

Actualising Potential

The Power of Wholistic Education

Ritinjali

Annual Report 2025-26

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Chairperson's Message

This year marks a deeply meaningful milestone for Ritinjali as we celebrate 30 years of our journey. Founded in 1995 as a volunteer-run organisation, Ritinjali, meaning *'Helping Hands'* in Sanskrit, began with a simple yet powerful vision of supporting those in need. Over the years, our vision has grown into a sustained effort to enable individuals and communities to actualise their potential through education, livelihoods, and community development.

The theme of this year's report, ***Actualising Potential: The Power of Wholistic Education***, reflects the philosophy that has guided Ritinjali from the very beginning: that lasting transformation comes from nurturing the whole individual. Through our integrated approach spanning education, skills, wellbeing, and community engagement, we continue to support young people, children, and families in building dignified and secure futures.

In 2025-26, the Second Chance School Programme in Delhi and Jhalawar continued to combine open schooling pathways, vocational skills, and sustained mentoring to support 137 first-generation learners and migrant youth aged 18–24 in returning to education and preparing for meaningful livelihoods. Our Learning Centres at Kusumpur Pahari and Ekta Camp in Delhi continued to strengthen foundational learning for over 170 children while also supporting families through nutrition, health camps, and community engagement initiatives. These centres play a vital role in preventing early school dropout and ensuring that children in vulnerable communities remain connected to education.

> **Every child has potential. Our role is to unlock it, not define it.**

The Entrepreneurship Programme supports Second Chance School alumni in building sustainable livelihood pathways by enabling them to start and grow their own ventures. Through mentoring, skill development, and access to networks, the programme reached 22 participants this year. Three selected entrepreneurs were announced as winners at the Pitch Fest held in March 2026, with a total of ₹11.5 lakhs in seed funding disbursed to support their enterprises.

As we celebrate thirty years of work, we remain deeply grateful to our partners, educators, communities, and supporters who continue to walk this journey with us. Together, we move forward with the conviction that education, when rooted in dignity and wholistic development, has the power to transform lives and strengthen communities.

Warm regards,



Arun Kapur
Chairperson, Ritinjali



Bringing Hope Where There Is None

Established in 1995, Ritinjali is a non-profit organisation working at the intersection of education, livelihoods, community development, and peacebuilding. Founded by Mr Arun Kapur, Ritinjali focuses on enabling disadvantaged children, youth, and communities to actualise their potential through wholistic education and long-term support systems.

We are guided by the approach that sustainable transformation requires nurturing the whole individual. Our programmes integrate learning, wellbeing, skills development, and community engagement across Five interconnected Areas of Development: cerebral, emotional, physical, social, and spiritual.

Our flagship programme, the Second Chance School (SCS), supports first-generation learners, migrant youth, and young adults aged 18–24 who have experienced disrupted schooling. Through personalised pathways that combine open schooling, vocational training, life skills, and mentorship, the programme helps young people return to education and build dignified livelihoods.

Alongside this, the Learning and Community Development Centres in Kusumpur Pahari and Ekta Camp in Delhi strengthen foundational learning for children while providing nutrition, healthcare support, and community engagement initiatives that help prevent early school dropout.

Our Mission

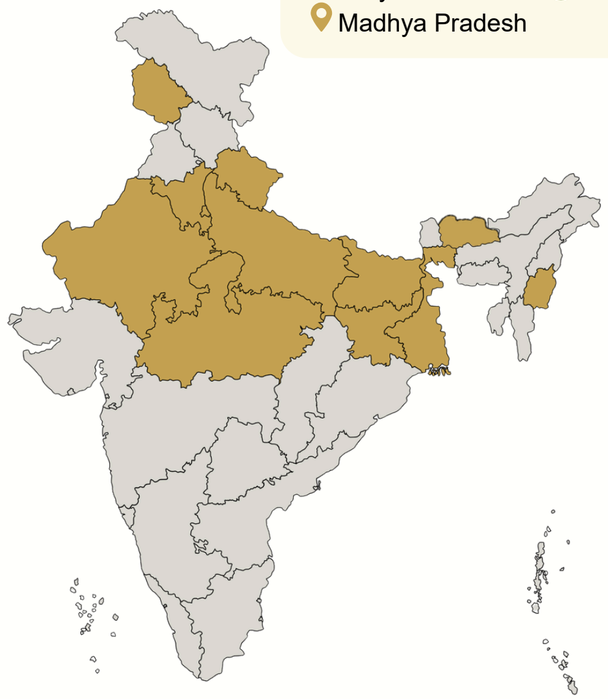
To provide wholistic education that nurtures empowered, responsible citizens who can provide for themselves and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Our Vision

To foster inclusive, self-reliant, and sustainable communities where individuals, irrespective of class, gender, ability, or circumstance, are able to actualise their potential, live with dignity, and work together for the common good.

Our Reach

- Delhi
- Bihar
- Uttar Pradesh
- Uttarakhand
- Rajasthan
- Haryana
- Madhya Pradesh
- West Bengal
- Jharkhand
- Jammu & Kashmir
- Manipur
- Bhutan



Our Values

- Respect for Life
- Creativity
- Sensitivity
- Openness
- Team Work
- Quality

Our Organisational Journey

1995-96

Founded with a weekly health clinic (Rangpuri Pahari, Delhi); opened study centres in Haryana; launched stitching, veterinary care, and education programmes in Tihar Jail.

1996–1998

Supported an old-age home (Fatehpur Beri); partnered with Vasant Valley School; ran a school in a leprosy camp; launched ‘Gift a Toy’ for vulnerable children.

