

## MESSAGE FROM OUR SECRETARY

2024–2025 has been a year of profound growth, exploration, and impact. Our journey reaffirms our conviction that culture is the cornerstone of development. Culture carries memory, wisdom, and creativity across generations. When development begins with culture—honouring the songs, crafts, rituals, and stories that define communities—it becomes transformative, empowering people to stand tall in dignity and self-determination.

This belief shaped all that we did this year. Through Art for Life, we demonstrated that safeguarding living heritage is not just about preserving the past—it is about building futures. Across West Bengal, Nagaland, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Odisha, we worked with indigenous communities to strengthen livelihoods rooted in tradition. Village festivals celebrated pride, community museums kept memory alive, and rural tourism provided dignified income—ensuring that communities remained in control of their narratives.

Women have been at the heart of this transformation. From tea estate workers in Assam and West Bengal to first-generation entrepreneurs in Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, and Jharkhand, we have enabled women to grow businesses, create safer communities, and lead advocacy for their rights. Through skills, market access, and digital storytelling, women once unseen have emerged as entrepreneurs, cultural ambassadors, and leaders of change.

At the core of this work is our unwavering commitment to community agency. Economic opportunities must never come at the cost of cultural integrity—communities are not participants; they are authors of their own development journeys. We are glad that Art for Life is selected as Best Practice for Co-creating Cultures for the Future at the prestigious *Osaka Expo 2025*.



## 2024-25 INDEX

Safeguarding Heritage >

Experiencing Culture >

Advancing Equality >

Realising Gender Rights >

Connecting Cultures >

Harvesting Knowledge >



Our Journey



## ABOUT US

Contact Base is a not for profit working for inclusive and sustainable development and protection of rights of women, children and indigenous people using culture based approaches. We are accredited with UNESCO's 2003 Living Heritage Entity. We are a global partner of UN Tourism for promoting responsible tourism. We are headquartered at Kolkata with a district office at Purulia. Our team of 50+ full time professionals has diverse backgrounds in Engineering, Management, Sociology, Theatre, Arts, Music, Media and Literature.



## OUR TEAM



**Ananya Bhattacharya**  
President



**Sneha Bhattacharya**  
Secretary



**Debalina Bhowmick**  
Asst. Secretary



**Niloy Basu**  
Treasurer



**Amitava Bhattacharya**  
Founder Director



**Siddhanjan Ray Chaudhuri**  
General Manager, Projects



**Suman Mukhopadhyay**  
Member

## APPROACH

### Culture as a Driver of Inclusive and Sustainable Development

For over two decades, our work has demonstrated that culture is not a peripheral asset but a foundation for transformative development. We work at the intersection of heritage, rights, and livelihoods, addressing local challenges through community-led, replicable models with global relevance. Our flagship initiative, Art for Life (AFL), embodies this philosophy. Initiated in 2005, AFL revitalises traditional cultural practices—folk arts, crafts, music, and performance—as sources of dignified livelihoods, cultural pride, and social resilience. By positioning artists as entrepreneurs, mentors, and leaders, AFL strengthens rural economies and transforms underserved villages into vibrant cultural hubs. These hubs host community-run festivals, living museums, and cultural tourism initiatives that generate income while safeguarding intangible cultural heritage (ICH) for future generations.

### Empowering Women and Marginalized Communities

Central to our approach is a rights-based focus on women's empowerment and social inclusion. We address systemic gender inequalities with Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC). Through theatre-based methodologies, we spark dialogue on gender-based violence, health, and rights in tea estates and rural communities—creating safer environments and enabling women to lead advocacy for change. Our Women4Economy platform connects first-generation women entrepreneurs from east and north east India to mentorship, investors, and global markets. These women, once invisible, are now cultural ambassadors and community leaders—driving change from within while reshaping narratives of agency and aspiration.

### Education, Youth, and Innovation

We believe cultural continuity is inseparable from future-readiness. Our intergenerational skill transmission system blends traditional learning (Guru-Shishya Parampara) with contemporary innovations, ensuring that knowledge evolves rather than erodes. Youth are trained in digital storytelling, intellectual property rights, and entrepreneurship, equipping them to carry heritage into modern contexts and engage with global markets ethically.

### Global Partnerships and SDG Alignment

Our work is anchored in international frameworks like the 2003 UNESCO Convention on ICH and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, contributing directly to SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 3 (Good Health), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work), 11 (Sustainable Cities), and 16 (Peace and Inclusion). We collaborate with UN agencies, governments, academic institutions, and industry to build ethical, scalable solutions—recognised globally as best practices, including by UN Tourism, UNESCO, Harvard Business School, and Osaka Expo 2025.

### A Holistic, Future-Ready Model

Our approach restores identity and dignity, fosters economic self-reliance, and strengthens community ownership. It is inclusive, culturally rooted, and globally connected—proving that when communities are custodians of their heritage, they are also architects of their futures. Culture, in our vision, is not a resource to be consumed—it is a right to be exercised, a process to be lived, and a catalyst for just and sustainable development.







# EXPERIENCING CULTURE

Experiential rural cultural tourism is a community-centered approach that invites visitors to engage deeply with the living traditions of India's villages—through music, crafts, food, festivals, and storytelling. It goes beyond sightseeing to create meaningful exchanges between local communities and travellers, where heritage is not just observed, but felt, shared, and co-created.

Rooted in cultural authenticity and community ownership, this form of tourism strengthens local economies, preserves intangible cultural heritage, and empowers artists as cultural ambassadors. Whether it's learning a folk song from a Langa musician in Rajasthan, stitching Kantha motifs in a Bengal village, or dancing to Tarpa rhythms in a tribal hamlet of Palghar, Maharashtra, each journey becomes a story—of connection, creativity, and mutual respect.

Explore Maharashtra

Art & Craft Villages of West Bengal

ICH of Western Rajasthan



## EXPLORE MAHARASHTRA: A CULTURAL HERITAGE BASED TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

**Client:** Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) **Duration:** October 2024 - September 2026 **Locations:** Nashik and Palghar districts of Maharashtra

### Objectives

- Developing community-led, cultural heritage-based tourism in Maharashtra's Palghar and Nashik districts
- Empowering traditional artists and crafts persons from tribal communities
- Strengthening culture-based rural livelihoods
- Preserving intangible cultural heritage

### Beneficiaries

Traditional artists and crafts persons from rural and tribal communities in Palghar and Nashik districts, including Warli, Kokna, Kokni, Malhar Koli, and Mahadev Koli communities. Palghar and Nashik, two tribal-rich districts in Maharashtra, hold a vibrant spectrum of intangible cultural heritage, reflected in their unique art, craft, and performance traditions.



## TRADITIONAL ART AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF PALGHAR AND NASHIK

Palghar and Nashik, two tribal-rich districts of Maharashtra, are treasure troves of intangible cultural heritage—vibrant, living traditions passed down across generations.

### PALGHAR



#### Warli Painting

Globally recognised for its intricate geometric motifs depicting daily life, rituals, and nature.



#### Bamboo Craft

Practiced extensively in forest-fringe villages for both utilitarian and ceremonial purposes.



#### Folk Dances and Songs

- Tarpa Dance: Performed in circles around a central Tarpa player, symbolising community bonding.
- Ghor, Kambadi, Gavari, Sambal, Hodi, Toor Dances: Known for their energy, rhythm, and community narratives.
- Dhol and Dhouleri Wedding Songs, Thala Badan: Sung and played during marriage ceremonies and rites of passage.

### NASHIK



#### Bohada Masks and Ritual Theatre

Brightly painted masks used in performances that narrate local myths and epics.

