



Annual Review



2025



Thank you for taking the time to read our 2025 Annual Review. Inside, you'll see the difference your support has made this year, in classrooms, communities, and in the lives of children and young people.

It has been another busy and rewarding year for us at Calcutta Connect. We continued working closely with our local partner, Panikhali Rural Development Society (PRDS), in India, to support their mission to uplift the communities where they operate. Back home in Ireland, we focused on raising essential funds and awareness to ensure we can sustain and expand this support in the future.

During the year, the number of programme participants engaging with PRDS surpassed 1,300 for the first time — the highest to date. This milestone reflects the hard work and dedication of PRDS staff, whose commitment enables children and young people to benefit from a wide range of education and livelihood programmes.

In 2025, we proudly marked 15 years since the founding of Calcutta Connect. It was inspiring to see more supporters join us as monthly donors during this milestone year, strengthening ongoing support for our work on the ground. We look forward to celebrating this anniversary formally next year.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported us throughout 2025. Your generosity and belief in our cause continue to create a lasting impact on the communities we serve through our partnership with PRDS.



Vision

Communities can reach their full potential through education.

Mission

Empowering communities through education in partnership with local organisations, to create brighter futures and sustainable change.

Core Values

Local Partnership - We strongly believe that working with local organisations is the best way to understand, challenge and address the issues faced in underprivileged communities.

Diversity & Inclusion - We celebrate diversity and seek to challenge the many inequalities experienced as a result of Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Disability, Class, Sexualities and Religion.

Needs Based: We believe that the best interests of the people we support should be at the centre of all our work.





OUR SUPPORT IN 2025

Over the past year, we have continued to support the vital work of our local partner, Panikhali Rural Development Society (PRDS), as they lead education and community-based programmes in rural villages approximately 70 km south of Kolkata.

PRDS delivers a range of initiatives, including pre-school education, follow-up coaching for school students, and livelihood programmes within their communities. Our support has enabled PRDS to strengthen and expand these programmes across three communities, reaching more children, young people and families.

We remain committed to empowering PRDS in their ongoing efforts to improve educational outcomes and create lasting opportunities within the communities they serve.