1999-2000

Provided medical support during the Kargil War; converted a Base Hospital ward into an orthopaedic unit using equipment built by Tihar Jail inmates.

2000–2001

Launched Naari Niketan and night schools; expanded programmes in Assam’s Bodo region; strengthened rehabilitation initiatives in Tihar Jail; supported cancer patients at AIIMS; provided Gujarat earthquake relief.

2002–2004

Started the Second Chance School (7 students); established the Kusumpur Pahari Learning Centre; provided tsunami relief in Karaikal (Tamil Nadu).

2005–2006

Launched Drishti (teacher training, Rajasthan); established the Nathupur Pahari Learning Centre; partnered with NDMC on school quality and infrastructure.

2007–2012

Introduced sexuality education programmes (MacArthur Foundation, Rajasthan); scaled to three districts; provided flood relief in Bihar, Odisha, and Ladakh; established centres in Ekta Camp and Gurgaon.

2012–2013

Hosted the International Summer School and Young Indian Scholars Programme; launched the Oberoi Lecture Series; provided Uttarakhand flood relief.

2014–2015

Provided Jammu & Kashmir flood relief and winter support; launched enrichment programmes in Delhi government schools; established centres at Pioneer Park and the Migrant School (Gurgaon); conducted a school audit in Mussoorie.

2015–2016

Provided Nepal earthquake relief; launched Project Revive (health and financial support); established an NIOS vocational centre (2 courses); launched women’s empowerment initiatives in Nathupur.

2019

The Second Chance School reached 40 students; added three NIOS-certified skilling courses.

2020–2021

Converted the school into a COVID-19 relief hub; distributed rations and hygiene kits; enabled virtual learning; launched hybrid education and safety awareness initiatives.

2023–2025

Launched a women’s skilling programme; expanded health and nutrition initiatives in Kusumpur Pahari; upgraded the Second Chance School with digital and life skills training; formalised three programme verticals.

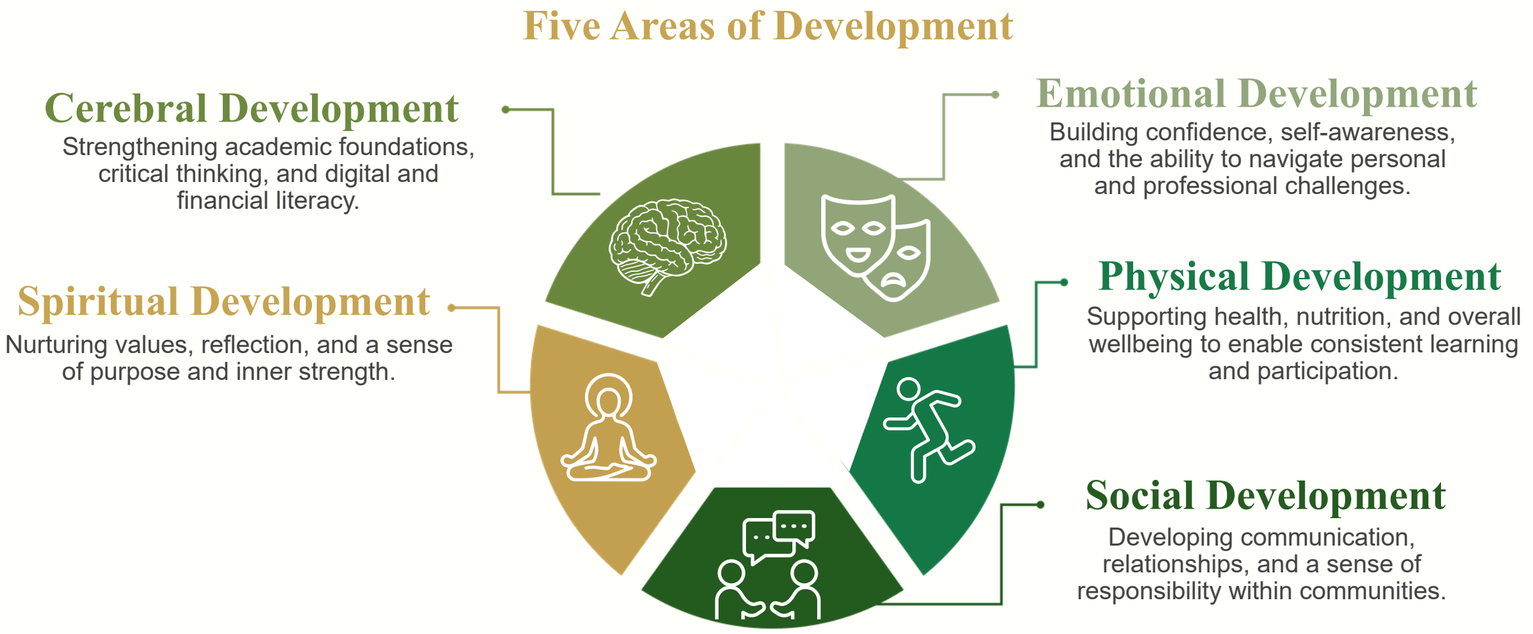
2025–2026

Celebrating 30 years of education, skilling, and empowerment; expanding programmes and deepening impact across India.

Our Strategic Approach to Actualising Potential

At Ritinjali, we believe sustainable transformation requires nurturing the whole individual, not just academic or employment outcomes. Many of the learners we work with have faced interrupted education, migration, and limited access to opportunity. Supporting them, therefore, requires an approach that builds not only knowledge and skills, but also confidence, wellbeing, and a sense of purpose.

Our programmes integrate education, livelihoods, wellbeing, and identity-building through five interconnected Areas of Development: cerebral, emotional, physical, social, and spiritual. Together, these dimensions help learners build resilience, make informed life choices, and sustain outcomes beyond the programme.