#### Tribal Performance Traditions

- Dehra Geet: Devotional songs sung in groups during worship.
- Dangi, Thakar, Pawri, and Madal Nritya: Community-specific dances, often performed during harvests and festivals.
- Dongri Dev Nritya, Dhak Badya Geet, Thali Badya Geet: Ritual expressions combining rhythm, prayer, and drama.

### Project Description

- Palghar and Nashik's rich tribal traditions—Warli painting, bamboo craft, ritual dances, and folk music—have remained largely untapped in tourism. To change this, we partnered with MTDC to create a community-led cultural tourism model.
- We mapped 1,140 artists and trained over 600 in storytelling, safeguarding heritage, and tourism readiness. So far, 335 artists have developed village-based experiences and souvenirs, while 78 are curating visits as cultural leaders.
- Heritage sessions in 14 schools have reached 1,439 students, nurturing pride in tradition. Culinary practices are being documented to build food-based tourism, supported by films and social media to promote the region's cultural appeal.



- 20,000+ visitors attended our community-led village festivals in Palghar, highlighting growing tourism interest. It brought together over 650 artists from 23 villages, alongside students from 10 educational institutions.
- Festivals became platforms for local identity, pride, and cultural transmission.
- A community-led, multi-stakeholder model linked artists, local governance & tourism.
- Renowned French Filmmaker Vincent Moon documented the Experience Palghar festival (Feb 28 - Mar 2, 2025).

### OUTCOMES

1100

Traditional Artists & Crafts persons engaged. (Warli, Kokna, Kokni, Malhar Koli, Mahadev Koli communities) ICH wise numbers

567

ICH Skills rejuvenation, communication and storytelling and tourism readiness

#### Heritage Education

14 1439

schools participated youth engaged



## COMMUNITY-LED FESTIVALS: PROMOTING ART & CRAFT VILLAGES OF WEST BENGAL

**Client:** Coal India Limited (CSR Initiative) **Duration:** October 18-27, 2024 **Locations:** 21 villages across 7 districts — Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum, Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Nadia, South 24 Parganas **Beneficiaries:** Rural artists and crafts persons

### Objectives

- Promote cultural tourism by showcasing heritage-rich art and craft villages
- Expand visibility and market access for Bengal's folk artists
- Build direct connections between rural artists and urban audiences/buyers

### Project Description

A 10-day cultural tourism campaign was held across 16 locations in 21 villages, featuring regional folk performances and craft showcases. Visitors engaged through demonstrations, live performances, workshops, and buyer-seller meets.

### Art & Craft forms showcased

- Baul – Soulful, spiritual music celebrating humanism; UNESCO-recognised.
- Bhatiyali – Melancholic river songs sung by boatmen, rich in emotion.
- Chhau – Energetic masked dance drama from Purulia with martial movements.
- Chadar Badar – Rare Santhal puppetry using wooden figures and folktales.
- Jhumur – Rhythmic folk songs and dances reflecting rural life and rituals.
- Dokra – Metal casting craft using lost wax technique; rustic, detailed forms.
- Kantha – Embroidery that repurposes old textiles into story-rich creations.
- Tabei Grass – Eco-friendly grass craft supporting women-led livelihoods.
- Saracotta – Temple-inspired clay art; GI-tagged Bankura horses are iconic.
- Wooden Dolls (Natungram) – Carved and painted figures like owls and deities.
- Shola Craft – Intricate ceremonial objects made from water reed pith.



Website: [www.exploretribalbengal.com](http://www.exploretribalbengal.com)

### KEY ACTIVITIES



#### Community Festivals (Oct 18-27, 2024)

- Craft demonstrations on Chhau masks, Kantha, wooden dolls, Sabai, Terracotta was attended by university students, including from Chhattisgarh
- Folk performances: Baul, Chhau, Jhumur, Bhatiyali, Chadar Badar
- Buyer-seller meets with designers and retailers

### OUTCOMES

2150+

Artists engaged from 21 villages



16

Festival locations



Visitors across India, France, Australia, positioning villages as vibrant cultural tourism hubs



Market Linkages: Buyer-seller meets at all hubs

540000+

Reach achieved via media campaigns, social media channels



5+

Crafts showcased



5+

Performing Art featured



36900+

Visitors

## CONNECTING GLOBAL AND DOMESTIC MARKETS: SHOWCASING WESTERN RAJASTHAN'S INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

**Client:** UNESCO (with Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan) **Duration:** June 2024 - September 2024 **Locations:** Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner **Beneficiaries:** Traditional artists

### Objectives

- Strengthen rural livelihoods through culture-based tourism
- Connect ICH with global and domestic markets
- Build visibility and direct market linkages for folk artists
- Position Rajasthan as a leading cultural tourism destination

### Project Description

Through a five-year partnership with UNESCO and the Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan, this initiative transformed 10 sites across Western Rajasthan into culture-driven tourism destinations. Traditional musicians, dancers, and craftspeople were equipped with skills in curation, communication, and experience hosting—shifting their role from performers to cultural ambassadors.

### Key Traditional Art forms

- Langa & Manganiyar – Soulful desert melodies using instruments like Kamaicha and Sarangi
- Kalbelia Dance – Graceful serpentine movements by Kalbelia women, UNESCO-recognised
- Sujasthani (Mir) – Devotional qawwali from Saraiki/Urdu by Mirionettes
- Rajasthani Puppetry – Folk storytelling through handcrafted marionettes
- Jutti Craft (Patodi) – Embroidered leather footwear blending heritage with utility
- Durrie Weaving (Salawas) – Flat-woven desert rugs from cotton and wool
- Kasidakari Embroidery – Bright hand embroidery with regional motifs
- Red Clay Pottery – Elegant open-fired ceramics from Jaisalmer
- Usta Art (Bikaner) – Gold-painted decorative work on camel leather
- Handloom (Napasar) – Traditional fabric weaving with earthy palettes



### KEY ACTIVITIES

- **Global Exposure at The Great Indian Travel Bazaar (GITB), Jaipur, May 6th & 7th**
  - Rural artists got the opportunity to meet with international and national tour operators, hotels and event organisers to promote ICH based tourism of western Rajasthan. engaged 1,500+ global buyers from 50+ countries
  - B2B meetings and live demos by rural artists in durrie weaving, jutti making, embroidery, pottery, appliqué
  - Performances by Langa, Manganiyar, and Kalbelia artists



#### Multi-city promotional events (Kolkata, Mumbai, Bangalore, Surat):

**Kolkata**  
Rural artists interacting with visitors at City Centre 2 and Calcutta Rowing Club

**Bangalore**  
Traditional performers and artists showcased at Indian Music Experience Museum and Bangalore International Centre.

**Mumbai**  
Vibrant display of craft traditions during Mumbai showcase events.

**Surat**  
Rural artists reaching new audiences at V.R Mall's curated cultural experience.

### Tourism Souvenir Product Making Workshops



#### Pokaran | June 18-25, 2024

15 potters in Pokaran were trained to create diversified terracotta souvenirs drawing inspiration from Dhola Maru folklore and local havels.

#### Patodi | July 1-6, 2024

11 artists trained in Jutti and Kasidakari innovation created new leather products like passport covers, mobile bags, and key rings, integrating antique locks into their designs.

#### Salawas | July 8-12, 2024

A workshop explored new design directions in Panja Durrie weaving with women artisans engaging on traditional handlooms.