2025 HIGHLIGHTS



New admissions to
pre-nursery



Sports day in
Boria Centre



Copy book
distribution to Class 1



Student Sponsorship
Ceremony



Student Drama in
Alor Disha Centre



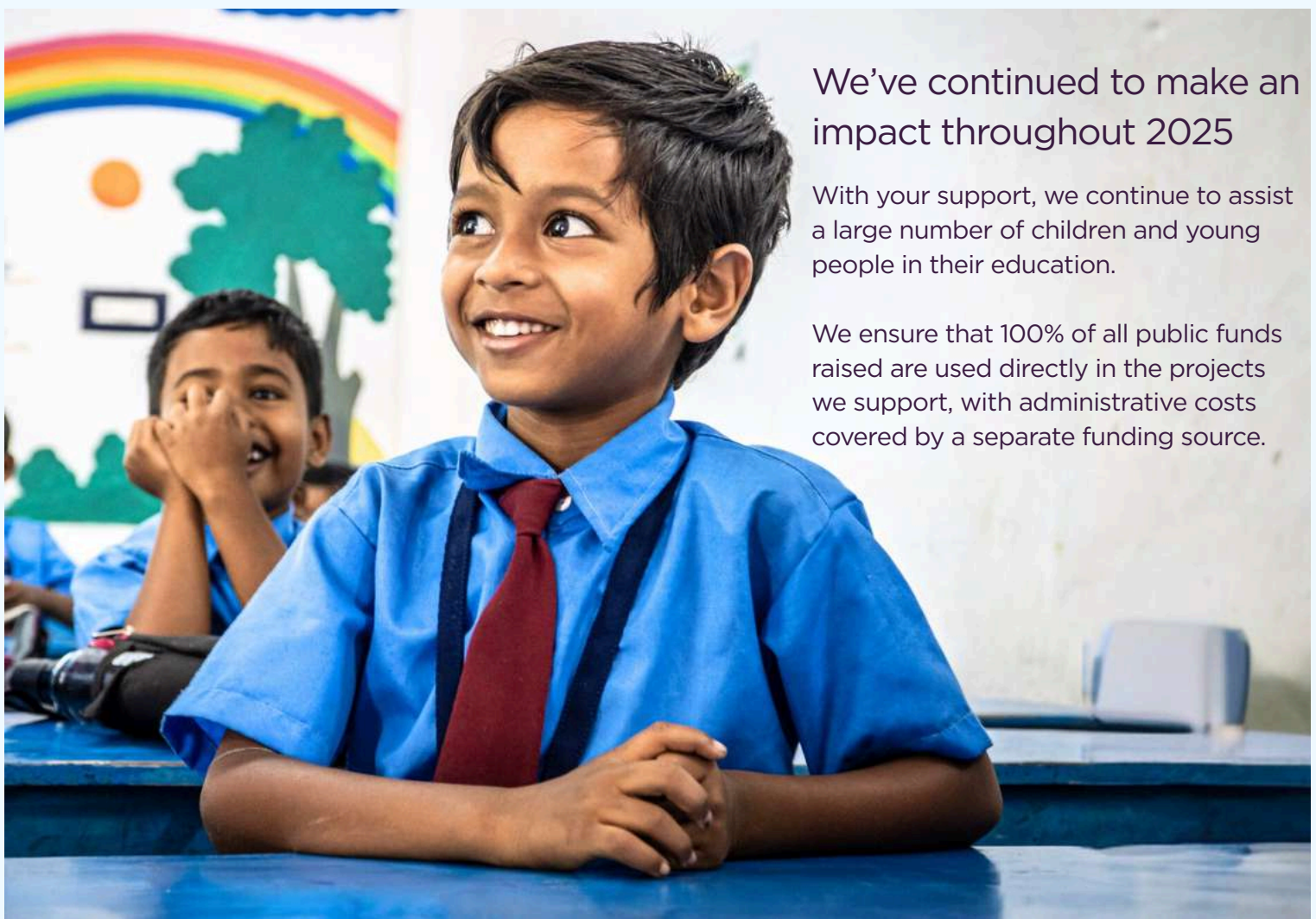
Teacher's Day
Celebration



Students gather before
classes begin



Computer classes for
older students



We've continued to make an impact throughout 2025

With your support, we continue to assist a large number of children and young people in their education.

We ensure that 100% of all public funds raised are used directly in the projects we support, with administrative costs covered by a separate funding source.

OUR IMPACT IN 2025

WITH YOUR SUPPORT

1328

Programme participants

62

Staff employed to support education

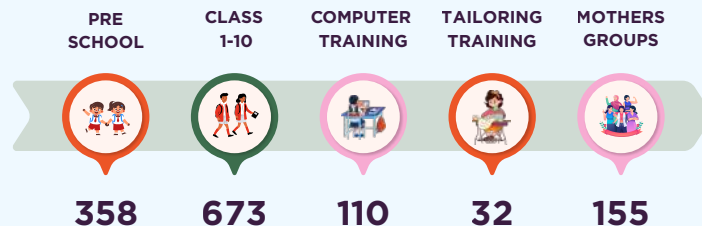
3

Education centres to uplift communities

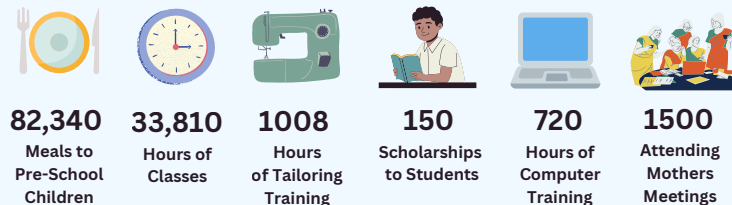
1

Skills training centre to support livelihoods

PROGRAMME NUMBERS



Our Support Provided



PROGRAMME NUMBERS
INCREASED FROM

110 IN 2017

TO

1328 IN 2025

A 1207% INCREASE

476 Boys

+

555 Girls

ENROLLED IN
EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

KEY PROGRAMME AREAS

Calcutta Connect focuses on supporting



PRE-SCHOOL

We support children taking their first steps in their education journey.