Integrating Wholistic Development in Education

We partner with our sister organisation, Pallavanjali Learning Systems, an educational research organisation established in 2002, to incorporate the Five Areas of Development into our curriculum design and assessments. Our educators undergo intensive training that immerses them in the philosophy and purpose of each developmental domain, as well as the skills and processes that support them.

For our students, the Five Areas of Development are introduced through dedicated sessions and integrated into everyday learning. They engage with each domain in depth, participate in group activities, and create individual development roadmaps to guide their growth.

Throughout this process, expert-led interventions, such as mental health sessions, theatre and communication workshops, financial and digital literacy modules, and music and reflection spaces, ensure that each Area of Development is experienced both conceptually and practically.

Cerebral Development



Visit to Music Education Mela 2026

Emotional Development



Mental health session in progress

Physical Development



Cycling contest

Social Development



Team buidling activity

Spiritual Development



Meditation session

Our Programmes

Second Chance School Programme

Enabling wholistic development and career growth through personalised learning pathways

The Second Chance School is our flagship education-to-livelihood initiative for young adults aged 18–24 from disadvantaged backgrounds who have dropped out of formal schooling due to poverty, migration, family responsibilities, or lack of guidance.

The Challenge

This youth faces multiple barriers, including disrupted education, unstable living conditions, limited career exposure, and low self-belief, making conventional education and skilling pathways difficult to access.

The Missing Middle

They are too old to re-enter the formal school system, yet underqualified for mainstream skilling opportunities. Many are pushed into insecure, low-paying work with limited growth.

Our Solution

The Second Chance School programme integrates education and skilling simultaneously within a single pathway. Each learner progresses through an **Individual Education and Livelihood Plan**, shaped by assessments and mentoring to align learning and career pathways with aptitude and aspirations.

Day School

Men and Women from Delhi NCR & Jhalawar
Mahipalpur, Delhi | Jhalawar, Rajasthan

Residential School

Men from across Rural India
Mahipalpur, Delhi

Learner Journey

Work & Life Readiness
Foundational skills and confidence building

Technical Education
Vocational and academic learning

Internships & Jobs
Real-world experience and placements

Sustainable Livelihood
12–18 month journey to stable income



Second Chance Residential School

The Second Chance Residential School in Mahipalpur, Delhi, supports young men from rural and underserved communities across India who require a more immersive and stable learning environment to continue their education and build future pathways.

- Safe and stable residential environment
- Continued access to education
- Integrated learning model
- Development of independence and self-reliance
- Personalised guidance and mentoring
- Exposure to mentors, industry professionals, and alumni
- Pathways to higher education, employment, and entrepreneurship
- Supportive peer community

Harish learns the skills that matter for life and work.



Harish Singh, from Almora, Uttarakhand, joined the SCS Residential Programme for the 2023–24 academic year after completing Class 12. He needed guidance and direction. At SCS, he completed his graduation while also developing practical skills through Work and Life Readiness training, which included computer education, spoken English, and mentorship.

Recognising his interest in technology, Ritinjali supported Harish to pursue a Diploma in Cloud Computing at Jetking Institute. An internship in Gurugram further strengthened his skills, and in September 2025, he secured an IT role, paving the way towards a stable, self-reliant future.

"At Ritinjali, I learned the value of contributing positively to society."



Building healthy habits and a career in Healthcare.

Rajan, from Basti district in Uttar Pradesh, grew up with limited access to career guidance. After Class 12, he aspired to support his family but lacked direction. He joined the SCS Residential Programme in 2023–24, where structured training helped build his confidence, discipline, and teamwork.

Recognising his interest in Healthcare, Ritinjali assisted him in enrolling in a Medical Laboratory Technician course at the Institute of Paramedical Science and Management in Dwarka. Today, Rajan works at Vedanta Clinic in New Delhi, taking a significant step toward a self-reliant future.

"At Ritinjali, while living at the hostel, I learned the importance of cleanliness and how to maintain it."











Life at the Second Chance Residential School: Students engage in residential learning, vocational skill development, wellness activities, and community living

Second Chance Day School

Delhi

The Second Chance Day School in Delhi supports young women and men whose education has been disrupted by financial hardship, caregiving responsibilities, or limited access to quality educational support. Through a structured learning programme, learners receive academic support while rebuilding confidence and strengthening their aspirations for the future.

Alongside preparation for open schooling pathways, learners develop life skills, digital and financial literacy, communication skills, and career readiness. Mentorship, counselling, exposure visits, and interactions with professionals help broaden career awareness and support learners in pursuing further education, skilling opportunities, and sustainable livelihoods.



Classroom session, Mahipalpur, Delhi



"The programme helped me believe in my abilities and pursue my passion for cooking."

Bhawna transforms her passion into a profession.

Bhawna, from Dausa, Rajasthan, now resides in Mahipalpur, Delhi. After completing Class 12 and starting a B.A. at Delhi University, she struggled to find a career and lacked confidence in social interactions.

In 2025, she joined SCS Day School, where structured training, exposure visits, and lessons in spoken English and professional etiquette helped her gain confidence and clarity about her interests. With Ritinjali's support, she enrolled in the Commis Chef program at Visan Hospitality. Today, she works as a Commis Chef at Bella De Monde, thereby turning her passion for cooking into a profession.

Jhalawar, Rajasthan

Implemented in partnership with Pallavan School, the Computer Education Programme in Jhalawar builds digital literacy among students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Conducted after school hours, the programme provides a safe and supportive environment where students learn essential computer skills, including basic operations, typing, internet use, and educational applications.