### Heritage Transmission to Youth

#### Chopasani | June 18-22 & July 7-11, 2024

10 youth were mentored in Kalbelia music and the art of Bin playing under the guidance of Guru Kalunath Kalbelia

#### Kalra | June 30-July 9, 2024

12 youth trained in crafting Sindhi Sarangi—learning structure, carving, tuning, and bow making from traditional luthiers.

#### Barnawa Jageer & Lakhe ki Dhani | July 3-7 & July 10-14, 2024

100 youth received intensive training in Langa music, covering raags, Sufi/Bhajans, and folk tales like Dhola Maru.

#### Sheo | July 4-8 & July 10-25, 2024

61 youth from 5 villages engaged in Kamaicha, raags, Bhajans, and wedding songs.





# ADVANCING EQUALITY

Our work advances women's economic empowerment by strengthening their leadership and participation in the economy. In areas where social norms and care burdens limit opportunities, we foster ecosystems that support entrepreneurship, digital and financial literacy, and access to markets. By addressing systemic barriers and valuing women's contributions to GDP, our programs enable women to move from the margins to the economic mainstream—asserting agency, achieving financial independence, and leading transformative change in their communities.

- Academy for Women Entrepreneurs
- Sujni Kantha
- Project Hunar
- Enabling Livelihood



## ACADEMY FOR WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS: EMPOWERING FIRST-GENERATION WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN NORTH EAST INDIA

**Client:** U.S. Consulate General Kolkata **Duration:** September 2023–March 2025

**Locations:** Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, Jharkhand

**Beneficiaries:** First-generation, early-stage women entrepreneurs

### Objectives

- Strengthen women's entrepreneurial capacities through mentoring, leadership development, and skill-building in business planning, financial literacy, and design innovation.
- Promote digital and financial inclusion to enhance business efficiency and market reach.
- Facilitate access to markets, investment networks, and peer support systems to drive sustainable enterprise growth.

### Program Entailed

- Entrepreneurship Bootcamps:** Hands-on sessions covering business fundamentals such as customer segmentation, pricing, market analysis, skill mapping, and business profiling.
- Design & Innovation Workshops:** Expert-led support in product design and innovation to enhance market-product fit and expand market reach.
- Pitching Presentations:** Guided sessions to craft and refine elevator pitches, with practice rounds before mentors and potential investors.
- Online Learning:** Access to DreamBuilder, an interactive entrepreneurship platform by Arizona State University, along with expert-led modules on branding, digital finance, digital marketing, intellectual property, compliance, and access to funding.
- Mentoring Opportunities:** Personalized and group mentoring from business experts and AWE alumni, offering practical guidance on day-to-day business challenges including branding, digital presence.
- Networking & Market Linkages:** Exposure through buyer-seller meets, exhibitions, fairs, and online marketplaces for both B2B and B2C engagement.

### Program Description

The program empowered first-generation and aspiring women entrepreneurs from rural, tribal, and underserved communities by addressing barriers to training, mentorship, and business networks. As part of the global AWE initiative, it offered access to the DreamBuilder platform (online entrepreneurship learning) and expert-led sessions to build business skills and investment readiness. By nurturing sustainable, women-led enterprises, the program focused at advancing economic resilience, gender equity, and inclusive development in the region.

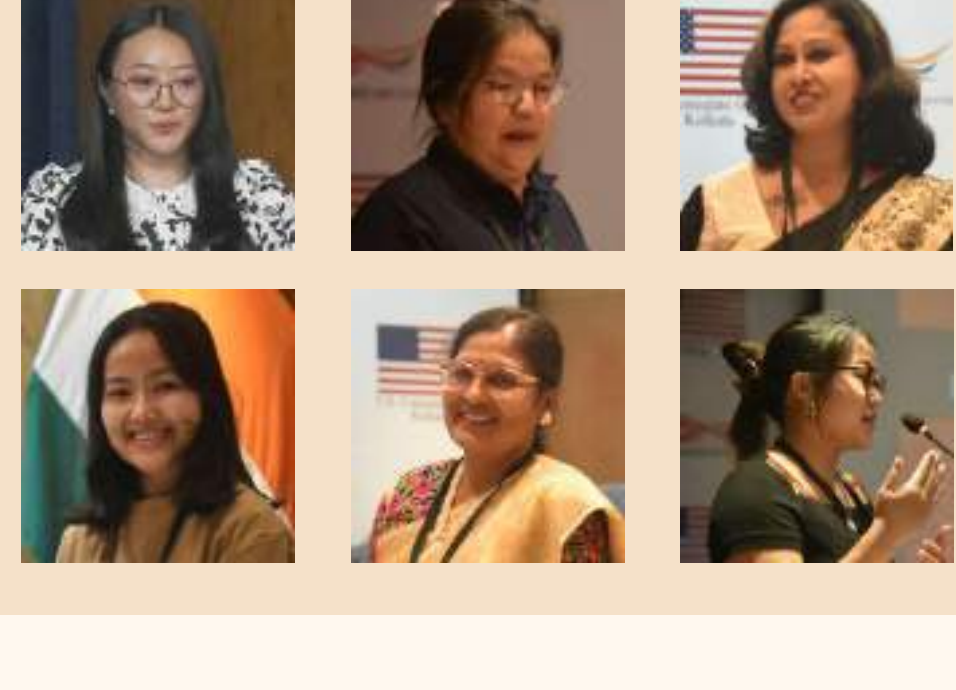
## AWE 4.0 IN MIZORAM & TRIPURA

In 2023–2024, 70 women-led nano enterprises from Mizoram and Tripura successfully completed a year-long entrepreneurship development program. Their businesses spanned diverse sectors such as food processing, handloom, handicrafts, tourism, and education. In January 2024, district-level bootcamps on business development were conducted in both states, followed by a series of online skill-building and mentoring sessions. These sessions covered digital and financial inclusion, market access, access to finance, branding, digital marketing, business communication, and networking. The program helped participants build confidence, improve their presentation skills, and strengthen business planning. In November 2024, a final capstone event was held in Kolkata, where 31 participants pitched their business ideas and showcased their products before a gathering of retailers, experts, and buyers. The program also addressed key challenges such as limited access to mentorship, credit, and knowledge of digital financial tools.



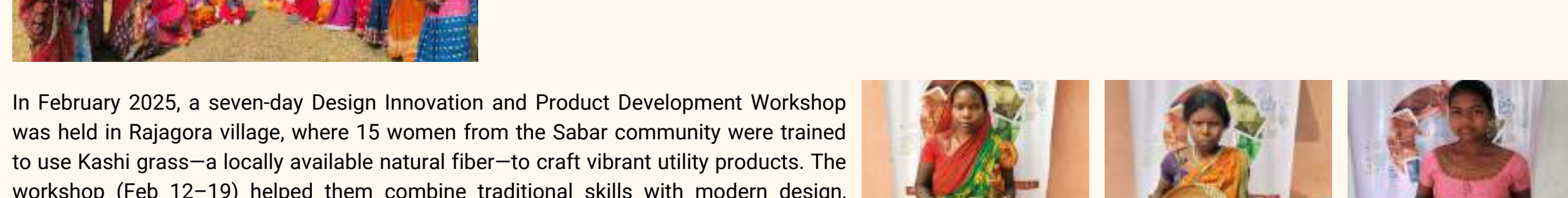
- 6 women entrepreneurs** were recognised for excellence and innovation:
- Promising Entrepreneurs:** Lalruatfeli & Siampui (Mizoram – Organic Food & Beverages)
  - Craft Star:** Snigdha Roy (Tripura – Crochet & Kantha)
  - Young Achiever:** Susamari Chakma (Mushroom Enterprise)
  - Resilient Enterprise:** Archita Roy (Two-decade-old Hatchery)
  - Social Impact:** Alinery Lianlawng (Community Libraries)

The final Bootcamp featured business pitch sessions, buyer-seller meets, poster presentations, and exposure visits to enhance real-world business insight.