NUTRITION

We ensure all pre-school children receive a daily nutritious meal.



STUDENTS EDUCATION

Continue to support students education, enabling them to create brighter futures.



LIVELIHOOD TRAINING

Provide women with the skills to support their families.



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Equipping students with skills they can apply in their future studies and careers.



SPONSORSHIPS

Removing the financial barrier that prevents students from completing their education.

PROGRAMME SPOTLIGHT

Sanitary Pad Group

Puja and Amrita are the leaders of the Sanitary Pad Programme that we support in collaboration with PRDS.

The programme aims to address period poverty in communities where we work with PRDS. By providing pads, they address the menstrual hygiene challenges faced by women and girls in the community, improving their health, education, and well-being.

Puja and Amrita lead the team that manufactures and sells pads in local communities. They provide sanitary pads free of charge to all girls at PRDS's centres, aiming to reduce absenteeism and empower young women.

We are delighted to see the impact the programme has had to date, and we look forward to seeing its continued growth and even greater impact in the future.



ST COLMCILLE'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL INDIA IMMERSION TRIP

In February, we were delighted to welcome a group of students and staff from St. Colmcille's Community School, who spent a week visiting our partner organisation, Panikhali Rural Development Society (PRDS). During their time at the centres, the group engaged with students and teachers through games, cultural exchange, and learning activities, fostering a fun, shared atmosphere.

Their visit had a lasting impact on the centres, helping build students' confidence and fostering learning through interaction. It was wonderful to see the group fully immerse themselves in village life, form new friendships, and contribute positively throughout their stay.

We are grateful for their enthusiasm and support, and we look forward to welcoming future groups who wish to engage with PRDS and learn more about the work on the ground.





STUDENT CASE STUDY: SANCHAYITA SARDAR

Sanchayita is a Class 11 student at Panikhali Centre. She has been studying there for eight years, having joined in Class 5.

Her mother is a housewife, while her father works in agriculture. Due to the seasonal nature of farming, her father migrates to South India for six months each year to find work.

Her mother suffers from a long-term illness, so Sanchayita takes on extra responsibilities at home, including caring for her two younger sisters. Despite her family's difficulties, she remains committed to completing her education.

“ —
***I want to support other students
like I was supported.*** — ”

The support she has received from PRDS, including free tuition from Class 5 onwards, sponsorship from Class 9 onwards, and access to a library of guidebooks, has been vital to her continued studies.

She will take her final school exams next year and then plans to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Bengali at college.



STUDENT CASE STUDY: BIKRAM NASKAR

Bikram Naskar, 21, is a former student of the PRDS Boria Centre and is now pursuing a degree in Political Science. He joined the centre in 2017 at the age of 13 while in Class 6.

Bikram's mother is a homemaker, and his father works seasonally in agriculture, migrating for much of the year to different parts of India. With his father as the sole breadwinner, the family often struggled to cover educational expenses.

Bikram credits the PRDS Boria Centre with helping him stay in school. The free coaching and sponsorship support he received from Classes 9 to 12 were vital to completing his studies.

“ —
| ***Without PRDS's support, I would not*** |
| ***have completed my studies.*** |
— ”

Bikram maintains strong ties with the Boria Centre and regularly returns to support students preparing for their board exams. He hopes his example inspires younger students to remain in school and pursue their goals.



TEACHER CASE STUDY: SANJUDA BAIDY MOLLA

Sunjuda, known as Sanju, is the longest-serving teacher at PRDS. She joined shortly after the organisation began in 2007 and now teaches Bengali at the Panikhali Centre.

A resident of Panikhali Village, Sanju has seen firsthand the impact PRDS has had on the community. Over the years, she has watched many students complete their education, attend college, and secure employment, becoming confident and responsible members of society.

Sanju values her work with PRDS and the visible difference the organisation continues to make in the lives of young people. She has observed a significant shift in community attitudes toward education, influenced in part by regular home visits and community events led by PRDS teachers.