The programme reached 26 students, many of whom were engaging with computers for the first time. Through hands-on learning, students have demonstrated increased confidence, curiosity, and digital competency, with several alumni using these skills to access employment opportunities and improve their livelihoods.



Computer literacy session, Jhalawar, Rajasthan

Programme Highlights

Exposure & experiential learning

42 exposure visits & events



Students participated in exposure visits to the Nehru Planetarium and GOONJ, alongside national and international platforms including the KARM Conclave, India–Bhutan Youth Summit, and Swiss Art Night. These experiences broadened perspectives and deepened understanding of sustainability, innovation, leadership, and global learning.

Partner & volunteer engagement

23 partners; **97+** alumni, educators & volunteers



Collaborations with organisations and institutions such as KPMG, UNICEF, GOONJ, and the Swiss Embassy enabled meaningful learning experiences through workshops, conferences, and interactive sessions. Alumni, educators, and volunteers also contributed through webinars, mentoring, and thematic sessions.

Health & well-being

2 health camps & **1** social-emotional learning session



Second Chance School Residential students underwent regular medical tests and received ongoing support from the hostel warden for healthcare needs. Mental health sessions and five AOD workshops on physical and emotional wellbeing helped students develop personal growth roadmaps. Students also benefited from health camps conducted at the Learning Centres.

Programme Highlights



Wholistic learning & skill development

80+ students participated in capacity-building & gender training sessions



Students participated in capacity-building initiatives, certification programmes, and skill-based learning opportunities, including completing an AI course, language certification (Inlingua) for spoken English, and sessions on gender awareness and adolescent development.

Community engagement & celebrations

11 celebratory events



Students led and participated in community initiatives, including volunteering, hosting Iftar, and sustainability discussions. Celebrations such as Independence Day, Diwali, Christmas, Teacher's Day, and Utsav fostered a sense of belonging, cultural awareness, and community spirit.

The Entrepreneurship Programme

Empowering Second Chance School alumni to build their own entrepreneurial journeys

Ritinjali's Entrepreneurship Programme supports alumni ready to take the next step in their professional journey. Through structured training, mentorship, and seed funding, participants transform business ideas into viable enterprises that generate income, create jobs, and deliver long-term community impact.

The 12-week programme combines business training, one-on-one mentorship, and enterprise development support, culminating in a Pitch Fest.

1 Business Ideation & Development

This year, the program enrolled 22 alumni from the Second Chance School, with 14 of them advancing to develop business ideas through guided entrepreneurship training. This training was led by Shitij Malhotra, the COO of CocoMoco Kids. Participants built their entrepreneurial skills, identified market opportunities, and designed ventures aligned with local demand across sectors including food and bakery, technical services, crafts, digital services, and community enterprises.

2 Mentorship & Business Plan Strengthening

Participants were paired with mentors from KPMG, including Sheetal Maheshwari, Rahul Singhal, Dhiraj Singhal, Ishan Mehta, and Hemant Gupta, for a 45-day mentorship journey. Through one-on-one guidance, they refined business models, strengthened financial planning, and developed proposals. Following a panel evaluation, six participants were shortlisted based on feasibility, sustainability, and growth potential.

3 Pitch Fest & Seed Funding

The programme culminated in an Entrepreneurship Pitch Fest at the KPMG office, where six shortlisted participants presented their ventures to a jury comprising Rajat Jain (Founder, PadUp Ventures), Benu Khanna (Head, India Trust), and Rajesh Gaur (Associate Partner, KPMG Global Services). Business ideas were evaluated for innovation, viability, scalability, and growth potential. Following the presentations, SCS alumni Noor Alam, Arvind, and Azad were selected as winners.



Participants at the Pitch Fest



Jury and Ritinjali team at Pitch Fest



Winners (L-R): Noor Alam, Arvind, and Azad

Programme Impact

137
Students Enrolled
34 Residential | **77** Day School, Delhi
26 Day School, Jhalawar

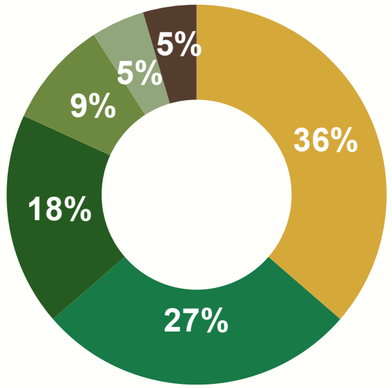
11
States Represented

95%
Students Transitioned into higher education, employment, entrepreneurship, or technical education

₹18,500
Average Monthly Salary

EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

63% of our students secured employment in future-forward sectors such as IT, healthcare, and medical services.



Information Technology	36%
Medical & Healthcare	27%
Hospitality	18%
Food & Beverages	9%
ITI & Technical Training	5%
Fashion	5%

ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME

22
Alumni Enrolled

14
Business Ideas Developed

6
Shortlisted for Jury Presentation

3
Ventures Supported *through seed funding*

₹11.5 LAKHS Invested in Alumni-led enterprises during 2025–26

Learning and Community Development Programme

Supporting children and families at the community level

Our Learning Centres, namely the Kusumpur Pahari Centre in Vasant Vihar and Ekta Camp in Vasant Kunj, Delhi, support children and families facing social and economic challenges at the community level.

The Jan Seva Kendra supports families with documentation such as Aadhaar and PAN cards, government schemes, scholarships, admissions, and digital services, helping them obtain the required documentation and access entitlements.





