs of malnutrition. Encouragingly, findings show a significant decline in wasting (acute malnutrition) from 23% at baseline to 12% during the project period (October 2023–September 2026). This progress reflects the positive impact of regular monitoring, awareness initiatives, and community-based interventions, contributing to the healthier growth and improved well-being of young children.

Flowing Towards Equality: World Water Day 2026



On 22nd March 2026, the Safe Water Project observed World Water Day 2026 across its project areas in Jharkhand and West Bengal, centred on the theme "Where Water Flows, Equality Grows." The initiative raised awareness on equitable access to safe water, while promoting conservation, hygiene, and sustainable practices; reinforcing the importance of water in building healthy and inclusive communities.

School Awareness Campaigns under the ENHANCE Project

During January and February 2026, a series of school children awareness campaigns was conducted across 90 primary schools in Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan, reaching 4,202 school-going students under the ENHANCE Project supported by Kotak Mahindra Bank. These campaigns aimed to promote awareness of important aspects of health, hygiene, and nutrition, encouraging children to adopt healthy habits from an early age. Through interactive sessions and engaging activities, students were motivated to understand the significance of personal hygiene and overall well-being.