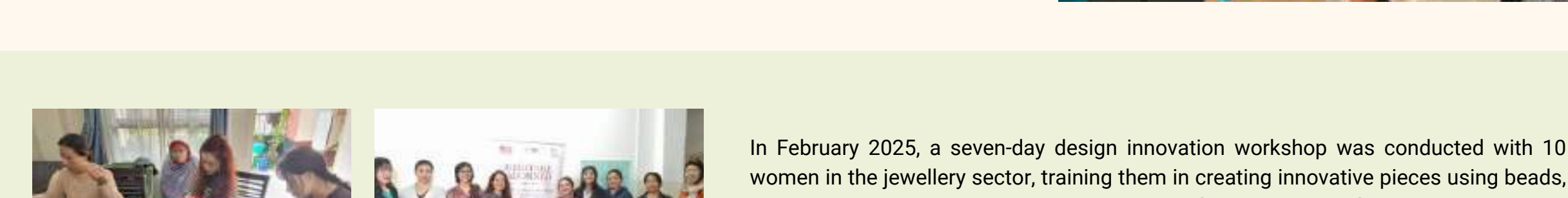
## AWE 5.0 IN JHARKHAND AND NAGALAND

In December 2024, 45 women from Makula and Ketunga villages in Seraikela Kharsara district, Jharkhand, participated in a district-level bootcamp aimed at supporting both aspiring and existing women entrepreneurs with the basics of business development and profiling. The Block Development Officer (BDO) visited the bootcamp to share information on government schemes and support. Many of the participants were engaged in small trades such as grocery, fashion, apparel, and pickle-making, and received hands-on guidance from business experts.



In February 2025, a seven-day Design Innovation and Product Development Workshop was held in Rajgora village, where 15 women from the Sabar community were trained to use Kashi grass—a locally available natural fiber—to craft vibrant utility products. The workshop (Feb 12–19) helped them combine traditional skills with modern design, resulting in unique and sustainable items that celebrated both heritage and innovation.

In January 2025, a two-day district-level bootcamp was organised in Dimapur, Nagaland, in collaboration with YouthNet Nagaland and the Women Entrepreneurship Network Nagaland. The focus areas included digital marketing, financial access, business development fundamentals such as customer segmentation, communication, and compliance. Most participants were already managing businesses in food processing, jewellery, apparel, handicrafts, handloom, and tourism, and came from districts including Kohima, Mokochung, Dimapur, and Chakesang.



In February 2025, a seven-day design innovation workshop was conducted with 10 women in the jewellery sector, training them in creating innovative pieces using beads, crochet, and bamboo. YouthNet also initiated further linkages for MSME registration and food licensing support.

## OUTCOMES

**150+** women from underserved areas were introduced to business basics, digital financial inclusion, and market linkages.

**35+** women pitched their business ideas to investors and industry experts.

**50+** women participated in buyer-seller meets.

Participants improved their digital presence and outreach.

**20** innovative products were made to fit market demands and also keep intact traditional knowledge



## SUJNI : EMPOWERING WOMEN ARTISTS IN AGARTOR

**Client:** Coal India Limited (CSR Initiative) **Duration:** June 2024 – March 2025

**Locations:** Agartor, Birbhum (West Bengal)

**Beneficiaries:** Rural women Kantha artists

### Objectives

- Establishing a dedicated cultural and skill development hub in Nanor to support Kantha artists through training, collaboration, and enterprise opportunities.
- Building women-led creative enterprises by enhancing artistic capacity, product innovation, and entrepreneurial skills through structured mentorship.
- Positioning women as cultural leaders by promoting their role in heritage preservation, rural development, and market engagement.

### Project Description

In Nanor, Kantha embroidery is a living tradition that binds generations of women through stories and craft. Yet, most Kantha artists remained unseen and underpaid, lacking formal platforms or enterprise skills. Project Sujni transformed this scenario by establishing the **Kantha Skill Development Centre** at Agartor, which launched on **October 17, 2024**, with support from Coal India Ltd. CSR initiative and Birbhum administration. The project began with intensive workshops for **37 master artists**, who then mentored over 100 women. Training expanded beyond embroidery to **tailoring, design innovation, and Kantha-based jewellery** making. Alongside skill-building, **21 women** received business training in **branding, record keeping, and digital tools**, culminating in the creation of the **'Sujni' brand**—a distinct identity for Nanor's Kantha. To extend outreach, **10 women** were trained as cultural tourism anchors, promoting the Centre as a creative destination for rural craft experiences.



## OUTCOMES

**130+** women trained in Kantha embroidery, tailoring, and jewellery design. Women trained in branding, communication, market engagement, and tourism facilitators

'Sujni' launched for professional Kantha product identity  
New product lines created: 3D earrings, cushion covers, bags, runners

Hosted exhibitions in Nov–Dec 2024 with artist-public interaction

Women gained confidence, and visibility as creative entrepreneurs  
Promoted Kantha as both a heritage practice and livelihood source



## PROJECT HUNAR: EMPOWERING WOMEN APPLIQUÉ ARTISTS IN BARMER

**Client:** India Infoline Foundation (IIFL Foundation) **Duration:** November 2024 – March 2025

**Locations:** Dhanau, Alamsar, Sawa, Burhan ka Tala, Itada (Barmer district, Rajasthan)

**Beneficiaries:** Rural women artists

### Objectives

Empower rural women artists in Barmer through skills training, enterprise development, and cultural entrepreneurship—turning traditional appliqué into a source of income, identity, and leadership.

### Project Description

In western Rajasthan's Barmer district, appliqué is a time-honoured textile art practiced by women. Yet, due to limited exposure and entrenched gender barriers, their talent often went unrecognized. Project Hunar bridged this gap by enabling over 200 women from five villages to transition from home-based creators to confident cultural entrepreneurs. The project integrated hands-on training in appliqué and design innovation with enterprise skills—focusing on pricing, branding, quality control, and customer interaction. Alongside skill-building, the initiative fostered confidence, decision-making, and collective identity among women artists, laying the foundation for women-led creative enterprises.



## OUTCOMES

**200+** women trained in advanced appliqué and contemporary design skills

**Enterprise Capacity Built:** Business modules covered pricing, quality control, branding, and buyer engagement

**Market Access Expanded:** Participants began showcasing and selling at exhibitions and fairs

**Social Change Catalyzed:** Women reported increased confidence, visibility, and leadership in both family and community

**Cultural Continuity Ensured:** The appliqué tradition remains rooted in practice while evolving through innovation



## ENABLING LIVELIHOODS: BOOSTING WOMEN-LED RURAL ENTERPRISES

**Client:** Indian Institute of Management Calcutta Innovation Park (IIM-CIP) **Duration:** August 2024- March 2025

**Locations:** West Bengal, India

**Beneficiaries:** Grassroot women led businesses

### Objectives

- Identify and support organizations making significant contributions to grassroots women's entrepreneurship.
- Enhance entrepreneurship and livelihood skills among rural women.
- Provide financial grants and capacity-building support to strengthen women-led nano businesses.

### Program Description

The programme engaged 14 organizations in West Bengal working with rural women-led nano enterprises, and provided financial assistance in form of grants to two of them...for business improvements of some of their beneficiaries...Areas of business include goatery, apparels, handloom, handicrafts, agro-based products, female hygiene and wellness. It aimed to strengthen their capacity to foster sustainable, long-term economic empowerment for rural women entrepreneurs. Through training in business planning, financial management, and market access, participating organizations enhanced their strategies to better support women's enterprise growth and resilience.