Jan Seva Kendra

All community members

Ekta Camp, Vasant Kunj, Delhi

- Support with Aadhaar, PAN, income certificates, and other essential documents
- Support for government welfare scheme applications
- Guidance on school admissions and scholarship applications
- Assistance with passport applications and online processes
- Help in resolving errors in official documents
- Improved access to entitlements and public services

Kusumpur Pahari

120 children | 4–15 years

Vasant Vihar, Delhi

- Remedial education and academic support
- Arts-based learning through art, music, theatre, and storytelling
- Daily nutritional support
- Regular medical camps and health check-ups
- Life skills integrated into everyday learning
- Parent engagement sessions on nutrition and healthy practices

Ekta Camp

50 children | 4–15 years

Vasant Kunj, Delhi

- Remedial and after-school education
- Open Basic Education and NIOS pathways for out-of-school youth
- Digital literacy training through a dedicated Digital Lab
- Regular doctor visits and health camps
- Sessions on nutrition, hygiene, and wellbeing
- Healthcare and essential services the wider community

Programme Highlights

Exposure & experiential learning

18 exposure visits



Students participated in educational visits to institutions such as the Air Force Museum, the Mother Dairy plant, and the Prime Minister Museum in Delhi, as well as to KPMG in Gurugram, gaining valuable real-world exposure and insights into career pathways beyond the classroom.

Partnerships & volunteer engagement

12 sessions



Collaborations with organisations, including KPMG, Shiv Nadar University, and Jagan Institute of Management Studies, facilitated mentoring, workshops, and awareness sessions. Volunteers and partners also facilitated creative learning in arts, music, and expression.

Health & well-being

3 health camps, **400+** people screened, **30** doctor visits **1,200+** consultations



Regular health check-ups, diagnostic camps, and awareness sessions benefited over 90 students at Kusumpur Pahari, alongside monthly health monitoring and dental care at Ekta Camp, thereby improving their physical well-being.

Programme Highlights

Wholistic learning & skill development

15 sessions,
150+ student participants



Students participated in life skills, soft skills, storytelling, music, and wellbeing sessions that supported their overall development. Their learning was further enriched through Ajab Gajab Bazaar 2026 in Bhuj, Gujarat, a three-day cultural mela that encouraged creativity, expression, and community engagement.

Community support & outreach

10 outreach initiatives



Outreach initiatives included distributing food packets, 118 blankets, and essential learning materials, supporting vulnerable families and enabling continued student engagement.

Community engagement & milestones

8 community celebrations



Celebrations of key events such as Republic Day, Basant Panchami, Holi, Christmas, and Children's Day fostered participation, confidence, and a strong sense of belonging across both centres.

Programme Impact

LEARNING CENTRES

170 children enrolled

45 students in the digital literacy programme

1200 children and community members reached through 30 doctor visits

40,800 meals provided to support children's health and wellbeing

18 students engaged in arts, music, theatre, sports, and experiential learning

JAN SEVA KENDRA

206 essential services delivered

60 passport applications

40 Aadhaar-related services

66 education-related services

20 PAN cards and 5 income certificates

20 ration card and voter ID card applications

Abdul strides towards a confident and creative future.

Abdul Kalam, a Class 11 student, faced academic challenges and struggled with self-confidence. At Ekta Camp, through consistent interactive learning and creative activities, including art and group sessions, he began to open up, revealing a talent for dance.

With encouragement from his facilitators, Abdul became more confident, as demonstrated by his performance at Ritinjali Utsav, the 30th-year celebrations, and his participation in the National Youth Day event. Today, he is self-assured and motivated to pursue his dream of becoming a choreographer.



"Earlier, I was afraid to come forward. Now, I feel confident and excited to follow my passion."



Aarushi's determination to overcome challenges and embrace opportunities.

Aarushi, an 11-year-old in Class 6 from Kusumpur Pahadi, faced challenges due to a heart condition that affected her stamina, attendance and confidence.

After surgery, she joined the Kusumpur Pahadi Learning Centre, where mentoring, regular medical follow-ups, and a supportive environment helped her regain stability. Aarushi improved her attendance and now actively participates in class discussions, group activities, and presentations. Her interest in studies and extracurricular activities, such as badminton and dance, has grown, making her a confident and motivated learner and showcasing her resilience and determination.

"Now I enjoy coming to class, participating, and learning new things every day."

NIOS Programme

Enabling education continuity for adolescents at risk of dropping out

The NIOS Programme serves as an intermediate step between the Learning Centres and the Second Chance School. Its primary goal is to ensure continuity of education during a crucial time in the students' lives.

NIOS Programme

23 students I 15+
Second Chance School & Learning Centre Students

- Supports adolescents aged 15+ who have dropped out of or are at risk of missing secondary education
- Structured pathway to complete formal schooling through NIOS
- Combines education with mentoring, life skills, and psychosocial support
- Creates opportunities for further education, vocational training, and employment
- Prevents long-term exclusion from education and livelihoods
- More than 40% of learners appeared for NIOS examinations. Results awaited

Rajan's story of resilience and achievement.

After failing to clear his NIOS examination on his first attempt, Rajan faced disappointment and uncertainty about continuing his education. Determined to move forward, he committed himself to consistent study and improvement.

With support and guidance from the NIOS programme, he successfully cleared his Senior Secondary examination in Biology. His journey reflects resilience, perseverance, and the value of being given a second chance to continue learning.





Shivam makes a strong comeback.

While studying at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Shivam faced academic challenges and failed Class 9. Determined not to give up, he enrolled in the NIOS programme, where a supportive learning environment helped rebuild his confidence and strengthen his understanding of subjects.

Through sustained effort, he successfully completed both Class 10 and Class 12. Shivam believes that without the NIOS programme, he would have dropped out after Class 8, and credits it for helping him achieve this milestone.