She hopes PRDS will continue to strengthen its impact in the years ahead, particularly by supporting girls to complete their education and by reducing the risk of early marriage.



TEACHER CASE STUDY: BIMAN SARDAR

Biman is a maths and geography teacher at the PRDS Boria Centre. He joined PRDS in 2020 and teaches students in Classes 5 to 8 each evening at the centre.

He feels proud to work with PRDS, an organisation that provides free education to children and young people from families in need. Biman believes PRDS offers more than academics and makes a genuine difference to those who require support the most.

He has seen the impact of quality infrastructure and dedicated subject teachers on student outcomes. In the Boria community, he has observed fewer dropouts and more students completing their education since the centre began operating.

During the COVID-19 pandemic and Cyclone Amphan, Biman took pride in PRDS's support for the community during challenging times.

Looking ahead, Biman hopes PRDS will continue strengthening its support for students as they prepare for their board exams and pursue further studies. He also recognises the growing importance of technology and encourages students to build their computer skills and knowledge of emerging technologies.



Thanks to your support, We continue to make an impact

Reflecting on 2025, our community of supporters has been central to every milestone. Your commitment to education and your belief in our work have allowed us to continue helping many children and young people.

Thanks to your support, thousands of students received the guidance, nutrition, and resources they needed to stay in school and pursue their education. Together, we have demonstrated what is possible when a community unites with a common purpose.





We can keep making a difference

Thousands of students have received support, communities have been strengthened, and new opportunities have been created through access to education and community-based programmes.

We remain committed to reaching more children and young people, enhancing our support for families, and collaborating with PRDS to help students stay in school and build brighter futures.

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF MONTHLY SUPPORTERS

By becoming a monthly supporter of Calcutta Connect, you can make a sustained contribution to our work and create lasting change in the lives of children and young people from some of the most marginalised backgrounds.

Monthly donations are essential to the support we provide to PRDS and the programmes we fund. As with all public donations received by Calcutta Connect, 100% of your contribution goes directly to the projects we support.



**Scan the QR
Code now to
begin making
a difference.**





€5

Will provide a tailoring trainee with materials for one month

Supplies a pre-school child with a uniform and stationery for one year

€10



€15

Gives a pre-school student a daily meal for one year

Purchases 100 copy books for students



€25



€40

Funds an older student's education costs for one year

Supplies 50 students with stationery for a year

€50



€100

Will support a college student for one year

BECOME A CORPORATE PARTNER

We offer a transparent way for corporates to support education programmes in India.

- CSR-aligned partnerships
- Workplace presentations available
- Get in touch to explore partnership options
- Support that aligns with your company's values
- 100% of public donations go directly to projects

SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY TALKS

We regularly visit schools and community groups to share our work and stories from India.

- Curriculum-linked topics
- Age-appropriate sessions
- Development & cultural awareness
- Full brief on the projects we support
- Ideal for TY, CSPE and Global Citizenship



Looking ahead to 2026, we are excited to start the year by celebrating 15 years since Calcutta Connect was founded. This milestone will bring together former immersion project students and long-standing supporters to reflect on the impact we have achieved together and to recognise the journey that has brought us to where we are today.

Throughout 2026, we will continue to focus on growing our base of monthly supporters. Regular contributions provide stability and enable us to plan confidently for the future, ensuring PRDS can continue to deliver high-quality programmes for children and young people. We want to raise greater awareness of the importance of monthly giving and invite more people to join us in sustaining this work year-round.

In February, we look forward to welcoming the group from Coláiste Éanna CBS to India as part of their India Immersion Project. They will spend ten days in India, experiencing local culture and visiting the PRDS centres, where they will connect with staff and students and learn more about the work taking place in the communities.

We hope you stay with us on this journey as we build on the progress made so far.





Calcutta Connect is a Company Limited by Guarantee with a Registered Company Number 591666.
Registered Revenue Number CHY 19742. Registered Charity Number 2010153
www.calcuttaconnect.ie