Entrepreneurship Development Workshop held at Ramkrishna Institute of Culture, Kolkata with 14 organisations



Social organisations shared their plan of utilising grant amount for grassroot entrepreneurship development at IIMC-IP

After a rigorous selection process, two organizations were chosen for advanced financial and capacity-building support:

- Hill Social Welfare Society (HSWS), Kalimpong
- North 24 Parganas Shammo Shromojibi Sanstha (NSSS), North 24 Parganas Society

### Grantee Highlights:

#### Hill Social Welfare Society (HSWS)

With over 20 years of work in Kalimpong, Darjeeling, and Jalpaiguri, HSWS empowers rural women through training in weaving, tailoring, floriculture, and organic farming. Under this initiative, it expanded production with new looms and tailoring machines, improved market access through fairs and a showroom, and fostered product innovation via designer collaborations.

#### North 24 Parganas Shammo Shromojibi Sanstha (NSSS)

Based in Basirhat, NSSS evolved from a women's rights group into a livelihood enabler. It trains women in sewing, Batik, handicrafts, and digital skills, supporting small businesses through a cluster model. Alongside enterprise development, it continues to provide counseling and legal aid.



Each received a grant of INR 2.25 lakhs, totaling INR 4.5 lakhs, to support targeted interventions benefiting 10 rural women entrepreneurs in their respective communities.

## OUTCOMES

Women entrepreneurs gained insights into market demands through expert and mentor interactions.

Ten women used grant support to invest in raw materials and expand their product lines.

Participating organizations strengthened their capacity to support grassroots women-led enterprises.



# REALISING GENDER RIGHTS

We work to build the agency of women, enabling them to become protagonists of their own change and development. Our gender rights initiatives focus on empowering women through awareness of their legal, social, and economic rights, particularly in contexts affected by gender-based violence (GBV) and marginalisation. We have actively engaged with women across agro-supply chains, rural communities, and vulnerable populations to strengthen their voices, leadership, and participation in decision-making processes. Through evidence-based Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) strategies and participatory models, we have implemented impactful campaigns and programs on gender equity, child protection, safe migration, education, and health. Rooted in community ownership and local contexts, our work has reached millions across India, advancing the vision of inclusive, rights-based development.

Women Safety Accelerator Fund

## WOMEN SAFETY ACCELERATOR FUND (WSAF 2.0): ADVANCING SAFETY, EQUALITY & EMPOWERMENT IN THE TEA SECTOR

- Client:** IDH
- Duration:** May 2024 - March 2025
- Locations:** Assam, West Bengal
- Beneficiaries:** Women and Girls, Youth, Adolescents



### Objectives

- Capacity Building of producer companies and management on compliance and laws. (POSH, SOPs to address GBV).
- Awareness & training of workers and communities in Tea Estates. Strengthening community institutions.
- To promote sexual and reproductive health (SRH) through targeted thematic interventions.
- To foster women's leadership and participation in decision-making spaces.
- To enhance digital and financial literacy among the youth and communities.
- Engagement with the government officials at the district and state levels.
- Creating 100 model gardens with the convergence of government services.

### Project Description

The Women's Safety Accelerator Fund (WSAF) addresses violence against women and girls (VAWG) in India's tea sector, guided by UN Women's Global Women's Safety Framework. Since 2021, it has catalyzed change by tackling gender-based violence, workplace harassment, and systemic inequalities. With WSAF 1.0 successfully concluded in early 2024, the second phase (2024–2027) is advancing with renewed momentum toward building a safe, healthy, and empowered tea community. WSAF 2.0 spans 321 tea estates, reaching over 3 lakh tea workers, and adopts a holistic, grassroots-led approach focused on safety, SRHR, financial literacy, leadership, and digital empowerment to drive sustainable transformation.



## KEY ACTIVITIES



### Launching of WSAF 2.0

The WSAF 2.0 launch on September 2024 at Taj Vivanta Kolkata convened over 100 stakeholders to celebrate the achievements of WSAF 1.0 and introduce its expanded vision. With a focus on women's safety, GBV, SRH, and livelihoods, the program adopts an integrated top-down and bottom-up approach. Endorsed by IDH, Taylors of Harrogate, Twinings, and Hindustan Unilever, WSAF 2.0 aims to drive social impact, strengthen ESG performance and demonstrate ROI in addressing gender-based challenges..



### Capacity Building

A 40-hour intensive training program was conducted for Community Change Agents, strengthening their understanding of gender, gender-based violence, PoSH, POCISO, care and protection mechanisms, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), digital and financial literacy, and livelihood.



### Mass Awareness Campaigns

Key days such as World Environment Day, International Tea Day, Women's Day, and the 16 Days of Activism were observed through community outreach and events. During these celebrations, Community Change Agents actively disseminated knowledge across the line and Chalan areas of the tea estates, leveraging the occasions where estate management organized multiple engagement activities.



### District-Level Conventions

Three strategic conventions were organised in Assam and West Bengal to engage key stakeholders, advance gender equity initiatives, and drive collective action toward building safe, healthy, and inclusive communities through multi-stakeholder collaboration.



### Endline Assessment

Conducted an impact assessment showing a 70% rise in GBV awareness and a 60% increase in workers' confidence to access redressal systems. Notable improvements were seen in estate infrastructure, support systems, and IC functionality. However, critical gaps persist—85% of women lack menstrual hygiene facilities, and 75% report no access to separate toilets.

## OUTCOMES



- Locally driven safety solutions adopted; laws and policies effectively implemented.
- Improved safety, economic access, and gender-positive norms in rural spaces.



# CONNECTING CULTURES

Cultural exchange is a cornerstone of our vision to promote peace, foster mutual understanding, and strengthen intercultural dialogue through the arts. By facilitating encounters between diverse traditions—both within India and globally—we create shared spaces where heritage becomes a medium of connection rather than distinction. These interactions not only amplify the voices of traditional artists but also spark new forms of creativity, challenge stereotypes, and inspire deeper empathy across geographies. Through music, dance, craft, and dialogue, we celebrate cultural diversity as a living, evolving force that bridges communities and builds a more inclusive world.

- Sur Jahan
- Musical Collaborations
- Festivals
- Cultural Spaces



## SUR JAHAN 2025: A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC AND PEACE

- Kolkata (Golf Green Central Park, Jan 31 – Feb 2):** Performances by folk musicians from the Netherlands, Iceland, Sweden, and India mesmerised audiences through concerts and interactive workshops. Odisha's Durua tribal community presented traditional folk songs and dance.
- A curated craft showcase celebrated India's diversity, featuring:
  - Warli painting (Maharashtra)
  - Kotpad weaving (Odisha)
  - Kantha embroidery (West Bengal)
  - Appliqué work (Rajasthan)
- Bannabagram Baul Ashram (Feb 4):** International bands collaborated with Bengal's Bauls in an intimate exchange of music and spirit.
- Goa (Kala Academy, Feb 7–8):** Supported by the Directorate of Art and Culture, Government of Goa, the final leg featured folk musicians from the Netherlands, Iceland, Sweden, Goa, and Rajasthan.
- Sur Jahan 2025 welcomed over 10,000 attendees, underscoring the power of music to transcend borders and unite humanity.