"This second chance helped me believe in myself and keep moving forward."

Centre for Escalation of Peace

Building peace through dialogue, leadership, and cross-border understanding

The Centre for Escalation of Peace (CEP) is our platform for addressing the deeper systemic and cross-border dimensions of conflict, inequality, and disengagement. While our programmes work at the grassroots to respond to immediate educational and social needs, CEP focuses on shaping long-term change by strengthening dialogue, leadership, and cooperation across societies.

CEP is founded on the belief that peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but a condition that must be actively cultivated, strengthened, and sustained in the face of rapid socio-economic and geopolitical change. Its work seeks to escalate peace by creating spaces where young people, educators, policymakers, artists, and thought leaders can engage in open dialogue, exchange ideas, and build shared understanding across borders.

Key Components

Dialogue Circles
Facilitate conversations that encourage listening, sharing, and mutual respect

Peace & Values-Based Sessions
Explore themes of identity, empathy, conflict, and coexistence

Reflection-Based Learning
Guide activities that help learners think critically and understand perspectives



Guru Conference & Exhibition on Life and Legacy of Atīśa Dīpaṃkara Śrījñāna

Programme Highlights

India–Bhutan Youth Summit



Organised by the CEP, Pallavan Learning Systems, the India–Bhutan Foundation, and the Royal Institute for Governance and Strategic Studies, the 4th India–Bhutan Youth Summit brought together 22 young participants from India and Bhutan for a nine-day leadership programme across Meghalaya, Assam, and Phuentsholing. Through dialogue, cultural exchange, and collaborative activities, participants explored regional cooperation and sustainability while developing project ideas in education, environment, and gender.

Guru Conference & Exhibition on Life and Legacy of Atīśa Dīpaṃkara Śrījñāna



The Conference brought together scholars, monastic leaders, and practitioners to explore the influence of the 11th-century Buddhist master across Asia. Organised by the CEP in partnership with the India International Centre, the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, and Pallavan Learning Systems, the Conference examined Guru Atīśa's teachings, intellectual legacy, and role in revitalising Buddhist thought. Thematic discussions and a public exhibition of manuscripts, relics, and scrolls highlighted the continuing relevance of compassion, ethics, and wisdom.

Education and Skilling to Actualise Individual Potential



On 21 June '25, CEP hosted a webinar titled 'Education and Skilling to Actualise Individual Potential' in collaboration with Pallavan Learning Systems. The session highlighted how personalised education, mentorship, and skill development enable individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to build meaningful livelihoods. SCS alumni Virender Kumar, Brijesh Yadav, and Raghav Sonkar shared their journeys of overcoming adversity through education and vocational training, underscoring the importance of second-chance pathways and supportive ecosystems in fostering self-reliance.

Programme Highlights

Ayurveda to Integrative Health: A Wholistic Path to Well-Being



On 9 July 2025, CEP, in collaboration with SOUKYA, hosted an expert session on ‘Ayurveda to Integrative Health’ at the India International Centre, New Delhi. Led by Dr Isaac Mathai, the session engaged over 240 educators, health practitioners, and development professionals. Drawing on his experience, Dr Mathai explored the integration of traditional healing systems with modern medicine to address chronic illness and lifestyle disorders, while emphasising preventive, wholistic wellbeing and the balance of body, mind, and spirit.

Equipping Learners for Life



On 28 August’ 25, CEP and Pallavan Learning Systems hosted a webinar on equipping learners with the skills and processes needed to actualise their potential. Bringing together educators and practitioners, the session explored the importance of learner-centred education, mentorship, experiential learning, and life skills such as adaptability, critical thinking, and communication. Discussions highlighted personalised learning pathways and innovative assessment approaches, emphasising education's role in preparing individuals for lifelong learning and meaningful participation in society.

Enabling Environment: Integrating Technology, Inclusion, and Community



The webinar, held on 27 February’ 25 in collaboration with Pallavan Learning Systems, brought together educators, researchers, and practitioners to explore technology’s role in inclusive learning. Discussions examined AI-driven platforms, assistive technologies, and the digital divide. Panellists Dr Saroj Thapa, Jigme Tenzin Nidup, Gunjan Tomar, and Madhu Maya Limbu highlighted the importance of teacher training, digital literacy, and community partnerships, emphasising the need to balance innovation with real-world learning to build inclusive, future-ready education systems.

Programme Impact

India–Bhutan Youth Summit 2026

- 22 youth leaders from India and Bhutan
- 9-day leadership and peace-building summit
- Focus on intercultural dialogue and regional cooperation
- Co-created solutions to address regional and global challenges

International Guru Conference & Exhibition on the Life and Legacy of Atīśa Dīpaṃkara Śrījñāna 2025

- Conference on peace, culture, and shared heritage in South Asia and the Himalayan region
- 20 speakers; 600+ participants engaged online and in person

Public Webinars

- 8 public webinars organised across the year
- 700+ participants from around the world
- Themes included education, technology, AI, inclusion, community-centred learning, and human development

Publications and Knowledge Sharing

- 13 publications produced and disseminated
- Reports, books, reflections, & learning resources shared publicly
- Insights generated through CEP initiatives and platforms
- Made accessible online for wider public benefit

Collaborative Networks and Partnerships

- Strengthened interdisciplinary networks among youth leaders, educators, institutions, and communities
- Fostered collaboration on peace, education, sustainability, and social development

Milestones & Highlights

Ritinjali Utsav: Celebrating 30 Years of Learning, Dignity and Change

Ritinjali celebrated its 30th anniversary on 10 November 2025. The occasion was marked by Ritinjali Utsav, held on 15 November at the WWF Auditorium in New Delhi.