## MUSICAL DIALOGUES AND GLOBAL COLLABORATIONS



**UK-Bengal Symphony at Netaji Bhawan (March 9)**

Renowned British musicians James Lascelles and Tim Herniman brought rich global influences to Kolkata in a unique collaboration with Baul artists Bama Prasad Singha and Kartick Khyapa, and music composer Debojyoti Misra. Lascelles, known for founding the Global Village Trucking Company and his deep engagement with world music, has recorded tribal music across continents and worked with traditional Indian artists, including the Bauls of Bengal. Saxophonist and multi-instrumentalist Tim Herniman, with over 25 years of performance across the UK and beyond, joined this vibrant UK-Bengal Symphony held at Netaji Bhawan on March 9, blending East and West in perfect harmony.



**Cyprus–India Cultural Exchange (October 5)**

Cypriot musician Demetris Yiasemides blends Greek rebetiko, Balkan, West African, jazz, and southern Italian influences around a core of traditional Cypriot music. As part of his collaborative journey, he and his team performed at Tepantar Theatre Village and held an enriching exchange with Baul musicians at Bannabagram Baul Ashram.



**Czech–Bengal Musical Series (Nov 22, 24, 30)**

Czech artist Mili Janatková—singer, composer, and multi-instrumentalist—blends diverse genres through voice, guitar, percussion, and looping. Known for her global artistic explorations, she collaborated with musicians in West Bengal, performing at Bannabagram Baul Ashram, Agartor, and Calcutta Rowing Club, fostering creative connections between Europe and rural Bengal.



**Germany – Alte Oper Frankfurt (December 6)**

**The Rina Das Baul Trio**—comprising Rina Das Baul, Purnendu Das Baul, and Arpan Thakur Chakraborty—performed at the prestigious **Mozartsaal, Alte Oper Frankfurt**, in Germany, representing India's mystic musical heritage on an international stage.



**Documentary Success – 'Baul: The Soul of Bengal'**  
Directed by John Errington and produced by Neel Shah, this film won **Best Documentary Film** at the **Suchitra Sen International Bengali Film Festival and Awards** in New York City (April 21).  
The documentary was born from our 2022 collaboration with Vivid Co+, chronicling the lives, philosophies, and art of the Baul community.



**Cultural Catalyst Talk – New York (April 27)**

Our Founder Director **Mr. Amitava Bhattacharya** participated in the Cultural Catalyst: Igniting Change talk show, speaking about Baul philosophy and its message of universal love and inner harmony.



**Chhau and Natua in the Czech Republic (June 21–22)**

Led by **Biren Kalindi**, our Chhau Nritya Dol performed at the **Art and Life Festival V Ulicich** in Ostrava. The presentation of Chhau and Natua dance traditions offered international audiences a glimpse into India's performative richness.



**Hungary-Bengal Music Residency (April 10–17)**

Hungarian musician **Katalin Burns** collaborated with Rina Das Baul, Purnendu Das (Bolpur), and Dipannita Acharya (Kolkata) at Bannabagram Baul Ashram. Performances followed at Tepantar Theatre Village (April 14) & Maya Art Space (April 17).

## FESTIVALS AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS



**Folk Holi – Muruguma (March 13–15)**

Muruguma's fields burst into colour as global beats, Baul melodies, and vibrant Holi celebrations came together in an unforgettable event. One visitor shared, "I've never felt nature and music so close."



**Baul Fakiri Mela (Nov 22–24, 2024)**

The 15th edition of our flagship Baul Fakiri Mela brought together 180 Bauls from across West Bengal at Bannabagram Baul Ashram.

- Highlights included:
  - Morning *Prabhati* sessions
  - Daytime akhra performances
  - Evening concerts featuring collaborations with Czech artist **Mili Janatková**

A special curated performance by the renowned Indian music composer, **Debojyoti Mishra**, adding depth to the celebration



**World Music Day (June 21)**

In partnership with the Indian Museum Kolkata, we celebrated World Music Day at the Ashutosh Birla Centenary Hall with:

- Chitraganga by faculty and students of Visva Bharati University
- A curated musical presentation by Debojyoti Mishra featuring Baul, Bhawaiya, and Jhumur artists
- Urban folk musicians who captivated the audience with contemporary renditions rooted in tradition

## CULTURAL SPACES

Our work goes beyond short-term interventions. We invest in nurturing long-term **cultural ecosystems** by developing community-led spaces. These venues are not only training and performance hubs but also platforms for exchange, dialogue, and visibility—connecting heritage with livelihoods, and local with global.

### NIMDIH GANDHI ASHRAM, JHARKHAND

Nestled at the foothills of the Dalma range, Nimdih Gandhi Ashram blends natural beauty with cultural depth. It offers a serene space for community residencies, rural training, and immersive art experiences. A dedicated Chhau Museum inside the ashram showcases the symbolism, stories, and craftsmanship of Chhau dance and masks. Guests can enjoy local crafts, nature walks, and visits to nearby artisan villages for hands-on cultural encounters.

- What makes it special?**
- A peaceful retreat for community-based training, residencies, and cultural exchange.
  - Homestyle accommodation and meals to ensure an immersive rural experience.



### BANNABAGRAM BAUL ASHRAM, WEST BENGAL

Just 20 km from Santiniketan, Bannabagram is a vibrant centre of Baul mysticism and rural innovation. Recognised as a UN Tourism case study on sustainable cultural tourism, the ashram hosts regular Baul performances, Kantha embroidery showcase, Chadar Badar-tribal puppetry shows, and musical collaborations with global artists. Surrounded by forests and farmlands, it offers eco-friendly stays, local cuisine, organic farming experiences, and access to nearby craft and heritage hubs like Dariyapur (Dokra), Chadar Badar puppeteers, and Santiniketan.

- What makes it special?**
- A case study of **UN Tourism** as a best practice for sustainable cultural tourism
  - Offers regular Baul performances, Kantha workshops, tribal puppetry, and global collaborations



### AGARTOR KANTHA SKILL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, BIRBHUM

Inaugurated on the first International Day of Intangible Cultural Heritage, this centre in Agartor, Birbhum celebrates the storytelling tradition of Kantha embroidery. It serves as a creative and enterprise hub for rural women—offering training in design, tailoring, and branding. Visitors can witness the evolving craft through exhibitions, product displays, and interactions with artists who are shaping the future of heritage-based livelihoods in Bengal.

- What makes it special?**
- Skill development in tailoring, jewellery-making, and product design
  - Training in business management, hospitality, and digital tools
  - Space for festivals, buyer-seller meets, and cultural exchange



These cultural spaces reflect our belief in continuity, community, and creativity. They're not just venues—they're living institutions where heritage meets livelihood every single day.



# HARVESTING KNOWLEDGE

We believe knowledge rooted in culture and community holds the power to create lasting change. Our work centres on preserving and promoting cultural heritage—especially intangible traditions—by listening to communities, understanding their challenges, and supporting them in becoming agents of their own change. Through partnerships with global organizations, we compile resources, share stories of resilience, and support researchers and practitioners in continuing their vital work in cultural heritage and preservation. We nurture local knowledge, foster sustainable livelihoods, and promote cultural entrepreneurship—helping communities protect, share, and evolve their traditions. By participating in conferences, publishing research, and creating platforms for dialogue, we highlight the role of culture in building inclusive, resilient, and sustainable futures, aligned with the SDG 2030 goals. To us, knowledge is not just data—it's a living, shared legacy. Grounded in tradition, enriched by collaboration, and carried forward by the people who live it every day.



Creative Res  
**GREEN**

## GREEN GUIDE FOR INDIA: ART AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

**Client:** Asia Europe Foundation **Duration:** **Beneficiaries:** Organisations working at the intersection of art and ecology in India

[Publication Link](#)

### Project Description

In collaboration with the Asia Europe Foundation, we prepared the Green Guide publication for India which illuminated the power of art to drive environmental action across India. From Kolkata's wetland murals to Kutch's sustainable textiles, this initiative spotlighted 17 pioneering organisations using creativity to tackle climate challenges. By weaving traditional wisdom with modern innovation, the project inspired action and dialogue, proving art can transform how we protect our planet. The Green Guide amplified voices from diverse regions, showcasing efforts like youth-led e-waste sculptures and eco-theater engaging thousands. It fostered collaboration with partners like the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), sharing India's eco-art models internationally. This work not only raised awareness but also empowered artisans, youth, and activists to champion sustainability.

### Why It Matters:

- Sparks Action: Highlighted initiatives like lake restoration and biodiversity murals, inspiring tangible environmental change.
- Preserves Heritage: Revived crafts like Patachitra and Kala Cotton, linking cultural roots to modern sustainability.
- Engages Youth: Empowered young artists to lead climate advocacy through festivals and installations.
- Builds Bridges: Strengthened global ties via ASEF, showcasing India's eco-art innovations.



The Green Guide for India stands as a beacon of hope, showing how art can unite and inspire a greener future.

## MOBILITY FUNDING GUIDE: CONNECTING CULTURES THROUGH MOBILITY OPPORTUNITIES

**Client:** Asia Europe Foundation **Duration:** June 2024- March 2025 **Beneficiaries:** Cultural practitioners

[Podcast Link](#)  
[Publication Link](#)



### Project Description

In collaboration with the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), we undertook an initiative to map and compile over 50 cultural mobility opportunities for artists, cultural professionals, researchers, and practitioners across disciplines such as visual arts, heritage, music, film, and cultural management. This included residencies, academic programs, exhibitions, workshops, conferences, and technical training across countries like Germany, China, South Korea, Singapore, and others in South Asia and Europe. The initiative supported both inward and outward mobility between India, Asia, and the Asia-Pacific, offering engagement periods from six months to two years. Resources were compiled with detailed information on funding, eligibility, and contacts—featuring programs from the Inlaks Shivdasani Foundation, Charles Wallace India Trust, Henry Moore Foundation, Asian Cultural Council, and more.

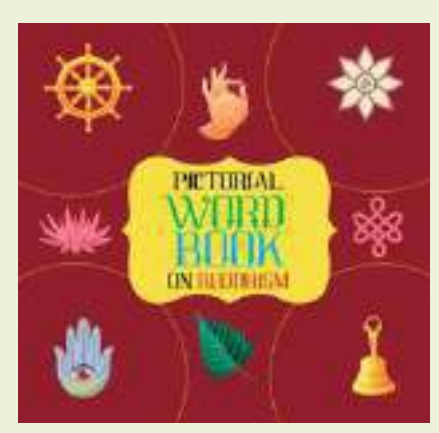
### Why It Matters:

This publication plays a vital role in democratizing access to international platforms for creative exchange, capacity building, and professional growth. By providing transparent, up-to-date information, the compendium empowers artists and cultural workers from diverse backgrounds to explore global opportunities, overcome mobility barriers, and foster cross-cultural collaboration. Regular publication of such resources helps bridge systemic gaps and ensures that mobility is not a privilege but a possibility for all.

## PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS



**Sohrai Murals on Google Arts & Culture**  
On August 9, to celebrate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, we published the story of [Sohrai wall murals](#) that echo the voices and aesthetics of indigenous communities on Google Art and Culture.



### Pictorial Word Book on Buddhism

On May 23, to commemorate Buddha Purnima, we launched the "[Pictorial Word Book on Buddhism](#)," an illustrated handbook for children. Developed by us and the Association for Conservation & Tourism (ACT), with support from the ICOMOS Culture-Nature Prize 2022, the book introduces Buddhist concepts and highlights the region's heritage. It aims to support education and preserve cultural practices.



### Living Heritage and World Heritage sites

Ananya Bhattacharya contributed a chapter on [Living Heritage and World Heritage Sites in Intangible Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Communities](#) in the Asia Pacific Region- Report of the Research on ICH Contributing to SDGs Project (FY 2022-2024), published by International research Center for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia Pacific Region (IRCI) 2025



### Folklore of India

Ananya Bhattacharya and Sneha Bhattacharyya authored a chapter on the role of folklore in sustainable development in the anthology [Folklores of India: Texts and Contexts](#), edited by Saurabh Kumar Singh. The book explores India's rich folkloric traditions across states like West Bengal, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, the Northeast, and more.

## CONFERENCES



### Building Sustainable Supply Chains

On November 8, Amitava Bhattacharya, our Founder Director delivered the keynote address at the Annual India Supply Chain Conference in Mumbai. The event brought together notable industry leaders, including representatives from Tata Steel, Indian Railways, alongside academicians from institutions such as XLRI and Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya.



### Creating Synergies between Tangible and Intangible Heritage

Dr. Madhura Dutta presented our work in Purulia in a paper titled Bridging Tangible and Intangible Heritage: Empowering Communities for Holistic Cultural Preservation in INTACH's symposium themed 'Conserving Culturally Significant Places in India' on Dec 6.



### Synergy between Place, Culture, and Economy in India

Ananya Bhattacharya delivered a speech on "Synergy between Place, Culture, and Economy in India" at the National Conference on Creative Economic Geography of Artisanal Crafts, organised by the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela on March 21–22, 2025.



### Rethinking Cultural Heritage

Ananya Bhattacharya delivered a talk titled "Rethinking Cultural Heritage Definitions and Frameworks" as part of the workshop "Redefining Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage: A Four-Day Workshop Exploring Global Perspectives and Practices and Their Lessons for India," held from 22nd to 25th August at Ahmedabad University.

## INTERNATIONAL TALKS



### UNESCO Spotlight: Talk on Digital Creative Economy

On Feb 11, Ananya Bhattacharya spoke on balanced digital in cultural heritage industries and tourism around Santiniketan in a symposium held on October 11-12. Hosted at [Kyoto by the UNESCO Category II](#) research centre IRCI, the seminar explored perspectives for integrated safeguarding of cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region.



### Climate Action Roundtable in Paris

Dr. Madhura Dutta participated in a roundtable on [Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage for Climate Action](#) in Paris on June 11, held alongside the UNESCO 2003's General Assembly. Organized by the ICH NGO Forum, the event launched a global declaration and brought together voices from India, Bangladesh, Panama, Mali, Colombia, Canada, Belgium, Iran, and more to share insights on ICH and climate resilience. Madhura also participated in the International Forum of NGOs in Istanbul on Oct 1-2, to discuss new approach of safeguarding ICH.



### Recognising Economic Viability of ICH

Ananya Bhattacharya spoke on economic dimensions of safeguarding ICH at the UNESCO Forum organised as part of the [Dunhuang Expo](#) on September 22. She also facilitated a workshop on the 2003 Convention with participants from Gansu.



### Assessing Progress for SDG Target 11.4

As keynote speaker, Ananya Bhattacharya shared on cultural heritage industries and tourism around Santiniketan in a symposium held on October 11-12. Hosted at [Kyoto by the UNESCO Category II](#) research centre IRCI, the seminar explored perspectives for integrated safeguarding of cultural heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region.



### Community Participation in Heritage Governance

We participated in the [ICH NGO Forum](#) held on December 1 at Asunción in Paraguay. Ananya Bhattacharya shared our models of community participation. She also actively participated as an observer in the UNESCO 2003 Intergovernmental Committee Meeting and in various side events between Dec 2-6.