Centred on the theme of Actualising Potential, the event brought together learners, families, community members, donors, partners, and collaborators through performances, films, stories, and exhibits that showcased journeys of resilience and growth.

The programme featured the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Ms Inderpreet Kaur, Associate Director, CSR at KPMG, followed by an address by Ms Dipika S Nanjappa, Board and Founding Member. The presence of longstanding partners, including representatives from Inlingua, the Mudita Foundation, and Pallavan Learning Systems, reaffirmed the collective commitment that continues to strengthen and sustain Ritinjali's mission.





Student performances at Ritinjali Utsav





Blanket Distribution Drive

Blanket Distribution Drive: A Community Comes Together

Ritinjali's annual Blanket Distribution Drive continued to reflect the spirit of shared humanity, as the community came together to support vulnerable individuals during Delhi's harsh winter.

With the support of contributors and well-wishers, 1,160 blankets were distributed across multiple locations. This included 200 blankets received in kind and financial contributions of ₹2,90,000, which enabled the procurement of an additional 960 blankets.

Distributions were carried out across streets, informal settlements, hospitals, labour areas, and underserved communities in Mahipalpur, Vasant Kunj, and Kusumpur Pahari. Students from the Second Chance School actively participated in the initiative, strengthening their sense of empathy, responsibility, and community engagement.

Gender Training for Girls at Kusumpur Pahari

As part of a year-long engagement on gender, social norms, patriarchy, power, and discrimination, 13 girls from the Kusumpur Pahari Learning Centre are participating in a structured programme designed to deepen these conversations.

Through periodic sessions, they engage in discussion and reflection, examining how gender shapes their experiences, relationships, and opportunities, while building awareness of power, equity, and rights.

The girls also participated in a 3-day residential Gender Training workshop at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Delhi. Through storytelling, role-play, discussions, and films, they explored social norms and power dynamics within families and communities. The programme culminates in individual projects that translate learning into action while strengthening voice, confidence, and leadership.





Gender Training workshop





Ajab Gajab Bazaar 2026

Ajab Gajab Bazaar 2026: Experiential Learning and Cultural Exchange

Ten students and three staff members from the Ekta Camp Learning Centre participated in Ajab Gajab Bazaar 2026, a three-day cultural mela held in Bhuj, Gujarat, in collaboration with the Shabad Shaala Foundation.

The engagement marked the culmination of sustained preparatory sessions, where students were introduced to diverse linguistic and cultural traditions through immersive interactions with folk artists from across regions.

Conceptualised as a platform for cultural exchange, Ajab Gajab Bazaar brought learning to life through craft workshops, music, dialogue, and collective participation. Over three days, students explored activities including clay modelling, block printing, bead-making, and performance. The experience fostered creativity, empathy, reflection, and self-expression, while reinforcing the value of experiential learning alongside formal education.

Staff Capacity Building

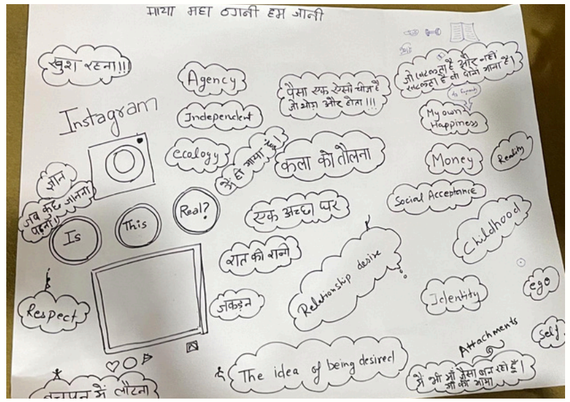
Shabad Shaala Teacher Immersion Residential Program 2025

The Shabad Shaala Teacher Immersion Residential Programme 2025, held in Delhi from July 10–13, brought together 15–20 teachers from schools and NGOs across Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Indore, Bhopal, Ahmedabad, and Hyderabad.

Facilitated by Shabnam Virmani and her team, the four-day programme focused on deepening participants' understanding of the Shabad Shaala approach and its implementation in schools and learning centres.

Through interactive activities, discussions, reflections, and collaborative learning, teachers explored themes of language, expression, empathy, and humanity, while engaging with the teachings of Sufi saints, dohas (couplets), and ramats (interactive fold performances). The programme strengthened understanding of reflective, activity-based learning and fostered meaningful exchange among educators from diverse regions and institutions.





Shabad Shaala Teacher Immersion Residential Program 2025

Using Data for Effective Programme Planning and Evaluation

A session on the Reflect–Plan–Action Framework and Data Management was conducted by Dr Saroj Thapa, Head of Programmes at Pallavan Learning Systems, to strengthen understanding of how data can support effective programme planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Centred on the cycle of Reflect, Plan, and Action, the session highlighted the importance of analysing existing knowledge and baseline realities, designing targeted interventions, and implementing programmes through a structured assessment process.

Participants explored the three stages of the assessment lifecycle: Baseline Assessment, Intervention, and Endline Assessment, and their role in measuring programme outcomes. The session also highlighted how Monitoring and Evaluation supports continuous learning, helps identify gaps, and strengthens organisational effectiveness and community impact.

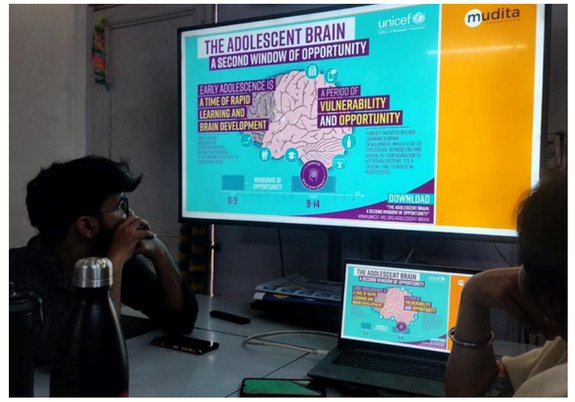
Strengthening Organisational Learning through Goal Setting

As part of strengthening organisational learning and collaboration, Ritinjali conducted a Goal Setting Workshop for all staff on 13th December, 2025, facilitated by Ananya Basu, Consultant and HR Expert.

The workshop created a space for reflection, dialogue, and deeper understanding of one another's roles, while fostering stronger collaboration across teams. A key focus was planning and accountability for the year ahead. Team members developed individual and programme goals, reflected on their alignment with Ritinjali's vision, and identified strategies and collaborative efforts needed to achieve them.

The plans were presented to the larger team, encouraging shared ownership, transparency, and commitment. The workshop concluded with an agreement to revisit these goals at year-end to reflect on progress, challenges, and learnings.





Team capacity building on Adolescent Development and Gender

Team Capacity Building on Adolescent Development and Gender

In February 2026, our team participated in a two-part capacity-building workshop focused on adolescent development and gender.

Through interactive sessions, team members explored the developmental needs of adolescents, their responses to change and stress, and the ways in which gender and power shape their everyday experiences. The workshop created space for dialogue, reflection, and deeper engagement with the realities faced by young people.

The process also encouraged critical self-reflection, enabling team members to examine their own perspectives, recognise biases, and strengthen empathetic and responsive engagement. These learnings continue to inform programme delivery, contributing to the creation of safer, more inclusive, and supportive environments where young people feel heard, respected, and supported.

NCFSE 2023 Training: Strengthening Educational Practice through Continuous Learning:

As part of Ritinjali's commitment to continuous learning, Ms Shouman Jawed, Senior Program Manager, completed a six-day capacity-building course on the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2023 at Digantar's Academic Resource Unit, Jaipur, from 12–17 March 2026.

Designed for educators and sector leaders, the course focused on engaging with the foundational principles of education, examining its purpose in a democratic society, and understanding the relationships among curriculum, pedagogy, and school culture.

Through discussions and reflection, the programme highlighted systems thinking and the interconnected role of competencies, values, and classroom practices within education. The insights gained will strengthen programme design and implementation, supporting closer alignment between educational goals and learner needs.





Ms Shouman Jawed, Senior Program Manager (front row, third from the left), at the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2023





Aao Seekhna Seekhe session at the Second Chance School

Aao Seekhna Seekhe – Learning How to Learn: The Five AoD Workshops

A series of workshops on the Five Areas of Development, 'Aao Seekhna Seekhe – Learning How to Learn,' were held at Ritinjali and facilitated by Keerti Goswami, Choki Wangchuk, and Dr Saroj Thapa from Pallavan Learning Systems.

Attended by 80 students from the Day and Residential Second Chance School Programmes, the workshops created a reflective space for personal growth beyond academics. Delivered over 18 hours across three months, the programme focused on cerebral, emotional, spiritual, physical, and social development.

Through discussions, activities, and reflection exercises, students strengthened self-awareness, confidence, relationships, and decision-making skills while becoming more engaged in their learning journey.

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Ms Benu Khanna
Member

Our Team

Karishma Handa
Head of Ritinjali

Shouman Jawed
Senior Programme Manager

Khusboo Jha
Programme Associate

Aadil Ashraf
Programme Associate

Reena Singh
Senior Teacher

Sahil Ansari
IT Trainer

Gurpreet Kaur
English Teacher

Dolly Singh
Learning Centre Teacher

Beena Bisht
Learning Centre Teacher

Susmita Ghosh
Learning Centre Teacher

Madhulika Jawa
Communications Consultant

Simran Surve
Communications Associate

Khushi Lohia
Communications Associate
(Volunteer)

Shio Pandey
Accountant

Kishan Kumar
Warden, Second Chance Residential School

Aman Dogra
Centre Coordinator



Team Ritinjali (L-R): Mohammad Taha, Kishan Kumar, Sahil Ansari, Shouman Jawed, Susmita Ghosh, Reena Singh, Karishma Handa, Dolly Singh, Beena Bisht, Hussain Bilal, Susan Ria, Shio Pandey

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- National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)
- Gulf Academy for Fire and Safety



Looking Ahead to 2026-27

In 2026–27, Ritinjali will deepen its commitment to Actualising Potential by expanding opportunities for learners and communities. The Second Chance School aims to increase enrolment to 100 students annually while reaching learners from more diverse geographies across India.

We aim to diversify employment pathways for graduates, with a stronger focus on placements in emerging sectors such as IT and technology, while working towards improved outcomes, including higher starting salaries and long-term career growth.

As part of its expansion, we will strengthen and scale the NIOS programme to support adolescents in completing Class 10, building on existing demand and early engagement. In addition, we plan to establish a day care centre for children aged 2–4, enabling mothers in the community to pursue livelihoods with greater support and stability.







In response to a rapidly evolving landscape, there will be a strong emphasis on building foundational AI literacy to enable youth to understand, adapt to, and engage with emerging technologies.

RITINJALI

Actualising Potential

The Power of Wholistic Education

Ritinjali Annual Report 2025-26

+91 79824 31041/ +91 84470 51464

ritinjali@ritinjali.org

www.ritinjali.org

Ritinjali, Mahipalpur K-2/726, K2 Block, Gali No. 6,
Mahipalpur (Opposite Mata Chowk), Delhi - 110 037

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