### Sharing Insights on Community-based Tourism

Ananya Bhattacharya shared on community based tourism an international meeting on bringing about a paradigm shift in cultural heritage tourism and the [ICOMOS Cultural Heritage Tourism Charter](#) at Alhambra in Spain between Dec 11-13.

**CONTACT BASE**

**AUDITORS' REPORT**

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of **CONTACT BASE** [Registration No. SO108902 of 2001-02 (Legacy Registration no. 54/L/9902 of 2001-02)] of 188/89, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata 700045 as at 31st March, 2025 and also the annexed Income and Expenditure Account together with the relevant Cash Flow Statement for the year ended on that date and report that:

- We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- In our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by **CONTACT BASE**, so far as appears from our examination of these books.
- The said Balance Sheet and the Income and Expenditure Account are in agreement with the books of account.
- In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view –
  - in the case of the Balance Sheet of the state of affairs as at 31st March, 2025
  - in the case of the Income and Expenditure Account, of the surplus for the accounting year ending on 31st March, 2025.

For **B. GANGULY & ASSOCIATES**  
 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
 (Firm's Registration no 318132E)



*(Signature)*  
**BIPLAB GANGOPADHYAY**  
 Proprietor

Membership No. 053848  
 ICAI UDN: 23053848BNDHR4282

Kolkata  
 Dated, the 2nd September, 2025

**CONTACT BASE**  
 (Address: 188/89, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata 700045)  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025**

Particulars	Note	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
<b>I. Sources of Funds</b>			
(1) NP0 Funds			
(a) Unrestricted Funds	1	1,74,30,403	1,73,88,379
<b>Total</b>		1,74,30,403	1,73,88,379
<b>(2) Non-current liabilities</b>			
(a) Long-term Borrowings	4	-	-
(b) Deferred Tax liabilities (net)	5	-	-
<b>Total</b>		-	-
<b>(3) Current liabilities</b>			
(a) Short-term Borrowings	6	-	-
(b) Trade Payables	7	3,92,068	35,18,136
(c) Other Current Liabilities	8	40,35,856	12,21,930
(d) Short-term Provisions	9	-	-
<b>Total</b>		44,27,924	47,40,066
<b>Total Owners' Fund and Liabilities</b>		<b>2,18,58,327</b>	<b>2,21,28,445</b>
<b>II. Application of Funds</b>			
(1) Non-current assets			
(a) Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets			
(i) Property, Plant and Equipment	10	35,85,217	36,47,882
(b) Long-term Loans and Advances	11	-	-
(c) Other Non-current Assets	12	-	-
<b>Total</b>		35,85,217	36,47,882
(2) Current assets			
(a) Investments	13	-	-
(b) Trade Receivables	14	7,42,875	52,38,824
(c) Cash and Bank balances	15	88,37,096	14,23,344
(d) Short-term Loans and Advances	16	43,84,520	71,58,171
(e) Other Current Assets	17	43,33,863	46,48,598
<b>Total</b>		1,82,78,154	1,84,81,287
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>2,18,58,327</b>	<b>2,21,28,445</b>

See accompanying notes which form part of the financial statements

As per our report of even date  
 For **B. GANGULY & ASSOCIATES**  
 Chartered Accountants  
 Firm's Registration No. 318132E

*(Signature)*  
**B. GANGOPADHYAY**  
 Proprietor  
 Membership No. 053848  
 UDN: 23053848BNDHR4282  
 Place: Kolkata  
 Date: 2nd September 2025



For **CONTACT BASE**

*(Signature)*  
**Ananya Bhattacharya**  
 President

*(Signature)*  
**Sneha Bhattacharyya**  
 Secretary

*(Signature)*  
**Niboy Bose**  
 Treasurer

Place: Kolkata  
 Date: 2nd September 2025

**CONTACT BASE**  
 (Address: 188/89, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata 700045)  
**Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Particulars	Note	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
<b>I. Income</b>			
Operating Income	18	8,18,06,502	8,59,96,546
Other Income	19	86,53,893	23,18,406
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>9,04,60,395</b>	<b>8,83,14,952</b>
<b>II. Expenses</b>			
Direct Expenses	20	8,54,56,801	-
Employee Benefit Expenses	21	27,28,770	27,33,153
Depreciation and Amortisation Expenses	22	2,75,197	2,99,495
Other Expenses	23	66,38,024	6,52,17,770
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>9,52,88,892</b>	<b>6,82,90,418</b>
Excess of Income over Expenditure before Exceptional and Extraordinary Item and Tax		41,583	64,634
Exceptional Item		-	-
Excess of Income over Expenditure before Extraordinary Item and Tax		41,583	64,634
Extraordinary Item		-	-
Excess of Income over Expenditure before Tax		41,583	64,634
Tax Expenses		-	-
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure for the period</b>		<b>41,583</b>	<b>64,634</b>

See accompanying notes which form part of the financial statements

As per our report of even date  
 For **B. GANGULY & ASSOCIATES**  
 Chartered Accountants  
 Firm's Registration No. 318132E

*(Signature)*  
**B. GANGOPADHYAY**  
 Proprietor  
 Membership No. 053848  
 UDN: 23053848BNDHR4282  
 Place: Kolkata  
 Date: 2nd September 2025



For **CONTACT BASE**

*(Signature)*  
**Ananya Bhattacharya**  
 President

*(Signature)*  
**Sneha Bhattacharyya**  
 Secretary

*(Signature)*  
**Niboy Bose**  
 Treasurer

Place: Kolkata  
 Date: 2nd September 2025

**CONTACT BASE**  
 (Address: 188/89, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata 700045)  
**Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Particulars	Note	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Net Profit after tax		41,583	64,634
Depreciation and Amortisation Expense		2,75,197	2,99,495
Operating Profit before working capital changes		3,18,780	3,64,129
Adjustment for:			
Trade Receivables		44,05,749	(52,38,824)
Other Current Assets		31,33,882	(1,18,18,915)
Trade Payables		(31,21,277)	35,18,336
Other Current Liabilities		26,21,221	12,21,929
Cash (Used in)/Generated from Operations		76,36,355	(1,19,55,144)
Tax paid (Net)		-	-
<b>Net Cash (Used in)/Generated from Operating Activities</b>		<b>76,36,355</b>	<b>(1,19,55,144)</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment		(2,09,853)	(88,47,857)
loans and Advances given		(12,150)	-
<b>Net Cash (Used in)/Generated Investing Activities</b>		<b>(2,22,003)</b>	<b>(88,47,857)</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Net Cash (Used in)/Generated from Financing Activities		-	-
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		<b>74,14,352</b>	<b>(1,59,00,501)</b>
Opening Balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents		14,23,744	1,73,24,345
Exchange difference of Foreign Currency Cash and Cash equivalents		-	-
<b>Closing Balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	15	<b>88,37,096</b>	<b>14,23,744</b>

Note:  
 The above Cash Flow Statement has been prepared under the "Indirect Method" as set out in the Accounting Standard 2

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

As per our report of even date  
 For **B. GANGULY & ASSOCIATES**  
 Chartered Accountants  
 Firm's Registration No. 318132E

*(Signature)*  
**B. GANGOPADHYAY**  
 Proprietor  
 Membership No. 053848  
 UDN: 23053848BNDHR4282  
 Place: Kolkata  
 Date: 2nd September 2025



For **CONTACT BASE**

*(Signature)*  
**Ananya Bhattacharya**  
 President

*(Signature)*  
**Sneha Bhattacharyya**  
 Secretary

*(Signature)*  
**Niboy Bose**  
 Treasurer

Place: Kolkata  
 Date: 2nd September 2025